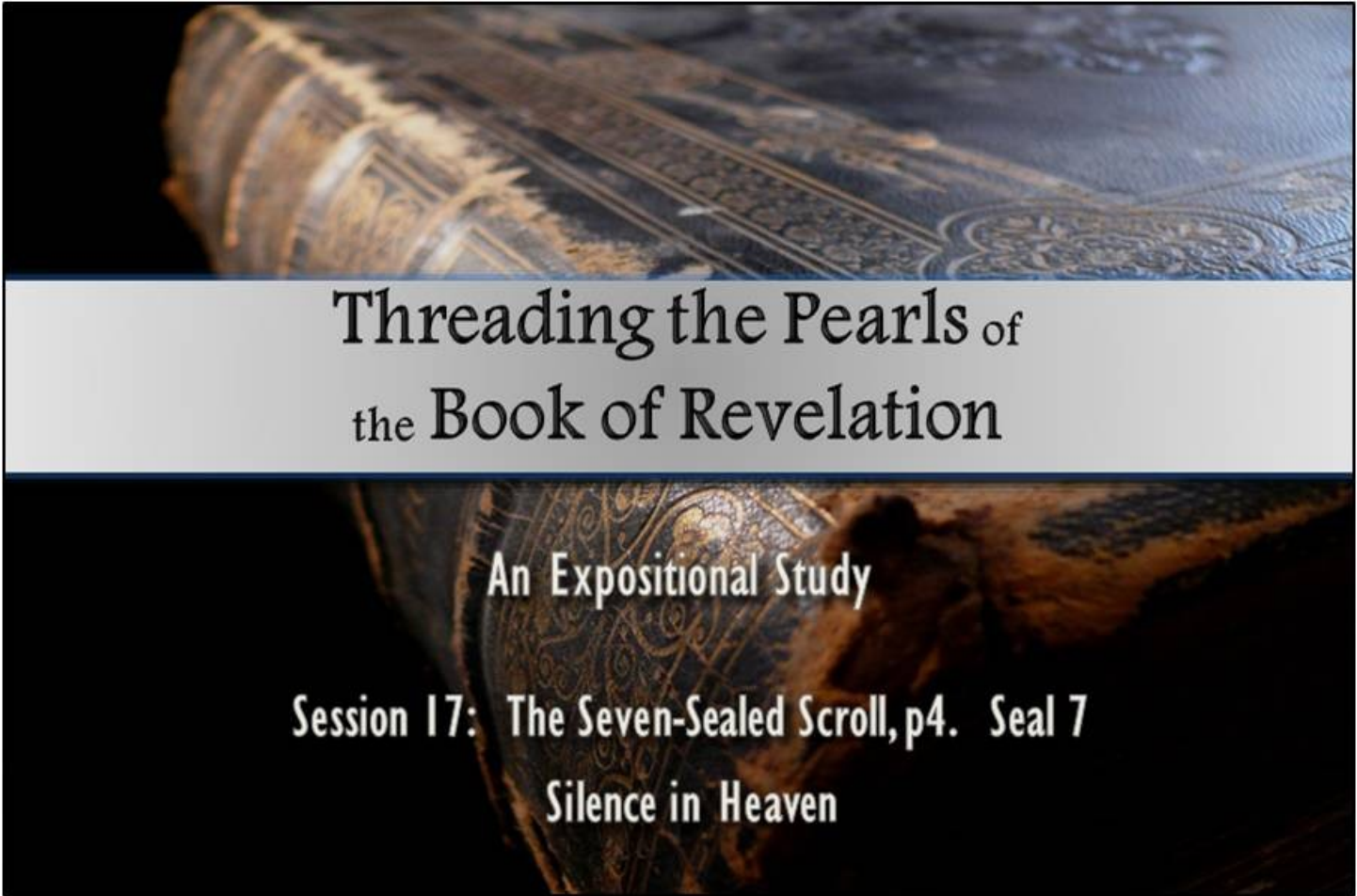




T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g



Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session 17: The Seven-Sealed Scroll, p4. Seal 7
Silence in Heaven

REVELATION 8:1 — 8:6

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When He opened the seventh seal, there was *silence in heaven*
for about half an hour.

[REV 8:1]



REVELATION 8

1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven, as it were for half an hour.

He opened the seventh seal

DAN 6:16-17, the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, "*Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.*" ¹⁷Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Silence in heaven

HAB 2:20, the Lord is in His holy temple. *Let all the earth keep silence before Him*";

ISA 47:5, *Sit in silence, and go into darkness*, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms;

LAM 2:10-13, *The elders of the daughter of Zion Sit on the ground and keep silence*; They throw dust on their heads And gird themselves with sackcloth. The virgins of Jerusalem Bow their heads to the ground. ¹¹My eyes fail with tears, My heart is troubled; My bile is poured on the ground Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, Because the children and the infants Faint in the streets of the city. ¹²They say to their mothers, "Where is grain and wine?" As they swoon like the wounded In the streets of the city, As their life is poured out In their mothers' bosom. ¹³How shall I console you? To what shall I liken you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What shall I compare with you, that I may comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For your ruin is spread wide as the sea; Who can heal you?

AMOS 8:1-3, Thus the Lord God showed me: Behold, a basket of summer fruit. ²And He said, "Amos, what do you see?" So I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me: "The end has come upon My people Israel; I will

not pass by them anymore. ³And the songs of the temple Shall be wailing in that day," Says the Lord God-"Many dead bodies everywhere, *They shall be thrown out in silence.*"

Half an hour

MATH 24:36-39, *of that day and hour [ὥρας] no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.* ³⁷"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸"For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹"and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be;

LUKE 22:14-16, *When the hour had come*, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. ¹⁵Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶"for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God".

CONSIDER THIS —

To mark the end

AMOS 8:2-3, the Lord said to me: "*The end has come upon My people Israel*; I will not pass by them anymore. ³And the songs of the temple Shall be wailing in that day," Says the Lord God-"Many dead bodies everywhere, *They shall be thrown out in silence.*"



REVELATION 8

2 And I saw seven angels standing in the presence of God; and there were given to them seven trumpets.

Seven angels

PSM 78:49-53, He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, *By sending angels of destruction among them.* ⁵⁰He made a path for His anger; He did not spare their soul from death, But gave their life over to the plague, ⁵¹And destroyed all the firstborn in Egypt, The first of their strength in the tents of Ham. ⁵²But He made His own people go forth like sheep, And guided them in the wilderness like a flock; ⁵³And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

Stand before God

DEUT 17:12-13, Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest *who stands to minister there before the Lord your God*, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel. ¹³"And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously;
EZRA 9:15, "O Lord God of Israel, You are righteous, for we are left as a remnant, as it is this day. Here we are before You, in our guilt, though *no one can stand before You because of this!*"

[The seven angels] were given

GAL 3:18-22, if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. ¹⁹What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and *it was appointed through angels* by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. ²¹Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²²But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the

promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Seven trumpets

JOSH 6:2-4, the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. ³"You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. ⁴"And *seven priests shall bear seven trumpets* of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.

CONSIDER THIS —

The enemies of God will soon sit in silence

ISA 47:5, *Sit in silence*, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms;

A preview of Revelation Chapters 17 & 18.



REVELATION 8

3 And another angel came, and stood before the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer of the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar, which is before the throne of God.

Another angel

PRO 25:13, Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, For he refreshes the soul of his masters;

PRO 17:11, An evil man seeks only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

Stood at the altar

1KING 13:1-3, behold, a man of God went from Judah to Bethel by the word of the Lord, and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. ²Then he cried out against the altar by the word of the Lord, and said, "O altar, altar! Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, a child, Josiah by name, shall be born to the house of David; and on you he shall sacrifice the priests of the high places who burn incense on you, and men's bones shall be burned on you.' " ³And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign which the Lord has spoken: Surely the altar shall split apart, and the ashes on it shall be poured out".

Golden censer

HEB 9:1-5, ...³the part of the tabernacle which is called *the Holiest of All*, ⁴which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.

[Angel] was given incense

1CHR 23:13-14, The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses; and Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should sanctify the most holy things, *to burn incense before the Lord*, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever. ¹⁴Now the sons of Moses the man of God were reckoned to the tribe of Levi;

ISAM 2:27-31, a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? ²⁸*Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest, to offer upon My altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod before Me? And did I not give to the house of your father all the offerings of the children of Israel made by fire?...*

Incense to offer

PSM 141:2, *Let my prayer be set before You as incense*, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice;

EXO 30:6-9, you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you. ⁷"Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. ⁸"And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, *a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.* ⁹"You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it.

CONSIDER THIS —

The prayers of the saints

What were they praying in Revelation Chapter 6?

"How long, until You *judge and avenge* our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

[REV 6:10]

Prayers of all the saints

EPH 6:13-18, ...¹⁷take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸*praying always with all prayer and supplication* in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

DEUT 33:1-3, this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ²And he said: "The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came with ten thousands of saints; From His right hand Came a fiery law for them. ³Yes, He loves the people; *All His saints are in Your hand*; They sit down at Your feet; Everyone receives Your words.

Golden altar

NUM 16:43-48, Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of meeting. ⁴⁴And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵"Get away from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment." And they fell on their faces. ⁴⁶So Moses said to Aaron, "*Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar*, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the Lord. The plague has begun"...

Altar before the throne

EZE 40:46-47, The chamber which faces north is for the priests who have charge of the altar; these are the sons of Zadok, from the sons of Levi, who come near the Lord to minister to Him." ⁴⁷And he measured the court, one hundred cubits long and one hundred cubits wide, foursquare. *The altar was in front of the temple.*





REVELATION 8

4 And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel.

Smoke of the incense

EXO 30:34-38, the Lord said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each. ³⁵"You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy. ³⁶"And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. ³⁷"But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. *It shall be to you holy for the Lord.* ³⁸"Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people".

Together with the prayers

PSM 39:8-12, ...¹¹When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; Surely every man is vapor. Selah ¹²"Hear my prayer, O Lord, And *give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears;* For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers were.

Went up before God

2SAM 24:21-25, ...²⁴So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. ²⁵And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So *the Lord heeded the prayers* for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel;

JONA 2:7, When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And *my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.*

The angel's hand

JUDG 6:15-21, ...¹⁹Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them. ²⁰The Angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And he did so. ²¹Then *the Angel of the Lord put out the end of the staff that was in His hand*, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the Lord departed out of his sight.

CONSIDER THIS —

Even if uttered from Sheol, God can hear us:

"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And *You heard my voice.*

[JONA 2:2]



REVELATION 8

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it on the earth, and there were thunders and voices and lightnings, and a great earthquake.

The angel took the censer

LEV 16:9-13, ...¹¹"Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which is for himself. ¹²"Then *he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar before the Lord*, with his hands full of sweet incense beaten fine, and bring it inside the veil. ¹³"And he shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the Testimony, lest he die.

Filled [the censer] with fire

NUM 16:5-35, Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. ⁶"Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company; ⁷"*put fire in them and put incense in them before the Lord tomorrow*, and it shall be that the man whom the Lord chooses is the holy one...

Fire from the altar

NUM 16:36-40, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: ³⁷"Tell Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, to pick up the censers out of the blaze, for they are holy, and *scatter the fire some distance away*. ³⁸"The censers of these men who sinned against their own souls, let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the altar. Because they presented them before the Lord, therefore they are holy; and they shall be a sign to the children of Israel"...

Hurled [the censer] on the earth

LAM 2:1-5, ...He cast down from heaven to the earth The beauty of Israel, And did not remember His footstool In the day of His anger. ²The Lord has swallowed up and has not pitied All the dwelling places of Jacob. He has thrown down in His wrath The strongholds of the daughter of Judah; He has brought them down to the ground; He has profaned the kingdom and its princes. ³He has cut off in fierce anger Every horn of Israel; He has drawn back His right hand From before the enemy. *He has blazed against Jacob like a flaming fire Devouring all around*. ⁴Standing like an enemy, He has bent His bow; With His right hand, like an adversary, He has slain all who were pleasing to His eye; On the tent of the daughter of Zion, He has poured out His fury like fire...; EZE 30:8-9, they will know that I am the Lord, *When I have set a fire in Egypt And all her helpers are destroyed*. ⁹On that day messengers shall go forth from Me in ships To make the careless Ethiopians afraid, And great anguish shall come upon them, As on the day of Egypt; For indeed it is coming!"

Peals of thunder

EXO 9:23-26, Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and *the Lord sent thunder and hail*, and fire darted to the ground. And the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt...

Rumblings

GEN 3:8 [LXX], *they heard the sound [φώνην] of the Lord God walking* in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

CONSIDER THIS —

There is fire of judgment before the Lord

DAN 7:9-10, "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰*A fiery stream issued And came forth* from before Him..."

Flashes of lightning

PSM 18:14, He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, *Lightnings in abundance*, and He vanquished them;
PSM 97:1-4, The Lord reigns; Let the earth rejoice; Let the multitude of isles be glad! ²Clouds and darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. ³A fire goes before Him, And burns up His enemies round about. ⁴*His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles.*

An earthquake

ISA 29:6, *You will be punished by the Lord of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, With storm and tempest And the flame of devouring fire.*





REVELATION 8

6 And the seven angels, who had the seven trumpets, prepared themselves to sound the trumpet.

The seven angels

JOSH 6:4-5, *seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets...*

The seven trumpets

JOSH 6:6-9, ...⁸So it was, when Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing *the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the Lord advanced and blew the trumpets*, and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them. ⁹The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard came after the ark, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

Prepared

EXO 23:20-23, "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into *the place which I have prepared*. ²¹"Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him. ²²"But if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries...;

HEB 11:12-16, from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude-innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.

Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for *He has prepared a city for them*;

1COR 2:9-10, as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man *The things which God has prepared* for those who love Him." ¹⁰But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Sound [the seven trumpets]

JOSH 6:12-14, Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. ¹³Then *seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on continually and blew with the trumpets*. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the Lord, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. ¹⁴And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days;

HEB 12:18-19, you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, ¹⁹and *the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words*, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore;

JOEL 2:1, *Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!* Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand.

CONSIDER THIS —

The Day of the Lord is at hand!

JOEL 2:1, *Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!* Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand.



GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 8:1, When *He opened the seventh seal*, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

⊕ **1. What is the significance of the number Seven?**

(see also GEN 2:1-3 & LEV 26:23-28)

REV 8:1, When He opened the seventh seal, *there was silence in heaven* for about half an hour.

⊕ **2a. What might be reasons for this silence?**

(see also PSM 46:8-10, PSM 62:5-8, LAM 3:24-26, ZEPH 1:7 & ZECH 2:11-13)

⊕ **2b. Give another example when silence was noted in the Bible.**

(see also JOSH 6:10, ISA 53:6-7 & MATH 26:59-68)

⊕ **2c. How might these examples of silence be a precursor to an important event that follows.**

JOSH 6:10, Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, "You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, *nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth*, until the day I say to you, 'Shout!' Then you shall shout."

⊕ **3a. What event followed the people's silence; what happened when the people shouted?**

(see JOSH 6:13-21)

⊕ **3b. What event follows the silence in heaven?**

(see REV 8:6-7)

ISA 47:5, *Sit in silence*, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; For you shall no longer be called The Lady of Kingdoms.

⊕ **4. How does God make silent those who oppose Him?**

(see also PSM 115:16-17, NAH 2:13, ISA 47:1-9 & ISA 60:18-19)

REV 8:4, the smoke of the incense, with *the prayers of the saints*, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

⊕ **5. Who are the saints?**

(see also 1COR 6:2-3, ROM 8:27-30, DAN 7:27 & EPH 4:11-15)

NEXT SESSION —