

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

REVELATION 8

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Verse 1, The Silence in Heaven

Pause of Reflection About What Has Happened (Chapters 1-7)

Insight and understanding= Wisdom, come from reflection

The fruit and failure of technology

Fruit is speed of knowledge

Failure is speed that makes slowing down for reflection a challenge

(Wisdom cannot be hurried)

Greatest challenge to human spirit

Mental and physical breakdowns increase without time for reflection

Teaching of Scripture: Psalm 46: 10; Isaiah 30: 15

Example of God and the most violated commandment: Exodus 20: 8-11

Example of the Lord Jesus: Mark 1: 35; Matthew 14: 22-23

Pause of Preparation for What is to Come: Habakkuk 2: 20

Pause of Reverence for Prayers of Saints

As the prayers of the saints go up, the heavens are stilled. Even praise of heavenly host is stilled.

Importance of our prayer to God: Nothing more important to God than prayers of the saints.

Verse 2, The Angels of the Presence and Their Trumpets

Seven Angels: Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Sariel, Gabriel and Remiel

Highest honor to have open and free access to the King

Readiness to be dispatched for service

Trumpet, Sign of God's presence (Exodus 19: 16, 19)

Trumpet, Symbol of God's Presence in History

Judaeo-Christian heritage, God of history not just cyclic nature

Trumpet, Sign and Symbol of the Day of the Lord

Old Testament: Isaiah 27: 13; Joel 2: 1; Zephaniah 1: 16; Zechariah 9:14

New Testament: I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:16;

Matthew 24:31

Purpose of Trumpet:

Sound the alarm; warn of danger

Announces arrival of royalty

Summons to battle

Verses 3-5, The Angel and the Censer

Altar in heaven is not for sacrifice or offering of animals, but for sacrifice or offering of prayer

Sacrifices/offerings/ that which we give sometimes at great costs, are acts of worship

What do our offerings say about our worship?

If there is no offering or sacrifice there is no real worship. Those who do not give do not really worship. Attendance is not worship. Following the order of service without any sacrifice/giving is not worship

No giving, no real worship

Little giving, little real worship

Much giving, much real worship

The sacrifice of prayer for the saints

Altar of incense (Leviticus 16: 12; Numbers 16; 46) in Old Testament

Altar and censer are gold; Prayer is most precious possession and power of believer: "Nothing outside the reach of prayer except that which is outside of the will of God."

Kills odor; Kills impurities in the soul

Helps sweeten atmosphere; Prayer sets atmosphere for worship

Angel lifted prayers in censer; Holy Spirit carries our prayers

(Romans 8: 26-27)

Angels smashes censer: Warfare prayer

Verses 7-12, The Unleashing of the Elements

John's use of Old Testament

Fire mixed with hail, Exodus 9: 24

Sun turned into darkness and moon turned into blood, Joel 2: 10

Waters of Nile turned into blood and death of fish, Exodus 7: 20, 21

Wormwood: class of plants known for bitterness. Bitterness of God's judgment, Jeremiah 9; 14-15; 23: 15

Darkness covering the earth, Exodus 10: 21-23

Verse 13, The Flying Eagle

Mid-heaven is 12:00 noon

Eagle flying across empty sky is attention getter

God's people must discern God's attention getters to be prepared for things to come

The discerning and wise know how to reflect will recognize the attention getters God sends