

**Revelation 8 (NASB)**  
**The Seventh Seal—the Trumpets**

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

Why do you think there is a half hour of silence? Could it be there to add “Anticipation”, a dramatic pause, it could be God getting ready for judgment. The Scroll is about to be fully open.

*8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*

The Greek word for trumpet is ‘salpinx’. It is never used in Scriptures as a musical instrument. This word for trumpet is used in the Bible as a call to arms or battle cry. But not just any action:

Joel 2:1	The Lord is coming
Exodus 19:19	God spoke
Leviticus 25:9	Day of atonement
Isaiah 27:13	Day of atonement

God is getting ready to do something every time the trumpet sounds.

*8:3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. 6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.*

The following verses explain who offered the prayers and the incense in the Tabernacle on behalf of the Israelites:

1 Samuel 2:28	Priest
1 Chronicle 6:49	Aaron – high priest
Luke 1:8-9	Priest

Jesus is now our high priest. Based on those teachings, Jesus most likely is the angel offering the bowl with the incense to God.

Is Jesus ever called an angel elsewhere in Scripture?

Genesis 16:7 and 10.	<i>“the angel of the Lord said to her (Sarai), “I will greatly multiply your descendants” Only Jesus could make the promise</i>
Exodus 3:2	<i>“The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush”</i>
Judges 2:1	<i>“The angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt . . .”</i>
Isaiah 37:36	<i>“Angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians . . . they were dead.”</i>

In each of these verses Jesus is described as the angel of the Lord. The bowl contains two things: incense and the prayers of the saints. The incense is a sweet aroma to God. The incense is sacrificial burnt offering (see Leviticus 1:12-13). We know that this is the blood of Christ being

offered because of the sweet smell for those who are saved. 2 Corinthians 2:15 says *“For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing”*. The prayers of the saints also come before God. Jesus, the angel, adds fire to the golden censer. And then He hurled it to the earth which further confirms this is Christ and not just an ordinary angel. This shows us an extremely important thing, it shows us that there are many prayers and they are valuable to God because they are all heard and all saved by God. The way we as God's children have been mistreated brings God's wrath on nonbelievers.

Read Proverbs 25:21-22, and Luke 6:28 says *“bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* We are told to bless our enemies by showing kindness and we are to pray for them. This gives them an opportunity to see Christ working through us. If they don't, God promises to avenge us. Romans 12:19 says *“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.”*

The high priest. The bowls of incense (Christ's blood). Your prayers. Unanswered prayer. Loving your enemies. God's wrath.

Is it making sense now?

When our prayers come back to earth, the beginning of the judgment of God comes with them.

There are 7 angels.

There are 7 Bowls.

There are 7 trumpets which will signal judgments.

The number seven (7) is mentioned 463 times in Scripture.

The following verses tell us what accompanies the last bowl being thrown to earth. Revelation 8:5 says *“there followed (1) peals of thunder and sounds and (2) flashes of lightning and (3) an earthquake”* See Revelation 8:5, Revelation 11:19 and Revelation 16:18. These three things cause in men to have fear.

*8:7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

Three things fell from the sky in this verse, hail, fire and blood. Hail and fire fell from the sky during the 7th plague against Egypt. (See Exodus 9:23) The result of this first trumpet punishment is a third of the trees and all of the grass are wiped out. The result will be food shortages, chaos and disease. In the Egyptian plague, the result was all vegetation was struck down and it included breaking branches. (See Exodus 9:25.) Exodus and Revelation appear to be to have the same result because a fraction of the world was affected. All of Egypt was affected by the Exodus plagues but here 1/3 of the world was affected.

*8:8 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

This “great mountain” is something like an actual mountain or maybe a volcano. It could be a big mass of fire. The Sea became blood. Only one-third of the seas turn to blood. One-third of living sea creatures died. One-third of the ships on the seas were destroyed. God's first plague against Egypt the water turned to blood. (See Exodus 7:17.) The result of the first plague in Egypt was that

the fish died, the water was too foul to drink. Besides the rivers and lakes, the Mediterranean Sea may have turned to blood. (See Exodus 7:21) A lot of scientists and even pastors try to explain away this plague as being red algae. We know they are absolutely wrong because it says all water, even the water in buckets, pitchers, etc. were turned to blood. (See Exodus 7:19.)

*8:10 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.*

In these verses we see another fiery object thrown to Earth. This time it seems to affect all of the water on the Earth. In each judgment, one-third of the target gets destroyed. "Wormwood" is a bitter desert plant that resembles sagebrush. The word wormwood appears several times in the Old Testament, it is related to bitterness and a feeling of grief.

*8:12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.*

*13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"*

All light will be reduced by one-third. Two ways the darkening might happen are the Sun is one-third dimmer or the Sun is visible only one-third of the time. While no one is certain, the Sun being one-third dimmer makes the most sense. Things about to go from bad to worse and we know because three words are used in sequence. Woe, woe, woe! These judgments all are directed against things that we take for granted, all elements of the Earth, Creation, water and plants. These verses once again verify that there will be a Rapture. Romans 1:25 helps to confirm that because Creation is being worshipped instead of the Creator. Romans 1:25 tells us *"For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."*