

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

### The Seventh Seal is Broken

#### Revelation 8

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
The Lord Jesus Christ breaks the seventh seal following the vision of chapter 7. The first response to this seal is silence - a pregnant pause of anticipation awaiting the judgments which are about to be unleashed (v.1). There are seven angels who stand before God (cf. Luke 1:19) are given trumpets in order to announce the succession of increasing destruction (v.2).
  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Another angel of the same kind is also standing before the Lord in front of the altar in order to burn incense. The burning of incense was a central part of the worship that God had prescribed in the Old Testament (Ex. 30:4-38) and it symbolized the prayers of the people as they arose before the Lord (Luke 1:8-11). In a previous vision the incense itself represented the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8), whereas here the prayers are represented by the burning coals in the censer (Re. 8:3-4).
  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
The actions which follow the blowing of these trumpets are all associated with something in the sky and its effect upon the earth. Meteors or other kinds of celestial objects are the cause of destruction upon the earth for the first three trumpets (vs.7, 8, 10; cf. Ex. 9:18ff). The fourth trumpet results in some cosmic activity which results in abnormal darkening of the sky (cf. Ex. 10:21ff; Amos 5:18). The result of these trumpet judgments is a destruction of one-third all things that are necessary for sustaining of life on the earth.