**Revelation Chapter 8**

1. The Seventh Seal: verses 1-5
2. Silence for about half an hour
3. Silence in the Old Testament is tied to God’s presence.
4. Habakkuk 2:13; Zechariah 2:13; Exodus 14:10-14
5. Silence in this context is an act of faith and worship that God will move on behalf of His people.
6. The word “hour” in John’s Gospel can refer to a specific hour in the day like in John 4:6 (sixth hour would have been noon.) The word “hour” can also be used to refer to Jesus’s death on the cross like in John 2:4. Finally the word “hour” can refer to the time before the end (1 John 2:18).
7. “half-hour”
8. Perhaps this is the time before the seven angels blow the trumpets announcing our Lord’s return.
9. The Seven Angels
10. Revelation is the only place in the Bible where we see a group of seven angels.
11. Each category of angels carries a different task
12. Seven angels of the seven churches (Rev. 2 and 3)
13. Seven trumpet angels (Rev. 8:2)
14. Seven bowls of wrath angels (Rev. 15:6-8)
15. It’s possible that there is only one group of seven angels that perform three different roles.
16. Trumpets
17. In the ancient world trumpets were used to announce major events.
18. In Numbers 10:1-10 trumpets were used to call Israel before the tabernacle.
19. In Zephaniah 1:14-16 a trumpet is used to announce the Day of the Lord.
20. In Matthew 24:29-31 a trumpet will sound and God’s elect will be gathered.
21. In 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 a trumpet will announce the resurrection at the end.
22. The trumpets here in Revelation 8 announce plagues, natural and demonic, that will befall the human race, in particular those who do not belong to God.
23. *The purpose of such plagues is to move people to repentance according to Rev. 9:20,21.*
24. Another angel: verses 3-5
25. Holds a golden censer
26. The incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints.
27. In the Old Testament we are told that God loves the fragrant smell of offerings and of incense (Genesis 8:21; Lev. 2:1-2). The langue here in Rev. 8 lets us know that in the same way God loves the prayers of His saints.
28. Censer full of fire
29. This represents God’s judgment
30. In the OT fire represents God’s unapproachable and overpowering holiness. See Exodus 19:10-19
31. God has a fierce and consuming anger.
32. “thunders, lighting flashes and earthquake”
33. These are the judgements that God permits and even sends to the earth.
34. They are sent to get people’s attention, just like the ten plagues God sent Egypt in the Book of Exodus.