

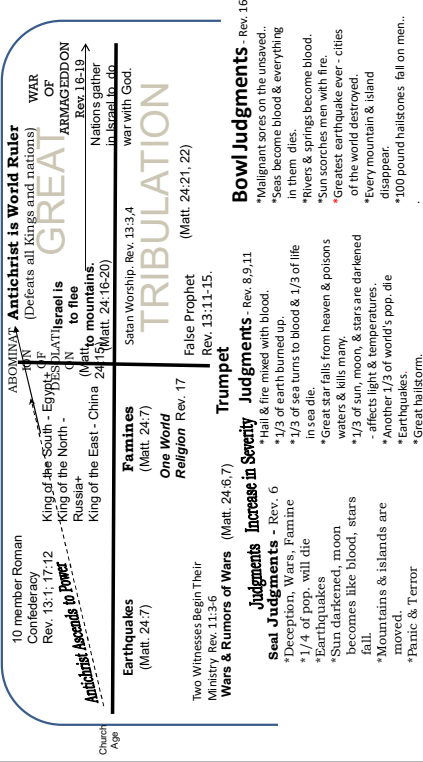
“The 7th Seal”

Rev. 8:1-5

Oct. 15, 2017

7 Year Tribulation

All believers appear before the “bema seat” to receive rewards.
2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14, Rev. 19:8



Matt 25:21

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'"

How to earn reward for the glory of God -

1. Do not sin. If you do, confess it right away.
 2. God's Word – read the Word, memorize the Word, be taught the Word, obey the Word.
 3. Pray.
 4. Use your spiritual gift(s).
 5. Use the resources God has entrusted you with for His glory:
 - Material – the place where you live, the car that you drive.
 - Financial – your money, what are you investing in – this world or eternity?
- 1 John 2:15-17**
- 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.
- 17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

- Time – what do I spend my time doing? Worthy or worthless? Where am I wasting time? Do I have priorities? Do I use my time wisely?

Eph 5:14-16

14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."
 15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

2 Cor 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

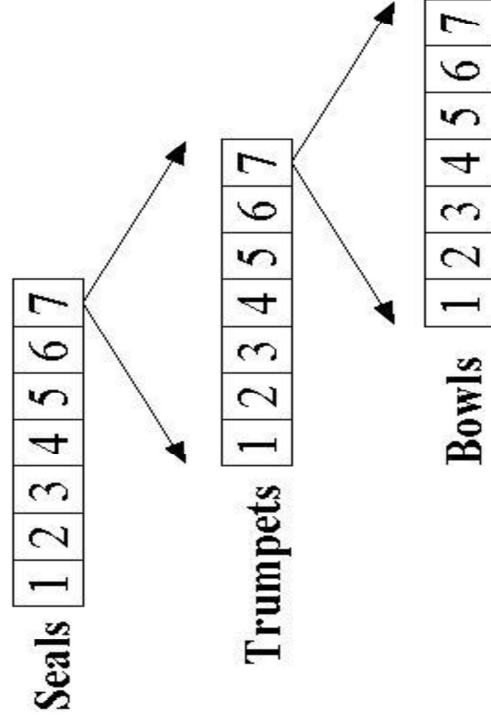
6. Evangelism, discipleship, serving others, and everything you do.

1 Cor 10:31

31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Rev 8:1-5

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- 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.
- 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.
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“silence in heaven”

4 purposes for the half hour pause:

1. For everyone to collect themselves from a time of celebration – white robes, waving palm branches, singing, shouting, adoration, worshiping.

Ps 46:10

10 Be still, and know that I am God;

Hab 2:20

20 "But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."

Zeph 1:7

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near,

Zech 2:13

13 "Be silent, all flesh, before the Lord; for He is aroused from His holy habitation."

Ecc1 3:7

7 A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; A time to be silent and a time to speak.

“silence in heaven”

4 purposes for the half hour pause:

1. For everyone to collect themselves from a time of celebration – white robes, waving palm branches, singing, shouting, adoration, worshiping.
2. That there might be a sober, awestruck silence because of the judgments to come.
3. To give everyone in heaven a time to think, to meditate on God, and what He is about to do.
4. To heighten a sense of anticipation. This is the calm before the storm, the stillness before the grand finale of fireworks, the silence before an army unleashes an attack, the hush before the foreman of a jury reports a verdict.

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“7 angels who stand before God”

5 classifications of angels based on their rank and distinction –

Col 1:16

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

1. **The Cherubim** – angels around the throne of God. There are four of them – “the four living creatures.” They seem to be the highest of God’s created beings in an angelic form.
2. **The Archangels** of which the Bible speaks of two. Michael, called the great prince, an archangel. Gabriel, when he announced himself to the father of John the Baptist, Zacharias.

Luke 1:19

9 The angel answered and said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God,

3. **The Seven angels** that stand in the presence of God, who are dispatched by God on particular missions. They stand, permanently, in the presence of God Almighty; these are special angels, they are some of Heaven’s elite. They are always prepared, always available, and always obedient to carry out God’s will.
4. **Chief Princes** – these are those who are dispatched come to the help and aid believers.

Dan 10:13

13 “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.

5. **Sons of God** – those who belong to the general classification of angels.

Job 1:6

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

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“7 trumpets”

- Trumpets play a major role in God’s dealings with His people.

Trumpets were used throughout both the Old and New

Testaments:

- to summon the congregation of Israel (Num. 10:2)
- to sound the alarm and gather Israel for war (Num. 10:9, 2 Chron. 13:12, Ezek. 33:3)
- to announce news (1 Sam. 13:3)
- to celebrate new kings (1 Kings 1:34,39)
- in ceremonial processions (Josh. 6:1, 1 Chron. 15:24)
- in worship (1 Chron. 16:6, 42; 2 Chron. 5:12-13)
- at religious feasts (Num. 10:10, Ps. 81:3)
- to announce the new year (Num. 29:1)
- to announce the coming Day of the LORD (Zephaniah 1:14-16)

Joel 2:1

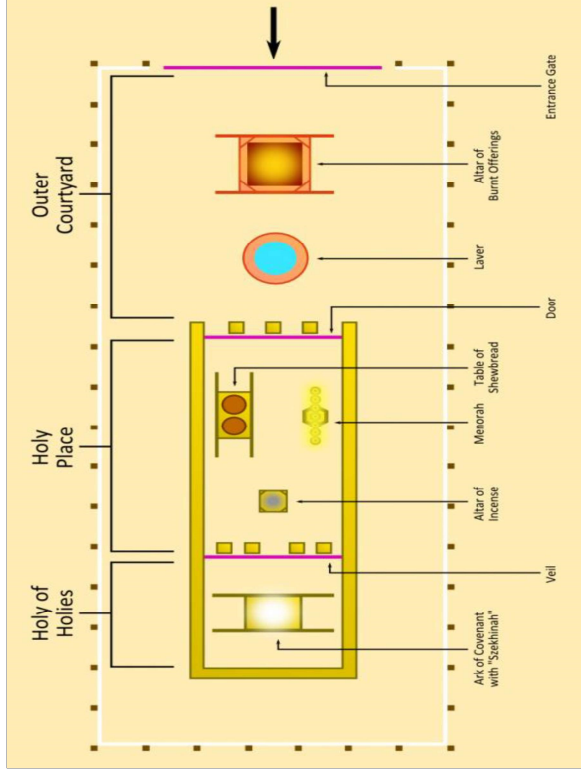
- 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the Lord is coming; Surely it is near,
- to announce the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thess. 4:16).

“7 trumpets”

- Trumpets play a major role in God’s dealings with His people.
- Here the number 7 signifies the completeness or perfect accomplishment of these judgments.

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What does the Tabernacle teach us about prayer:

1. In the Tabernacle the Altar of Incense, representing the prayers of the believer, was located right next to the Holy of Holies containing the presence of God.

Ps 141:2

2 May my prayer be counted as incense before You;

Heb 10:19-22

- 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,
- 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
- 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2. The fire was to never go out on the Altar of Incense and was to be maintained by the Levitical Priest day and night.

1 Thess 5:17

17 pray without ceasing;

Rom 12:12

12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

3. Prayer is the outgrowth of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross:

- Without the cross, you have no prayer.

Lev 10:1-2

- 1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.
 - 2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.
- The brass of the Altar of Sacrifice stood for judgment – Christ was judged for us and put Him in a place of Judge over all the world.
 - Anyone who rejects Christ's sacrifice must face His judgment.
 - Therefore it is right and proper for believers to offer prayers to God that involve both forgiveness and judgment.

4. As Christ was the all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, so He is the all-sufficient One who answers our prayers.

Phil 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Peter 5:7

7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

James 5:13

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.

Question: If you are in Heaven praying, as these are from the Tribulation, will your prayers always align perfectly with God's will?

Job 21:15

15 Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit do we have if we pray to Him?

1. There is something pleasing and fragrant about the prayers of the saints that God enjoys.
2. The Lord longs to hear our prayers.
3. Our prayers are special to Him.
4. Our prayers are unique. No one else's prayers can substitute for yours.
5. The Lord loves it when we call out to Him. He wants to converse with us. He wants to hear the expressions of our heart.

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2 Chron 30:27

27 Then the Levitical priests arose and blessed the people; and their voice was heard and their prayer came to His holy dwelling place, to heaven.

Acts 10:4

4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

Question: There is one prayer that the people of God in all ages have been praying that has never yet been answered. What is that prayer?

It is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," (Matthew 6:10, Luke 11:2).

*"There is an eye that never sleeps
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an ear that never shuts
When sink the beams of light.*

*There is an arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails
When earthly loves decay.*

*That eye is fixed on seraph throngs;
That arm upholds the sky;
That ear is filled with angel songs;
That love is throned on high.*

*But there's a power which man can wield,
When mortal aid is vain,
That eye, that ear, that love to reach,
That listening ear to gain.*

*That power is PRAYER, which soars on high,
Through Jesus, to the throne;
And moves the hand which moves the world,
To bring salvation down!"*

- Joseph Seiss
Theologian

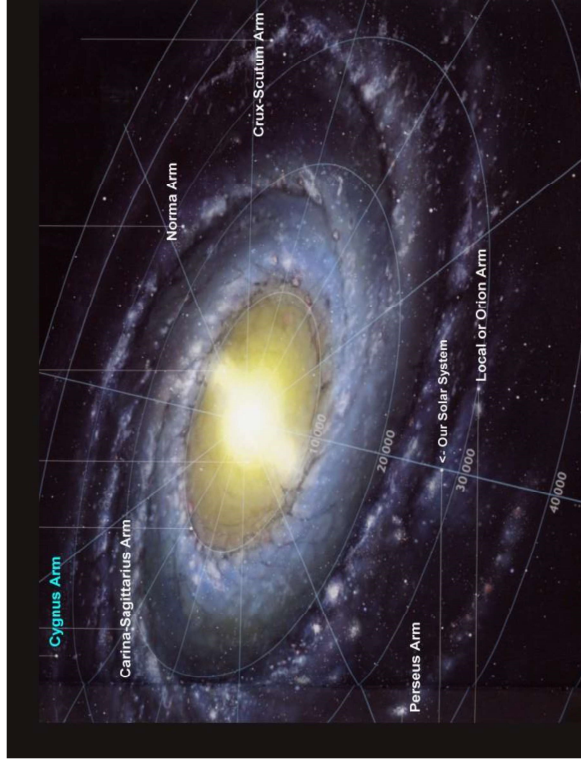
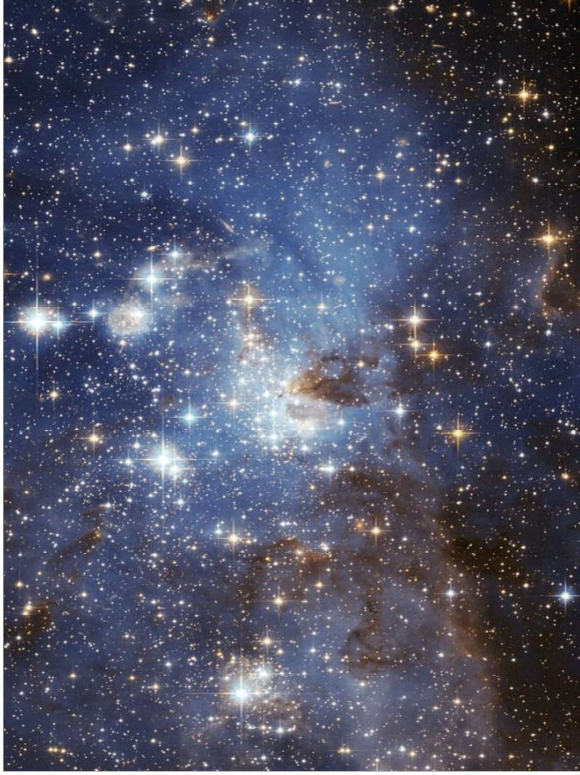
Now the censer becomes a symbolic instrument of judgment in response to prayer.

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- *Consider this –*
- *The earth is rotating at the speed of 1,070 mph.*
- *The earth is revolving around the sun at 66,600 mph.*
- *Our solar system is revolving around the center of the Milky Way galaxy at 559,234 mph.*
- *Our galaxy is moving through space with other galaxies at 671,080 mph.*

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- 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.**

Rev 4:5

- 5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.
- Luke 12:49**
49 I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!

Rev 6:9-11

9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.



Joseph Scriven
1819-1886

Joseph Scriven was born in 1819 of prosperous parents in Banbridge, County Down, Ireland. He graduated with a degree from Trinity College, Dublin in 1842. His fiancée accidentally drowned in 1843, the night before they were to be married. In 1845, at the age of 25, he left his native country and migrated to Canada, settling in Woodstock, Ontario. His reason for leaving his country can be attributed to the religious influence of the Plymouth Brethren upon his life, estranging him from his family. He only remained in Canada briefly after becoming ill, but returned in 1847. In 1855, while staying with James Sackville in Bewdley, Ontario, north of Port Hope, he received news from Ireland of his mother being terribly ill. He wrote a poem to comfort his mother called "Pray Without Ceasing". It was later set to music and renamed. It's the hymn we are looking at tonight.



Joseph Scriven
1819-1886

Scriven did not have any intentions nor dream that his poem would be for publication in the newspaper and later becoming a favorite hymn among the millions of Christians around the world. About 1857 he moved near Port Hope, Ontario where he again fell in love and was due to be married, but in August 1860 his fiancée suddenly fell ill of pneumonia and died before they were to be married. He then devoted the rest of his life to tutoring, preaching and helping others. In 1869 Scriven published a collection of 115 *Hymns and other verses*. Scriven drowned in 1886 at age 66. The hymn that he wrote . . .

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield you;
You will find a solace there.
4. Blessèd Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright unclouded
There will be no need for prayer
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Rapture, praise and endless worship
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Will be our sweet portion there.