



**The Sounds of Silence
God's Strange Work
Revelation 8:1-7**

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Revelation 8:1–2

“When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.” (NASB 2020)

The last word we heard from those who live on the earth, those who are unsaved, was for the rocks to fall on them and hide them from the one they had just been provided a quick glimpse of.



The next thing they are privileged to deal with, is some angelic trumpet playing that no one in their right mind would ever want to hear. Each announces wrath from the throne room.

Many, as they study the Bible, focus on wrath of God and miss the love of God. We are about to be eyewitnesses to history in advance as God indeed pours His wrath down onto an unbelieving planet.

The sixth seal was simply a warmup. When we talk about the wrath of God, we are talking about a concept that even the prophets related, in all they wrote about, to be a strange aspect of His character.

Many who are universalists reject the Old Testament as well as what we see here in Revelation because they think it contains contradictions to the character of God, it doesn't. What we see here is something Isaiah covered clearly in Isaiah 28, almost a type of what we see here in Revelation.

Isaiah shows us that God Himself recognizes the activity of judgement is unusual, yet it is also appropriate when His attributes are fully examined.

Leadership in Judah was in the process of making a lot of really bad decisions, ones which would have eternal consequences. Yes, they too had leaders who lied to them, just like we do today. First the ruling elites are called scoffers by Isaiah. The fact that the ruling elites are called scoffers portends bad things for those this scripture is being directed to. Looking through Proverbs, we see there are four groups that are addressed in that book. The wise, the simple, the fool and the scorner/scoffer.

The scoffer mocks at the wisdom of God and habitually acts with insolent pride (Proverbs 21:24).

They are only good for judgement (Proverbs 21:29).

The term is the strongest negative term used in the Old Testament to describe those who are wicked. Just like many we see today wanting to acquire power in the elective process and then never let go of it.

God holds all who are in or want to be in political power, who intentionally lie to us and mislead us, personally accountable.

None of those who run for office want to hear that. But the Lord takes leadership seriously. So seriously that He holds each person who is a leader, whether in government, church, business, military, schools, the home, etc.; personally accountable to Him for how they operate.

Leading into his comments on the love and wrath of God, Isaiah makes note in Isaiah 28:15 that the leaders of Judah not only lied but believed their own lies. Something I have run into this day and age more often than I care to.

Isaiah 28:16–22

“therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.” Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in. **For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed—strange is his deed! and to work his work—alien is his work!** Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land.” (ESV)



Those who are faithful are given a promise, Messiah.

The cornerstone is the Messiah, Jesus. He is the one who has been tested and it is His willingness to pay the high cost for our freedom, his blood, which shows just how costly and firmly placed this cornerstone is. The last words of verse 16 tells us that those who believe in this cornerstone, will not be disturbed. The Hebrew word is *יָחִיד* (yahis).

In other words, the faithful who believe in Messiah will not have to panic, unlike everyone else. The picture here is the leadership of Judah, but since this is also a type of the judgement here in Revelation, we are also talking about earth dwellers as well.

Isaiah uses the historical example of Mount Perazim (1 Chronicles 14:8-17) for describing God doing His strange work of judgement.

Not once, but on two occasions in the valley nearby, the Lord went before David and provided him the victory. In both cases, David inquired of the Lord and was provided instructions from Him. God took to the field on behalf of the nation and gave them the victory doing so in an overwhelming way. He established the fear of David as a military leader on the surrounding nations. This helped to finally finish the work of securing the land that Joshua started. The failure of Israel to complete it until David was due to sin.

This overwhelming flood of victory the Lord gave is used as an example of just how He intends to judge His own people unless they repent. He also uses the example of the Valley of Gibeon and the long day of Joshua as another example.

For the nation hearing this, they are learning that just as the Lord stood up and did miracles on behalf of His people to judge the Amorites and others in the land to give them the land, He would now do the same to judge His people and remove them from the land.

God is love; indeed He is. But God is also a consuming fire and what we are encountering here in Revelation is God, judging the world. We forget that millions will be saved as judgement takes place. "God saves through judgment to show the glory of his character at the fall, at the flood, at the exodus from Egypt, at Israel's exile from the land, at the cross, and at the existential point of conversion for everyone who repents of sin and believes unto salvation; and God will show his glory by saving through judgment when all things are consummated at the return of Christ." (Hamilton Jr. 2010, 558)

So, why the silence here? Jesus is transitioning to another requirement of redemption, the avenger of blood.

The angels are off in a corner warming up their horns. All of the heavenly host who are to be involved in the coming combat operations are fully prepared. But at the end of the day, it is still God's "strange act" that is taking place. "For I take no pleasure in anyone's death." This is the declaration of the Lord GOD. "So repent and live!" (Ezekiel 18:32, CSB)

Think about the silence in heaven though.

Billions in the throne room, all silent after the seal was broken. John sees seven angels handed their horns and they, I guess, are in the process of warming up. We are not given their names.

The Lord is indeed coming in judgement.



Habakkuk 2:20

“But the LORD is in his holy temple; let the whole earth be silent in his presence.” (CSB)

Zechariah 2:13

“Let all humanity be silent before the LORD, for from his holy dwelling he has roused himself.” (CSB)

Zephaniah 1:7

“Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD, for the day of the LORD is near. Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.” (CSB)

Silence means judgment is about to take place. The court has been assembled and just prior to the sentence being announced, additional testimony is received, and it is received in silence while meanwhile, the court is preparing for what is to come.

All of heaven can now see what the T&Cs are on the deed, and silence results.

The strange reality of this is, it has all happened before, just on a smaller scale. What happened in Egypt just prior to God taking His people from slavery? God humbled all the fallen divine beings as well as the human rulers of Egypt. He was in the process of setting His people free from the fallen ones in the unseen realm that wanted to enslave them and now we see here in Revelation, the same action beginning to take place again, on a global scale.

Remember, they were all defeated at the cross but that does not stop them from trying to destroy mankind and try to see how many they can take down with them.

There is an element we forget about, and this does help us understand the silence here. When Israel was freed from Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea in silence. We tend to miss that when we read Exodus.

Exodus 14:13–14

“And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today. **For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.**”” (ESV)

The Palestinian and Jerusalem Targums at this point paraphrase by saying that Israel was not to “shout ... to confound” the enemy but was to “be silent” as an expression of “glory and praise ... to God” for the imminent defeat of the Egyptians. Another reason given for the silence of Moses and the Israelites is found in the fact that God heard “the prayers of my people” and was about to answer them (cf. Targ. Onk. Exod. 2:24). (Beale 1999, 450)

God has heard the prayers of those beneath the altar at the 5th seal. We have seen with the 6th seal that the number of those who are yet to perish at the hands of the beast and the false prophet are innumerable, and with the 7th seal, we see that the prayers of them all have indeed been heard and are as incense before the Lord.

The entire deed to the planet is now opened. All the terms and conditions are now evident and the squatters, both physical and in the unseen realm, must be removed. The earth must be made ready for God to dwell with man as we see in Ezekiel 43.

We were given a picture of this earlier in the book of Joshua.

As Israel crossed the Jordan River, they began the process of removing the squatters from the land given to them by the Lord. If they had remained faithful, this would have been accomplished long before David.



This time, since it is the kinsman redeemer who is doing this action globally, there will indeed be success, and the squatters will all be removed.

The trumpets judgements begin the process.

Revelation 8:3–5

“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. And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel’s hand with the prayers of the saints before God. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.” (NASB 2020)

The prayers of those around the throne are added to the prayers, the incense, already rising up to the Lord.

God’s copious heaping up of incense for His servant’s ministry (“much”) reflects His abundant endorsement of the prayers, His great acceptance of them. The prayers are sweetly delightful to Him, and receive His kind regard (cf. Prov. 15:8b). Such a profusion of incense is for the purpose that the angel “might add it” as God’s favor in relation to the prayers. So the incense God furnishes is distinct from those prayers, yet it shows that He enhances them in His appraisal. What He contributes shows that His validation is with the prayers. They are acceptable and have fragrance before Him. (Rosscup 2008, 2766)

The verdict we see in verse 5 ends the silence on earth, but not in heaven yet. The sounds that John relates hearing are coming up from earth.

The fire is thrown to earth giving us a hint of coming events. The first three trumpet judgements involve fire in one form or another.

The fire being thrown down to earth tells us that God is answering all those prayers for things to be set right, and the result is noisy on earth.

Thunder, sounds, lightning flashes and an earthquake.

Thunder, we get that. But sounds? The word in the Greek is φωναὶ (phōnai). The word means “an auditory effect, sound, tone, noise...Of a shout produced by a crowd of people...Of the sound caused by spoken words...the sound made by a wail of sorrow...the faculty of utterance, voice.” (Arndt, et al. 2000, 1071)

What is heard coming up from the planet is expected, thunder, but then voices?

The voices heard are no different than what John heard coming from around the throne earlier. The idea is to point us back to when God revealed Himself to His people at Mt. Sinai, a theophany. Are the voices the same as heard there, all the languages of man? Possible. It could also be fear from those who have just experienced this since it comes from the planet.

A fearful sight this will be, with lightning bolts crashing from the sun-filled sky and leaden atmosphere. Atmospheric physicists will be called on to explain the strange phenomenon, and perhaps will venture some hypothesis that will calm the disturbed “voices” of the frightened populace for a time. But then another great earthquake strikes around the world, and the voices of alarm become more clamorous. (Morris 1983, 144)



We do learn here that prayer, for us as believers, is important. We see here that God remembers our prayers. I wonder if we will have discussions with Jesus about our prayers, or lack thereof.

He wants us to be in relationship with Him forever. He died for that to be possible and walked out of the grave letting us know how possible it is. That means we need to be talking with Him, we call that prayer and then listening to what He has to say to us. Yes, He is God. But never forget He loves us and wants to talk.

“The scene in heaven suggests that there is something sacrificial about genuine prayer. Both the believer and his prayer enter the presence of God by way of the altar.” (Mounce 1997, 175)

If you take time to pray daily, and wonder if it is important, to the Lord, we see here it is. More than we can ever begin to comprehend. He takes it as sacrifice to Him.

The thing I take away from this here is how much time do I spend before the throne in prayer. Our prayers are not bouncing off the walls, they are heard and acted upon. God always answers our prayers. We like it when the answer is yes. Sometimes though, the answer is no. We might be praying for the wrong thing, or we are praying selfishly and are not in communion with the Holy Spirit as we asked. Then there are those times we pray, and the answer is, wait. Waiting on the Lord is tough. But what we see here is that those prayers do get heard and are acted upon. He will indeed judge those who have abused us and have not repented. This was important to Jesus.

Luke 12:49

“I have come to bring fire on the earth—and how I wish it were already kindled!” (NET 2nd ed.)

Most commentaries on the book of Revelation say this moment is the beginning of the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, what the scriptures call the Great Tribulation. It is the last half the 70th week of Daniel, the time of Jacob’s trouble.

Jeremiah 30:7

“How awful that day will be! There will be no other like it! It will be a **time of trouble for Jacob**, but he will be saved out of it.” (CSB)

Revelation 8:6–7

“And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. The first sounded, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled 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.” (NASB 2020)

Once again, the seven angels and in the Greek, there is an article both times, these are “the” seven angels but again, no names. It is like it is assumed we should know who they are. Are they the seven angels over the seven churches we saw earlier? Probably not. But best guess, archangels, maybe.

Because of the article with angelous (“angels”) and because of an alleged correspondence with seven archangels in Jewish tradition, some have identified these angels as a special group consisting of Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqâêl, Gabriel, and Remiel. The perfect participle hestêkasin (“stand”) indicates that they were in position before God and had been there some time as a special class of angels would be. (Thomas 1995, 6-7)



What they do to get ready to play, we are not told. Placing themselves in the proper order, running a few scales, warming up the mouthpiece a little, all we know is John clearly can see they are getting ready to play.

Then he hears the first one play. The intent of each trumpet judgement is to deal with a world that is hostile towards God and those who belong to Him as well as to continue the call, in connection with the 144,000 evangelists, to repentance. Now we are in the Trumpet Judgements and the planet begins to be impacted. We begin with a repeat.

Exodus 9:22–24

“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Extend your hand toward the sky that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, on people and on animals, and on everything that grows in the field in the land of Egypt.” When Moses extended his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire fell to the earth; so the LORD caused hail to rain down on the land of Egypt. Hail fell and fire mingled with the hail; the hail was so severe that there had not been any like it in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.” (NET 2nd ed.)

That was localized, this will hit 1/3 of the planet.

God’s wrath and judgement coming with the first trumpet, global warming. Not phony bologna as we have seen the past decade or more, but real global warming.

Recall that in the earlier seal judgements, we witnessed global warfare, meaning the use of WMDs and the destruction, thanks to nuclear weapons, of much of the biosphere to include the ozone layer. By this time the ozone layer may be non-existent as well as some of the other protections the Lord built into the planet as well.

We see hail and fire mixed with blood thrown to earth and as a result 1/3 of the planet’s surface is burned up. By the way, the grass will either grow back as it is referenced in the 5th trumpet or the grass that is dormant due to seasonality will survive. But on 1/3 of the surface, everything is burned up.

What is this? A supernatural event? Yes, or it could be God using the destruction of the biosphere and all of those protections He built into the planet, which are now gone, and it allows for something we have experienced before, reflected as serious displays of northern lights, but with the protection gone, now something much more.

Call it, space weather gone wild. Some have conjectured this could be a coronal mass ejection which hits the planet. “Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun’s corona. They can eject billions of tons of coronal material and carry an embedded magnetic field (frozen in flux) that is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength. CMEs travel outward from the Sun at speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s. The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can reach our planet in as little as 15-18 hours.” (NOAA 2024)

Today, we get northern lights. But we have been having G4 severe solar storms recently (8/14/2024). The real concern is the impact a mega CME would have on the portion of the planet facing the sun as it hits the planet after the ozone layer has been damaged. That would totally destroy the ozone layer, and everything underneath would burn in the sunlight.

Large CME’s today have actually blown-up transformers causing fires. An extreme event could indeed cause the scorched ground, due to the drought from no wind anywhere, to be ready to burn as generators begin exploding everywhere.



But this is truly a guess.

A better possibility, since we already know that there has been a global earthquake is the resulting vulcanism resulting from that. If one or a group of super volcanoes erupted at once, the aerosols being prophesied here as judgment would all take place.

A quick review of the maps of super volcanoes globally shows there at least 10 globally. Three, maybe four in the United States alone, Yellowstone, La Garita Colorado, Jemez Springs New Mexico and Long Valley California. Add to that Cerro Galán in Argentina or Cerro Guacha in Bolivia.

Some of these are being watched closely even now. In the event of another eruption, everything within a hundred kilometers or so would be incinerated, and ash would blanket continents.

Just a few millimeters of the stuff can kill crops; a meter or more can make land unusable for decades. Ash can also crush buildings, foul water supplies, clog electronics, ground airplanes, and irritate lungs. And events seen with volcanoes erupting include thunder, lightning, fire, hail, poisonous gas, falling rocks and stones, showers of lava. Not to mention the other rare phenomena associated with them.

This is all speculative. The reality could be "it is likely that the avenging angels will so reorder natural processes as to produce an event entirely new in natural history, the better thereby to impress men that God Himself is speaking to them." (Morris 1983, 146)

We are not told if there has been the loss of life with this as well. But the disruption would be massive.

And with that we will stop for now. We have just barely begun the unveiling of the wrath of God on a sinful world. Not a place I would want anyone to be in.

You do not have to be.

You see, those who know Jesus Christ as their savior, they were evacuated before this period of time even begins. The pre-tribulation rapture of the church has removed the church from the planet.

Yes, there are those saved during the Tribulation, but martyrdom is all but guaranteed. Why not come to Jesus today?

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)



ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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