

Book of Revelation, part 63,
Chapter Eight

- I.** The first six Seal Judgments resume from chapter six having been interrupted by chapter seven and the sealing of the 144,000.
1. Seals one to four are on earth, the fifth is under heaven and the sixth occurs back on earth.
 2. There have been two major wars.
 3. The Seals are during the first half of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:6-8).
 4. 144,000 are sealed just before Mid-Tribulation.
- II.** ***“When He opened the seventh seal ... silence in the heaven about half an hour”*** (Rev. 8:1).
1. Christ alone has the authority to open the seal (Jn. 5:22; Rev. 5:7).
 2. The scene is in the throne chamber—the heaven.
 3. The silence is uncharacteristic since normally there this constant worship and praise (Rev. 4:8).
- III.** What happens in the third heaven at Mid-Tribulation that causes an atypical silence?
1. Satan is expelled from access to the throne at Mid-Tribulation (Rev. 12:7-10).
 2. Satan knows his time is short, only 1260 days left (Rev. 12:6 cf. 12:14; Dan. 12:7).
 3. The elders’ crowns would be an affront to Satan when comes before the throne to accuse the saints during the first half of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:10 cf. 9:7).
 4. The elders’ crowns are only thrown down once—*“begin to receive”* (Rev. 4:10-11).
 5. The silence appears to be a response of awe and wonder that the greatest of creation, Satan, has just been subjugated by the Creator (Rev. 8:1; 12:8-10; 4:4; 9:7).
 6. This display of omnipotence is witness by all in the third heaven.

IV. Introduction to the Trumpet Judgments.

1. Not directly related to the Seal Judgments.
2. They parallel the Vial Judgments and intersect with them several times.
3. The first three Trumpets appear to function as protecting the Nation Israel by diverting the attention of the warring nations from the Nation Israel as it flees to the wilderness, and are thus they are localized to the eastern Mediterranean area.
4. The rest of the Trumpet and Vial Judgments are more global.

V. ***“And another angel/messenger”*** an eighth messenger’s identity is Christ.

1. High priestly function.
 - 1) Earthly arrangement pictures the heavenly layout (Heb. 8:5; 10:24).
 - 2) Earthly high priest’s protocol (Ex. 37:25-28; Lev. 16:11-15; Heb. 9:1-10).
2. Christ is the heavenly high priest after His ascension (Heb. 4:15).
3. Here, Christ takes the prayers of the earthly saints and mixes them with incense that will go up before the Father on His throne (Rev. 8:3-4 cf. Rom. 8:26).
4. Christ activates the Trumpet Judgments in response to the prayers of the saints (Rev. 8:5).