

Heaven: The Seventh Seal

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Day 10

Read Revelation 8:1-5

Key Verse

“Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.” Revelation 8:3-4 (NKJV)

Key Reflection:

The opening of the seventh seal of the scroll yields a silence in heaven. It is a heightened anticipation of what is to come.¹⁵ All of heaven is waiting for what is next although they do not know. This silence is a reverential display of divine providence. Before the trumpet will sound all of heaven waits for the will of God. What is more, the prayers of the saints are offered to God at the altar. (vs. 3) Let this serve as evidence that God hears the prayers of His people.

Thought:

This silence in heaven regarding the opening of the seventh seal is a remembrance of the notion of Psalm 46:10. “Be still, and know that I *am* God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The exaltation of God is forthcoming. God is about to rewrite history for a final time. What should be encouraging to us is the fact that prayers of the saints are offered before the altar. The prayers of the saints are efficacious.¹⁶ Before the wrath, God hears our prayers.

Prayer:

Lord, I thank you! I praise you for your will. Help me to become comfortable in your silence to trust that you are God. You have a will in heaven and earth that I must adhere to in order to see in eternity. I trust that you always hear my prayers that are always before you. Thank you for being my God. Thank you for embracing me into the family of God through Jesus Christ. I will thank you with every breath that I breathe because you are the One who has given me life. Lord, thank you for your unending and steadfast love. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

Questions:

1. How comfortable are you in the silence of God?
2. How will you live in 2024 that aligns with the truth that God is in control?

¹⁵ Christopher C. Rowland, *The Book of Revelation: The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, vol. XII (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998), p. 629.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 630