

INTRODUCTION

1. Conclude 2nd cycle of seals w/ description of Final Judgment [FJ].
 - i. 1st 4 seals: the 4 horsemen = the tribulation of this age
 - ii. 5th seal: martyrs prayer - Rv 6:9-11; 6th seal: FJ seen from earth - Rv 6:12-17 *Who is able to stand?*
 - iii. chpt 7 = parenthesis - army of 144K on earth; thru tribulation into disembodied state standing before the throne [7:9]: resting, blessed.
 - iv. 7th seal = FJ from vantage point of heaven - Rv 8:1-5 "Stitches" back to 6:12 - *earthquake* & forward to 3rd cycle of trumpets.
2. Rv 8:1-5 depicts FJ from vantage point of heaven as answer to martyrs prayer in Rv 6:9-11. Stunning silence of 8:1. Sober reality of FJ

1st: The Angel at the Altar - Rv 8:3

1. v3 - *another angel* = an 8th angel. #8 as symbol of salvation. Angel's identity: Jesus? The *angel of the presence* [Isa 63:8-10]?
 - i. Recall the Angel of the Lord in Gn 18 - 1 of 3 angels; Isaiah's *Servant* [Jesus] called the Lord's *messenger* - Isa 42:19.
 - ii. The *angel* [Rv 8:3] executes judgment: Jesus' prerogative [Jn 5:23].
2. v3 - *stood at the altar - the golden altar w/ was before the throne*: Lamb

2nd: The Incense of the Altar - Rv 8:3-4

1. Context: 1] 5:8 incense = prayers of saints; 2] 6:9 - location of martyrs
2. Connect our prayers & martyr's prayers & altar: elders & angel: incense.
 - i. 1st: *prayers of saints* = our worship. *Saints* in Rv [13x] re: Xns on earth.
 - ii. 2nd: *much incense was given* by God. *Given* used 2x [*add to*]: Rm 11:36
3. Priest is responsible to offer incense. This angel acts as mediating priest.
 - i. Holy Spirit - Rm 8:26-27 1

ii. Jesus: Rm 8:34 - [Hb 8:1-2, 6]

4. Incense = church's worship wh/ is united to the prayers of the martyrs in heaven, generated by the Spirit's internal mediation & effective by the Son's heavenly mediation whereby we *have our access* to Father [Eph 2:19ff].

3rd: The Fire of the Altar - Rv 8:5

1. OT - Day of Atonement - Lev 16:11-13 1] blood sac; 2] burn incense. Dangerous business [*lest he die*]: *fire* from altar [Lev 10 Nadab & Abihu]
2. Water - Noah's flood [Mat 24:37-38], but next: fire. 2 Ptr 3:5-7, 10-12
 - i. From where does this fire originate? The altar before the throne.
3. Fire & other tokens of Sinai related to 2nd coming/FJ: *thunder, lightening* esp'ly *earthquake* [end of 4th cycle - 11:19; 5th cycle - 16:18; & 6th - 19:6]

Applic 1: Final Judgment Is Jesus' Answer to the Martyr's Prayers

1. Cause-effect relationship: incense & execution of judgment. 5th seal leads to 6th seal [FJ on earth] & 7th seal [FJ from heaven].
2. The *altar* will be seen again in Rv - worship & judgment. An acceptable combination for martyrs in heaven - what about us?
3. 2 Thes 2:1 *gathering together to meet Him* [assembly as a church]. Our gathering on LD has eschatological significance: enacted prophecy.
4. Recall chpt 7 - overcomers thru tribulation. When we see martyrs in heaven, we are looking at ourselves [Eph 3:15; Hb 12:23].
5. How do we *hasten the coming of day of God*? Participate in the activities of heaven's altar: NCov worship & pray w/ kingdom priorities - 1C 16:22
6. We need to close the distance tw/ us & our brethren in the disembodied state - not in a "seance" kind of way, but in our heavenly identify, activity & destiny. Rv 22:20-21