

BEHIND THE SCENES OF POWER

Revelation 8:1-6

Q of power: what makes things *happen* in this world?

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Various kinds of power: | Political |
| Economic | Military |
| Media | Grassroots |

Spiritual: ability to change lives and bring God's Kingdom to earth
(Matt 6:10)

Purpose of Book of Revelation: to REVEAL
i.e. give inside information on course of history:

Why things are the way they are

How it is all going to turn out

In terms of symbols: Jerusalem v Babylon
Lamb v Beast
777 v 666

Chapter 8:1-5 gives dual focus on Heaven & Earth to illustrate how weak prayers of sinful saints change the course of history!

It is about the Seventh Seal.

Ch 6: the Six Seals: deception, wars, economic conflict, death, martyrdom, universal upheaval.
Covers all history from first to Second Coming.
Takes your breath away!

Ch 7 is needed picture of the protection of God, and the Hope of Heaven, with all suffering removed.
Need this picture as experience Iraq, Sudan, Iran, N. Korea, domestic terrorist attempts, natural disasters, Avian Flu.

Ch 8: back to the Seals. One last seal. What more could there be?

Spotlight on Heaven:

8:1 stunned silence!

8:2 angels with trumpets

8:3-4 angel at the altar: offers incense with prayers of the saints to ascend to God for His pleasure.

Your weak prayers and mine, for the suffering to end and His Kingdom to come, and His power to be displayed against evil.

Cf. 5:8 and 6:9-10

8:5 the angel hurls fire from the altar upon the earth and the power of God is unleashed that *nothing* can stand against! 8:5 II 6:12-17:

Final Judgment.

Then 8:6-9:21: the trumpet calls of God in history calling to repent and find refuge in Christ.

Sadly most do not repent (9:20-21). But many do (7:9)!

So what

1. Why then do you not make prayer a priority?

a) unworthy: remember the incense of Christ

b) not make a difference: see the angel who waits for you

2. Why so few come Thurs 6:30-7:30am?

I will come one time this month to see. Or evening?

3. Why so few pray in Sun morn Prayer Teams?

I will come one time this month to see.

4. Pray LARGE prayers (Rev 8) for current events: