



# JUDGMENTS of the APOCALYPSE

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### **Sermon Four: Signs & Sounds Of Impending Doom , Revelation 8:1-6**

Let me give you another Biblical text that leads me to believe the church will not be present for this Apocalypse, **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**. This paragraph of Scripture gives, I believe, the most single-detailed account of the rapture or translation of the church from earth to Heaven.

In this text, it is clear that Paul had taught these young Christians that Jesus would return for them. Yet, shortly after Paul's departure, some in this new fellowship of Christians died and there was a concern or misunderstanding about those who die in Christ, before Jesus' return. This misunderstanding still takes place today among some believers, and I, as a pastor, find opportunities to seek to comfort those who remain with these exact words of the apostle Paul.

Paul said clearly that those who die in Christ, before Jesus' return for the church, Christ will bring their souls with Him, then resurrect their mortal bodies, before those who are alive at His coming are translated and meet them in the air.

Paul equates the certainty of this return of Christ with the certainty of Jesus' own resurrection.

Again, Paul does not tell these Christians that Christ's return must be preceded by another event. **This makes the rapture an immanent event/could happen at any time.**

**This whole passage is to provide those who were still alive, some “comfort.”** What comfort can be found for the living if they must endure the Tribulation Period. If that were the case, it would be comforting to die before Christ’s return, not to be alive.

Like the church at Thessalonica, I hope these words by the apostle Paul will produce comfort in your heart as well.

But, in the time of the Apocalypse, there will be no comfort. As we read in a previous message, when God’s wrath is poured out, people of this world will cry out for the mountains to fall upon them and crush them, to escape the wrath of God.

NOW—to Revelation chapter 8 and the opening of the 7th Seal.

### **#1 - The Sound Of Silence, vs. 1**

The opening of the Seventh Seal of Judgment brings with it a deafening sound of silence throughout Heaven. Now, perhaps to the mother of a young child a half-hour of silence is a delight; but when John observes Jesus breaking open the Seventh Seal of Judgment and tries to take it in—along with all the Heavenly host, it evokes a choked silence that ominous developments are ahead and that it is an indication that something tremendous is about to take place. Truly, it is the calm before the storm.

### **#2 - Signs & Sounds Of Impending Doom, vs. 2-6**

- **The Seven Trumpets Of Judgment Are Prepared, vs. 2**
- **Incense And Prayers Before God, vs. 3-4**

Censer.

Vessel used to burn incense. On the Day of Atonement the high priest was to burn two handfuls of incense in the censer within the Holy of Holies before the Lord (Lv 16:12). The censers of the tabernacle were made of bronze (Nm 16:39); those used by the angels in the Book of Revelation were of gold (Rv 8:3, 5). (Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). Censer. In Baker encyclopedia of the Bible (Vol. 1, p. 420). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.)

- **Thunder, Lightning & An Earthquake Warn Of Impending Doom, vs. 5**

Thunder and lightning and earthquakes are common enough. What appears here, however, is clearly uncommon and is a harbinger of that which transpires next at the sounding of the trumpets. (Patterson, P. (2012). Revelation. (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, pp. 209–210). Nashville, TN: B&H.)