

# PEALS OF THUNDER

{Peals of Thunder — God Answering Our Prayers}

*Revelation 6:9-10; 8:3-5*

## INTRODUCTION;

**Revelation 6:9-10** And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (NASB)

1. Gibons writes of Emperor Diocletian [AD 284] in concert with Galerius [a political friend] leveled the most terrible, most prolonged, most general persecution known in the history of the ancient church.

**Revelation 8:3-5** And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to 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, went up before God out of the angel's hand. 5 And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. (NASB)

1. The "golden censer" [golden - sighting value] held much prayers of the living Saints added to the prayers of the deceased Saints. These two are a formidable force.
2. The "Golden Altar of Incense" was fueled by the coals from the "Sacrificial Altar." The lesser receives power from the greater. It is the merit of the first altar that gives power to the second.
3. The death of Jesus on the altar of the cross delivers power to the prayers of the Saints, living or dead. Note that the fire comes from the Altar of Incense [prayer].
4. The golden censer was filled with fire [power] from the altar and hurled to the earth; thus "Peals of Thunder" or the answer to prayers in a most dynamic way.
5. Lots were cast for four priestly duties as they served the Temple daily: (1) For the cleansing of the Brazen Altar and preparing it. (2) For those who were to offer the sacrifice. (3) To offer the incense on the Altar of Incense. (4) To burn the pieces of Sacrifices on the Brazen Altar.
6. There were 20,000 priests in the days of our Lord. 24 divisions and 833 per division and 50 in the Temple per day. John the Immerser's father Zacharias was of the 8th division of Abijah [Lk 1:5]. He was chosen by lot to the "Highest Mediatoral Act" bestowed on a common Levitical Priest to enter the Holy Place with coals from the Brazen Altar in a Golden Censer and place them along with the incense on the Altar of Incense. A once-in-life-time-event. EDERSHEIM
7. We have unlimited access 24 x 7. 10,080 minutes per week. Peals of Thunder are available.

## **I. The Revelation [Apocalypse] is a fusion of vision, praise, adoration, and prayer. The presence of prayer reflects the worshipping and witnessing Church in a watchful world.**

- A. Adoration is a form of prayer and Revelation abounds in adoration.
  1. Friend, foe [though they wail], and all the peoples of the earth will praise Him. Every linguistic group is involved. The cause of the mourning or wailing is found within themselves for they rejected the Christ; they smite or beat or pound themselves.

**Revelation 1:7** Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen.

2. The ability to sing God's praises is one of the acid tests of real spiritual concern in our own Christian lives today. Why then, does so much of our singing sound like a death dirge?

3. There is perhaps no single scripture where the deity of Jesus Christ is more emphatically declared.

**Revelation 5:11-12** And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

B. The book is jubilant with songs of praise to God and the Lamb. God as the Lord God Almighty is magnified.

1. So here "Holy," as He "who was"; "Holy," as He "who is"; "Holy," as He "who is to come."

**Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, [is] the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come ." (NASB)

2. The righteous, pious souls under the altar of Rev. 6:9.

**Revelation 16:7** And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments." (NASB)

C. Praises are offered with voices that can be heard.

**Revelation 5:12** saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." (NASB)

**Revelation 7:10** and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." (NASB)

## II. We hear "Peals of Thunder" — God Answering Our Prayers in:

A. Praise to the Lamb for redemption.

**Revelation 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood [men] from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (NASB)

B. Prayer as Golden Incense of the redeemed to God.

**Revelation 5:8** And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (NASB)

**Revelation 8:3** And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. (NASB)

C. Prayer for vengeance by the Martyred Host.

**Revelation 6:10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (NASB)

D. Prayer of the ethnic Host.

**Revelation 7:9-12** After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and [all] tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches [were] in their

hands; 10 and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." 11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and [around] the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, [be] to our God forever and ever. Amen."

E. The great and mighty One is extolled in the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb.

1. Almighty here means absolutely powerful.

**Revelation 15:3-4** And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Thy works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Thy ways, Thou King of the nations. 4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; For all the nations will come and worship before Thee, For Thy righteous acts have been revealed." (NASB)

F. The glorified Saints praise Him by affirming:

**Revelation 19:1-2** After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous..."

G. The last promise and last prayer offered by the church through the Holy Spirit. This is in response to the declaration of the Lord Jesus, "Behold, I come quickly" in verses 7 and 12.

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one [singular] who hears say, "Come." And let the one [singular] who is thirsty come; let the one [singular] who wishes take the water of life without cost. (NASB)