



The Altar and Incense

7 Trumpets—part 1

Revelation 8:2—“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Seven = Complete or Perfect (Genesis 2:1, 2)

Genesis 2:1, 2, NKJV—“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were **finished [completed, Hebrew]**. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”

Trumpets = Messages of Alarm, Warning of Coming Judgment/Day of Atonement, Voice of Jesus

Joel 2:1, NKJV—“Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain!” (Zephaniah 1:16; Jeremiah 4:5-8; Joshua 6:1-23; Revelation 1:10, 13).

1 Corinthians 14:8, NKJV—“For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?”

Leviticus 23:24, NKJV—“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a Sabbath-*rest*, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation.’” (The Day of Atonement followed on the 10th day of this month.)

Altar and Incense

Revelation 8:3, 4, NKJV—“**Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And 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. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand.**”

Altar = Cross

Hebrews 13:10-13, NKJV—“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”

Incense = Merits of Christ’s Sacrifice

Ephesians 5:2, NKJV—“And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Golden Altar = Holy Place (Hebrews 9:1, 2; Exodus 40:26)

“And I saw...” is a phrase used consistently throughout the book of Revelation when introducing a new vision or subject.



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Voices = languages/gift of
tongues— (5456 fone phone (fo-
nay’)

- 2) a voice
- 2a) of the sound of uttered words
- 3) speech 3a)
of a language, tongue).

Golden Censer = Most Holy Place (Hebrews 9:3-5)

Revelation 8:5—“**AND THE ANGEL TOOK THE CENSER, AND FILLED IT WITH FIRE OF THE ALTAR, AND CAST IT INTO THE EARTH: AND THERE WERE VOICES, AND THUNDERINGS, AND LIGHTNINGS, AND AN EARTHQUAKE.**”

Fire of the Altar = Holy Spirit

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4; see also Isaiah 6:6-8).

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire” (Matthew 3:11).

Voices = Languages

“And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language” (Acts 2:5, 6; see also 10:46, 19:6; Mark 16:17).

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29).

Thunderings = Voice of God/Power

“Father, glorify Thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, an angel spake to Him” (John 12:28).

“Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him?” (Job 40:9).

“At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away” (Psalm 104:7).

“Lo, these are parts of His ways: but how little a portion is heard of Him? but the thunder of His power who can understand?” (Job 26:14).

“And he fell to the earth, and **heard a voice** saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?” (Acts 9:4).



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“And there came a **voice to him**, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:13, 15).

Lightnings = Angels

“And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a **flash of lightning**” (Ezekiel 1:14).

“His [angel’s] countenance was **like lightning**, and his raiment white as snow” (Matthew 28:3).

“But the **angel of the Lord** by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life” (Acts 5:19, 20).

“And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the **face of an angel**” (Acts 6:15).

“And **the angel of the Lord** spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert” (Acts 8:26).

“He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day **an angel of God** coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius” (Acts 10:3).

“And, behold, **the angel of the Lord** came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands” (Acts 12:7).

“And immediately **the angel of the Lord** smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost” (Acts 12:23).

“For there stood by me this night **the angel of God**, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee” (Acts 27:23, 24).

Earthquake = God’s Presence and Power

“The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel” (Psalm 68:8; see also Job 9:6).

“And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed” (Acts 16:26)

SYMBOLS IDENTIFIED:

- **Seven = Complete or Perfect**



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- **Trumpets = Messages of Alarm, Warning of Coming Judgment/Day of Atonement, Voice of Jesus**
- **Altar = Cross**
- **Incense = Merits of Christ's Sacrifice**
- **Golden Altar = Holy Place**
- **Golden Censer = Most Holy Place**
- **Fire = Holy Spirit**
- **Voices = Languages**
- **Thunderings = Voice of God/power**
- **Lightenings = Angels**
- **Earthquake = God's Presence and Power**

REVELATION 8:6—"AND THE SEVEN ANGELS WHICH HAD THE SEVEN TRUMPETS PREPARED THEMSELVES TO SOUND."

SUMMARY—After His resurrection Christ began His mediation in the heavenly sanctuary combining His merits (incense) with believer's prayers. And in answer to the prayers of His disciples for forgiveness and power, the Holy Spirit (fire) was poured out on the earth. Under His influence the disciples spoke in various languages, preached the cross boldly, (voices) were visited by angels, (lightning) experienced God's voice, power and presence (thunder) and witnessed mighty earthquakes (literal and spiritual) and the gospel shook the world. This prepared the way for the judgments of God on nations continuing to reject the gospel.

Present Truth (History Repeated)—Before Jesus returns the Holy Spirit will be poured out without measure (fire off the altar cast to the earth Revelation 8:5). God's people go forth with the Holy Spirit power that surrounds the throne of God (lightning, thunder, voices, and an earthquake Revelation 8:5; 4:5; 11:19; 16:17, 18).

"The end is near. We have not a moment to lose. Light is to shine forth from God's people in clear, distinct rays, bringing Jesus before the churches and before the world. God will give additional light, and old truths will be recovered and replaced in the framework of truth; and wherever the laborers go they will triumph. As Christ's ambassadors, they are to search the Scriptures to seek for the truths that have been hidden beneath the rubbish of error, and every ray of light received is to be communicated to others. One interest will prevail, one subject will swallow up all others, Christ our Righteousness" (*The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1890).