

The Power, Presence, & Purpose of Prayer

Intro: If I only preached on verse one of Revelation 8 today, we could experience it by sitting in complete silence for half an hour. (This might not go over too well on the radio broadcast, however.)

- I. Powerful Silence
 - a. Revelation 8:1-5 is like the inverse of Psalms 46
 - b. God works, and speaks, in silent moments in our lives
 - c. Silence doesn't always mean stillness
- II. God's Presence with Angels
 - a. Who are the seven angels who stand before God?
 - b. They don't just stand there! (see Gabriel, for instance)
 - c. Angels minister to God's people
- III. Prayer's Purpose (we often overlook)
 - a. Holy fire – *go on and pray those hot verses*
 - b. Incoming! – *what "Thy kingdom come" looks like*
 - c. Lord, have mercy – *God's judgment comes to all*

Close: Revelation 8:4 seems to be the final mention of human prayers from earth to heaven in the Bible. The seven angels are preparing to sound their trumpets, which will commence God's judgments upon the earth.

The last prayer, however, is uttered by the Apostle John himself at the close of the book. And we, and countless Christians through the ages, join him in praying, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."