

Revelation 5 reveals that the title deed for repossessing the earth and reestablishing God's kingdom would be through Jesus. This amazing event would happen when He returns to earth (ch. 19). Prior to there would be a series of judgments intended to urge man to repent of his idolatry and turn from his sin to Christ. These judgments are pictured as opening 7 seals. Chapter 6 describes the first 6 which result in ¼ of the world perishing. The 7<sup>th</sup> when opened is described as 7 trumpet judgments described in chapters 8 & 9. Chapter 8 describes the first four of these.

1. Read Revelation 8:1-5. Where is this scene taking place? Describe what is happening there. (In the OT, the golden censor was a pan used to transport fiery coals from the brazen altar to the altar of incense. Incense was poured out on the coals resulting in fragrance coming up to God. In this scene the prayers of the saints (God's people) are like incense offered to God).
2. In v. 5, what does the angel do with the censor? What results from this? What does this imply about the prayers of the saints seem to have with the resulting judgments on earth? What does this reveal about prayer? Why do you think God would want His church to know this?
3. The 7 angels are now going to blow seven trumpets, each announcing a judgment on the earth. These judgments seem to parallel God's judgments on Egypt and Pharaoh. According to Exodus 7:5; 8:10; 10:2-3, God's purpose for His judgments on Egypt was for them to know HE is God, not their idols. What does Revelation 9:20 indicate is God's purposes for His judgments?
4. What does Romans 1:20-25 say is man's main problem?
5. Rev. 9:20 says man refuses to repent. What does this imply they were being told by God to do? How does this indicate His mercy?
6. Read 8:7-12. Describe each of the first trumpet judgments. What is the effect of each? What could cause each? Why do you think God only partially destroyed? What does this reveal about God's heart?
7. Read 8:7-11. These judgments are on man's environment. What wrong views of nature does man have in Romans 1:22-25? How is this evidenced today? In the judgments of Rev. 8:7-11, what is God revealing about His relationship to nature?
8. Read 8:12. What part of creation is God demonstrating His power over? How does God through this judgment reveal to the evolutionist His view of the universe is wrong? NOTE: this may mean God cuts sunlight and starlight by 1/3 of its normal hours, resulting in catastrophic climate changes. It would be a terrifying sight. When God did a similar miracle in Egypt, it caused extreme stress and chaos. (Exodus 10:21-23). In Revelation 16:10-11 God completely cuts off sunlight causing global misery.

9. Jesus says anyone who "heeds" the words of Revelation will be blessed (1:3). How could we "heed" what we learn from Revelation 8 about God? What should be our response to the reality that God is in control of nature and the universe?
10. Why do you think Jesus wants us to know the details of such horrific future events? Share How this impacts you. Share how this affects the way you think about yourself, the world, and God.