

Rev. 8:1 *'When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.'*

The first thing we notice here... time is marked in Heaven. The Holy Spirit doesn't inspire John to write, 'for a while' or 'some number of moments;' he wrote: 'for about half an hour.' Many people think that there is no time in Heaven, that once Jesus returns, there will be no more time, that time will cease in our 'eternal state.'

This is not true. The Greek word John uses, here, is: hemiorion, **Ha-me-ore**-on which comes from 2 words: hemisys, **Ha-me-soo**, which means, to partition or semi and, also, hora, **Ho-rah**: it means a definite measure of time, usually an hour... the Spanish word for hour is exactly the same: hora.

People get it in their minds that there is no more time in Heaven when they mistakenly read Rev. 10:6 *'And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:'*

But what is actually being said, is, 'no more delay:' the final, terrible judgments of God, in the 'bowl judgments,' are about to begin!

God marks time; time is not cyclical, like pagans, Buddhists and so many others believe; time is a straight line from beginning to ending to forever.

God is marking time, now, until the moment that the Lord Jesus comes for us in the Rapture; around the time of the Rapture, the Antichrist will confirm a covenant with Israel for exactly 7 years; then time will be marked for exactly 3 1/2 years to the midpoint of the Tribulation and then exactly 3 1/2 more years until Jesus returns at Armageddon.

Then, time will be marked for exactly 1000 years while the Lord Jesus Christ rules and reigns from Jerusalem, as we rule and reign with Him. After that, God will destroy the present Heaven and Earth and then create a New Heaven and a New Earth. In both of which we will live, move, rule and reign forever... it will be, not the end of time but, rather, time without end.

'For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.' Hab 2:3

'... even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.' Dan 11:35

God's Word teaches us that the time of the end will come, but never the end of time. Time will go on and on forever and ever.

Time is an integral part of all of God's creation; He created space, matter and time; all three are part of our existence and the existence of everything else.

We can't know, exactly, why there is silence in Heaven for 30 min; we can only speculate.

Remember in chapter 6: *'And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'*

Now, in chapter 8, the Judgments from God's hand are about to begin; the previous 'Seal Judgments' came about by the workings of Earthly and demonic entities: especially, the 4 riders on different colored horses. Now is when God is about to *'avenge their blood'* on those who dwell on the Earth and the blood of every one of God's children who were ever persecuted and/or martyred for their faith and for their testimony of Jesus Christ and His Salvation.

This is a time of great significance and solemnity. Even the angels and living creatures, who constantly cry out praise, glory and honor to God on His throne, are silent; everyone in Heaven knows that something hugely significant, and long prophesied, is about to finally happen! Most everyone in Heaven experienced some

degree of persecution for their faith; all that, everyone's sin of persecution and rejection of God's people, and of God Himself, is about to be held to account and judged with no mercy, no grace and no forgiveness.

This is a 30 minute 'moment of silence' in preparation for the greatest Judgments of all time which are about to begin; this is what we've all been waiting for because this time, now, the second half of the Tribulation is what will finally lead up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ in all power, majesty and glory to set up His 1000 year Kingdom of perfect justice and holiness with us, His Bride, at His side.

Perhaps this half hour is a time that everyone in Heaven is praying, silently, for what is about to begin. All those in Heaven are in awe; every one of them is looking down; I think they are seeing all that John is seeing and every one of them knows: if not for the grace, mercy and love of God in choosing me, I should be among those about to experience His wrath poured out.

Verse 2: *'And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.'*

The 7 angels are given trumpets and terrible judgments are about to begin.

The previous judgments, the opening of the 7 seals on the Scroll were initiated by Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. Remember in chapter 6: *'... And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?'*

That was the Lamb of God dealing out His wrath. Now, with the coming 7 Trumpet Judgments, we will begin to see the wrath of God, Almighty, poured out on all who despised, rejected and crucified His precious, beloved Only Begotten Son... their time is up!

Verse 3: *'And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.'*

This '*prayers of all the saints*' includes the prayer of all those on Earth, who've turned to God through faith in His Son, and, I believe, all of God's people, in Heaven, from the time of Adam and Eve until that very moment in Heaven when this Angel offers up all these prayers. Notice that it never says or includes prayers of angels. We know of angels: 'Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?' They watch over us and guard us; I think it is safe to assume that God has always given, to at least one of His angels, the assignment to guard over every one of us, from the moment of our conception. I'm looking forward to meeting that angel and thanking him for all the work I put him through.

Verse 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.'*

The previous Seal Judgments seemed to follow a natural progression, all stemming from the rise of Antichrist, the rider on the white horse. Then, with the opening of the 6th seal, there was a great Earthquake but still, it was a natural disruption.

Now, with this angel casting fire to the Earth, there is, again, a natural disruption: an earthquake, lightning and thunder; we don't know what 'the voices' sounded like but remember when Jesus came up out of the water from His baptism, God, the Father, spoke from Heaven but it sounded, to those around Him, as if it were thunder.

Now God begins to get His hands dirty, as it were, as He digs in and pours it out:

Verse 6: *'And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.'*

And, so, it begins:

Verse 7: *'The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.'*

It is just what it says: hail and fire mixed with blood with 1/3 of all trees burned along with all green grass. Just imagine the smoke, the darkness, the choking... all their worst fears are coming to fruition.

All those who now worship the Earth, creation, rather than the Creator, they're having their love for mother Earth thrown back in their faces as they watch it all begin to be burned up and destroyed.

Verse 8: *'And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; ⁹And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.'*

This sounds like a huge meteor, comet or asteroid; it begins to burn as it enters Earth's atmosphere. This huge rock was, I believe, set in motion, from the day of its creation, to follow a huge orbit that would, finally, take it to this very moment and this very spot of explosive landing.

It destroys sea animals, causing their blood to fill up 1/3 of the oceans as well as sinking 1/3 of all ships.

Never think, as too many teach, that this is simply a local event which simply destroys life in the Mediterranean Sea; this is not judgment only on a localized area and population; this is Worldwide.

Verse 10: *'And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; ¹¹And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.'*

This sounds like another meteor, comet or asteroid; this one strikes inland and somehow causes 1/3 of all fresh water to become bitter and deadly. This is proof, as if any were necessary, that these judgments are Divine, that God is the One causing this because, in the natural, it would not be possible for any meteor, comet or asteroid to result in 1/3 of fresh water, all around the World, to become bitter unless it actually is a huge, localized event causing all the water to become bitter over 1/3 of the Earth's surface... that is also a possibility. I suppose that could be what is meant with these first 3 Trumpet Judgments but, rather than being localized, I think the best interpretation is that John means 1/3 of all, all around the World.

Verse 12: *'And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.'*

Now here, I think it means that God will have miraculously darkened 1/3 part of the faces of the Sun, Moon and Stars which would be far more terrorizing than if it simply meant that smoke was causing the Sun, Moon and Stars to be dimmed by 1/3. This is further proven by the fact that God causes 1/3 of the day and night to be darkened, blotting out the light from the Sun, Moon or Stars for 1/3 of each day and night.

Verse 13: *'And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!'*

When we read that this angel flies through the midst of Heaven, we don't know to which heaven it refers. Remember, there are at least 3 heavens: the first heaven is the air and atmosphere around us and up to an altitude of about 62 miles. The second heaven is contained in all of outer space throughout the Universe and finally, the third Heaven is where John has been taken to see all that he is shown in The Revelation; it is also the place to which Paul was taken to receive all of his teaching from Jesus Christ, Himself, to then be written down for our edification and growth. The third Heaven is where God resides on His throne and the place where all previous saints now are, as they await the moment of the Rapture when their physical bodies will be raised, in an instant, to be transformed into glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus Christ's own physical Body.

If this angel is flying within the third Heaven, then his message is going out only to the residents of God's Heaven. If he is flying within the second heaven, then no one is hearing his message. But, if he is flying throughout the first heaven, then his terrorizing message is being heard by the denizens of Earth; they are hearing that the judgments to come are far worse than what they've yet endured; this is wrath, God-style.

And sure enough... what's about to be poured out on them is far, far worse than they could even imagine:

Chapter 9:1 *'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.'*

This star is, obviously, an angel; we will later find, at the end of the Tribulation, that he is 'the angel of the bottomless pit.' He is a mighty, strong angel; later, he will be the one who captures, binds with chains and casts into the bottomless pit, Satan; but that's for later. Here, he opens the bottomless pit.

The bottomless pit is a real place; it is where some angels and evil spirits have been imprisoned until this very time... and when they are released they will bring with them the greatest terror any people have ever faced.

Verse 3: *'And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.'*

So... out come locusts with stingers like scorpions; big deal, you might think... but wait! There's more!

Verse 4: *'And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. ⁶ And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.'*

So, these locusts are not allowed to eat up plants and they are they are not allowed to hurt those who have the seal of God in their foreheads. Who has the seal of God in their foreheads? The 144,000 Jewish evangelists who are taking the Gospel to the World even as all these judgments fall around them.

Here is a question that isn't answered: Those who are led, by the 144,000, to faith in Jesus Christ... do they also, then, receive the seal of God in their foreheads? My assumption is, yes, they do. We assume that those who have come to faith in Jesus Christ are protected from these locusts.

Also and here is where terror really begins: terrible excruciating stings like the worst scorpions as people wish to die but are miraculously not allowed to die; God forces them to endure 5 months of this terror.

But again... locusts with stingers like scorpions... again... big deal, you might be tempted to think... but wait! There's even more... here's where the absolute terror kicks in:

Verse 7: *'And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. ⁸ And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. ⁹ And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. ¹⁰ And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.'*

I believe this is exactly what it says. These are not helicopters, they are not robots or drones; these are real locusts wearing armor with crowns on their heads and faces like men with long hair and terrible teeth and, of course, that terrible stinger like the worst scorpions and I'd bet that they are far larger than normal locusts; maybe the size of sparrows or robins... huge for insects! This is terror. Those teeth will enable them to gnaw through any wall or door; there will be no place to hide from them. Imagine having these terrible creatures coming after you, staring at you before they attack you over and over again for 5 months.