

REVELATION: Lesson 92

Chapter 8:3-7 Prayers of all Saints / Fire of the Altar Cast upon the Earth

3 August 2020

In these verses, the altar that is before God in Heaven reveals the balance of God. The same altar that receives the prayers of the saints (those who have received Jesus Christ) also contains the coals that will be cast to the Earth upon those who have rejected Jesus Christ. Both believers and unbelievers are dealt with by God from this altar.

The Prayers of All Saints (vs 3)

- The prayers of every believer that has ever lived ends up on God's altar. No prayer is ever wasted.
 - Prayer ends up as odours in the nostrils of God (Rev 5:8) as they are offered with incense upon the altar.
 - Though we live in wicked times today, thankfully we have the benefit of the accumulated prayers of all the saints of the past 2,000 years, that the gates of Hell might not prevail against God's Church (Matthew 16:18).
 - There are praying believers in every denomination. We can thank God that they are praying.
 - Even if you don't live to see your prayers answered, your prayer is still valid. Elisha prayed (2 Kings 2:9), and his prayer was still being answered after his death (2 Kings 13:21).
 - **Incense (vs 4)** combined with prayer sets forth the power of Christ's atonement as it acts upon God.
 - Christ's atonement acts upon men by washing away sins, saving from transgressions, and imparting eternal life.
 - Christ's atonement acts upon God by allowing sinners to come before God on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because of Christ's merits, God is moved to respond to our prayers.
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Fire of the Altar (vs 5)

In the Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple, the censor was used to carry incense into the Holy Place. The same sensor was used to carry burning coals from the brazen altar to the golden altar.

The brazen altar represented the sacrifice of the Lamb of God at Calvary when Jesus Christ offered Himself. The sensor used to carry those burning coals to burn the sacrifice of the Lamb of God—is also used in the altar in Heaven—to cast those burning coals to the Earth—upon those who rejected that perfect offering.

The same altar receives the prayers of the saints as they fellowship with God—or sends forth the fire of burning upon those who are not in fellowship with God. The Bible speaks of Heaven and Hell, good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness. We must proclaim both.

Ezekiel 10:1-2 This chapter mirrors Revelation chapter 8. In Ezekiel 9, the saints were marked for preservation (as in Rev 7). Here, a man is instructed to cast burning coals into a city. In Revelation 8, coals are cast from Heaven upon people who rejected Jesus Christ.

Ezek 38:22-23 God promises to send fire and brimstone upon those that are on the earth in Tribulation time.

Ezek 39:5-6 The Lord sends fire “**among them that dwell carelessly in the isles.**” The fire is not because of a particular sin such as stealing or cheating, etc. It is for those who don’t care about the things of God.

Hosea 8:14 God will send fire upon religious people who forgot their Maker. Religion won’t save you.

Deut 32:21-22 People make idols of “superstars” and famous people (“that which is not God”), accounting them as heroes. They revere their idols instead of worshipping and adoring God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This makes God jealous.

People love vain things (smoking, drinking, drugs, sex, etc) instead of coming to Christ. This provokes him to anger.

God has kindled a fire in his anger to burn up all those who care more for idols and vanities than they do for His Son.

Gen 19:14-28 God warned the people of Sodom that He would burn the place. They laughed and mocked. The Lord rained brimstone and fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah, and it smoked like a furnace.

People today laugh at God’s witnesses when they send the same warning. Hell is real, people will burn, come to Jesus Christ, He’s the only One who can save you from that fire.

God is not happy to see the lost burn (2 Pet 3:9, Ezek 18:23, 32, 33:11, 2 Pet 3:15). He sent His only begotten Son to die so you could be spared from that end. Receive Jesus Christ, reject Him no more, and live.
