SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Revelation

Chapter 8

The Seventh Seal: Silence, Prayer and Trumpets

MEMORY VERSE · REVELATION 8:4

"And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Revelation 8

This week heaven goes quiet, the prayers of God's people rise to His throne, and the first trumpets sound. Chapter 8 asks two things of us: to be still before God, and to take His warnings seriously while there is still time.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Revelation study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

Silence in Heaven

READ · REVELATION 8:1–2

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What happens in heaven when the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, and how long does it last (8:1)?

REFLECT

After chapters of loud worship, heaven is silent “for about half an hour” (8:1). What noise in your life — talk, screens, excuses — keeps you from ever being still before God?

REFLECT

The seven angels “stand before God” and receive their trumpets (8:2). What would it look like for you to wait on God's timing instead of running ahead of Him this week?

RESPOND — TODAY

Set a timer for ten minutes of silence before God today: no talking, no phone — just stillness in His presence.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 8:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

Prayers Up, Fire Down

READ · REVELATION 8:3–6

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What is added to "the prayers of all the saints," and where do those prayers go (8:3–4)?

REFLECT

Not one prayer on that golden altar is lost (8:3). Whose name have you stopped praying for because it seemed like nothing was happening?

REFLECT

The same censer that carries prayer up brings fire down (8:5). How does it change the way you pray to know that God actually answers and acts?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write down the names of three men you will pray for every day this week, and start today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 8:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

Land and Sea Struck

READ · REVELATION 8:7–9

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What falls on the land at the first trumpet, and what is thrown into the sea at the second (8:7–8)?

REFLECT

Hail, fire and water turned to blood echo the plagues on Egypt (8:7–8). Why do you think God uses the same kinds of judgment He used to set His people free from Pharaoh?

REFLECT

Only “a third” is struck each time (8:7–9). Where have you seen God's discipline in your life stop short of what you deserved, and what was He calling you to do?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud for one consequence He used to get your attention, and name what He was saying to you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 8:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

Bitter Water, Darkened Lights

READ · REVELATION 8:10–12

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What is the name of the star that falls, and what happens to the waters it touches (8:10–11)?

REFLECT

The star is called Wormwood, and the waters become bitter (8:11). What bitterness have you been drinking from — a grudge, a regret, an old wound — that is poisoning you?

REFLECT

A third of the sun, moon and stars are darkened (8:12). Where does your life feel darker right now, and where are you looking for light?

RESPOND — TODAY

Bring one bitterness to God by name in prayer, and ask Him to make that water clean.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 8:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

Woe, Woe, Woe

READ · REVELATION 8:13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does the eagle cry, and who is the warning for (8:13)?

REFLECT

The woe is for "those who dwell on the earth" — people whose whole life is wrapped up in this world (8:13). What part of your heart is still more at home in this world than in God's kingdom?

REFLECT

God sends warnings before the worst comes (8:13). Who in your life needs to hear a loving warning from you, and what is keeping you from saying it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Have one honest conversation this week with a man who needs to hear that God is warning him because He loves him.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (REVELATION 8:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

What does it say about God that the prayers of the saints come right before the trumpets sound (8:3–6)?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

How can we tell the difference between a hard season that is just life and a hard season that is God's warning (8:7–12)?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

How would our group pray differently if we really believed our prayers rise before God's throne (8:4)?

MY PRAYER

Lord God, teach me to be still before You, and hear the prayer I lift to Your altar today for...

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · REVELATION 8:4

"And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand."