

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 29

THE SEVENTH SEAL

THE RELEASE OF TRUMPET JUDGMENTS
(REVELATION 8:1-6)

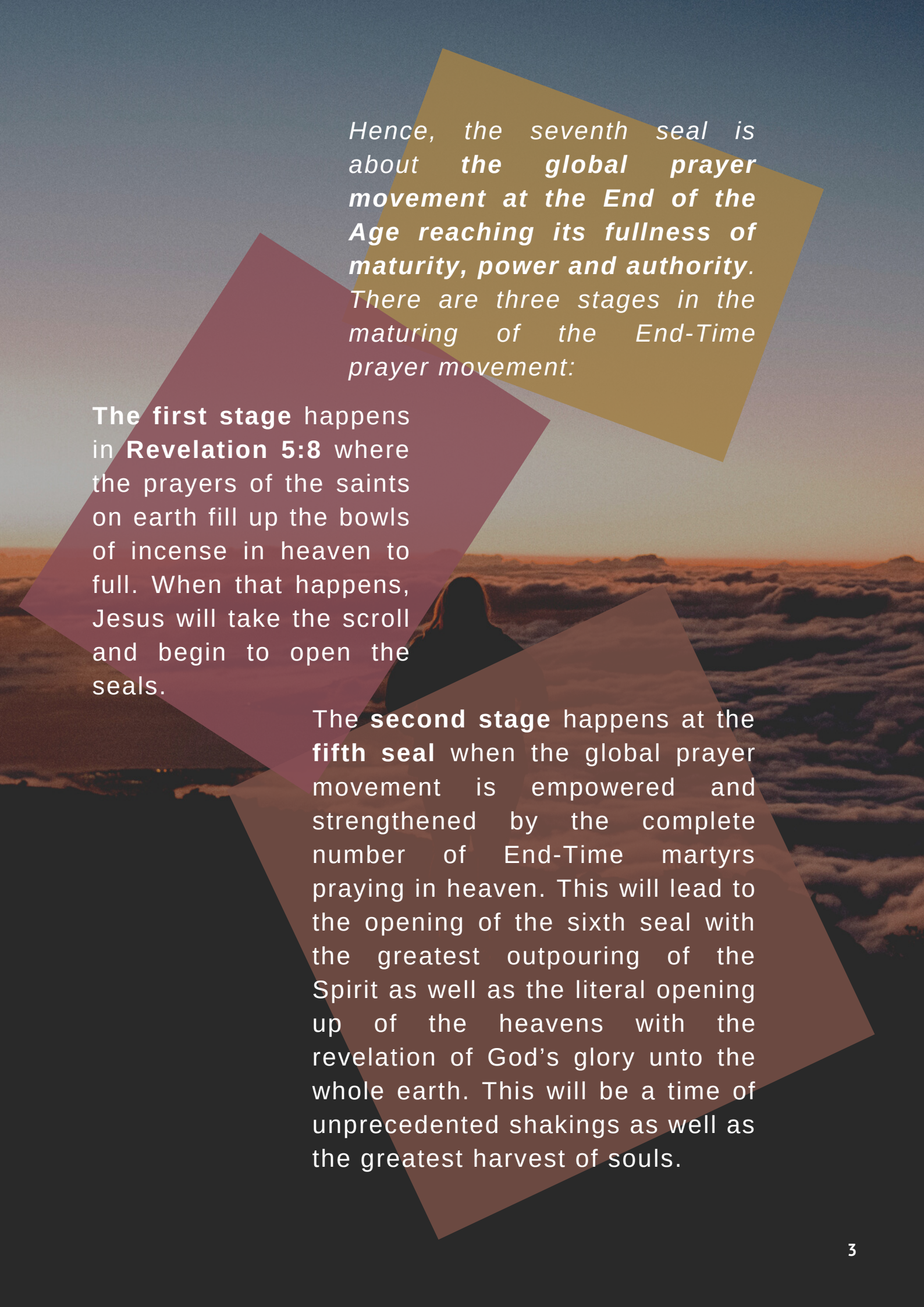


IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES



The seventh seal is probably the most intense, powerful, significant and dramatic of all the seals. Contained within it are the seven trumpets. Though the seventh seal is the one which concludes all the seal judgments, the judgment of God is yet to be completed. It is actually moving on to a higher level of intensity! That is why the final three trumpets are termed the three woes!

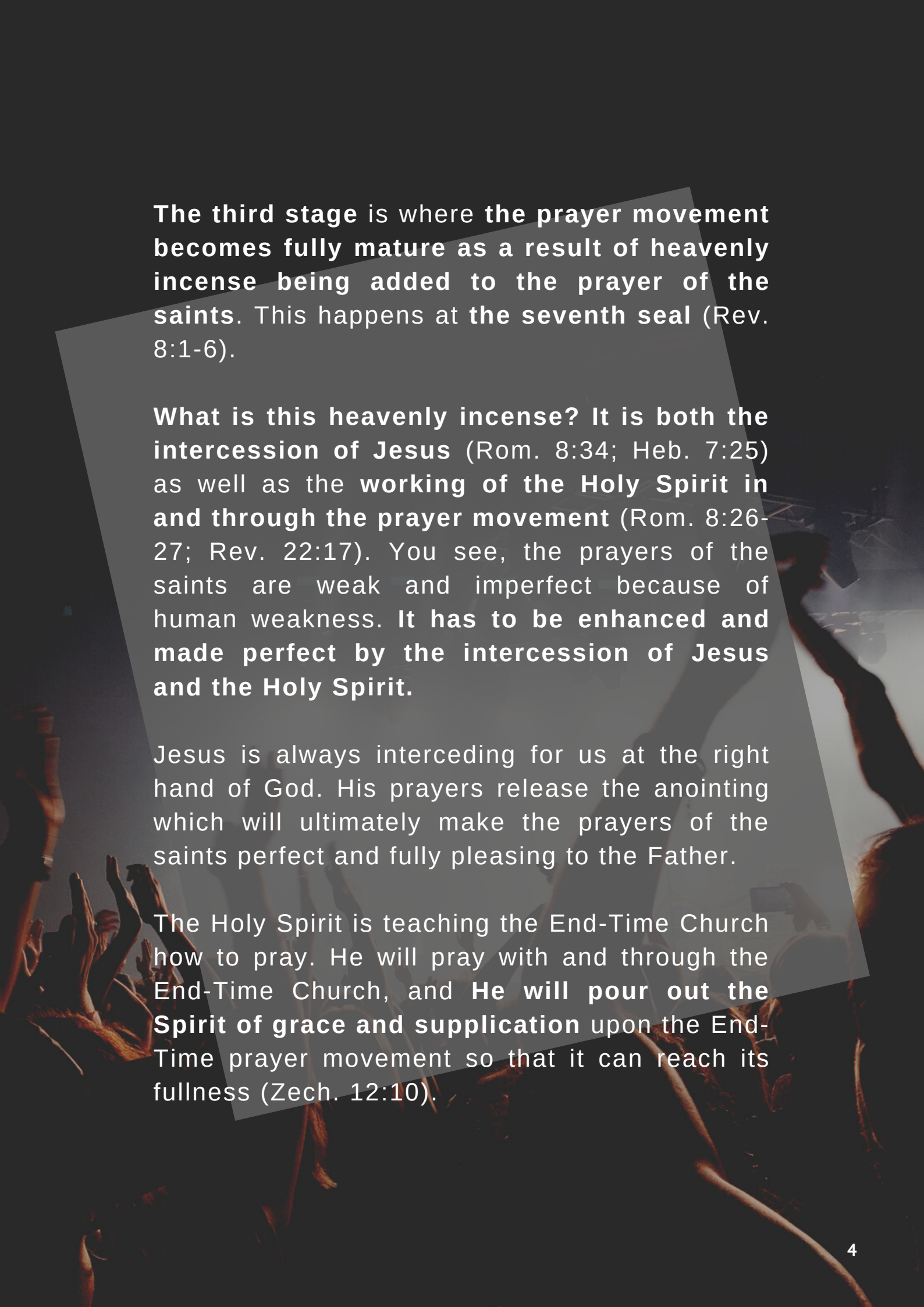
Take note that **the seventh seal is not the same event as the sounding of the seven trumpets**. At the opening of the seventh seal, the seven trumpets are given to the seven angels and the angels are being prepared and positioned to sound them. **When and whether the angels can actually sound the trumpets is dependent on whether the global prayer movement reaches its maturity.**

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a person with long hair, seen from behind, in a prayerful pose with hands clasped. They are looking out over a vast expanse of white, fluffy clouds under a sky transitioning from a warm orange glow at the horizon to a deep blue at the top. Overlaid on this image are three large, semi-transparent geometric shapes: a yellow triangle in the upper right, a red triangle in the middle left, and a dark brown triangle in the lower right. The text is placed within or near these shapes.

Hence, the seventh seal is about the global prayer movement at the End of the Age reaching its fullness of maturity, power and authority. There are three stages in the maturing of the End-Time prayer movement:

The first stage happens in **Revelation 5:8** where the prayers of the saints on earth fill up the bowls of incense in heaven to full. When that happens, Jesus will take the scroll and begin to open the seals.

The **second stage** happens at the **fifth seal** when the global prayer movement is empowered and strengthened by the complete number of End-Time martyrs praying in heaven. This will lead to the opening of the sixth seal with the greatest outpouring of the Spirit as well as the literal opening up of the heavens with the revelation of God's glory unto the whole earth. This will be a time of unprecedented shakings as well as the greatest harvest of souls.




The third stage is where the prayer movement becomes fully mature as a result of heavenly incense being added to the prayer of the saints. This happens at the seventh seal (Rev. 8:1-6).

What is this heavenly incense? It is both the intercession of Jesus (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25) as well as the working of the Holy Spirit in and through the prayer movement (Rom. 8:26-27; Rev. 22:17). You see, the prayers of the saints are weak and imperfect because of human weakness. It has to be enhanced and made perfect by the intercession of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is always interceding for us at the right hand of God. His prayers release the anointing which will ultimately make the prayers of the saints perfect and fully pleasing to the Father.

The Holy Spirit is teaching the End-Time Church how to pray. He will pray with and through the End-Time Church, and **He will pour out the Spirit of grace and supplication** upon the End-Time prayer movement so that it can reach its fullness (Zech. 12:10).



There are five main activities at the opening of the seventh seal. All these activities involve angels. The five activities are:

1

THERE WAS SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOUR

(Rev. 8:1)

Heaven is rarely silent. There is music and singing, worship, intercession and proclamations going on continually before the throne of God, as well as voices, noises and thunderings. Revelation 8:1 is the only recorded instance where there is silence in heaven for half an hour.

The silence is both glorious and dreadful. It is glorious because the angels were overwhelmed with the knowledge that human history is about to shift — Jesus is about to return and establish His kingdom here on earth.

Why dreadful? **There is a terrifying silence because there is awful anticipation of the release of the impending judgment of God.** Habakkuk 2:20 tells us that when God is in His temple and is about to judge, “*let all the earth keep silence before Him.*” Similarly, Zephaniah 1:7 and Zechariah 2:13 also tell us that there is silence when there is impending judgment.

Why the silence?

Because God wants to give us a picture of the severity that is about to come.





2

THE SEVEN ANGELS WERE GIVEN SEVEN TRUMPETS

(Rev. 8:2)

At the opening of the seventh seal, the seven angels were given seven trumpets and they were preparing themselves to sound.

Joshua 6 is a powerful foreshadow of this where the seven priests bore the seven trumpets before the ark of the Lord. The final blowing of the seven trumpets on the seventh day resulted in the fall and destruction of the city of Jericho. Similarly, at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ (Rev. 11:15)!



3

**THE EIGHTH ANGEL IS GIVEN
HEAVENLY INCENSE TO STRENGTHEN
THE GLOBAL PRAYER MOVEMENT AT
THE END OF THE AGE**

(Rev. 8:3-4)

4

**FIRE IS BEING CAST DOWN
ONTO THE EARTH**

(Rev. 8:5)

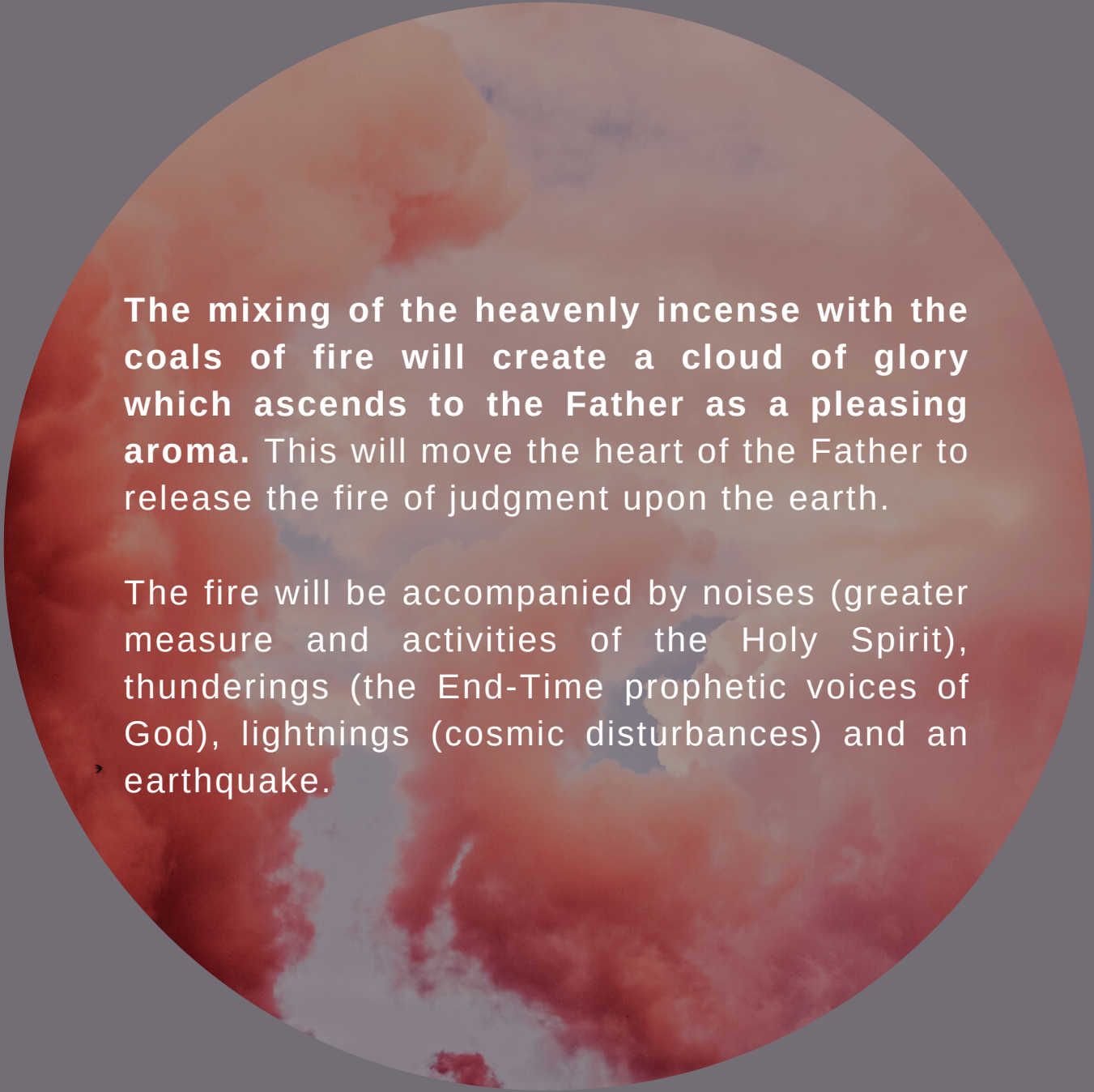
5

**THERE WERE COSMIC DISTURBANCES
AND EARTHQUAKES**

(Rev. 8:5)

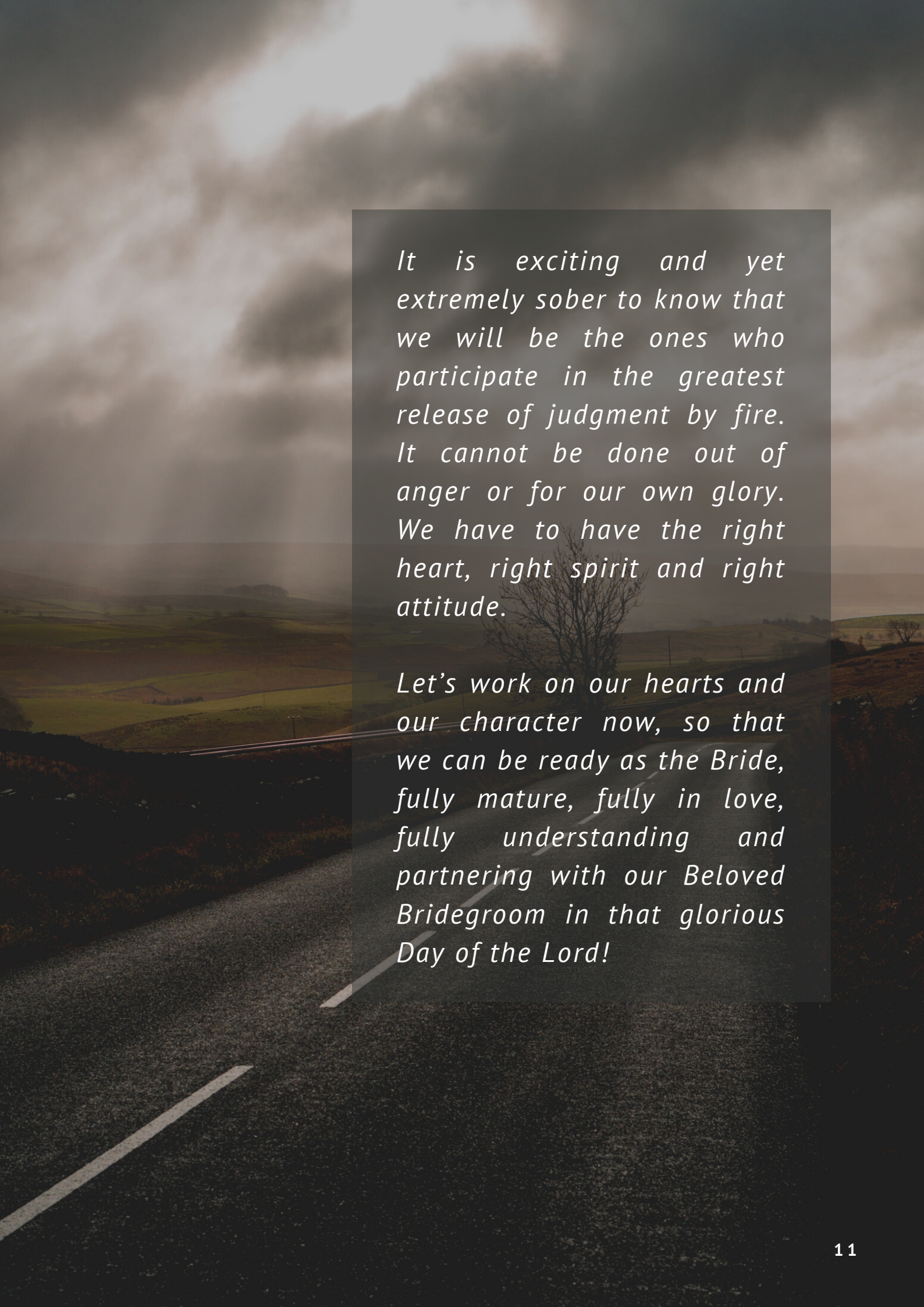
Revelation 8:1-5 has to be studied together with Leviticus 6:12-13 and Leviticus 16:12-13.

The prayers of the saints will ascend from the earth to heaven and be collected on the altar of incense. Leviticus 6:12-13 is a picture of the prayers of the saints being offered up continually from the altars on the earth. The eighth angel collects the prayers of the saints in the censer. The prayers are represented by the coals of fire in Leviticus 16:12-13. The angel then adds heavenly incense to the coals of fire. The heavenly incense is the intercession of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.



The mixing of the heavenly incense with the coals of fire will create a cloud of glory which ascends to the Father as a pleasing aroma. This will move the heart of the Father to release the fire of judgment upon the earth.

The fire will be accompanied by noises (greater measure and activities of the Holy Spirit), thunderings (the End-Time prophetic voices of God), lightnings (cosmic disturbances) and an earthquake.

The background of the page is a dramatic landscape. A dark, stormy sky with heavy, grey clouds hangs over a series of rolling hills. The hills are covered in green grass, with some patches of brown, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. A winding road, paved with dark asphalt and marked with white lines, leads from the bottom left towards the horizon. A single, bare tree stands on a hill in the middle ground. The overall mood is somber and contemplative, matching the text's theme of judgment and preparation.

It is exciting and yet extremely sober to know that we will be the ones who participate in the greatest release of judgment by fire. It cannot be done out of anger or for our own glory. We have to have the right heart, right spirit and right attitude.

Let's work on our hearts and our character now, so that we can be ready as the Bride, fully mature, fully in love, fully understanding and partnering with our Beloved Bridegroom in that glorious Day of the Lord!



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES

www.onethingministries.net