

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Book of Revelation with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapters 8-9

For the next session on December 10th, please read Chapters 8-9, pages 152-178 in *The Revelation* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "*Lord Jesus, humbly I ask, in my imperfect faith, for the blessing of your Holy Spirit's grace: To profess eternal truth that is you, in the words I say and in all that I do. To celebrate the nourishment you give that, in believing, forever I will live. To proceed in ways that let others see grace-filled wonder and hope, because I believe. To pray with confidence that when I seek, though I may grow tired, you hasten to meet. To welcome you always into my heart and your abiding love to others impart. Amen.*"

<https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **December 10th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

Now we arrive at Revelation 8 and the final seal judgment. The seal judgments include deception, war, famine, pestilence, martyrdom, and cosmic signs. What is most important to remember, however, is that the focus is on Jesus. He is coming again.

1. *Why do you think there is about half an hour of silence in heaven when the seventh seal is broken?*

2. Incense plays an important role then and continues today. Besides the Book of Revelation, we see incense mentioned in Num. 7:14, Deut. 33:10, Ex. 30:34-38, Ps. 141:2. There is a clear connection between incense, prayer, and sacrifice. In the Mass it is used to reverence people and things, and during the Offertory the gifts and altar are incensed. *What do you think it means that our prayers are like incense to God?* (See also 2 Cor. 14-15)

3. (8:7-12) We now have the trumpet judgments. (Prov. 21:15, Rom. 12:19, Is. 30:18) *Why do you think that God targets the earth before people? Do you think that these judgments are more or less intense than the seal judgments? Why?*

4. (8:11) *What is wormwood and what do you think it symbolizes?*

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Book of Revelation with Father Andrie

5. *What does each trumpet blast bring? In light of what is to come, what do you think we should do?*

1st trumpet

2nd trumpet

3rd trumpet

4th trumpet

6. In Chapter 9 we have the fifth (1-12) and sixth (13-21) trumpets. (Reference also Luke 10:18, Is, 14:12-14, Rev. 20:1-3) *What or who is the star fallen from heaven? Who was given a key and by whom?*

7. *What do the names Abaddon and Apollyon mean in their original language?*

8. (9:13-21) *What force does the sixth trumpet unbind? How are these beasts different in their destructiveness from the locusts?*

9. *Why do you think that people would harden their hearts and continue in rebellion against God even in the face of killings and clear signs of God's dissatisfaction?*

What else stood out for you in these chapters?

For your personal prayer:

Think about what the value of silence is for prayer. What is the difference between "dead" silence and a living silence. Work silence into your prayers this week. Imagine your prayers rising to God like incense.