

½ Hour of Silence

Revelation 6:12-17, Revelation 7:1-4, 9-17, Revelation 8:1

And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heavens opened as a scroll is opened when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 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; And 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: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?... And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel... After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes... And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour;

D&C 88:87-97

For not many days hence and the earth shall tremble and reel to and fro as a drunken man; and the sun shall hide his face, and shall refuse to give light; and the moon shall be bathed in blood; and the stars shall become exceedingly angry, and shall cast themselves down as a fig that falleth from off a fig tree. And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people. For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall upon the ground and shall not be able to stand. And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds. And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people. And angels shall fly through the midst of heaven, crying with a loud voice, sounding the trump of God, saying: Prepare ye, prepare ye, O inhabitants of the earth; for the judgment of our God is come. Behold, and lo, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. And immediately there shall appear a great sign in heaven, and all people shall see it together. And another angel shall sound his trump, saying: That great church, the mother of abominations, that made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, that persecuteth the saints of God, that shed their blood—she who sitteth upon many waters, and upon the islands of the sea—behold, she is the tares of the earth; she is bound in bundles; her bands are made strong, no man can loose them; therefore, she is ready to be burned. And he shall sound his trump both long and loud, and all nations shall hear it. And there shall be silence in heaven for the space of half an hour; and immediately after shall the curtain of heaven be unfolded, as a scroll is unfolded after it is rolled up, and the face of the Lord shall be unveiled; And the saints that are upon the earth, who are alive, shall be quickened and be caught up to meet him. And they who have slept in their graves shall come forth, for their graves shall be opened; and they also shall be caught up to meet him in the midst of the pillar of heaven

The Doctrines of the Gospel Institute Manual (Chapter 36)

The Savior will make several appearances before His Second Coming to all the world.

1. Christ will appear at Adam-ondi-Ahman (see Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14; D&C 116).
2. The Savior will appear to those in the New Jerusalem in America (see 3 Nephi 21:23–25; D&C 45:66–67).
3. The Savior will appear to the Jews in Jerusalem (see D&C 45:48, 51–53; Zechariah 12:10; 14:2–5).
4. The Lord will appear in glory to all mankind (see D&C 45:44; 101:23; Matthew 24:30; Isaiah 40:5; JST, Revelation 1:7).

It then explains what takes place at #4 (ie. The Great and Dreadful Day): “The veil will be removed from the earth when the Savior appears (see D&C 88:95; 38:8; 101:23) and Faithful Saints, both living and dead, will be caught up to meet Christ at His coming (see D&C 88:96–98; 45:45; 76:63; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).”

Ergo: The sign of the Son of Man, the 7th seal (or point of reference) opens after the events (or points of reference) from the 6th seal take place, and then there is silence in heaven for “the space of half an hour”. “Immediately after” that silence in heaven we have the Great and Dreadful Day. At the Great and Dreadful Day the veil will be removed from the entire Earth, not just “opened” (JST Revelation 6), all the wicked will be destroyed (this only takes place at event 4)

Moses 7:60-66

And the Lord said unto Enoch: As I live, even so will I come in the last days, in the days of wickedness and vengeance, to fulfil the oath which I have made unto you concerning the children of Noah; And the day shall come that the earth shall rest, but before that day the heavens shall be darkened, and a veil of darkness shall cover the earth; and the heavens shall shake, and also the earth; and great tribulations shall be among the children of men, but my people will I preserve; And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, unto a place which I shall prepare, an Holy City, that my people may gird up their loins, and be looking forth for the time of my coming; for there shall be my tabernacle, and it shall be called Zion, a New Jerusalem. And the Lord said unto Enoch: Then shalt thou and all thy city meet them there, and we will receive them into our bosom, and they shall see us; and we will fall upon their necks, and they shall fall upon our necks, and we will kiss each other; And there shall be mine abode, and it shall be Zion, which shall come forth out of all the creations which I have made; and for the space of a thousand years the earth shall rest. And it came to pass that Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, in the last days, to dwell on the earth in righteousness for the space of a thousand years; But before that day he saw great tribulations among the wicked; and he also saw the sea, that it was troubled, and men’s hearts failing them, looking forth with fear for the judgments of the Almighty God, which should come upon the wicked.

JST Genesis 14:34

And his people wrought righteousness, and obtained heaven, and sought for the city of Enoch which God had before taken, separating it from the earth, having reserved it unto the latter days, or the end of the world;

Joseph Smith- Matthew 4,26-33,36-39

And Jesus left them, and went upon the Mount of Olives. And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying: Tell us when shall these things be which thou hast said concerning the destruction of the temple, and the Jews; and what is the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the

world?... For as the light of the morning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, and covereth the whole earth, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. And now I show unto you a parable. Behold, wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together; so likewise shall mine elect be gathered from the four quarters of the earth. And they shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars. Behold I speak for mine elect's sake; for nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. And again, because iniquity shall abound, the love of men shall wax cold; but he that shall not be overcome, the same shall be saved. And again, this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked; And again shall the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, be fulfilled. And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken... And, as I said before, after the tribulation of those days, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken, then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn; and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory; ***And whoso treasureth up my word, shall not be deceived, for the Son of Man shall come,*** and he shall send his angels before him with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together the remainder of his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Now learn a parable of the fig tree— When its branches are yet tender, and it begins to put forth leaves, you know that summer is nigh at hand; ***So likewise, mine elect, when they shall see all these things, they shall know that he is near, even at the doors;***

One of Joseph Smith's close associates, Wandle Mace, claimed that the Prophet said that this sign would be the return of the city of Enoch (cf. Moses 7:62–63). We have a quote from Joseph Smith recorded by Wandle Mace, “When Enoch and his city was taken away, a portion of earth was taken and would again be restored.” Joseph Smith when describing the sign was reported to have also said that while the wicked will not understand its true significance—attributing it to a natural cause such as a planet or comet—the righteous will know what it means. And the coming of the Son of Man will be like the dawning of the morning sun that moves along gradually from the east until it reaches unto the west. In a manner similar to the sun, this sign will be small at first but will gradually increase until it is “all in a blaze” and every eye sees it. (The Words of Joseph Smith: The Contemporary Accounts of the Nauvoo Discourses of the Prophet, p.181)

Ergo: The sign of the Son of Man is the city of Enoch returning. The city is to return “at the end of the world, or the destruction of the wicked, which is the end of the world”. Meaning, the sign of the Son of Man, the City of Enoch returning to Earth, is a countdown to the great and dreadful day of the Lord. The “silence in heaven for the space of ½ hour” is all the time Earth is going to receive between the opening of the 7th seal and the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord. Ie. “Christ appearing at Adam-ondi-Ahman and the Savior appearing to those in the New Jerusalem in America” are 6th seal events and “the Savior appearing to the Jews in Jerusalem and the Lord

will appear in glory to all mankind” are 7th seal events. Thus, the events at old Jerusalem take place during this ½ hour of silence as well.

D&C 77:12. What Is the Purpose for the Sounding of Trumpets by Seven Angels?

Trumpets were used anciently to herald or announce something or to draw attention to something. The seven angels who sound trumpets in Revelation 8–10 will signal events that will take place in the beginning of the seventh thousand years (after the seventh seal is opened; see Revelation 8:1), before the Lord comes in His glory.

“[T]he sounding of the trumpets does not take place, as many have supposed, in rapid succession, but certain events have to be accomplished between their respective soundings. (Journal of Discourses, Orson Pratt 16:43)

“We read there that when the first angel among the seven shall sound his trump, all nations and kindreds and tongues of the earth shall hear it. Will it be so much louder than any sound we now hear, that it will go to all the nations and tongues of the earth and all men hear it? “Every ear,” the revelation says, shall hear the sound of that trump; it will be something that all the kindreds, peoples, tongues and nations upon the face of the whole earth will be able to perceive and understand. Now, there must be some medium through which this sound is transferred, different from our atmosphere; or, in other words, the Lord, by his miraculous power, will cause this sound to proceed forth through the atmosphere in a different manner from what it now proceeds, for if it took the sound of that trump five seconds to go a mile, it would require a long time for it to travel eight, ten or fifteen thousand miles, so as to reach the ears of the different nations of the earth. Does not this prove then, that God will, at that time, either effect the ear of man or act upon some materials in connection with our globe, so that sound will be more rapidly conveyed than it is at the present time?” (Journal of Discourses, Orson Pratt 16:45)

“These plagues named in John’s revelations, will take place literally—”The Lord God will curse the waters of the great deep, and they shall be turned into blood.” “The sea shall become as the blood of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea shall be destroyed.” And the time will come, when the seven angels having the seven last trumps will sound their trumps literally, and the sound thereof will be heard among the nations, just preparatory to the coming of the Son of man; and all the judgments foretold by John, which are to succeed the sound of each of the seven trumpets, will be fulfilled literally upon the earth in their times and seasons.” (Journal of Discourses, Orson Pratt 18:28)

Revelation Chapter 8

John sees fire and desolation poured out during the seventh seal and preceding the Second Coming.

Revelation Chapter 9

John also sees the wars and plagues poured out during the seventh seal and before the Lord comes.

5 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.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for *an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year*, for to slay the third part of men.

Revelation Chapter 11

In the last days, two prophets will be slain in Jerusalem—After 3½ days, they will be resurrected—Christ will reign over all the earth.

2 ... and the holy city shall they tread under foot *forty and two months*.

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy *a thousand two hundred and threescore days*, clothed in sackcloth.

Old Testament Enrichment I

(I-8) Armageddon: The Deliverance

So great will be the devastation that *for seven years* Israel will be able to live off the spoils of war left behind (see Ezekiel 39:8–10). It will *take seven months* to bury the dead, and thereafter burial teams will search out the remaining bodies in an attempt to cleanse the land (see Ezekiel 39:11–16).

Ergo: In the 7th seal (point of reference) or the ½ hour of silence we will hear literal horns and we will see literal fulfillment to these prophecies- that would include the dates and time frames:

5 months + 13 months and 25 hours + 3 ½ years (42 months) + 7 years (84 months) = 144 months and 25 hours or 12 years and 25 hours.

So we know that this ½ hour of silence equals at LEAST 12 years and 25 hours, so interpretations of “an actual half an hour” or “a week” etc. don’t hold water. Based on this, the best interpretation for ½ hour of silence is still taken from Peter:

2 Peter 3

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

1,000 Years/ 1,440 Minutes (1 day) = X years/ 30 Minutes (1/2 hr)

30 X 1,000 Years/ 1,440 = 20.83 (repeating) Years

We know that the Lord breaks things into 7’s, and we learn in Daniel and the Lord in the last days will be breaking things into 7’s once again so “21 years” is still the best interpretation for this. Ergo, the ½ hr of silence from the 7th seal (or point of references) is a countdown to the great and dreadful day of the Lord that will be broadcast to the world via the city of Enoch returning (ie. the Sign of the Son of Man) which will also makes it actual return on the Great and Dreadful day, “immediately after” the ½ hr silence in heaven is over, or “21 yrs”.

Journal of Reddick Newton Allred

“At night I dreamed that I heard a voice proclaim the appearing of the Lord, then a sudden light burst from the heavens, the stars fell and all creation shook. For a moment I feared that I should be consumed, then a sudden calmness prevailed and one said “why is this?” said I, “It is to be silence for half an hour and then the Lord will come.” I then saw Joseph and Hyrum descend to the earth and address a large assembly of Saints that surrounded them and listen with attention to their instructions...”

Understanding, truly understanding the ½ hour of silence will give followers of Christ peace and will remove fear from their hearts when they see the stars fall, the moon turn to blood, and sun darkened, and all creation shaking... Not understanding this will leave you in a state of fear, as Heber C. Kimball said “many will be still, not knowing what to do”. I pray we can gain as much knowledge and testimony as possible for it is through this knowledge and through such testimonies that we will “make our robes white with the blood of the Lamb” through the tribulation. God bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ amen!