

Revelation 8.2-6 chiasm

A: v. 2 And I saw the **seven angels** who stand before God, and **seven trumpets** were given to them.

B: v. 3a Another **angel with a golden censer** came and stood **at the altar**;

C: v. 3b: he was given a great quantity of **incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints** on the golden altar that is **before the throne**.

C¹: v. 4 And the smoke of the **incense, with the prayers of the saints**, rose **before God** from the hand of the angel.

B¹: v. 5 Then the **angel took the censer** and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

A¹: v. 6 Now the **seven angels** who had the **seven trumpets** made ready to blow them.

One interpretation:

De Villiers: "The final judgment, expressed by the bowl that is hurled on earth, finds its counterpart in salvation and in the true worship of God by those who have been saved. This is the contrast between A/B on the one hand and C on the other."

7.9-10 **the saints**: After this I looked, and there was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.
The prayer of the saints: **They cried out in a loud voice**, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Another interpretation:

Stefanovic: Hence, the angel stands at the altar under which are the martyrs from 6.9; it is their blood that is the offering: "John portrays God's faithful people in terms of sacrificed saints with their blood poured out as an offering to God."

6.9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw **under the altar** the souls of those who had been slaughtered for the word of God and for the testimony they had given;
10 **they cried out with a loud voice**, "Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long will it be before you judge and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?"
11 They were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number would be complete both of their fellow servants and of their brothers and sisters, who were soon to be killed as they themselves had been killed.