

Revelation 5:8 – “When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”

UNANSWERED PRAYERS

The bowls of incense represent the prayers of the saints. Incense was a part of Old Testament worship. The Priests stood before the inner veil of the temple and burned incense. The aroma carried into the Holy of Holies and was a sweet-smelling fragrance to God. This was symbolic of the prayers of the people rising up to Him. These prayers in Revelation 5 represent the prayers of God’s people that have gone unanswered through the ages. They include all the unanswered prayers for justice, even the prayers of the martyrs (6:10). John wept when he saw the seven-sealed scroll of judgments which were to come on the earth during the Tribulation. No man was worthy to open the scroll and judge the earth. One of the elders told John not to weep, because the Lion of The Lion of Judah (Jesus) had prevailed to open the book. Jesus will open the seals and send judgments to earth, in answer to the prayers for justice that have gone unanswered. Your prayers for justice will be answered in time. Injustice will grow worse before Christ returns, but “men always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1). Keep praying. Justice will come, and it will begin during the Tribulation. Don’t avenge yourself. Wait on Jesus. “He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth” (Luke 18:8)? Don’t give up when your prayers aren’t answered. They are heard. They may not cause the changes you want, but they will change you. The world needs your prayers. The Lord desires your prayers. Your prayers are an aroma of incense to Him. It is always God’s will to pray for justice. Pray, and don’t lose heart. Your prayers are a sweet-smelling incense to the Lord (Rev. 8:3-4). Let the Son of Man find in you the faith to pray.