

Incense WITH the Prayers of the Saints

Re 5:8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

These odors are what the beasts and elders have—they represent the prayers of the saints—BUT they are NOT the same as the incense offered by Christ—In the offering of Christ of the prayers there is mixed in another incense—two incenses if you please—the incense that Christ adds is the MERIT of His PERFECT LIFE and atoning sacrifice—otherwise the odors of the prayers would be but a bad smell before the Father. It is vital that it is not OUR PRAYERS alone that accomplish anything—but the merits and intercession of Christ and the BLOOD OF THE LAMB! I have heard presentations that give the idea that it is the prayers ALONE that bring the results and neither Bible or SOP teach this. People get the idea that if they can just get enough people praying all at the same time or something, that somehow this generates a force that MAKES things happen. NO! This is not the right idea at all! The only FORCE that does anything is the BLOOD OF THE LAMB and the MERITS of His perfect LIFE. I do not belittle the importance of the prayers—BUT alone—they would be worthless. Some folk get the idea that they can by ‘ganging up on God’ force His hand and get what they want. God will not even hear such prayers!

Re 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that **he should offer it with the prayers of all saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne. {offer...: or, add it to the prayers }

Re 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

In the holiest I saw an ark; on the top and sides of it was purest gold. On each end of the ark was a lovely cherub, with its wings spread out over it. Their faces were turned toward each other, and they looked downward. Between the angels was a golden censer. Above the ark, where the angels stood, was an exceeding bright glory, that appeared like a throne where God dwelt. Jesus stood by the ark, **and as the saints' prayers came up to Him, the incense in the censer would smoke, and He would offer up their prayers with the smoke of the incense to His Father.** {CET 91.3}

Between the cherubim was a golden censer, and as the prayers of the saints, offered in faith, came up to Jesus, and He presented them to His father, **a cloud of fragrance arose from the incense, looking like smoke of most beautiful colors.** [like a rainbow?] Above the place where Jesus stood, before the ark, was exceedingly bright glory that I could not look upon; it appeared like the throne of God. As the incense ascended to the

Father, the excellent glory came from the throne to Jesus, and from Him it was shed upon those whose prayers had come up like sweet incense.

Christ proclaims Himself our Intercessor. He would have us know that He has graciously engaged to be our Substitute. **He places His merit in the golden censer to offer up with the prayers of His saints, so that the prayers of His dear children may be mingled with the fragrant merit of Christ as they ascend to the Father in the cloud of incense.** {HP 79.3}

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The Father hears every prayer of His contrite children. The voice of supplication from the earth unites with the voice of our Intercessor, who pleads in heaven, whose voice the Father always hears. Let our prayers therefore continually ascend to God. **Let them not come up in the name of any human being, but in the name of Him who is our Substitute and Surety. Christ has given us His name to use.** . . . {OFC 149.4}

"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand." Let the families, the individual Christians, and the churches bear in mind that they are closely allied to heaven. The Lord has a special interest in his church militant here below. The angels who offer the smoke of the fragrant incense are for the praying saints. Then let the evening prayers in every family rise steadily to heaven in the cool sunset hour, speaking before God in our behalf of the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour. **That blood alone is efficacious. It alone can make propitiation for our sins. It is the blood of the only begotten Son of God that is of value for us, that we may draw nigh unto God; his blood alone that taketh "away the sin of the world."** Morning and evening the heavenly universe behold every household that prays, **and the angel with the incense, representing the blood of the atonement, finds access to God.** {HM, June 1, 1897 par. 15}