

# SILENCE IN HEAVEN

REVELATION 8:1-13 // TODD DUGARD  
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*When heaven stops in expectant silence (8:1)...I should anticipate God's next big move (8:2)...knowing that he will answer the prayers of the saints (8:3-5)...bringing about his will on earth (8:6-12)...in advance of the final, terrible judgment to come (8:13)*

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you uncomfortable with extended silence? What does silence make you more aware of?
2. **As this chapter opens, John notes there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. It reminds us of the calm before the storm. God is about to move in response to the prayers of the saints and bring about a righteous judgement on the earth. The prayers of the persecuted church for justice will ultimately be answered, but it appears that God pauses before he acts.** Why is God not rushing to judgment? What do you think God intends to convey by introducing silence into this moment?
3. **Pastor Todd talked about the aimless drudgery of the work-eat-entertainment-sleep cycle.** Have you ever recognized this cycle in your life and thought of it in a negative way? What could be done differently to connect every day with God's purpose for our lives?
4. **Revelation Chapter 8 calls attention to the day when God delivers his wrath. This chapter brings tension for us as we wait for vindication and grieve for those who will be condemned.** Why do you think we need reassurance that God will hold wicked people and powers accountable for their actions against Jesus and the church?

5. What temptations do these small gods offer to Christian people? What biblical truth would help someone facing the temptation to serve these imposter gods?

The false god	Temptation Offered	Biblical truth
The god of comfort	<i>i.e., Easy living gives me the power to say I deserve what I have and gives me the right to be selfish.</i>	
The god of escape	<i>i.e., Distraction gives me to power to avoid pain.</i>	
The god of science	<i>i.e., Knowledge gives me power to determine my own righteousness.</i>	
The god of celebrity	<i>i.e., Wining attention makes me influential and more important than lesser-known people.</i>	
The god of wealth	<i>i.e., Money and possession give me power over people and problems.</i>	
The god of sexuality	<i>i.e., Gratification means I'm being true to my nature.</i>	

***If you struggle under one or more of these temptations, you're not alone! Who might you talk to for encouragement and direction? How can you help each other?***