

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

REVELATION 8:6-13

(Outline # 18)

Meditation: *TM 116, MYP 260*

INTRODUCTION: To show how in every age (after each sealing period) the rejecters of God's truth and mercy bring destruction upon themselves. Also, how in our time we may be sealed and thus escape the terrors of the great and dreadful day of the Lord - the Judgment of the Living.

Read: Revelation 8:6-13

1. **Are These Trumpets Symbolical or Literal?**

Read: They must be symbolical since the results and effects of these common literal elements when mingled together are completely different from those described in the prophecy.

Examples:

- a. Literal fire, hail and blood mixed together do not have the singular results as described in the prophecy. Instead, the fire would melt the hail and burn up the blood and/or be extinguished by them.
- b. Likewise, a literal burning mountain cast into the sea would be extinguished or would convert the waves to steam. The results are different in the prophecy.
- c. Finally, a literal star falling from heaven would knock planet earth off its course and destroy it. The trumpets are therefore symbolical.

2. **What Is The Nature And Purpose Of The Seven Trumpets?**

Comparing the 7 plagues and the 7 trumpets one by one, evinces a most striking coincidence and correlation between them. In fact, their nature and purpose are seen to be one, and they affect the same things.

- a. Both the elements of the first trumpet (hail and fire mingled with blood) and the contents of the vial of the first plague are cast upon the **earth** (Revelation 8:7; 16:2).
- b. The "**mountain**" at the sounding of the second trumpet and the contents of the vial at the pouring out of the second plague find their point of coincidence in falling alike into the **sea**" (Revelation 8:8. 16:3).
- c. The third trumpet and Third plague affects "rivers and fountains of waters" (Revelation 8:10; 16:4).
- d. Just as at the sounding of the fourth trumpet, so likewise at the pouring out of the "vial" of the fourth plague, the **sun** is affected

(Revelation 8:12; 16:18).

- e. Darkness (Revelation 9:2; 16:10) ensues in common at the sounding of the fifth trumpet as with the pouring out of the fifth plague.
- f. Both the Sixth Trumpet and the Sixth Plague affect the “river Euphrates” (Revelation 9:14; 16:12).
- g. And bringing up the seventh parallel, The seventh trumpet and the seventh plague exhibit the identical components: the temple in heaven, the voices and thunderings and lightning there from, the earthquake and the hail (Revelation 11:15; 16:17-21) and the second coming of Christ.

The trumpets therefore, like the plagues, bring destruction upon the wicked after their probation has closed. Being seven in number (completeness) like the seven seals, they cover the world’s history, destroying the wicked who reject the truth for each sealing period. Thus though described separately, in reality each trumpet follows its corresponding seal as they pass in review before the Great Judicial Tribunal. Again, like the seals in the judgment, they begin with those who first lived upon the earth (The *Great Controversy* 483)

3. **The First Trumpet**

Must be sought as far back in history as the first destruction of a wicked multitude —**The Flood**.

Fire	Most common of the three elements - The Holy Spirit. Ex. 3:2; 19:18; Jer. 23:29; Acts 2:3
Casting	Descending of the Holy Ghost with words of truth. John 14:19; 1 Peter 3:18
Blood	The life of the flesh. Mortal Life. Lev. 17:11
Hail	Destruction. Job 38:22-23
Trees	Show stature, sturdiness, stability, long life and qualities of Leadership. The inmates of the ark were progenitors of post-diluvian world.
Grass	Common people. Isa. 40:67; Dan. 4:15

4. **The Second Trumpet**

This post-flood destruction is preceded by the message of the ceremonial system. The Israelite movement is **the first post-flood church** with a message —the ceremonial system.

Mountain	The Hebrew people/church leaving Egypt, moving toward and entering Palestine. Zech. 8:3; Isa. 2:3; Dan. 9:16, 20
Burning with fire	God’s presence in the midst and around about. Exo. 3:2- the burning bush. i.e. The pillar of fire by night and cloud by day.
Sea (third part)	The storehouse of the waters (original abode).

Isa. 42:10. Isa. 17:12; Rev. 17:5 At that time the sea was Palestine/Canaan.

The Israelite movement reached only a part of the world (the "third part" of the "sea"), those heathen with whom the movement came into close contact, especially in the promised land.

Became blood Those with whom Israel came in contact received life (Blood) both mortal and eternal.

Creatures... had life and died The third part in the sea which died are those newly converted heathen who had eternal life, but who sinned it away ("died").

Ships Heathen religions and their temples (shelter and convey people). God commanded that they ("ships") be destroyed by the Israelites. (Deut. 12:2-3). See also *COR* p. 48. Ships symbolized a church or movement.

Summary: Thus the Second Trumpet reveals that the Hebrews were a Life-saving agent to one class but brought destruction to another.

5. **The Third Trumpet**

The period of the Bible. Those who do not accept the Old Testament in this period are destroyed and lost eternal life.

Star The Word of God; the Old Testament. The only light bearing object from heaven is the Word. (Psalm 119:105). Since it falls only on the "third part" (a portion), it is the Old Testament, which was accessible to only a portion of the nations.

Rivers The nations. (Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 8:7). The "third part" (wicked) are the heathen nations which came into close contact with the Bible.

Fountains His chosen people (the twelve tribes of Israel), in whom His word was waters of life, making them living fountains. (John 7:38; Deut. 33:28)

Wormwood An herb which, when used medicinally, has purging and cleansing qualities. The word of God has the power to purge away the cause and effects of spiritual debility and to restore healthy functions and tone to the sin-sick soul.

6. **Fourth Trumpet**

The church of God is subjugated by Babylon.

Sun, Moon and Stars —The church of God in three parts. Joseph's dream of the sun, moon and stars bowing to him, as interpreted by his father Jacob, signified that the church at that time (present truth) was comprised of his father (the sun- the repository of the unwritten word of God), his mother (the moon- the holy temple) and his brothers (the stars - the congregation of the saints). (Gen. 37:9-10). It

is correlated to identify the location of the church and its condition.

Sun	The word of God to the church.
Moon	The tabernacle, the temple and leaders (priest, etc.) by which the light of the message —the sacrificial system —was reflected.
Stars	The church membership.
“a third part”	One of the three periods of the nation’s history — from the occupation of the promised land to the captivity in Babylon. The three periods are:

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- a. During the Exodus: from Egypt to the possession of the promised land;
 - b. From the occupation of the promised land to the captivity in Babylon
 - c. From the deliverance from Babylon to the Advent of Christ.

“Smitten”,
“darkened”

The smiting of the sun, moon, and the stars symbolically reveals a punishment upon ancient Israel. The nation (stars) was taken into Babylonian captivity, the temple (moon) destroyed, and the service (sun) abolished. (2 Chron. 36:16-17, 19-21). Thus resulted spiritual darkness for 70 years until the temple was rebuilt and the sacrificial services reestablished.

“Day”

That portion of the earth where the light of the sun directly shines —the “promised land”

“Night”

That portion of the earth where the sun is reflected by the moon and the stars —the heathen.

Since the religious system of ancient Israel was the only spiritual light in all the ancient world, then the extinguishing of that light (the “day”) meant that the heathen (the “night”) also did not receive light.

9. **The Woes**

The woes signify a change between the first four and the last three trumpets. Following the crucifixion of Christ and the ushering in of the New testament era, the woes point to

- a. Satan persecuting the faithful to keep them from embracing the progressive truth.
- b. Satan persecuting the heathen to Christianize them (but not with a true conversion).

10. **The Fifth Trumpet**

This period is signified by the appearance of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection, and the going forth of the early Christians to reach the gospel.

Star

Jesus (First Advent).

	John 1:1-14; Rev. 22:16
Key	Satan has never been given a key to anything. Deliverance from sin and death -the Gospel. Rev. 20:1-2; Rev. 1:18; Luke 4:18-19
Bottomless Pit	Earth in its state as a prison house for sinners. Rev. 20:3
Smoke	Christ's crucifixion. The sacrificial/smoke of the ceremonial system prefigured Christ's sacrifice. AA 14; DA 632
Darkened sun and air	Darkness over the land from 6 th to 9 th hour. Mark 15:33
Locusts	Christians. Should not kill (Matt. 5:38-39). Swarm like locusts (Acts 2:41, 47) and seemingly defenseless like locust.
Crowns like gold	The authority of Christ. Matt. 16:19
Hair of Women	The Christian's affiliation to the Church was their glory —like a women's hair is her glory. 1 Cor. 11:15; Jer. 6:2 (Women - Church) 2 Thess. 1:4
Teeth of lions	Power to kill Acts 5:1-11
Breastplates of iron	Faith and love. 1 Thess. 5:8; Acts 5:42
Sound of wings ...to battle	Fearlessness Acts 20:20-22
Their King	Jesus. 1 Cor. 10:1-4
Abaddon	Destroyer of His enemies. Luke 19:14; Deut. 12:2-3
Apollyon	Exterminator of wicked. Rev. 19:15-18
Tails	Laity. Rom. 12:5
Stings	Able to torment the wicked by living and speaking the truth. Acts 4:16-18; John 112:19
Five months	Crucifixion to Ezekiel 9. (See five month outline)
Glad to die but cannot:	a. Ready to...die - Acts 20:18-19, 23-27; Acts 21:12-13 b. Cannot - Dan. 12:1 EW 34; Luke 17:31,33.

11.

The Sixth Trumpet

The Church is liberated from her long bondage to the tyranny of the church-state rule. The angels prepare themselves on four successive occasions for the eventual execution of death upon the wicked. By the threefold message (fire, smoke, and brimstone) are the wicked killed.

The time of the sixth trumpet

- a. Before 1844 (voice comes from the golden altar). Revelation 9:13

- (EW285; Dan. 12:2)
- Those who worship therein (EW15)
- The Court... measure it not Revelation 7:9
16. **Revelation 11:13 —Symbolical**
- The Earthquake The shaking in the SDA church (EW 270) culminating with Ezekiel 9 slaughter.
- The city The Christian world
- The tenth part The church which is first purified. Since God's part is 1/10, representing the tithe, the 1/10 of the city would represent God's church (SDA) among all the churches.
- The seven thousand The unrighteous in the church (7 used to represent complete = all the unrighteous).
- The remnant The righteous
17. **The Seventh Trumpet**
- a. The sounding of this trumpet brings the Judgment to an end and announces that the "kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord." The mystery of God is now finished (Rev. 10:7). He which is holy and just must remain so and likewise he which is filthy (Rev. 22:11). It is also a time for saints to receive their reward.
 - b. The opening of the temple now indicates the end of the judgment; the close of probation. Then no man will be able to enter the sanctuary "till the seven last plagues are fulfilled."
 - c. That the Seventh trumpet will not sound until after the gospel closes also proves that the trumpets bring destruction upon those wicked who reject the truth.

CONCLUSION "Now is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time..." Brothers/
AND Sisters, what are we doing in this most solemn times. Are we prepared
ADMONITION or still preparing? Do we have the seal in our foreheads or still
doubting? Now is the time to make all the preparations and be
ready for such a time as this! Let us be ready!

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