

The Seven Trumpets (Part 2)

Revelation Chapter 9

- I. Review: Chapters 1-9
- II. Three “Woes” (8:13)
 - A. Three “Woes” coincide with the following three trumpets (5,6,7).
 - B. Why does a raptured church need to know this?
 - 1. To see the gravity of God’s wrath and judgement on the unredeemed—to promote the Great Commission with urgency.
 - 2. To gain insight to Satan and the demons for our current spiritual battle.
 - 3. To be reminded of the holiness, omnipotence, sovereign God of the universe.
 - C. To the unsaved—Time is short!
- III. The spiritual world invading the physical world.
 - A. All these events are ordained by God.
 - 1. Much like God’s dealing with Satan in Job chapter 1—God makes the rules.
 - 2. God still works this way today.
- IV. The fallen star (Vs.1-2).
 - A. The star “had fallen” – *perfect tense participle*: an event from the past still affects the present.
 - B. The “star” is a person—Satan.
 - C. The abyss.
 - 1. A “bottomless pit”.
 - 2. A “prison for demons” (2 Peter 2:4).
 - 3. Satan unlocks the door (Joel 2) and locust come out.
- V. The locust (Vs. 3-6)
 - A. The locust are demons with the sting of a scorpion.
 - B. God controls the devastation from the demon-locust—No vegetation, no killing, torment the unredeemed.

- C. Man is so tormented they want to die—but death eludes him (V.6).
 - D. Description of the demon-locust (Vs. 7-11).
 - E. They have a king, most likely a high-ranking demon (V.11).
- VI. Releasing of the demon-angels from the east—the second “Woe” (Vs. 12-19).
- A. The Euphrates River—separates God’s people from Babylon—the enemies of God’s people.
 - 1. Babylon—Revelation 18:2 **“A dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit.”**
 - B. Mission—to kill 1/3 of the earth’s population (V.15).
 - 1. Means—a two-hundred million military horsemen (V.16).
 - a. Some say they are humans, some say demons (my preference).
 - b. 200 million literally “myriads X myriads” – too many to count.
 - c. Their power is in their mouths and tails (V. 19). They either kill you with fire smoke and brimstone or they sting you with a deadly venom from their tails.
- VII. What must God do to get them to repent?
- A. Stepping up judgement and wrath.
- VIII. The tragedy (Vs.20-21)
- B. All the surviving people do not repent (V.20).
 - C. *Repentance*—In its fullest sense it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future.
 - D. *metanoeo*— “to change one’s mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge.”
 - E. The digression of man’s heart.
 - 1. Man hides from God (6:15).
 - 2. Man does not repent (9:20).
 - 3. Man fights God (19:19).

Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness... Hebrews 3:7 - 8

.The Seven Trumpets (Part 2)

Revelation Chapter 9

Jesus appears to John in glory in Revelation chapter 1... Jesus then dictates to John seven letters to be delivered to the seven churches in Asia Minor chapters 2 and 3. ...Jesus always deals with His the church before He deals with the world... He then summons John to the heavenly throne room of God... John writes down what he saw... heavenly worship of God and Christ... chapters 4 and 5...

Jesus then tells John ...then shows him...**what must soon take place** 4:1...those things... which we are still waiting for **to take place**...is prophetically described for us in chapters 6 all the way to chapter 19...[Actually to the end of the book chapter 22]

Chapter 5 introduced us to the scroll in God's right hand... *the title deed of the earth*...Christ will claim that deed at the end of these coming events... Other than God, Jesus is the only One qualified to open this scroll that is sealed by seven seals... In chapter 6, Jesus begins to open the seals... one by one... God's judgement and wrath are poured out with each seal...

Sometime before the seals are opened... the church... all of those who belong to Christ is taken away from the earth... to meet Jesus *in the clouds*...to heaven...(1 Thes. 4; others)..the church is removed prior to this coming period of judgement and wrath...the seals are opened.

This is the beginning of the seven-year period known as *the Tribulation*... Before the seventh seal is opened we see the people of God...those who have come to Christ AFTER the rapture of the church.... the 144,000 Jews and then a multitude too many to count...all who have come to Jesus... being sealed by God so that they will be God's possession and be under His protection and care.

Chapter 8 began with the opening of the seventh seal... an angel offers up the prayers of the saints...the martyrs who were killed for their faith in and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ...and all of God's people...seven angels then begin to blow their seven trumpets...(which will be followed by the final seven bowls of judgement in the second half of the Tribulation

So one at a time a trumpet is blown and... intensified judgement and wrath is poured out on earth.

I find it fascinating the comparison of these seven trumpets to the seven days of creation in Genesis... When God created the world in seven days... now... the evil one tries to undo everything the creator did...so in Genesis you have the seven days of creation and in Revelation 8 and 9 you have the seven days of "uncreation"... everything is reversed...

That is what Satan does... he is the great dismantler... destroying what is good... he is the great counterfeit... the great deceiver... the great imposter... the great destroyer...

The first six trumpets are blown in chapters 8 and 9... the first four in chapter 8...we looked at last week that brought down hail, fire mixed with blood...1/3 of the earth was burned up... 1/3 of all trees burned...all the grass was burned up.

1/3 of the sea creatures died...1/3 of all the ships on the ocean are destroyed...a falling star crashes on earth contaminating 1/3 of all the earth's fresh water... contaminating it with poison... killing more people...

All of the earth's light sources... the sun, moon and stars are dimmed by 1/3...the ramifications of all these catastrophes are unimaginable... a darker, colder, burned up earth with great water and food shortages...dead bodies everywhere...dead animals... the stench... the disease...**I do hope you are not putting your hope in the earth...the environment...**

Those are the first four trumpets.... Today we see the fifth and sixth trumpets... which are introduced in chapter 8:13

Read 8:13

Three woes...throughout the Bible... “woes” are used as an expression of judgement, destruction, condemnation...here there is a “woe” for each of the remaining trumpets...this eagle's message of three woes...and the relevance of “1/3” is to tell us there is still time to repent... God's judgement and wrath is not completed...there is still 2/3rds.

This is getting to the last opportunity to repent... to come to Christ... **there is coming a time when it will be too late**...the reasons a future raptured church should know what is going to happen after they have been removed is:

1. **To see the gravity of God's judgement and wrath on the unsaved**... stirring within us an urgency and a passion to embrace our Great Commission and go into all the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ... it should also question each one of us...are you sure you're saved?
2. **We will get more insight into Satan and the demons**... the dark spiritual world... we are dealing with that now....chapter 9 is simply an intensified description of what we are dealing with now.
3. **To be reminded of the holiness, omnipotence, sovereign God of the universe**... to see He is in control and has a very detailed plan for the future of this world and of all mankind...

This is a vital message to the doubter... the unsaved who is listening to God's word... time is short... the future is not just bleak for the lost... it is horrifying beyond words.... Chapter 9 is horrifying... many think this is the most horrifying chapter in the Bible...

This morning, we will see the spiritual world invading the physical world...even though this is prophetic... what will be... as we look at John's vision and observe these armies of

darkness...battling in the future... we can better understand how similar spirits of wickedness try to torment us today...we are in a spiritual battle now...

I find the words of George W. Bush relevant... after 9/11...four days later...he laid out his strategy of a military response to the American people... this is what he said:

This will be a different kind of conflict against a different kind of enemy. This is a conflict without battlefields or beachheads, a conflict with opponents who believe they are invisible.

We have come to the ugliest side of evil...an enemy who is invisible...but apparently now show themselves very visibly!... in this battle, we can't carry guns or swords...we can't use bombs and missiles...drones... they are all useless in this war....we will see demons unleashed bringing devastation, destruction and death.

Vital to remember—This may be troubling to some of you...In all this... all that takes place is under the control of God...Nothing happens here that God does not ordain... He tells the angels to blow their trumpets... they blow their trumpets... He gives Satan **“the key to the shaft of the abyss (V.1)”**... He tells the demons what they can and can't do... He puts a limit on the torment they can inflict...

NOTHING IS DIFFERENT TODAY... it reminds me of Job...God speaking to Satan in Chapter 1:12 **The Lord said to Satan... everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.** God set the parameters of what Satan could and couldn't do... God used Satan for His purposes...for His outcomes... and He still works that way today!...so NOTHING happens in this book of Revelation that God didn't ordain... let's go through this...the fifth trumpet.

Read verse 1

Notice this star **“had fallen”**...In Greek grammar this is a *Perfect tense participle*... what that means here is that **there was an event from the past with continuing results**...John has seen a few falling stars come to earth... we saw that last week.

But this star is different from the others... this star is a “him”... the last word in verse 1... this star is a person... Luke 10:18 **And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.**

Satan had fallen to earth many, many, years ago...listen to Isaiah... over 700 years before Christ...this is the detail of **“had fallen”**...

**12 How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!
13 But you said in your heart,**

‘I will ascend to heaven;
 I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
 And I will sit on the mount of assembly
 In the recesses of the north.
 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
 I will make myself like the Most High.’
 15 Nevertheless you will be brought down to Sheol,
 To the recesses of the pit.

This star is Satan...one of God’s angels...one of His fallen angels.... Through his rebellion gets thrown out of heaven to the earth...he’s been on earth a long time...he will end up in the abyss...and eventually the lake of fire... but for now God hands him the key to the abyss...

For a period of time... God will give Satan authority over the earth... God releases him temporarily... then he will be imprisoned for the 1000 year millennium...then the Lake of Fire.

What is this abyss?...some of your translations say “**bottomless pit**” which is what an abyss is... “*bottomless, unbounded, the pit, or the immeasurable depth.*”

Think of it this way... if you took a tall mountain and turned it upside down and put it in the ground... you would have an abyss...basically an abyss is the opposite of a mountain... in the Old Testament you find the mountain is a very important place...

In Exodus... there is a mountain... God is on the mountain... and what you see is smoke... God said **come to me** and the people below refused to come...

Zion is God’s mountain... Psalm 132:13 **For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:**...In Isaiah 6... along with Isaiah we get to see inside God’s throne room... on His mountain... **filled with smoke**...

This abyss... is like everything Satan... the opposite of God... counterfeit... instead of going up it goes down... an upside down Zion...but instead of God residing...it is a prison... it is a prison house for demons...

2 Peter 2:4 **For if God did not spare angels who sinned, but cast them into the pit and delivered them to chains of darkness, being kept for judgment;**

Later in chapter 11 we will see the Anti-Christ come out of the abyss... but like God’s mountain... it too sends out smoke:

Read verse 2

Satan immediately takes the key and opens the gate... smoke comes out and dims the sun...that’s a lot of smoke....smoke is often a symbol of judgement in the Bible... Joel describes

the coming Day of the Lord... that great day of judgement: **And I will put wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke.**

Read verse 3

These are demons taking the form of locusts...there are all kinds of theories concerning these locusts...we need to be careful extending the Bible past what it says... but what we do know is they are very destructive... they are given power...

Even normal locust are very destructive... they swarm in thousands.... That look like clouds of smoke... they can destroy all vegetation in their path...[my grandparents house in Imperial Valley]...listen to this from John Phillips reporting on the worst locust plague in modern times...in the Middle East in 1951-1952:

In Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, every green and growing thing was devoured across hundreds of thousands of square miles. Locust ate the grain, leaf and stalk right down to the bare ground. When a storm arises and flies on its way, the green fields are left as desert; barrenness and desolation stretches as far as the eye can see.

Even here in the States we've had locust plagues that have destroyed 2000 miles of farm land....a perfect insect representing the demons.

Also interesting is that the lifespan of a locust is five months....

Read verses 4-5

As terrible as this is... God is in control of it all... and He has laid down rules...these rules had to have disappointed these demon locusts... *leave the grass alone... all green plants... trees... hands off... you cannot kill anyone... but find those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.... And torment them.*

Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man...chapter 9 has more "like's" than any other chapter in Revelation... the vision is so fantastic... so otherworldly that John has to compare everything to the horrible things he knows [what he is seeing is at least 2000 years past his life! Can you imagine?].... **torment was like the torment of a scorpion sting...**

What lengths God has to go to, to get people's attention!... that's what He is doing!... the Bible surely will have been readily available to all those going through this Tribulation time... I imagine many will have read some, most or all of it... but it will not get their attention.

maybe a swarm of scorpion-like stinging locusts tormenting you might get you to pay attention...how bad will it be?... all those without the seal of God apparently do not repent... but they are so tormented they desperately want to die!

Read verse 6

For all of history man has tried to run FROM death but can't run fast enough... now they want to run TO death but death runs from them!....such irony!

What do these demons look like?...here's where we get all the "likes"...

Read verse 7

The picture of an army ready for battle... again... Joel 2:4-5 **4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 5 With a noise as of chariots they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire consumes the stubble, like a mighty people arranged for battle.**

On their heads were what appeared to *be crowns of gold*...representing authority and power...**their faces like men**...representing intelligence.

Read verse 8

Some think **hair like women's hair could be long hair**... warriors usually had long hair... some think they were "seductive beings"... they try to seduce people into their strategies...

Teeth like lion's teeth... lethal when they attack.

Read verse 9

Chests like iron plates they are invincible...**wings like the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle**... I have a commentary written in the seventies... the well-known commentator said these were likely Huey Helicopters like they used in the Viet Nam war... John saw these flying military helicopters and didn't know what they were so he described them as something he did know... chariots of many horses...

In that the Tribulation didn't happen shortly after that commentary.. we would have to upgrade the helicopters to the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter!...**the face of a man** is the pilot... I think that's not it...

The crime of the premillennialist is, in that we take these words mostly literally... we also tend to match these words to events to what's happening today... we end up with 16 books of the *Left Behind* series...and our amillennial and post-millennial friends roll their eyes...as the matched events roll on by.

I think these are clearly demons... they have come up from the abyss...

Read verse 10

Unbearable pain...the pain lasts **five months**...the lifespan of a locust!...it is a limited period of time... these locust have a king over them... interesting...in Proverbs 30:27 Solomon says **The locusts have no king, yet all of them go out in rank**;...these locust have a king over them:

Read verse 11

Abaddon and Apollyon mean basically the same thing... “Destroyer”.... Some say this is Satan... Satan certainly is THE Destroyer... but it says this is **the angel from the Abyss**...Satan is not yet from the Abyss... Later he will be thrown into the abyss... but according to Ephesians 2:2 Satan is **the ruler of the power of the air**.

Later... when Paul tells us what our true battle is he writes 6:12 **Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.**

Satan is in the heavenly places calling up his demons from the abyss to wage battle with us....this king comes from the abyss...So, likely this is one of Satan’s high-ranking demons...this Abaddon has an insatiable appetite for destruction... but remember... all his actions are under the sovereignty of the Almighty God...

boy...a lot has happened...the horror of this judgement is unspeakable... yet that is only the first woe...two more are coming... The sixth trumpet sounds...

Read verses 12-14

John hears a voice... we don’t know who it is... the Bible doesn’t tell us... some think it is Jesus...but this voice is coming from the **four horns of the golden alter which is before God**...last week we saw this alter... it is the alter of incense...an important part of the tabernacle and temple...

Remember it is the alter of incense where the prayers of the saints are offered up through burning incense...this voice tells the sixth angel to **release the four angels who have been bound at the great river Euphrates**...

These four bound angels are demons... **good angels are never bound**...these angels don’t come from the abyss but rather the river Euphrates...in Mesopotamia... Meso = “Middle”...*potamia* = river... that’s where we get the word “Potomac”... *river*...

The Euphrates is the longest river in the Middle East...one of the oldest as well... one of the four rivers in the Garden of Eden... all the world powers that oppose and have oppressed Israel... ...God’s people are on this side of the Euphrates...the other side is where Babylon was... today that would be Iraq...Babylon still will play a key roll in these end times.

In chapter 18 there is a reference to the fall of Babylon...listen to verse 2 **And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean bird and a prison of every unclean and hateful beast.**

This then makes sense... that these are demonic angels released from the region of the Euphrates... ancient Babylon...

It is the river over which the enemies of God will cross to engage in the Battle of Armageddon... the idea is that these four demonic angels are connected to these enemies of Israel...

Read verse 15

Notice the change?... earlier... the demons from the abyss... the locusts... were not allowed to kill anyone... only torment the unsaved people...now... these demonic angels are instructed to kill...they will kill 1/3 of the earth's population...1/3 of mankind would be about 1.5 billion people in today's population numbers...

Maybe you are thinking what I was thinking ... how many people have left the planet by this point?... 1. People have been raptured... I hope that was a lot of people...2. Back in the opening of the seals... remember? ¼ of the population were killed at the 4th seal.

Today... we have about 8 billion people on the planet... so after the fourth seal... 2 billion people are gone... plus those who have been raptured... then...3. Some believers at the opening of the fifth seal...the martyrs for the faith...so at this point there is less than 6 billion left...now

Add to this 1/3... 1.5 billion people...and you have ½ of the world's population has been removed from the planet or killed... we are at about the midway point of the Tribulation...

Read verse 16

Repeatedly I have defended the literal translation of Revelation... recognizing when something is symbolic or a simile... I take the numbers as literal... when John doesn't know the specific number he says things like "*too many to count*"... I'm ok with the number 200 million...except...

Something I pointed out back Revelation 5:11 when John was describing the angels around the throne... he said there were **myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands**... which translates to 10 thousand times 10 thousand and 1000s X 1000s... a number greater than the highest number known in that day which was 10,000.

It translates to being a number too great to count... so here in Revelation 9:15 the same words are used in the Greek... "*myrias*" or myriad... or 10,000 X 20,000... in other words... a number too large to count!

Back in 1965... Time magazine did a feature article on what was then "Red Chinese Army"...the Chinese boasted that their army was made up of 200 million men...Can you hear the premiss now?... so back in 1965... the prophesy geeks were screaming... *The army in verse 16 is Red China!*...flying our Hueys I suppose.

This army could be Chinese...

By the way... I am sure China was embellishing their numbers... today... China's military is the largest in the world by personnel, with roughly 2 million active-duty troops in 2025...I read this week that in World War II...all armies combined...all sides of the war were 70 million....so

This is an astronomically huge army... can you imagine witnessing this invasion?... many believe these are actual human soldiers...that's difficult for me... it is estimated that there wasn't even 200 million people on the planet when Revelation was written... of course 8 billion today.

Most likely...I think these are demons... the four demonic angels are commanding I believe a 200 million strong spiritual assembly of demons.

John describes these horseback warriors:

Read verse 17

Their breastplates are red...the **color of fire**... blue like **Hyacinth**...and a sulfurous yellow like a brimstone rock... these are the colors of hell.

Note their weapons?...what they kill with?... **fire, smoke and brimstone** coming out of their mouths.... Another reason these are probably demons and not humans...no swords or spears.

Read verse 18

Their power is in their mouths...and in their tails...

Read verse 19

They either kill you with fire smoke and brimstone or they sting you with a deadly venom from their tails...

The last two verses are very disturbing and sad...more than ½ the world is gone... taken or killed... the earth has been scorched by fire... people have been tortured and tormented for months... demons are allover the place... millions of them have been released from the abyss...

God has stepped up the judgement and wrath to extreme measures... yet there still is time to repent... *what does it take to get people to open their eyes?*...

Read verse 20

Did not repent?!... Repent.... Repent.... Found 12 times in Revelation...more times than any other New Testament book...Repent...this is the most crucial time to repent... before it is too late. What does it mean?... literally means “*the act of changing one’s mind.*”

Eerdmans Bible Dictionary includes this definition of repentance: “*In its fullest sense it is a term for a complete change of orientation involving a judgment upon the past and a deliberate redirection for the future.*”

A wholehearted turning to God... In the Greek... *metanoeo*, It means “to change one’s mind and purpose, as the result of after knowledge.” It is the exercise of YOUR will to change your mind... to change the path you’re on...turn from that path to God’s path...

AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR IN THE TRIBULATION... SADLY...
PEOPLE HAVE NOT REPENTED FROM THEIR SINS

Read verse 21

Their murders... their sorceries...not witchcraft...literally their “pharmaceuticals” their drugs... or **their sexual immoralities...**porneia...sound familiar?... it covered sex sins of all varieties... fornication, adultery, rape, homosexuality, sexual perversions not to be mentioned here...

Tragic ending!... what will it take to humble them and get them to turn from their ways?... God is going to turn up the heat!...this is the last hour!...

Interesting... I noticed the digression of man’s heart in these chapters....we see how the heart falls... Remember back in chapter 6:15...everything is so bad... so horrifying that...

Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

They know who God is... what He does... yet they call out to the mountains... not to God....so the first thing is that **man is hides from God**

Today’s passage... 9:21 **And they did not repent** of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their sexual immorality nor of their thefts.

Man first hides from God... then **Man does not repent for his sins**

Then finally...**Man fights God.**

Revelation 19:19 **then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled...**all that is left of the unredeemed and wicked... **to make war with Him who sits on His horse and with His army. Man fights God.**

MAN HIDES FROM GOD...HE DOES NOT REPENT FROM HIS SIN... SO HE ENDS UP FIGHTING GOD...WHO DO YOU THINK WINS THAT BATTLE?

So many of us live lives today as if God does not exist... so many things push God out of our lives... we read these horrifying chapters in Revelation and they are so unreal... so incongruent with the world we've made...IT'S A FANTASY.

I hear Christians say I'm just in a period of life that I have to take care of things... later I will give my time to God... I have a family...a time consuming job... maintenance on my house and cars... the kids are playing soccer... then it will be basketball... I'll have more time for God in a few years...

Fact... THE LONGER ONE STAYS DISTANT FROM GOD...THE HARDER THEIR HEARTS BECOME...

It becomes easier to tolerate sin...to accept sin... repentance seems unnecessary....our hearts do not soften when we are apart from God... they harden.

If there is a message each one of us should get from these Tribulation chapters... and there are many messages...but one is...time is short... we need to be ready... we need to check on our priorities now...

If you are all set... then prioritise sharing the gospel... if you aren't...embrace the gospel.

Hebrews 3:7 - 3:8

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness,

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says, “At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.” Behold, now is “the acceptable time,” behold, now is “the day of salvation”—