

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION 42

### *The Sounding of the Trumpets*

**I. Intro. (Rev. 8:1-13 NKJV)** <sup>1</sup>When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. <sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup>Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. <sup>6</sup>So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. <sup>7</sup>The first angel sounded: and hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. <sup>8</sup>Then the second angel sounded: and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup>And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. <sup>10</sup>Then the third angel sounded: and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup>The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. <sup>12</sup>Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. <sup>13</sup>And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

A. You will remember from our previous studies that at the beginning of the seven-year period known as Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week or the Tribulation Period, Jesus opens the scroll that is sealed with seven seals in heaven. Each seal releases the key events which take place on earth during that seven-year period.

1. **The first seal** releases the White Horse Rider: the Antichrist, who begins his rise to power at the beginning of the seven-year period.

2. **The second seal** releases the Red Horse Ricer: which symbolizes the world war which takes place in connection with the Antichrist's rise to power.

3. **The third seal** releases the Black Horse Rider: which symbolizes famine on the earth which follows the devastating world war.

4. **The fourth seal** releases the Pale Horse Rider: which symbolizes death followed by Hades. Over a seven-year period these rides destroy one fourth of the earth's remaining population. That means that multitudes of people unprepared to meet God will die and go to hell during the Tribulation Period.

5. **The fifth seal** reveals the Tribulation Martyrs. Many people who are coming to faith in Jesus Christ will be martyred for their testimony especially during the last three and one half years of the Tribulation Period. This last three and one half years is referred to as the Great Tribulation.

6. **The sixth seal** reveals the tremendous upheaval of nature that takes place at the Second Coming of Christ.

B. In Revelation chapter 8, Jesus opens the seventh seal which releases the seven trumpet judgments into the earth.

## II. Prelude to the Trumpet Judgments.

A. When Jesus opens the seventh seal, before the first trumpet sounds, there is silence in heaven for half an hour. **(verse 1)** *<sup>1</sup>When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*

B. The reason for the silence is not stated. It is one of the unknowns of the Book of Revelation. It could be that the half hour of silence is indicative of the seriousness of the moment. It is the beginning of God pouring out His wrath on the earth.

C. The seven trumpets release seven plaques into the earth.

1. **The seven seals** represent events released on the earth during Tribulation Period.

2. **The seven trumpets** release the wrath of God's judgments coming on the Christ rejecting world beginning at the Mid Point of the Tribulation Period.

3. **The seventh seal** releases the seven trumpet judgments.

D. The trumpet judgments come as a result of God responding to the prayers of the saints; the prayers for justice and deliverance that have been prayed down through the generations by God's people will be answered in full as God begins to pour out His wrath on the earth. **(verses 3-6)** *<sup>3</sup>Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. <sup>4</sup>And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints,*

ascended before God from the angel's hand. <sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

1. A censer is a vessel used for burning incense; especially a covered incense burner swung on chains in a religious ritual.

2. Incense in the Bible is always a symbol of the prayers of God's people.

a. (Rev. 5:8 NKJV) <sup>8</sup> Now 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.

b. (Psalm 141:2 NKJV) <sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

c. Our prayers are like incense to God in that they give Him pleasure like a fragrant aroma. (Pro. 15:8 NKJV) <sup>8</sup> The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

3. There is a literal golden altar of incense before the throne of God in heaven, just like there was a golden altar of incense in the earthly temple in the Holy Place. You see, the earthly temple and its furnishings were a copy of the heavenly temple; made after the pattern of the ones in heaven. The earthly temple speaks of heavenly realities. (Heb. 8:1-5 NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, <sup>2</sup> a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. <sup>3</sup> For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, it is necessary that this One also have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; <sup>5</sup> who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

**III. When the seventh seal is opened, just prior to the sounding of the seven trumpets, wrath begins to come on the Christ rejecting world as a result of the prayers of God's people; resulting in noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

A. The first trumpet is described in (verse 7) <sup>7</sup> The first angel sounded: and hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

1. Hail and fire mingled with blood will fall from heaven to the earth.

2. One third of the trees will be burned up, and all green grass will be burned up.

**B. The second trumpet** is described in (verses 8, 9) <sup>8</sup> *Then the second angel sounded: and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>9</sup> And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

1. Something like a great mountain burning with fire is thrown into the sea.
2. This could possibly be some sort of meteor or asteroid.
3. One third of the sea becomes blood.
4. One third of the sea creature die.
5. One third of the shipping industry is destroyed.

**C. The third trumpet** is described in (verses 10, 11) <sup>10</sup> *Then the third angel sounded: and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup> The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.*

1. A great star called Wormwood falls from heaven burning like a torch and contaminates one third of the earth's water supply.
2. One third of the waters become bitter and many die from drinking the waters.
3. Again, this could be some asteroid or other heavenly body.
4. Wormwood means something bitter or grievous. (Web.)

**D. The fourth trumpet** is described is (verse 12) <sup>12</sup> *Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.*

1. One third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened.
2. The light of the day and night are diminished by a third.

**E.** These first four plagues are literal and effect vegetation, seas, rivers, and heavenly bodies.

**F.** The three woes of the final three trumpets are more terrible and grievous than the first four. (verse 13) <sup>13</sup> *And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of*

*the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" (Demon Locusts)*