

Series: **The End of Time**  
Today's Title: **"7 Trumpets"**

October 22, 2023 – Revelation 8:6 – 11:19

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**Objective:** To help people understand what the future Tribulation judgements will be like.

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**FF** - Thank you to everyone who served!! Leadership team!!

**Opening prayer**

**Turn to Revelation 8**

We're in a study of '**The End of Time**' – which is primarily a study of the book of Revelation.

Revelation is a series of visions the Apostle John had – of the future – while he was imprisoned on the island of Patmos.

Show timeline.

We're in a time which the Bible calls the Tribulation.

The Tribulation is a 7-year period in the future – where God will judge the world.

These judgments are horrific – catastrophic on a level the world has never seen.

Yet these judgments from God are righteous – just – holy.

As we saw last week, the 7<sup>th</sup> seal contains the 7 trumpet judgments (which we'll see today) and the 7 bowl judgments (which we'll see in a few weeks).

Let's jump right in...

**Trumpet judgments - #1 thru #4. 8:6-13**

**Read 8:6-12**

The first 4 trumpet judgments are ecological disasters.

**#1** – hail, fire, blood rain.

Essentially, 1/3 of the earth was burned up.

This will greatly impact food production – fruit trees /  
lumber shortages / crops ruined.

Green grass is burned – greatly affecting grazing for  
livestock.

**#2** – Huge meteor / asteroid crashes into the sea.

Huge tsunami – destroying ships.

Marine life – killed – possibly poisoning the oceans  
with the number of dead marine life.

**#3** – Another huge meteor / asteroid crashes into the  
earth – 1/3 of the fresh water supply is poisoned.

“...great star fell from heaven” – Greek: *aster* – English:  
asteroid.

Many people who drink the water will die.

**#4** – 1/3 of the sun / moon / stars darkened.

This will result in global cooling.

Global warming / intense heat in trumpet #1.

Now – a short time later – intense global cooling due to  
1/3 of the sun being blocked out somehow.

Imagine the Mother Nature worshipers – the  
environmental panic that will set in as these  
judgments take place – only to have the entire

climate of the planet change drastically – in the opposite direction – in a matter of months!

*These are not natural climatic changes or processes.*

*These are supernatural events – caused by the judgment of God on human sin.*

**vs. 13** - Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

The last 3 trumpet judgments are more intense than the first 4.

That’s hard to imagine.

### **Trumpet #5 – Hell on Earth. 9:1-12**

The last 3 trumpet judgments – are called “Woes” in **vs. 13**. With the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet – those imprisoned in the “bottomless pit” of Hell are literally freed to torture those on the earth.

These are not real / normal locusts – or even normal scorpions.

Here is an artist’s rendering of the description we have in **vs. 7-10**.

These are demons – some of the worst demons of all the demons!

In **vs. 1** – we are reminded of the fall of Satan.

**Read 9:1-10**

vs. 1 – “I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth...”

This is Satan – the fall of Satan from heaven – described in **Isaiah 14** and **Ezekiel 28**.

Isaiah 14:2-15

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!

You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.”

Also: Ezekiel 28:3-17

vs. 1b – “...and he (Satan) was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.”

Some translations: ‘*abyss*’ - This is the place in hell – which is reserved for the vilest of the demonic beings. This is the “abyss” we read about in **Luke 8:31** where Jesus cast out the demons from a man – and the demons “...they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.” – but instead – send them into a herd of pigs. Other references to this place...

2 Peter 2:4

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to *chains of gloomy darkness* to be kept until the judgment...”

Jude 1:6

“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these He has *kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains* for judgment on the great Day.”

These demonic creatures are given the power to cause intense pain – but not to kill.

**vs. 4** - Locusts normally eat green vegetation – but these are commanded not to do that (**vs. 4**).

Their instructions are to attack and harm people, not plants.

**vs. 5** - This last “5 months” – which is the normal lifespan of locusts. *Does this describe how long the pain from their sting lasts – or how long the ‘locust’ invasion lasts?*

**vs. 6** – the suffering will be so intense that people will want to kill themselves – but they won’t be able to.

They will be prevented from dying.

The O.T. prophet, Joel, writes about this.

**Read vs. 11-12**

These 2 names both mean *Destroyer*.

This is the true nature of Satan – ‘*Destroyer*’ – he is “king over them” – these demonic beings.

**Trumpet #6 – worldwide carnage and continued disbelief.**

*9:13-21*

Trumpet #6 is another demonic attack on the people still alive on earth.

**Read 9:13-19**

These 4 angels are demons.

We know they are demonic – primarily because they are “bound”.

The reason they would be “bound” would be to prevent them from acting – from doing what they want to do.

***God never has to bind His holy angels!***

John tells us these demonic spirits have been “prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year...”

God has “bound” them – and they have been waiting – for millennia – for this very moment – where they can kill 1/3 of mankind.

*This reveals the extent of their evil.*

Back in **6:7-8** – the 4<sup>th</sup> seal judgment – 1/4 of the earth’s population is killed (2 billion?).

Here in the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment – 1/3 of the remaining population on earth is killed (another 2 billion?).

***In these 2 judgments alone – 1/2 of the world’s population – 4 billion people - are killed!!***

Jesus... prophesying about the future judgment of God upon the earth, said:

**Matthew 23:21-22**

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved.”

**vs. 16** – the number of the troops is massive.

“The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.” (200 million)

Literal number of troops? We don't know. It could be...but it could also be symbolic of an army too numerous to count.

Here is an artist rendering of the horses in **vs. 17-19**.

Notice the reaction of the people who survive all these things.

### **Read vs. 20-21**

You would think – as the people who survive these horrific events realize these are judgments from God – they would repent – and seek God's forgiveness.

But that's not what John tells us will happen.

The opposite happens.

***They are not passive in their unbelief.***

This is outright rebellion against God!

They are “worshiping demons and idols...”!

They continue to murder... practice sorcery (Greek: *pharmakos* – Eng. = pharmacy / drugs) ... sexual immorality... and stealing!

But this has always been the world's reaction to Jesus.

**John 3:19** – Jesus speaking to Nicodemus...

“...the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light because their works were evil.”

Jesus was rejected – because “people loved the darkness”.

They loved their sin.

That's how powerful sin is.

### **Romans 1:21-23**

“For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”

Even when the power of God is clear – the person of God is in your presence – sin can blind you to spiritual truth.

### **The sweet and bitter reality of God’s Word. 10:1-11**

Here – starting in **chapter 10** and going through **11:14** – we have a change of scene from the trumpet judgments. This chapter gives us a high-altitude view of God’s work of judging the world – and of the reality of His Word – the Bible.

It’s not clear where **chapter 10** fits in the chronology of the Tribulation.

Where it lands chronologically isn’t really important because the message of this chapter isn’t tied to any specific event.

The *first scene*, in **Chapter 10** takes us to a scene of a mighty angel – who is holding a little scroll.

The *second scene* (11:1-14) will be the ministry of the 2 witnesses.

Scene 1: we see this enormous angel - with a little scroll.



## **Read 10:1-2**

John sees this enormous angel – his appearance is almost overwhelming – and he has this little scroll in his hand.

## **Read vs. 9-11**

**vs. 9-11** - We see the reality and responsibility of those who have God's Word – the Bible.

John takes the scroll, and the angel tells him to eat it.

As the angel said, when John eats the scroll, it is sweet in his mouth, but doesn't sit well in his stomach.

This is a metaphor of the sweetness of God's Word.

The Bible is God's truth to us – and it is sweet / delightful / helpful beyond measure.

At the same time, it is "bitter" – because it speaks of difficult things – and especially in context of the severe judgments in the visions John is receiving of the future. These are real events – and real people who are getting up – going to work – trying to provide for their family – put food on the table – raise their kids – real people will be judged for their rejection of God and their rejection of Christ.

Judgement – even when it's just and righteous – is still bitter.

**vs. 11** – Our responsibility is to share God's truth with others – even the bitter parts of it.

John has a responsibility – to prophesy – to write down the visions he’s seeing – so others will know God’s plan for **The End of Time**.

**The ministry of the 2 witnesses. 11:1-14**

**Read 11:1-2**

John has these visions – and is writing this book – about 20 years after Jerusalem – and the Jewish temple had been razed – destroyed – by the Roman general, Titus.

***But here, John sees a temple!***

God has him measure out the area of the temple where the Jewish people will be – where the priests will work, and the sacrifices will be taking place.

He tells John to ignore the court of the Gentiles – because that will be trampled down – defiled.

The Bible tells us the Temple will be rebuilt during the Tribulation.

**Amos 9:11**

“In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old...”

**Micah 4:1**

“It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it...”

**Haggai 2:9**

“The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

**Zechariah 6:12-13**

And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.

13 It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

**Ezekiel 40-48**

**Daniel 9:27**

“And he (anti-Christ) shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering.”

The fact that there are sacrifices and offerings happening indicates the existence of a temple in Jerusalem.

**Daniel 12:11**

“And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.”

Once again...if there are burnt offerings taking place, there must be a temple in operation.

**Matthew 24:15**

“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place...”

“...the holy place” – designates a temple in existence.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4** – speaking of the anti-Christ.

“...so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”

Paul clearly tells us there will be a “temple of God” during the time the Anti-Christ is in power.

We know offerings and sacrifices will be reinstated for the Jewish people – which means they will begin thinking about their sin – and God’s forgiveness.

Their hearts will start to be softened toward their sin and the need for God's forgiveness.

We know the Anti-Christ will rise to power in the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation – and he will lead a peace treaty with Israel – and likely the Arab states.

We also know from these verses that about ½ way through the Tribulation the Anti-Christ will sit in the Temple / maybe set up an image / idol of himself – and declare himself to be God.

When he does this – the Jewish people will realize he is a fraud – and they will not worship him.

### **Read vs. 3-6**

Many believe the identity of these 2 witnesses are Moses and Elijah.

There are a handful of reasons for this – and I would tend to agree.

But again, there is no sense in being dogmatic on who these 2 witnesses are.

The important thing is what they do – and the power they have – and what happens to them.

**vs. 3** – Their ministry will be for “1260 days” – 3 ½ years – likely the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Tribulation.

“sackcloth” – worn as a sign of mourning – sorrow.

They are mourning the spiritual condition of Israel.

**vs. 5-6** – They have supernatural power. Not sure if the fire from their mouth is literal – or symbolic of the potency of their words.

Their power will protect them – and give credibility to their message.

*They will be a strong – and convincing witness for Jesus – especially to the Jewish people.*

When the Anti-Christ defiles the Tribulation temple – when he claims to be God – the Jewish people will turn from him – and the witness of these 2 – along with the 144,000 Jewish evangelists – and all the signs of the judgments – the hearts of Israel will be turned to the Lord.

### **Read vs. 7-10**

**vs. 7** - The “beast” is the anti-Christ – empowered by “the bottomless pit” – hell itself.

**vs. 8** - “Sodom and Egypt”, the two most wicked places – Sodom, a city; Egypt, a nation; synonymous with wickedness, immorality, oppression, violence, godlessness.

They are not buried.

Their bodies are left in the streets.

This is the greatest form of disrespect – to not bury the dead.

**vs. 10** - The Gentile world will celebrate the death of these 2 prophets who preached repentance for 3 ½ years. Their bodies will start to decay – decompose – they will stink – and the world will celebrate.

“...those who dwell on the earth...” – a technical term for the ungodly – used 12x in the book of Revelation.

### **Read vs. 11-13**

The majority of people in Jerusalem will be Jewish.

“...and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

**Some believe this is the moment when the Jewish people – the nation – turns to Christ as their Messiah.**

### **Zechariah 12:10**

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”

### **Romans 11:26**

And in this way all Israel will be saved...”

There are passages in the Bible that credit *‘giving glory to God’* as a statement of faith.

See **Revelation 14:7; 16:9; Luke 17:18; John 9:24; Acts 12:23**

**vs. 14** – “The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.”

## **Trumpet #7** 11:15-19

The 7<sup>th</sup> angel blows his trumpet – announcing the next judgment – but there is another pause before the judgment occurs.

It will occur, beginning in **15:1**.

Here, at the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, we see the beginning of the end.

Jesus is about to take control of everything.

His kingdom is about to be established on earth – never again to be handed to another.

**Read vs. 15-17**

***Apply it...***

Are you ready?

Are you ready to see Jesus?

Are you confident that you are saved – forgiven?

Have you put your faith in Jesus as your Savior?

Who in your life – in your ‘Circle’ – is God placing on your heart – to share the gospel with?

To invite to church?

To invite to your home for dinner / dessert / the game – so you can begin living out and sharing the gospel with them?

***Close in prayer***