

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Revelation Chapter 8 vs. 6-13, Chapter 9 and Chapter 11: vs. 15-19

Bible Study Notes on The Seven Trumpets

Revelation Chapters 8 to 11

What is the Architecture of the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1: 19)?

- An outline of the Book of Revelation is given in Ch. 1 v.19
- Write...
 - The things which you have seen...the Risen Christ (*Ch 1 vs12-18*)
 - The things which are...the Seven Churches (*Ch. 2 & 3*)
 - The things which will take place Hereafter (*Ch. 4 to 22*)
 - Note the 3 tenses – often seen in the Book of Revelation
- Chapters 6 to 18 tell of Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowls
 - There is a pattern in these – 6 revealed and then a parenthesis before the 7th

What are the Subjects and Nature of the Chapters which deal with the Trumpets?

- Chapter 8
 - The Seventh Seal Judgement *verses 1-5* sequential? or later?
 - The First Four Trumpet Judgements *verses 6-12* sequential
(the Judgements of the Thirds)
 - Declaration of the Flying Angel *verse 13* sequential
- Chapter 9
 - The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet Judgements *verses 1-21* sequential
(the First Two Woes)
- Chapter 10
 - The Little Book *verses 1-11* overview
- Chapter 11
 - The Two Witnesses *verses 1-13* overview
 - The Seventh Trumpet Judgement *verses 14-19* sequential? or later?
(the Third Woe)

Ch 8 Vs 1-5 The Seventh Seal

How does Chapter 8 begin?

- It begins with the opening of the 7th seal
- There has been an interval in the narrative
 - The first six seals are recorded in Chapter 6
 - Chapter 7 has been a parenthetical overview chapter

What Happened when the Seventh Seal was Opened? Verse 1

- Silence in Heaven
 - The consequence of opening this last seal is silence

- The silence of awe – at the revealing of God’s sovereignty
- The silence of wonder – at God’s redemptive purposes
- The silence of realisation – of God’s plans to restore all things
- The silence of astonishment – at the terrible judgements about to be announced in the seven trumpets - ‘the calm before the storm’
- The silence is in heaven – a temporary cessation of what has been a continuous hymn of praise in chapters 4 to 7
- The silence is for half an hour
 - If 1 day = 1 year then ½ hour is approximately 1 week
 - Noah was shut inside the ark for 1 week before it began to rain
(Genesis 7: 1-10)
- On earth – no silence is mentioned – as in the days of Noah, people carried on oblivious to the impending judgements
- When this seal is opened the whole scroll – the whole of the ‘title deed to the earth’ - can be read
- It is the Lamb who is opening the seal – He has the right to open the title deed by virtue of His lineage, His death and His resurrection
- No specific judgement is mentioned at the opening of the seventh seal, but immediately John sees seven angels with seven trumpets
 - But we see the effect on earth when the contents of the Golden Censer are thrown to the earth (verse 5)

For Notes on The Seventh Seal see the Bible Study Notes on ‘The Seven Seals’

What have Revelation 8: 1-6, 11: 15-19 and 16: 17-21 got in Common?

- These accounts of the Seventh Seal, the Seventh Trumpet and the Seventh Bowl all follow parenthetical chapters or verse after the sixth Seal, Trumpet and Bowl
- Different things happen in Heaven than on Earth
- The Focus is on Heaven:
 - Chapter 8: 1 Silence
 - Chapter 11: 15 Praise and Worship
 - Chapter 16: 17 A Loud Voice – “It is done”
- But...On Earth:
 - Chapter 8: 5 Noises, Thunderings, Lightnings, and an Earthquake
 - Chapter 11: 19 Lightnings, Noises, Thunderings, an Earthquake, and Great Hail
 - Chapter 16: 18 & 21 Noises, Thunderings, Lightnings; a Great Earthquake and Great Hail
 - This may be an indication that the final seal, trumpet and bowl are all occurring around the same time

See Supplementary Note 1: ‘A Suggested Chronology of the Great Tribulation Period’

Ch 8 V6 The Seven Trumpet Judgements Begin

What Follows the Opening of the Seventh Seal? Verse 6

- The seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepare themselves to sound

- It is probable that this would mean only 50% of mankind remained
- Such destruction is yet another reason why the believing church is raptured prior to the tribulation period – for they are not under judgement
- Each of the first four trumpets usher in a judgement which affects one-third of some part of the created order – it is divine destruction of the earth’s ecology
- The last three trumpets are described as three ‘woes’ (*Chapters 9 and 11: 15-19*)

What Happens when the First Trumpet is Sounded?

Verse 7

- The First Trumpet – A Third of the Vegetation is Struck
- Hail and Fire, mingled with Blood
 - Hail and fire are often associated with God’s judgement (e.g. Sodom)
 - Mingling with blood – most unusual (in scripture blood is normally associated with sacrifice which enables forgiveness)
 - Some scholar suggest this is a volcanic eruption
 - Like a combination of the seventh (hail) and first (blood) plagues in Egypt
- Thrown to the Earth
 - This is coming from heaven
- A Third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the trees burnt and all the green grass – that is a third of the 75% that remained after the Seal judgements
 - The vegetation which produces fruit and food are smitten
 - Trees are a major source of oxygen production on earth – burned up
 - Grasses include seed bearing crops (e.g. wheat); all green grasses are burned up by the fire so this verse says!

What Happens when the Second Trumpet is Sounded?

Verses 8-9

- The Second Trumpet – A Third of the Seas are struck
- Something like a mountain burning with fire is cast (thrown) into the sea
 - Greek (*hos oros megas pyr*) ‘as a mountain great with fire’
 - Indicates a simile – possibly for a meteor
 - Possibly causing a huge tidal wave of destruction
- A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the sea is struck (i.e. of all the seas)
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the sea became blood
 - Similar to the first plague in Egypt
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the sea creatures died – may be the cause of the blood
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the ships were destroyed
 - A further devastation affecting food sources, and distribution too
- The world’s oceans and seas cover almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the surface of the earth

What Happens when the Third Trumpet is Sounded?

Verses 10-11

- The Third Trumpet – A Third of the Rivers and Springs (Fresh Waters) are struck
- A great star fell from heaven
 - Greek (*megas astēr*) ‘a great star’
 - The star fell from heaven – stars are often used in scripture to refer to angels
e.g. *Revelation 1: 20*
 - Some scholars think this could mean a fallen angel - possibly Satan
 - Lucifer – fallen from heaven *Isaiah 14 : 12*
 - Satan falling from heaven *Luke 10: 18*

- For a study of Satan - see *Isaiah 14 & Ezekiel 28*
 - Satan has access to heaven
 - In Job he goes before God *Job 1: 6-12*
 - He is the Accuser of the brethren *Revelation 12: 10*
- Satan will be ‘Cast to the Earth’ *Revelation 12: 7-12*
 - He will lose access to heaven
 - So it may be that this is Satan being cast to the earth...appearing to the earth dwellers as a great star
 - When cast to the earth, he intensifies his attacks on Israel and the Church (*Revelation 12: 13 and 17*)
- However – in this Trumpet the focus is not on the nature of the star but upon its impact upon the waters of the earth – making them bitter
- It is interesting, and unusual, that this great star is named Wormwood – it could be Satan or it could be one of the angels cast out with him
- At the sounding of the Fourth Trumpet – when a star falls from heaven – it is clearly referenced as a person (‘him’ *Revelation 9: 1*)
- The Great Star fell from heaven as opposed to being thrown to the earth
 - Burning like a lamp (torch) – possibly a comet or meteor
 - Very possibly it is a reference Satan – or one of the fallen angels ‘cast to the earth’
- This star is named ‘Wormwood’ (Greek: *aspinthos*) – which can also refer to the bitter herb *Artemisia absinthium* (‘grand wormwood’) used to make the spirit absinthe
 - The Hebrew word translated ‘wormwood’ (e.g. *Jeremiah 9: 15*) means bitter to the taste, gall (as in *Matthew 27: 34*), or hemlock
 - Interestingly, ‘Chernobyl’ is a Ukrainian name for Mugwort which is a species of *artemisia*
- A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the rivers and fountains of waters (spring) are struck
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the rivers and springs became wormwood (bitter)
 - God made the prophet drunken with wormwood (*Lamentations 3: 15*)
 - Bitter water is undrinkable, even poisonous
 - Many men still drank it – and die
 - The Israelites found the waters at Marah, in the Wilderness of Shur, were bitter and undrinkable (*Exodus 15: 22-25*)
 - Marah is usually associated with modern day Ain Hawarah, where the waters still remain brackish and unpleasant

What Happens when the Fourth Trumpet is Sounded?

Verse 12

- The Fourth Trumpet – A Third of the Celestial Heavens are struck
- No mention of anything being cast to the earth or falling from heaven
- A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the celestial heavens are struck - specifically
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the sun was struck
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the moon was struck
 - A third part ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the stars were struck
 - Some suggest this may be a ‘nuclear winter’ affecting a third of the earth
- The effect is that a third of the sky is darkened
 - A third of the day did not shine
 - A third of the night did not shine

- The loss of solar heat will cause a radical drop in temperature, producing severe changes in meteorological, botanical, and biological cycles
 - This will be reversed when the Fourth Bowl is poured out
(*Revelation 16: 8-9*)

Ch 8 V 13 **The Proclamation of the Flying Angel**

What Does the Proclamation of the Flying Angel Portend?

Verse 13

- John ‘heard’ an angel flying – in the midst of heaven
- Angel (Greek: *angelos*) an angel
 - Angels are often God’s messengers – here the angel makes a proclamation
 - The word here could indicate an eagle – as in some of the ancient texts
- The angel speaks – with a loud voice (Greek: *meḡas phōnē*) – as did the strong angel in *Revelation 5: 2*
- The Angel’s Proclamation
 - “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth” (earth-dwellers...those whose lives, aspirations and destiny are tied to the earth, not to heaven)
 - ‘Woe’ – because of the three remaining trumpet blasts yet to come – a ‘woe’ for each of them
 - Although the first four trumpets are unimaginable, they will be nothing like the three to come
 - The next two trumpets (*Chapter 9*) release judgements caused by demonic action as demons are released at God’s instigation
 - The final trumpet (*Chapter 11: 15-19*) sees heaven praising because God’s wrath has come and so has the final judgement of men
 - Again – on the seventh judgement there are lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail
- Trumpets 5, 6 and 7 are thus known as ‘The Three Woes’
 - They are referred to as ‘woes’ in *Revelation 8: 13; 9: 12 and 11: 14*
 - The fifth and sixth trumpets each feature a demonic army
 - The seventh trumpet, like the seventh seal, is not associated with any specific judgement but seems a prelude to the next phase of judgement
 - It seems that the seventh seal ushers in the seven trumpets, and the seventh trumpet ushers in the seven bowls

Ch 9 Vs 1-11 **The Fifth Trumpet (The First Woe)**

A Star Fallen From Heaven Verse 1

What is the First Thing that Happens when the Fifth Trumpet is Sounded?

- John sees a star fallen from heaven
 - Stars are often used in scripture to refer to angels e.g. *Revelation 1: 20*
- The star is a person - referred to as ‘him’

Who is this Star?

- It is certainly a reference to Satan or a fallen angel of some kind

- Many scholars think this may be a reference to Satan
 - Satan is Cast to the Earth during the Tribulation (*Revelation 12: 7-9*)
 - Revelation 12 is an Overview chapter – this casting to the earth would seem to happen around the mid-point of the Tribulation period – at which time the focus of the Coming world leader and Satan turns very markedly to the Jewish people (*Revelation 12: 13-14*)
 - It means ‘woe’ for earth’s inhabitants (*Revelation 12: 12*)
 - Isaiah gives a prophetic picture of Satan’s fall from heaven (*Isaiah 14: 12-15*)
 - Ezekiel pictures the fall of Satan – cast out of ‘the mountain of God’ and cast ‘to the ground’ (*Ezekiel 28: 16-17*)
 - He will lose access to heaven – which means ‘Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea’ – the last three trumpets are ‘the three woes’!
 - At the Fifth Trumpet – the star fallen from heaven has the key to the bottomless pit and releases a demonic horde of locusts with power (stings) like scorpions (*Revelation 9: 1-3*)
 - At the Sixth Trumpet four fallen angels and a demonic army are released from the Euphrates (*Revelation 9: 13-16*)
 - The devil comes down having great wrath...because he knows his time is short (*Revelation 12: 12*)
 - Yeshua refers to Satan falling ‘like lightning from heaven’ (*Luke 10: 18*)
 - In the context of *Luke 10: 1-20*, it appears Yeshua’s meaning was "Don't be so surprised that the demons are subject to you; I saw their commander cast out of heaven, so it is no wonder if his minions are cast out on earth. After all, He is the source of the authority that makes them subject to us
 - He may also have intended a subtle reminder and warning against pride – the reason for Satan's fall
- Later in this chapter we are told the king over the bottomless pit is called ‘Abaddon’ (Hebrew) / ‘Apollyon’ (Greek) – both names indicating Satan (*verse 11*)

What is Given to this Fallen Star?

- The key to the ‘bottomless pit’ is given to this fallen angel
 - Key – symbol of authority and control
 - Authority was ‘given’ to the fallen angel – it was not his as of right, it was a permission granted

What is ‘The Bottomless Pit’ and Who Controls it?

- Bottomless Pit (Greek: *abussos phrear*) – meaning abyss or depthless
 - Also known elsewhere as ‘The Abyss’ or as ‘The Abusso’
 - Bottomless – as if from the depths of the earth
 - The bottomless pit is an interim jail for demons (*Luke 8: 31; 2 Peter 2: 4; Jude 1: 6-7*)
 - The bottomless pit is the place of origin of the ‘Beast from the Sea’ (the coming world leader) – i.e., he is demonic (*Revelation 11: 7; 17: 8*)
 - The bottomless pit is for Satan’s 1000 year imprisonment during the Millennium (*Revelation 20: 2-3*)
 - Satan’s final place of abode is the Lake of Fire – a place of continual torment (*Revelation 20: 10*)

- Satan is not in charge of the bottomless pit, nor is he in charge of hell
 - They are domains in the control of the Lord – the pit is for Satan’s imprisonment and hell for the torment of those who have rejected God prior to being cast into ‘the lake of fire’
 - Later we see that an angel in heaven holds the key of the pit (*Revelation 20: 1*)
 - It appears that for a brief period – probably the period of the ‘Great Tribulation’ (the last 3½ years of the 7 year Tribulation period) – Satan is given the key to the abyss...for God’s judgement purposes which allow and unleashing of great demonic activity on earth at that time

The Bottomless Pit Is Opened Verses 2 and 3a

What happens when the Bottomless Pit is Opened?

- The First Woe is released
- Smoke arose – as if from a great furnace
 - A similar comment is made in relation to Mt Sinai (*Exodus 19: 18*)
- It indicates clearly that the pit is under God’s control – His fire is there
- The sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit
 - Unlike the fourth trumpet – this darkening seems to affect the whole earth
 - The air becomes ‘polluted’ by the smoke
 - It is the smoke of the fire of God’s judgement
- Locusts come out of the smoke
 - A demonic horde
 - Came upon the earth – seemingly the whole earth, is affected
 - Locusts, in the natural, are like a massive invading army consuming everything (of vegetation) in their path – and invading buildings
 - Locusts are grasshopper-like insects that descend in swarms so thick they can obscure the sun and strip bare all vegetation
 - In the 1950s, a locust swarm devoured every growing thing for several hundred thousand square miles in the Middle East
 - The eighth plague in Egypt was of locusts (*Exodus 10: 4-6*)

The Power that was Given to the Locusts Verses 3b - 6

What Power was given to the Locusts?

- Given power... as of Scorpions
- Power (Greek: *exousia*) meaning authority is ‘given’ – it is not theirs intrinsically
 - Similar to the authority God gave to the riders of the four horses (the first four Seal Judgements – see *Revelation 6: 2, 4, 6, and 8*)
- As the scorpions of the earth have power
 - Scorpions power is in their pincers and the sting in their tail
 - Scorpions are predatory arthropods of the class *arachnida*
 - They have eight legs and grasping pincers
 - They have a narrow, segmented tail, often carried in a characteristic forward curve over the back and always ending with a stinger
 - They use their pincers to restrain and kill prey, or to prevent their own predation – the venomous sting is used for offense and defence
 - There are over 2500 different species of which 25 are deadly to man

- Locusts do not possess any power in the natural – other than to devastate vegetation by virtue of their appetite and their number
 - But these Locusts are given power ‘as scorpions of the earth have power’ – that is they can also cause pain and death through their sting
- So this Fifth Trumpet releases a huge flock of locusts who have the power to injure and kill – a frightening prospect

What Restrictions were placed on the Locust’s Authority?

- Power restricted
 - No permission to harm the vegetation (normal locust fodder)
 - Can only harm men – but not those sealed
 - The cleansing of the earth is like the cleansing of the city of Jerusalem and the temple in Ezekiel 9 – see *Ezekiel 9: 3-6*
 - No permission to harm those men with the seal of God on their foreheads
 - The 144,000 sealed servants of the 12 tribes – see *Revelation 7: 3-4*;
 - Those sealed may include tribulation saints (sealed with the Spirit)
 - Cannot kill men – but can torment them, but only for five months
 - Five months was the period of Noah’s flood (150 days) – *Genesis 7: 24*
 - The normal life cycle of locusts is five months, usually from May to September

What was the Nature of the Torment?

- Like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man
 - Scorpion stings cause a wide range of conditions, from severe local skin reactions to neurologic, respiratory, and cardiovascular collapse
 - Moderate to serious reactions are malaise, sweating, heart palpitations, rise in blood pressure, salivation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
 - Hyper-acute (typically allergic) reactions occur, in the form of blurring of consciousness, unconsciousness, convulsions, fall in blood pressure, shock and consequently there is a threat of death
 - There are an estimated 1.5 million scorpion envenomations each year with around 2,600 deaths – for every one death from a snake bite there are 10 deaths from scorpion stings
- Men sought and desired death – but could not find it!
 - This is an astonishing statement – men want to die but cannot
 - It is an expression of how awful is the torment
 - The tormented will find no relief
 - It may be that even suicide proved impossible

The Nature of the Locusts Verses 7 - 11

What Features do the Locusts Possess?

- Their features are described by means of similes – ‘like’
- The shape of the locusts was ‘like’ horses prepared for battle – they were a conquering army host
 - Horses (Greek: *hippos*)
 - the German word for locust means ‘hay horse’
 - the Italian word for locust means ‘little horse’

- Locusts do look a little like horses



- On their heads were something ‘like’ crowns of gold – symbolising authority to rule
- Their faces were like faces of men – rational and intelligent
 - This also indicates their demonic nature
- They had hair – ‘like’ the hair of women – attractive (long hair?) and seductive
 - In the natural, locusts do not have hair
- Their teeth were ‘like’ the teeth of lions – ferocious and cruel...and deadly
 - In the natural, locusts do not have teeth
- They had breastplates – ‘like’ iron breastplates (armour) – impenetrable defence
- The sound of their wings was ‘like’ chariots of many horses running to battle – deafening, terrifying and demoralising
 - In the natural a swarm of locusts sounds like charging horses
 - A large swarm can consist of billions of locusts spread out over an area of thousands of square kilometres, with a population of up to 80 million per square kilometre (200 million per square mile)
 - When desert locusts meet, their nervous systems release serotonin, which causes them to become mutually attracted, a prerequisite for swarming
- Tails ‘like’ scorpions – with stings in their tails – equipped to torture both physically and mentally
- Their power was to hurt men for five months – unrelieved suffering
 - They were not interested in feeding on vegetation
 - Their prey was, unnaturally, mankind
- Clearly what is depicted is an overwhelmingly large and powerful army
 - Released from the bottomless pit – the place of demonic spirits
 - With similarity to the locusts in *Joel 1: 2-6; 2: 4-9*

What is the True Personality of these Locusts with Scorpion Tails?

- They had a king over them
 - This marks them as unusual – because scripture says that the locusts have no king (see *Proverbs 30: 27*) – this relationship identifies their demonic nature
- Their king is ‘the angel of the bottomless pit’
 - His name means destroyer
 - *Abaddon* in Hebrew – meaning destruction
 - *Apollyon* in Greek – meaning destroyer
 - There is a hierarchy of power among the demons, just as among the holy angels
 - Some scholars say that ‘the angel of the bottomless pit’ is one of Satan's most trusted leaders – but it may indicate it is Satan himself, for he is king over the demonic realm

- Satan is imprisoned in this bottomless pit, at the end of the Tribulation, for 1,000 years – see *Revelation 20: 2-3*
- The Locust Army is clearly identified as demonic in nature
 - There is a link here to Gog (*Ezekiel 38*) – indicated by the Septuagint translation of *Amos 7: 1*
 - “*The Lord hath shewn me and behold a swarm of locusts were coming, and behold one of the young devastating locusts was Gog the King.*”
Amos 7: 1 (LXX)
 - In *Ezekiel 38*, Gog is the leader of Magog which attacks Israel in the end times – ‘he’ is a demonic spirit for ‘he’ occurs again later in the final battle at the end of the millennium (*Revelation 20: 8*)
- A scorpion's victim often rolls on the ground in agony, foams at the mouth, and grinds his teeth in pain
 - The demons, in locust form, are able to inflict the physical – and perhaps, spiritual – pain, like the scorpion
- Unlike the first four Trumpet Judgements, which were sent from heaven, this judgement – and the next – are released from the depths of the demonic realm and demonic activity
 - But note – it is under the Lord’s permission and at His instigation... this is not demonic judgement, it is the Lord’s judgement...but done through demonic action by the unlocking of the bottomless pit and releasing of the locusts
 - The Name of the King over the locusts is *Abaddon, Apollyon - a destroyer*, for that is his business, his design, and employment, to which he diligently attends, in which he is very successful, and takes a horrid hellish pleasure; it is about this destroying work that he sends out his emissaries and armies to destroy the souls of men and inflict physical and psychological suffering

Ch 9 V 12 The Three Woes Restated

- One woe is past – the woe of the fifth trumpet
- Two woes are yet to come – the sixth and seventh trumpets
- The worst is yet to come – the judgments increase in intensity

Ch 9 Vs 13-21 The Sixth Trumpet (The Second Woe)

The Voice from the Horns of the Golden Altar Verses 13-14

What does John hear after the Sixth Trumpet is Sounded?

- A voice is heard from the four horns of the golden altar (i.e. from the midst of the altar)
 - This altar is the Golden Altar of Incense (*Exodus 30: 1-6*)
 - It had four horns (one at each corner)
 - It was placed in the Holy Place before the veil behind which was the Holy of Holies, that is before the ark of the Testimony and before the mercy seat that is over the ark of the Testimony
 - In the tabernacle, the horns of the altar were sprinkled with the blood of the sin offering on the day of atonement (*Exodus 30: 10*)



- The Golden Altar is normally a place of mercy; as God responds to His people's prayers
 - On this occasion the altar will resound with a cry for vengeance
- The voice instructs the angel who blew the sixth trumpet to release the four angels bound in the River Euphrates
 - Four angels – clearly fallen angels, perhaps demons
 - Scripture never refers to holy angels as being bound
 - Bound at the great river Euphrates
 - They are another segment of Satan's force whom God had bound, but will free to accomplish His judgment through their horsemen
 - Spirit beings are territorial – river or water spirits do exist

What do we know about the River Euphrates?

- It is the Eastern Boundary of Israel (see *Genesis 15: 18; Deuteronomy 1: 7; Joshua 1: 3-4; 1 Kings 4: 21, 24*)
- It is a Traditional Boundary between East and West
 - The Romans lived in constant fear of the Parthian Empire on the other side of the river
 - The Magi came from the east (Parthians) – one reason Herod was afraid
- The reference to this river dates from the Garden of Eden (*Genesis 2: 14*)
 - The Garden of Eden was in Mesopotamia (between the Tigris and the Euphrates) east of Eden
 - Eden, being west of Mesopotamia, is thus the land of Israel
- Sin began there
 - The fall of man *Genesis 3: 6-7*
 - The first murder *Genesis 4: 8*
 - The first world rebellion – led by Nimrod (his name means 'We will rebel') *Genesis 10: 8-12*
 - The fountainhead of all idolatry and false worship – Tower of Babel and Babylon *Genesis 11: 1-9*

The Four Angels Released verse 15

What do we know about the Four Angels who are Released?

- They had been Held in Readiness for this specific time
 - Prepared for an hour and a day and a month and a year
 - An unusual description of time – it tells us that the time of their military operations and executions is limited

- If a third of what remains of mankind are killed in this Sixth Trumpet Judgement that is a further 2 billion
- The army of 200 million horsemen kill 10 times as many of mankind
- This is a demonic army
 - Arising from released fallen angels
 - Plagues distinctive of God's judgement
 - Serpent-like tails
 - Death comes by that which proceeds from the mouths of the horses, not from the riders
 - Some scholars suggest that the 'power in their mouths' may indicate a powerful delusion, arising from the east (Islam?) presented with eloquence – a delusion of Satan (as represented by the serpent-like tails)
 - Some scholars suggest that the riders and horses represent demons, diseases or other destructive forces

The Survivors of Mankind Verses 20-21

What is the Reaction of the Survivors of Mankind?

- In the face of God's judgement wreaking such devastation there is still no repentance from the survivors – no repentance concerning:
 - The works of their hands – evil deeds
 - The worship of devils (demons) – witchcraft and occult practices / Halloween!
 - The worship of idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood – things which are man-made, including men's wealth and power (see *Psalms 135: 15-18* and *Daniel 5: 23*)
 - See Paul's comments to the Corinthians (*1 Corinthians 10: 19-20*)
 - Their murders – including abortion (which even ancient cultures made illegal)
 - The most dangerous place today is in the womb
 - Their sorceries – the word used here (Greek: *pharmakeia*) from which we get the word 'pharmacy' – it indicates drugs often associated with witchcraft, magic and the use of spells and potions
 - Drugs in the ancient world were used to dull the senses and induce a state suitable for religious experiences such as séances, witchcraft, incantations, and cavorting with mediums
 - Their fornication (Greek: *porneia*) – technically sex with an unmarried woman (includes prostitution) – but a term often used for sexual immorality generally (including marital unfaithfulness and adultery [Greek: *moicheuo*] and homosexuality [Greek: *arsenokoites*])
 - Their thefts (Greek: *klemma*) – stealing in its widest understanding, including institutional theft – e.g. socialism / the Great Reset... the plundering of the productive by the unaccountable
- Lack of Repentance is almost unbelievable in the light of the trumpet judgements
 - But it is reflective of the blindness of men and their total lack of true spiritual sense or understanding
 - It is seen again later in the Tribulation during the Bowl Judgements
Revelation 16: 9, 11 and 21
- It seems almost amazing that this Lack of Repentance should be so – a complete lack of repentant reaction to judgement
 - Characteristic of 'earth-dwellers' (as opposed to citizens of heaven)

- Similar to Pharaoh's reaction in Egypt to the ten plagues
 - His heart was hardened (*Exodus 7: 14, 22-23; 8: 19, 32; 9: 7, 12, 34-35; 10: 20, 27-29; 11: 10; 14: 8*)
- Consciences can become seared by sin – unable to repent
- Contrasts with the Lord's call to repentance in reaction to judgement in Joel
 - Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, lament and weeping
Joel 1: 13-14; 2: 12-17
 - God's reaction will be to restore
 - Pity on the people *Joel 2: 18*
 - Saved from attackers *Joel 2: 20*
 - The land restored *Joel 2: 21-24*
 - The people restored – physically *Joel 2: 25*
 - The people restored – spiritually *Joel 2: 28-29*
 - The nations judged *Joel 3: 1-3*
- Punishment and suffering does not necessarily bring one to repentance
 - Change of character requires new birth
 - Judgement of God is not a 'knee-jerk' reaction to man's sin – but a consequence of God's law and ordained order
 - The consequences of man's sin was made clear in the Garden of Eden before the fall *Genesis 2: 16-17*
 - The plagues in Egypt were announced to Moses at the burning bush *Exodus 3: 19-20*
 - The consequences of Israel's sin was made clear by God at Mt Sinai (see *Exodus 20*) and at the renewal of the Mosaic Covenant in Moab (see *Exodus 28-30*)
- This passage on the Sixth Trumpet (*verses 13-21*) does not state this as the 'second woe – but later, after the parenthetical account of the Two Witnesses (see *Revelation 11: 1-13*) – verse 14 of chapter 11 says "*The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.*"
 - The Two Witnesses prophecy for the first 3½ years of the Tribulation – but men do not repent and rejoice at their being slain – then their bodies lie in the streets of Jerusalem for the last 3½ years of the Tribulation
 - The lack of repentance after the Sixth Trumpet (*Revelation 9: 20-21*) is mirrored by the death of the Two Witnesses at the hands of the 'Beast that Ascends out of the Bottomless Pit' (i.e. the coming world leader) and also in the lack of repentance of men (*Revelation 11: 10*)
 - God then raises up the Two witnesses at the end of the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation
 - It seems that the Sixth Trumpet coincides with the raising of the Two Witnesses – and they together indicate the end of the 'Second Woe'

A Parenthesis follows the Sixth Trumpet

- Chapters 10 & 11 Parentheses – Overviews of the Tribulation
 - Chapter 10 *The Little Book*
 - Chapter 11: 1-13 *The Two Witnesses*
- Then follows narrative of the Seventh Trumpet (Chapter 11 v. 14-19) – Third of the Three Woes

Chronology of the Tribulation Period

What have Revelation 8: 1-6, 11: 15-19 and 16: 17-21 got in Common?

- Different things in Heaven than on Earth
- The Focus is on Heaven:
 - Chapter 8: 1 Silence
 - Chapter 11: 15 Praise and Worship
 - Chapter 16: 17 A Loud Voice – “It is done”
- But...On Earth:
 - Chapter 8: 5 Noises, Thunderings, Lightnings, and an Earthquake
 - Chapter 11: 19 Lightnings, Noises, Thunderings, an Earthquake, and Great Hail
 - Chapter 16: 18 & 21 Noises, Thunderings, Lightnings; a Great Earthquake and Great Hail
- This may be an indication that the final seal, trumpet and bowl are all occurring around the same time

See Supplementary Note 1: ‘A Suggested Chronology of the Great Tribulation Period’

The Fifth & Sixth Trumpets in Joel’s Prophecy

See Joel 1: 15 to 2: 11



Ch 11 Vs 14-19 The Seventh Trumpet (The Third Woe)

The Woes Restated – Revelation 11 v. 14

- A Parenthesis has followed the Sixth Trumpet
 - Chapters 10 & 11 Parentheses – Overviews of the Tribulation
 - Chapter 10 The Little Book
 - Chapter 11: 1-13 The Two Witnesses

- These are overview passages – they take a step back and give an overview of certain aspects of the Tribulation, rather than continuing the narrative of events
- Chapters 6 to 16 tell of Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowls
 - There is a pattern in these – 6 revealed and then a parenthesis before the 7th
 - It indicates the structure of the chronology of the tribulation period is not simply seven Seals, followed by seven Trumpets, followed by seven Bowls
- The narrative story of the Tribulation recommences with the statement in *verse 14 of chapter 11*
 - The second woe (sixth trumpet) is past – the third woe is coming quickly
 - Israel's repentance will shortly usher in the millennial kingdom (*Acts 3: 19-21; Romans 11: 25-27*)
 - But first will come the final, climactic judgments

The Seventh Trumpet verses 15-19

What is the first thing John hears after the Trumpet is Sounded?

- The Proclamation of the Heaven - verse 15
 - Loud Voices (Greek: *megas phōnē*) were heard in heaven
 - They Proclaim that the Kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever
 - It is a proclamation of the completion of Yeshua's recovering (as a man) what Adam had lost – the Title Deed to the Earth and the Sovereignty over it
- Lord (Greek: *kurios*) meaning one who is supreme in authority
- Christ (Greek: *Christos*) – a title of Yeshua, anointed one and Messiah
- Kingdom – (Greek: *basileia*) – it is singular not plural (an error in KJV & NKJV)
 - Of this world – the earth - has become the Lord's
 - The scroll (the title deed to the earth) is executed
 - Despite its many political and cultural divisions, the Bible views the world spiritually as one kingdom, with one ruler – originally man (*Genesis 1: 27-28*) but after the fall – Satan (*John 12: 31, 14: 30; 16: 11; and 2 Corinthians 4: 4*)
 - Following Satan's lead, the human rulers of this world are generally hostile to Christ (*Psalms 2: 2; Acts 4: 25-26*)
 - The long rebellion of the world kingdom will end with the victorious return of the Yeshua, Lord Jesus Christ, to defeat His enemies and establish His messianic kingdom (*Isaiah 2: 2-3; Daniel 2: 44, 7: 13-14, 7: 18, 7: 22, 7: 27; Luke 1: 31-33*)
 - This kingdom also belongs to God the Father (see *1 Corinthians 15: 24*)
 - It is an Eternal kingdom – He shall reign for ever and ever
- Timing – the sound of the seventh trumpet indicates a completion of events
 - It is after the resurrection of the two witnesses (at the end of the tribulation; i.e. in the very last days)
 - Yet the seven bowl judgements, described in chapter 16, are yet to be described
 - This is yet another indication of the chronology of the tribulation period

See Supplementary Note 1: 'A Suggested Chronology of the Great Tribulation Period'

What is the second thing John hears after the Trumpet is Sounded?

- The Worship of Heaven – verses 16-17
 - The twenty four elders (representative of the raptured church)

- The people who the Lord came to redeem...and not only them but their dwelling place, the earth, He has redeemed
 - They Give Thanks to...
 - The Lord God Almighty) Descriptive
 - The One who is and was and is to come) of Yeshua
 - Yeshua's title for Himself - see *Revelation 1: 18*
 - Note: the final phrase, "who is to come" (used in *Revelation 1: 4, 1: 8 and 4: 8*) is omitted in the most reliable Greek manuscripts because – at the sound of the 7th Trumpet – the coming of the kingdom is no longer future, it will be immediate
 - Because He has...
 - Taken His great power
 - The rights to open the scroll, won through sacrificial love, to win back authority over the earth
 - And reigned (have begun to reign)
 - From the fall until now, though God is in control, He has not reigned in the earth
 - Now the end has come and the Lord is returned to reign (as in *Revelation 10: 6-7...delay no longer*)
 - The Mystery of God is finished – the mystery of redemption...not only of mankind but of the earth (see *Daniel 9: 24-27*)

Of What Final Acts do the 24 Elders Sing?

- The Final Acts are Foretold – verse 18
 - The Anger of the nations – see *Psalms 2*
 - Nations in the last days will no longer be terrified (compare *Revelation 6: 15-17*), but they will be filled with defiant rage
 - Their hostility will shortly manifest itself in a foolish attempt to fight against the Lord himself – a doomed, futile effort that is the apex of human rebellion against God (*Revelation 16:14, 19: 17-21*)
 - The Coming of God's wrath – the seven seals, the seven trumpets and the seven bowls
 - The twenty-four elders speak of God's wrath as having come (the scroll, trumpet and seal judgements – and His future wrath of final judgement at the end of the millennium (*Revelation 20: 11-15*) as if it were already present, signifying its certainty
 - Almighty God answers the feeble, impotent fury of the nations with His wrath (cf. *Psalms 2: 1-9*)
 - That God will one day pour out His wrath on rebellious people is a major theme in Scripture (cf. *Isaiah 24:17-23, 26: 20-21, 30: 27-33; Ezekiel 38: 16-23; 2 Thessalonians 1: 5-12*)
 - The Judgement of the Dead is proclaimed – see *Revelation 20: 11-15*
 - The final outpouring of God's wrath includes judging the dead
 - The Reward of God's Servants is proclaimed – see *Revelation 22: 3-5, 12*
 - All His Servants are Rewarded – prophets, saints, those who fear His name... both small and great
 - The Destruction of those who Destroy the Earth
 - Including in the last days – the Coming World Leader, the False Prophet, and Satan and his demonic realm – see *Revelation 19: 19-21, 20: 14*

What does John now See Opened...and what is its Significance?

- The Temple in Heaven is Opened - verse 19
 - The temple in heaven, the true temple – the ones on earth were replicas – is opened (see *Hebrews 9: 11*)
 - The way into God's presence is open
 - The heavenly Holy of Holies where God dwells in transcendent glory, already is identified as His throne (*chapters 4 & 5* and *Hebrews 9: 24*)
 - John had seen the throne and the altar (*Revelation 4: 5, 6: 9, 8: 3-5*), and, here, he sees the Holy of Holies
 - As the earthly Holy of Holies was open when the price of sin was paid (*Matthew 27: 51; Hebrews 10: 19-20*), so the Holy of Holies in heaven is opened to speak of the completion of God's saving 'new covenant' and redeeming purpose – *Daniel 9: 24* has been fulfilled
 - The New Covenant is Jewish (*Jeremiah 31: 31-33*) – gentiles are grafted in (*Romans 11: 24*)
 - The Ark of His Covenant is seen – the true Ark which has always been in heaven (the ones on earth were replicas) (see *Hebrews 9: 23*)
 - This item in the OT tabernacle and temple (see *Exodus 26: 33-36*) symbolised God's presence, atonement, and covenant with His people
 - The earthly ark of the covenant was only a picture of this heavenly one (see *Hebrews 9: 23, 10: 20*)
 - The Earthly ark contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments (*Deuteronomy 10: 1-5; Hebrews 9: 1-5*) – it symbolises God's covenant relationship with Israel
 - On top of the Ark was the Mercy Seat, it is God's throne and a seat of mercy – it was there God provided mercy and atonement for sin
- Great Openings in Revelation
 - A Door opened in Heaven *Revelation 4: 1*
 - The Seals are opened *Revelation 6: 1 - 8: 1*
 - The Abyss opened *Revelation 9: 2*
 - The Temple of God opened *Revelation 11: 19*
 - The Tabernacle of Testimony opened *Revelation 15: 5*
 - Heaven opened *Revelation 19: 11*
 - The Books of Judgement opened *Revelation 20: 12*

What great signs does John now See and Hear?

- Signs coming out of Heaven and onto the Earth
 - Lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, great hail
 - These were anticipated in the Throne Room – see *Revelation 4: 5*
 - These were seen at the opening of the Seventh Seal- see *Revelation. 8: 5*
 - These are also seen at the pouring out of the Seventh Bowl of Wrath – see *Revelation 16: 21*
 - This is yet another indication of the chronology of the tribulation period
- These events are the climax of the seventh trumpet and the climax of the tribulation
 - These great signs emanate from heaven

- Since heaven is the source not only of mercy, but also of vengeance – judgment also comes out of God's Holy of Holies (see *Revelation 14: 15-17, 15: 5-8, and 16: 1, 7 and 17*)

