

Revelation

The Trumpets

Lesson 19

Trumpets:

- A second portion of the judgment program is revealed by the blowing of the seven trumpets.
- The trumpets apparently begin in the middle of the Tribulation period and depict events during the entire second half of the week of Daniel
- These are angels' trumpets, and this distinguishes them from the trumpet of God ([1 Corinthians 15:52](#), [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)) and from other NT trumpets ([Hebrews 12:19](#); [Revelation 1:10](#); [4:1](#))
- Israel's Use of trumpets
 - The trumpets were appointed in Israel by God for calling of the princes, and the congregation, and for the journeying of the camps, as an alarm, or public notification. ([Numbers 10:18](#))
 - The trumpets were to be blown also in the days of Israel's "gladness," and over their sacrifice in the beginning of their months – "for a memorial before your God" ([Numbers 10:10](#))
 - A special use of the trumpet, in arousing to war the hosts of Jehovah against their enemies ([Numbers 10:9](#))
 - Compare [Ezekiel 33:1-7](#), where the watchman's trumpet blown faithfully could deliver all who would "take warning"
- So with the seven angels. They blow the very trumpets of heaven against an earth become "as it was in the days of Noah As the days of Sodom", as Joshua and Israel blew the trumpets against Jericho.
- Note that the first four trumpets are separated from the last three judgments, in that these last three are specifically called "woe" judgments

Prelude To The Sound Of Trumpets

- An eighth angel stood before the golden altar with a golden censer.
 - In the OT tabernacle a censer made of copper was used to carry coals from the brazen altar outside the tabernacle to the altar of incense inside.
 - This is the only reference to censers in Revelation
 - The golden censers here is symbolic of the prayers of all saints.
 - This offering in heaven corresponds to the custom of offering incense on the altar of incense in both the tabernacle and the temple.
 - The censer would hold the coals while another separate vessel would carry the incense. The incense would be poured onto the coals once the altar was reached.
 - The resulting smoke was typical of prayer ascending before God.
 - The angel offered the incense on the coals before God, and then taking the censer with the fire in it, he threw it on the earth. As a result there were thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

Trumpet #1:

- Read [Revelation 8:6-7](#)
 - Hail, Fire, & Blood hurled to the earth
 - 1/3 of the earth burned up
 - 1/3 of the trees burned up
 - All of the green grass burned up
- The first trumpet presents a judgment that falls upon the earth in which a third of earth and perhaps even a third of the inhabitants are slain.

Trumpet #2:

- Read [Revelation 8:8-9](#)
 - A huge blazing mountain thrown into the sea
 - 1/3 of the sea (ocean) turned to blood
 - 1/3 of the sea creatures (life) died
 - 1/3 of all ships were destroyed
- The second trumpet presents a judgment that falls upon the sea and, again, a third of the oceans and ocean life are destroyed and possibly even a third of the inhabitants are slain.
- It is suggested that the earth here may represent the land of Palestine, as it often does in this book, and the sea represents the nations. Thus these two depict judgments from God of unimaginable extent upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

Trumpet #3:

- Read [Revelation 8:10-11](#)
 - Great Blazing star fell on a 1/3 of the fresh waters
 - The waters turned bitter
 - Many people died from the water
- The third trumpet presents a judgment that falls upon the rivers and fountains of waters.
- Wormwood is a bitter desert plant mentioned only here in the NT. It is mentioned seven times in the OT where it represents sorrow and bitter judgment. ([Deuteronomy 29:18](#); [Proverbs 5:4](#); [Jeremiah 9:15](#); [23:15](#); [Lamentations 3:15, 19](#); [Amos 5:7](#))
- It is best to translate the third trumpet literally. A large meteor or star falling on the earth and turning the fresh waters into bitterness so that people who drank it died. This contrasts to the living waters of Christ.
- Such are used in Scripture as the source of life, even spiritual life, and this may depict judgment upon those from whom living water is taken away because they believed the lie ([2 Thessalonians 2:11](#))

Trumpet #4:

- Read [Revelation 8:12-13](#)
 - 1/3 of the sun, moon, stars were struck and turned dark
 - 1/3 of the day without light
 - 1/3 of the night without light
 - The physics of these disruptions are not explained to us
- The fourth trumpet is a judgment coming on the sun, moon, and stars.
 - These represent governmental powers and may present the judgment of God upon world rulers.

Woe, Woe, Woe

- The last three trumpets bring even greater trauma to the inhabitants of the earth.
- Be aware, while studying them that although trumpets 5 and 6 are fascinating vignettes they defy conclusive interpretation

Trumpet #5: The First Woe

- The events of this trumpet ([Revelation 9:10](#)) are given considerable explanation implying that this is a most important step in God's progressive and increasing judgments on the earth.
- The fifth trumpet judgment pictures an individual energized by hell who can let torment of unprecedented dimension loose on the earth. It is generally accepted that these are not literal locusts in that they do not feed on that which is natural to the locust.
- Because of the 'he' in verse 2 and 'king' in verse 11, the star that fell to the earth was a person rather than a fragment of a star.
 - Even in modern terminology it is customary to speak of an unusual athlete or performer as a star.
 - This star, probably representing Satan cast out of heaven at the beginning of the Great Tribulation ([Revelation 12:9](#)) was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss which is the home of demons ([Luke 8:31](#), [Revelation 9:11](#), [11:7](#), [17:8](#), [20:1-3](#), [Romans 10:7](#))
- The Shaft of the Abyss is opened by a star with a key (Satan)
- Smoke pours out, darkening the sun and sky.

Trumpet #5: The First Woe (2)

- The abyss is generally understood to be the subterranean abode of fallen angels ([2 Peter 2:4](#))
- Demons are set loose out of the Abyss
 - Out of the smoke, locusts with scorpion like venom came down on the earth.
 - Locusts ordered not to harm the vegetation, but to torment the people who were not marked with God's seal.
 - Locusts did so for five months (average life span of a locust)
 - The agony caused by the locust was so terrible that man sought to commit suicide but could not die.
 - Locusts description: like a horses in battle dress, with gold crown, human faces, women's hair, lion's teeth, iron breastplates, rushing wings that thunder like a great battle troop, and stings in their details.
- The leader (King) of demons from the Abyss was the angel of the Abyss, his name means "Destroyer"
- This angel is a high-ranking 'fallen' angel, but he is not the one giving the orders, or the one who had the keys to unlock the door of the Abyss.

Trumpet #5 The First Woe (3)

- Meaning:

- If the Locust invasion is linked to [Joel 2:1-2](#), it could symbolize an enemy invasion on The Day Of the Lord
- It is interesting to compare the darkened sun and sky to the 5th trumpet, to both the darkened kingdom of the beast in the 5th bowl and the day of darkness that accompanies the locust invasion in [Joel 2:1-2](#).

Trumpet #6: The Second Woe

- The Sixth trumpet judgment is seen to be a great army turned loose to march with destructive force across the face the earth ([Revelations 9:12-21](#)).
 - Scholars suggests that the two woes will be great marching armies, one against Israel and one against Gentiles, which will destroy a third of the earth's population.
 - Since Satan's weapon against Israel is the northern confederacy, it may be depicted by the fifth trumpet and Gentile warfare depicted by the sixth trumpet.
- Four angels (demons) that were bound (good angels are not bound) at the river Euphrates were released to kill 1/3 of mankind.
 - The fourth seal resulted in a fourth of the earth's people being killed. Here a third of the remainder were put to death. These two judgments alone, disregarding all intervening judgments would account for the death of half the earth's population.
- The number of mounted troops apparently summoned by the four angels totaled 200,000,000 soldiers (Time Magazine, May 21, 1965 p. 35). This army will come from the East crossing the dried-up Euphrates River ([Revelation 16:12](#); [Daniel 11:44](#))

Trumpet #6: The Second Woe (2)

- The mounted troops described
 - Breastplates of both the horses and riders were fiery red, blue and yellow. (implies something other than normal horses)
 - The Horses heads looked like lions' heads with fire, smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. (implies what we call modern warfare)
 - Tails were like snakes with heads that could inflict injury
 - The three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur loosed by the troops killed 1/3 of mankind.
 - The locusts tormented mankind with no deaths, the mounted troops follow killing 1/3 of mankind.
- Mankind (even though 2 billion died) still did not repent. They stubbornly refused to stop worshipping demons and idols, practicing magic arts and committing murders, sexual sins and theft.
 - Though the judgment was devastating and obviously from God, it did not bring men to repentance, and they continued to worship demons and their representation in all forms.
 - No evidence is given of any change of heart on the part of humanity. Though the sixth judgment produced fear, it did not produce repentance

First Interlude Of Trumpet Series

- The mighty angel of Revelation 10:1 ...
 - Is holding a tiny scroll
 - Places one foot on land, one foot on sea, gave a loud shout as a lion roars,
 - Upon the angel's shout, the voices of the seven thunders spoke and their words were not recorded so we do not what was said.
 - Announces "There will be no more delay. But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished."
- The mighty angel is dressed dramatically
 - Robed in a cloud
 - Rainbow above his head
 - His face is brilliant with glory like the sun
 - Left foot on the land
 - Right foot on the sea
 - Angel shouted like the roar of a lion
 - When this Angel shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. (Their words were not recorded)
- This scroll apparently contained the angel's written order for the mission he was about to fulfill.

Rev: 11:1-14 Second Interlude of Trumpet Series

- **John**
 - Ordered to take the tiny scroll from the mighty angel and eat it.
 - Ordered to measure the temple of God, the altar and count the worshippers there.
 - Told to exclude the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles to trample the holy city for 42 months.
- **Two Witnesses**
 - Are placed on earth to prophesy for 1,260 days.
 - This apparently takes place before the beast comes up from the Abyss, conquers and controls Jerusalem, kills the witnesses, and leaves their bodies in the street. This would place their testimony in the first half of the tribulation.
 - Many Bible expositors believe the witnesses may be Moses and Elijah
- **God gives power to two witnesses who will prophesy for 1,260 days clothed in sackcloth.**
 - The coming of the two witnesses marks the beginning of God's program for witnessing to the world during the Tribulation. They will speak about God, the plan of salvation and warn of impending judgment. They will also perform many miracles. ([Zechariah 4:6](#))
 - They are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. They symbolize the Law and the Gospel
 - The trees symbolize Israel's priestly and kingly offices.
 - The lampstand symbolizes the nation
 - Sackcloth represents mourning and repentance. Today it would be a black suit.
- **Their Prophecies**
 - According to Revelation, they will preach their message of judgment every day for the entire three and a half years of their ministry.
 - In keeping with the requirements of the Jewish law, their testimony is established because there are two of them. ([Deuteronomy 17:6](#)). Two witnesses are required to validate a truth.

The Testimony And Power Of The Witnesses

Their Prophecies	The Power Of Their Plagues
They will say that the Lord Jesus Christ who has been rejected is the “Lord of All The Truth”	The plague of death. Like the 144,000 Israelite witnesses (Rev 7:3 ; 9:4) these two witnesses will be utterly protected during the three and a half years of their testimony. If their enemies attack them, fire from their mouths will kill them. They will encounter fierce opposition like no human servant of God has ever faced, but they will be invincible until their work is done.
They will testify unsparingly of human wickedness to men’s very face.	The plague of drought. Scripture describes these witnesses as having “power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy. The years of the drought seem to coincide with the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation period. Both the preaching of the witnesses and their miracle-working power seem to keep the Antichrist from taking full control of the earth. Only when they are swept out of his way will the antichrist be able to undertake his quest for world dominion.
They will testify of the character of the judgments just pass ... as having been directly from God, and warn of coming judgments infinitely more terrible	The plague of disease. These two witnesses will perform these miracles not out of spite or vindictiveness, but to awaken the people to their sinfulness and move them to repentance and belief.
They will decry the blasphemous claims the wild beast will shortly be making .. That man is to be defied! They will denounce all the goodness of man as a lie	
They will testify that Jerusalem, although the holy city in God’s purposes is spiritually “Sodom and Egypt” and will announce coming judgments upon the city and people.	
They will tell the Jews that they “killed the Lord Jesus” and that He will yet be the King over all the earth.	

Why Moses Or Elijah?

Many Believe One Witness is: Elijah	Many believe the second is: Moses
Malachi 4:5-6 predicted that Elijah would come before the Second Advent to prepare the way for the Messiah.	Moses appeared with Elijah at the transfiguration of Christ (Mat 17:3)
Elijah was miraculously taken up into heaven (2 Kings 2:9-11 ; Rev 11:12)	God gave Moses the ability to turn water into blood (Ex 7:19-20) and the witnesses will be given that same power (Rev 11:6)
The witnesses will have the same power to withhold rain as Elijah did. (1 Kings 17:1 ; Rev 11:6)	God preserved Moses body so that he might be restored (Deu 34:5-7) The bodies of the witnesses will be restored as well (Rev 11:11)
Elijah called down fire from heaven as well as the two witnesses. (1 Kings 17:1 ; Rev 11:5)	Satan contended with Michael the archangel for the body of Moses (Jude 1:9). It's possible that n doing so he was trying to hinder God's plan for the last days.
The duration of both the drought in Elijah's day and the ministry of the two witnesses is three and one half years (1 Kings 17:1 , Luke 4:25 ; James 5:17-18 ; Rev 11:3-6)	Moses and Elijah stand for the Law and the Prophets. Since the ministry of the witnesses will occur within the Jewish nation, it makes sense that representatives of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah) would appear to the Jews.

While there is room for considerable discussion of the identify of the two witnesses, the fact is that the passage does not identify the two witnesses. All Identification Of the two men is purely conjecture. I will note that no two men in Israel's entire history would receive greater respect and appreciation than Moses and Elijah. Moses was God's great deliverer and lawgiver for Israel (Deu 34:10-12). First century Jews actually thought that Moses had given them the manna in the wilderness (Jn 6:32). And God raised up Elijah to confront Israel in a time of great national apostasy. God vindicated him by sending fire from heaven and 'a chariot of fire and horses of fire' to escort him out of this world. So highly did the Jews of Jesus' day think of Elijah that when they saw Jesus' miracles, some people concluded that Elijah had returned (Mat 16:14)

Quoted from Timothy Deny and John Whitcomb

Death Of The Two Witnesses

- [Revelations 11:7](#) says “the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit” will attack, overpower and kill the two witnesses when they finish their testimony.
 - This is the first of 36 references to the Beast in the book of Revelation.
 - This is not the beginning of the Beast
 - For 3 ½ years, empowered by Satan, he will have been working behind the scenes consolidating governments and forging a peace treaty with Israel
 - At the midpoint of the Tribulation period, when the two witnesses have completed God’s mission, the Beast will break his treaty with Israel and assassinate the witnesses. Their murder will be his first celebrated act and will gain him a large following.
- The two witnesses will be refused burial and their dead bodies will lie in a Jerusalem street
- The people they tormented will gloat and celebrate their death and exchange gifts with one another.

Death Of The Two Witnesses (2)

- After 3 ½ days, the two witnesses come back to life, a voice from heave will cry “Come up here” and they will ascend.
- Those who see them stand upright are terrified.
- As the witnesses are drawn up to heaven, a great earthquake shakes the city
 - 1/10 of the city collapses
 - 7,000 people die
 - The survivors give glory to god (The only other instance besides [Revelation 7:14](#) in which repentance may have occurred during the tribulation distress)

Trumpet #7: The Third Woe

- The seventh trumpet in [Revelations 11:15-19](#) brings about the return of Christ to the earth and subsequent destruction of all hostile powers at the conclusion of the Armageddon program.
- The fact that this will be fulfilled at the Second Coming makes it clear that the period of the seventh trumpet chronologically reaches to Christ's return.
 - Therefore the seventh trumpet introduces and includes the seven bowl judgments of the wrath of God.
- World Leadership Changes
- Seventh trumpet sounds

Trumpet #7: The Third Woe

- Loud voices in heaven announces
 - The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign for ever and ever
- The evil one, the 'prince of this world, the god of this age, he who leads the world astray is stripped of all his former power.
- The 24 elders fall on their faces, declaring that the Lord God Almighty has taken his great power and begun to reign and that the time has come for judging the dead and rewarding God's servant.
- God's temple in heaven is opened and the ark of His covenant can be seen.
 - This refers to the heavenly temple rather than to a temple on earth.
 - When Jesus was crucified, the curtain in front of the Most Holy Place, where Israel's ark of covenant was located, was torn from top to bottom, signifying man could now enter into God's presence.

Trumpet Wrap-Up

- It appears there is a parallelism in the seven trumpet judgments and the program of the seventieth week as prophesized by Daniel.
 - The middle of the week begins with the rise of great military powers that are aligning themselves. Such would correspond to the first trumpet.
 - Former kingdoms are overthrown, which brings death, as in the second trumpet.
 - A great leader will arise, the Beast, in the third trumpet.
 - His rise will bring about the overthrow of governments and authorities as in the fourth trumpet.
 - There will be great military movements in this period.
 - The armies of the northern confederacy will invade the land of Israel as in the fifth trumpet
 - The Gentile powers will jockey for position, which causes great destruction, as in the sixth trumpet
 - These will all be climaxed by the second advent of Christ, as seen in the seventh trumpet.