

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS OF REVELATION

The book of Revelation speaks of the Seven Trumpets as judgments sent by God upon this earth (Revelation chapters 8-11). In the Bible trumpets are used for three purposes: to praise God (Psalm 98:6), to make an announcement (Leviticus 25:9-10, 1 Kings 1:34), and as a warning (Ezekiel 33:3). Since the Bible interprets itself, to understand the Trumpets of Revelation one must do a word study through the Bible about trumpets. Doing so leads us to the following text. "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein." (Leviticus 23:23-24) As stated in our books, the feasts, or Holy Days listed in Leviticus chapter 23, are all prophetic, showing us the future. For instance, on Passover a lamb was slain which pointed forward to the death of Jesus, our Savior, who died as the Lamb of God, paying the penalty of sin for all who repent and accept His death as their substitute. Jesus, in fulfillment of Passover, died on the very day of Passover, at the very hour the Passover lamb was slain. The Feast of Trumpets spoken of in Leviticus chapter 23 also points forward to future events. One of these events is the Seven Trumpets of Revelation. "Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth. Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us." (*Maranatha*, p. 257)

"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." Revelation 7:1-4 The harm to the earth, the sea, and the trees must not occur until after the sealing of the 144,000. The 144,000 are God's end-time leaders who convert the great multitude during the Great Tribulation spoken of in Revelation 7:9-14. The 144,000 are sealed first, then they convert this great multitude who are then also sealed during the Great Tribulation. For a study on what constitutes the Seal of God, read our book on this website entitled *Armageddon and the International Sunday Law* now before continuing because understanding The Seal of God is critical to understanding the Trumpets of Revelation.

Revelation 7:1-4 states that the harm to the earth, sea, and trees cannot occur until after the sealing of the 144,000. After the 144,000 are sealed, the harm to the earth, sea, and trees comes under the first two Trumpets of Revelation. "So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 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. 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; and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed." (Revelation 8:6-8) Under these first two Trumpets the harm is done to the earth, the sea, and the trees. Since these first two trumpets cannot occur until after the sealing of the 144,000, and the sealing of the great multitude spoken of in Revelation 7:9-14 begins during the Great Tribulation, (see the discussion under the "Day of Atonement" in our book entitled *God's Holidays* for proof of this), then the Trumpets of Revelation will begin during the Great Tribulation.

Since the purpose of the Feast of Trumpets in Leviticus chapter 23 was to announce that God's people had ten days to prepare for The Day of Atonement, or Judgment Day, so the Trumpets of Revelation are judgments that God sends upon this earth to announce that the Judgment of the Living is about to begin on the Day of Atonement and that the end of the world is near. These Trumpets of Revelation are seven first plagues that God sends on the earth. The Seventh Trumpet is the close of probation or the close of mercy (proof coming shortly). The close of probation occurs when the Judgment of the Living ends and every person's destiny, whether they are going to heaven or hell, has been forever decided, and God's mercy for the wicked ends. Then the Seven Last Plagues spoken of in Revelation chapters 15 and 16 occur. (Note that the Bible calls these plagues "seven last plagues." If there are seven last plagues, there must be seven first plagues. These seven first plagues are the Trumpets of Revelation.) Since the Trumpets of Revelation occur before the close of mercy, or probation, then these Trumpets are judgments that are mixed with mercy. "The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth...He is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message of warning to be sounded to all." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 97) Gods sends these Trumpet plagues in love to wake up those who have not had opportunity to learn the truth. The seven last plagues are the judgments of God poured out with no mercy. The book *Great Controversy*, p. 629, states, "All the judgments upon men, prior to the close of probation, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy."

To properly interpret the Trumpets of Revelation we must use a basic rule of Biblical interpretation which is to let the Bible interpret itself. We must read the Bible literally, unless the literal meaning does not make any sense, in which case the meaning is most likely hidden in symbolism. We then take the key words of the passage thought to be symbolic and look up all texts in the Bible containing these key words and the symbolism will be interpreted. "The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed." (*Great Controversy*, p. 599) In studying through the Trumpets of Revelation we find a combination of literalism and symbolism. With prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit we believe that their meaning will be made clear.

THE FIRST TRUMPET

"The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up." (Revelation 8:7) The Bible does not mention hail very many times, but every time "hail" is mentioned it is in connection with judgments of God. For instance, in Exodus chapter God sent upon hail upon the Egyptians during the ten plagues. Here are some additional texts. "I struck you with blight and mildew and hail in all the labors of your hands; yet you did not turn to Me, says the Lord." Haggai 2:17 "Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, Who will bring them down to the earth with His hand." Isaiah 28:2 "Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war? Job 38:22, 23 Note that this last text states that God has reserved hail for the time of trouble. Since the Trumpets of Revelation occur during the Great Tribulation then most likely this text in Job is

speaking of the first Trumpet. The Bible depicts fire as an instrument of God's wrath upon the wicked (Deuteronomy 4:24, Psalms. 18:12, 13, 14, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Malachi 3:2, Revelation 19:20).

Interestingly, modern science gives us a big clue as to what this first Trumpet is. We believe that God has given scientists this knowledge so that the last generation who will be witnessing the Trumpets can understand this verse. The article entitled "Cosmic Crash" (Time magazine, May 23, 1994, p. 56) states that comets are "dirty snowballs of ice and other frozen gases trailing long tails of debris." Page 55 of this article states that some of this debris can contain chunks "the size of a mountain." On page 56 this article states that the comet fragments could disintegrate as soon as they hit the atmosphere. This breakup could spray debris downward, creating a spectacular meteor shower. When the rocks in this debris hit the atmosphere, the friction they encounter will cause them to turn red-hot, giving the appearance of blood spoken of in this first Trumpet. If the ice particles are large enough, then they could survive through the atmosphere without completely melting, thus hitting the earth as hail. This would create the exact scenario described in Revelation 8:7 of hail, fire, and blood. The article entitled "Extinctions" in the June, 1989 issue of *National Geographic* also states that a comet or asteroid (an asteroid is a comet without the ice) impact would send a "blast wave similar to that of a nuclear explosion" which "would destroy everything within several hundred kilometers, its intense heat and winds combining to set wildfires, perhaps even a global inferno." This could explain what causes a third of the trees to burn up and all the green grass to burn up (Revelation 8:7). These fires could very well destroy a third of earth's trees, and the scorching winds could wither all the grass, giving the impression that it has burned. Again, this fits the description of Revelation 8:7.

Ellen White, a modern prophet who lived one hundred years ago (see Appendix I in our book entitled *God's Holidays*), saw two visions which give the same description as this first Trumpet. "In the vision of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire fall among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say; 'We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon.' Others, with agonized voices, said, 'You knew! Why then did you not tell us? We did not know.' On every side I heard similar words of reproach spoken." (*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 28. "Last Friday morning, just before I awoke, a very impressive scene was presented before me. I seemed to awake from sleep but was not in my home. From the windows I could behold a terrible conflagration. Great balls of fire were falling upon houses, and from these balls fiery arrows were flying in every direction. It was impossible to check the fires that were kindled, and many places were being destroyed. The terror of the people was indescribable. After a time I awoke and found myself at home." (*Evangelism* p. 29) Psalms 18:13-14 states, "The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave His voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, He sent out His arrows, and scattered them; and He shot out lightnings, and discomfited them." This text sounds very similar, even using the same word "arrow" as in the above vision.

Hail and fire raining down on the earth at the same time seems impossible, since fire will melt hail. However, this is exactly would happen should a comet strike the earth. The following are some more Bible texts speaking of the hail during this first Trumpet. Notice also that some of these texts speak of both hail and fire. "Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth

with the hand...and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place” (Isaiah 28:2,17) (The waters overflowing are referring to the next Trumpet.) “And the LORD shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.” (Isaiah 30:30) “The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave His voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, He sent out His arrows, and scattered them; and He shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.” (Psalms 18:13-14)

The following is a beautiful promise of comfort for God’s people during this time. “And My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; when it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low as a low place.” (Isaiah 32:18-19)

THE SECOND TRUMPET

"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; and a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed." (Revelation 8:8) In *Time* magazine, May 23, 1994, under the article entitled "Cosmic Crash," p. 55, the author compares "asteroids" to "mountains." Since an asteroid would turn red-hot from the friction it encounters when it impacts earth's atmosphere, this would give it the impression that it is burning. *National Geographic*, June, 1989, p. 686, states, "If the impact occurred...at sea, huge tsunamis (tidal waves) could destroy coastal habitats across the globe." These tidal waves would also destroy all the ships over a very large part of the ocean. Ellen White describes what sounds like part of this trumpet. "Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions." (*Messages to Young People*, p. 89). This *National Geographic* article, p. 681, states, "The seas would have looked like the aftermath of a global red tide--dead animals floating everywhere." So the "sea creatures" would die. Scientists state that a hot asteroid impact into the ocean would boil the oxygen out of a large area of the ocean. This red tide is a plant that grows in anoxic (oxygen-deficient) water which turns the water blood-red. This scenario is an exact description of Revelation 8:8.

We believe that Jesus was speaking of this second Trumpet when he stated, “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.” (Luke 21:25) Certainly tidal waves destroying coastal areas fits the description of “the sea and the waves roaring.” The following text is a beautiful promise for God’s people during this second Trumpet. “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: **surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.** Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.” (Psalms 32:5-7) “The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.” (Psalms 93:3) The following is an interesting quote about Psalms chapter 93. “Read the eighty-ninth, ninetieth, ninety-first, ninety-second, and ninety-third psalms. My attention has been called to these matters. Shall we not consider the Word

of the Lord? **These things were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come,** and should they not be the objects of study in our schools?" (*Manuscript 96*, 1899)

THE THIRD TRUMPET

"Then the 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; and the name of the star is Wormwood: and a third of the waters became wormwood: and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter." Revelation 8:10, 11. This text describes an asteroid impact on land. *National Geographic*, June 1989, p. 686 states, "If the impact occurred on land, earthquakes would rock the continent for days." These earthquakes would shear wells and septic tanks and would also cause all the underground wastes (including nuclear) to pollute the water supply. These indeed would make many men die from the water, again fitting the description of Revelation 8:10, 11.

God has a promise for His people during this time as well. "He shall dwell on high; his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; **his waters shall be sure.**" (Isaiah 33:16)

THE FOURTH TRUMPET

"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; and a third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night." Revelation 8:12. Notice one difference between this trumpet and the first three. The first three trumpets state the cause of the troubles. For instance, the first states that "hail and fire" cause a third of the trees and all the green grass to be burned up. This fourth trumpet states the effect but not the cause. Could it be that the first three trumpets cause the effect of the fourth trumpet? *National Geographic*, June 1989, p. 686, states that an asteroid impact would cause the sky to grow dark for months, perhaps even years, again fitting the description in Revelation 8:12.

Marvin Moore, editor of the magazine *Signs of the Times*, states, "Several years ago I asked a geologist who is a Seventh-day Adventist to give me his opinion of the first four trumpets in light of current scientific thought regarding asteroid impacts. I handed him my Bible and pointed to Revelation 8:6-12. I felt apprehensive as he read, certain that he would hand the Bible back with a condescending smile and suggest that I look elsewhere for my interpretation of the passage. I was not prepared for his response. He said, "The first four trumpets describe perfectly the ecological devastation that scientists know would be caused by a major asteroid impact on the earth or in the oceans." (*The Seven Trumpets of Revelation, A crisis about to happen?* p. 35)

THE FIFTH TRUMPET

The fifth Trumpet encompasses Rev. 9:1-12 and is too long to quote in its entirety here. Please read these verses before proceeding. This trumpet describes a fallen star opening the key to the bottomless pit which releases a deadly swarm of locusts. These locusts are given power to harm only those who do not have the seal of God. We are given a clue as to who these locusts are in Rev. 9:11. "And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon." Both of these names have the same

meaning of Destroyer. The destroyer of this earth is Satan, the devil. 1 Peter 5:8 tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Another proof that these locusts are evil angels is the fact that they come up out of the bottomless pit. Rev. 20:3 says that Satan is cast into the bottomless pit. Under this fifth trumpet in Rev. 9:2 John sees locusts coming up out of the bottomless pit. Therefore these locusts must be Satan and his evil angels. In Luke 8:26-39 we read the story of the demoniac whom Jesus healed. When Jesus was ready to cast the demons out, they begged Him not to make them go into the bottomless pit (or abyss). Marvin Moore states, "Apparently the Abyss is a 'place' where Satan and his angels dwell, where they can have only limited contact with people." (*The Seven Trumpets of Revelation*, p. 57) Our conclusion is that under the fifth trumpet the devil and his angels are released to physically appear upon the earth in human form. Ellen White confirms this in *Great Controversy*, p. 624. "As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Revelation 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion."

Satan and his angels physically appear on the earth and this is the greatest deception ever to come upon the world. Jesus also tells us, in Matthew 24:23 that Satan will attempt to appear as Christ. "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it." The reason is because at the Second Coming of Jesus His feet will not touch the earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) and His Coming will be universally witnessed by everyone on earth (Revelation 1:7, Matthew 24:27). Therefore if any being appears on earth claiming to be Jesus we know that this being is an imposter, which is why Jesus tells us not to believe it or even to go to see or hear him (Matthew 24:26). At Jesus' Third Coming to this earth, at the end of the Millennium, Jesus' feet will touch the ground (Zechariah 14:4).

Besides attempting to deceive men into believing that he is Jesus, Satan and his evil angels will torment those who do not have the seal of God. "And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. And their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them." Rev. 9:5,6. Exactly how evil angels will torment men we are not told, but it must be quite severe as men would rather die than endure this torment.

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

The sixth Trumpet is global warfare and is found in Rev. 9:13-21. This trumpet speaks of an army composed of two hundred million who kill a third of mankind. No nation on earth currently has an army that large; therefore, we propose to you that this army is an army of many nations under The United Nations forces. During the Gulf War this world saw forces from different countries fighting under the United Nations for the first time. We can see how the current Middle East situation could very easily escalate into a third world war. Eventually, this war will be turned against God's people. "I saw the sword, famine, pestilence, and great confusion in the land. The wicked thought that we had brought the judgments upon them, and they rose up and took counsel to rid the earth of us, thinking that then the evil would be stayed." (*Early Writings*, p. 33, 34) This war will also comprise the wicked fighting against each other. "In India, China, Russia, and the cities of America, thousands of men and women are dying of starvation. The monied men, because they have the power, control the market. They purchase at low rates all they can obtain, and then sell at greatly increased prices. This means starvation to the poorer classes, and will result in a civil war." (*Manuscript Release*, vol. 5, p. 305)

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

The seventh Trumpet is the close of probation, which is the close of God's mercy at the end of the Judgment. At this time God's offer of salvation via His gospel of grace ends to every person on earth. The destiny of all have been decided in the Judgment. Rev. 10:7 says, "but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets." What is the mystery of God? Ephesians 6:19 says, "that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel." If the mystery of God is the gospel, then this seventh trumpet is the close of probation when the message of God's gospel of grace ends.

Dear friends, now is the day of salvation, now is the time to get ready for the close of the gospel. We must not lose any time, for we never know at what moment our lives on this earth will end and our probation will close. During the coming Great Tribulation, although this time will not be easy for the righteous, God will protect His people. "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide me; He shall set me up upon a rock." (Psalms 27:5) Although many wicked will be starving, God will provide the basic needs for His people. "He shall dwell on high; his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks; bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure." (Isaiah 33:16) "Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For behold, the LORD cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." (Isaiah 26:20-21) God promises that if we put Him first in our lives, He will make sure our needs are provided. (Matthew 6:31-33) "Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; He will come and save you." (Isaiah 35:4) "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me." (Psalms 50:15) "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in Him will I trust." (Psalms 91:1-2) "Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken." (Proverbs 3:25-26) If you wish to study the Bible further and give your heart, your life, and your soul to God, and go to heaven to live forever with our Best Friend Jesus, who gave

His life for us, go to www.amazingfacts.org and click on “Bible Studies.” “And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13)