

## What Must Take Place After This

(The Seventh Seal & the First Six Trumpets)

**Text:** Revelation 8-9

**Main Idea:** All hell is going to be unleashed on the earth during the opening of the 7th seal, which includes the first 6 trumpets.

**Review: How is the wrath of God \_\_\_scheduled\_\_\_ to be poured out on the earth?**

- Church will be \_\_\_raptured\_\_\_\_\_ out prior to the Tribulation.
- The Tribulation will begin when the anti-Christ makes a peace **treaty** with Israel. (Dan 9:27)
- The first four seals describe the preliminary judgments of God’s wrath taking place during the first half of the Tribulation. The fifth seal seems to stretch from the first half into the second half of the Tribulation, while the sixth and seventh seal take place during the second half or the “Great Tribulation.”

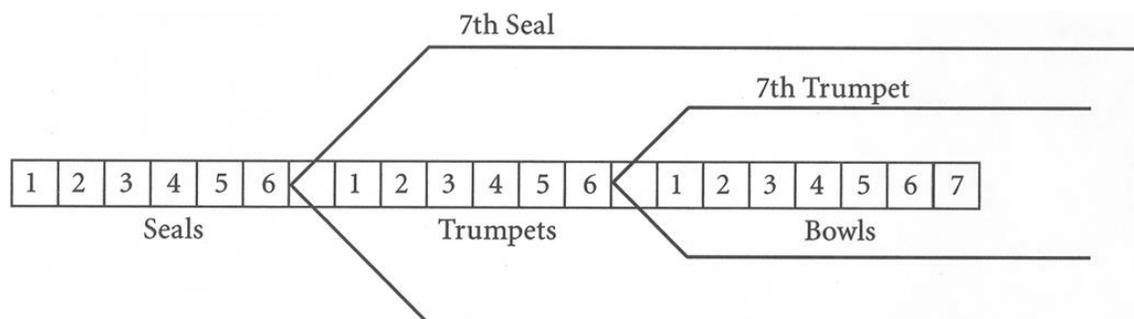
First 1/2

- 1) The first seal: The white horse (antichrist) that brings false peace on the earth.
- 2) The second seal: The bright red horse brings war on the earth.
- 3) The third seal: The black horse brings world-wide famine on the earth.
- 4) The fourth seal: The pale horse brings world-wide death (1/4 of the earth will die).

Second 1/2

- 5) The fifth seal: Tribulation saints are martyred.
- 6) The sixth seal: The Great Day of God’s wrath will be poured out with 6 disasters: earthquake, sun blackened, moon turned to blood red, stars will fall to the earth, atmosphere changed, & mountains & islands moved.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> seal will mark the beginning of the second half of the Tribulation and will be so terrifying that the world will acknowledge that God is the source of trouble (6:16-17).
- The opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> & last seal begins the judgments of the Day of the Lord & will intensify greatly. This final seal contains within it the full sweep of the remaining divine judgments of the Great Tribulation including both the trumpet & bowl judgments. The following diagram seems to illustrate the best way to view the unfolding of these judgments in a telescoping manner. The 7 trumpets come out of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, and the 7 bowls proceed from the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. This makes sense when there is no real description of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal but an anticipation of severe judgment followed by the 7 trumpet judgments (8:1-2). In a similar manner, the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet does not describe a judgment but rather contains the anticipating of the judgment to come (10:7, 11:15-17).



- Chapter 10:7 indicates that at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet “the mystery of God would be fulfilled.” Chapter 15:1 makes it clear that the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet finishes the work of judgment by the pouring out of seven plague judgments, which chapter 16:1 identifies as the “seven bowls of the wrath of God.”
- Summary: The 7<sup>th</sup> seal encompasses all of God’s final wrath up to the triumphant return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## 1. What happens when Jesus opens the 7<sup>th</sup> seal of the scroll?

- **Silence:** There is a 30-minute moment of silence in heaven! (v. 1). This dramatizes and intensifies the scene as all of heaven anticipates with a holy stillness in breathless silence of foreboding & expectation concerning the grim reality of the destruction that they see written on the scroll. This is the calm before the storm. This is the quiet waiting for the King of heaven to make His next move. (Hab 2:20, Zeph 1:7, Zech 2:13)



- **Sounding:** Seven angels stand before God and are given 7 trumpets and participate in eschatological judgment just as Jesus said they would (v. 2, Matthew 13:39-41, 49-50, 16:27, 25:31).

1) Trumpets are used in Scripture to announce and herald significant events like the gathering of Israel (Num 10:2) and the gathering of the Church (1 Cor 15:52, 1 Thes 4:16). But they are also associated with war (Num 10:9, 2 Chron 13:12, z 33:3, Josh 6, Judg 7). The “day of the Lord” is also associated with trumpets sounding. (Zech 1:14-16)

2) With our futuristic approach it seems best to interpret the trumpets literally rather than symbolically. Rather than viewing them literally some view the stars that fall from heaven (v. 10-11) as a person of great influence who poisons the earth with evil; or the sun, moon and stars as governing powers and authorities (v. 12). But just as the plagues on Egypt were literal, it does not seem implausible that these plagues are also literal.

- **Supplication:** “Another” angel, NOT Jesus, stood at the golden altar of incense with a censor before the throne of God & offered incense & the prayers of the saints which rose before God from the angel’s hand. (v. 3-4). These are undoubtedly the cries of believers in the Great Tribulation praying against their persecutors & all who blaspheme God and Christ in that time (6:9-10). Their prayers, affirmed by the incense, show that God agrees with the cries of judgments that are about to be released soon.
- **Storm:** Silence is broken as the angel throws the censor filled with fire to the earth followed by peals of thunder, sounds & flashes of lightning & an earthquake. (v. 5)

**2. What are the trumpet judgments?** God’s divine judgment poured out on a world adamant in its hostility toward God who refuse to repent! (8:6-9:21)

**1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet:** Hail & fire mixed with blood is thrown to the earth. A third of the earth’s vegetation is destroyed by fire. (v. 7, Ex 9:13-25, Gen 19:24, Ps 11:6)



**2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet:** A mountain of fire (meteor or asteroid) is thrown into the sea causing it to turn to blood, killing 1/3 of the living creatures of the sea and surely tsunamis will destroy a third of the ships of the sea. (v. 8-9)



**3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet:** A great burning star (celestial object) fell from heaven and the debris pollutes & poisons (wormwood) the fresh water causing many people to die. (v. 10-11, Deut 29:18, Prov 5:4, Jer 9:15, 23:15, Lam 3:15, 19, Amos 5:7-6:12).

**4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet:** A disaster in the sky occurs as God smites a third of the sun and moon and stars so that they will be darkened by a third. (v. 12, Ex 10:21-22, Is 13:9-10, Ez 32:7-8, Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15, Amos 8:9, Luke 21:25)



**3. What are the 3 Woe Judgments in Revelation?**

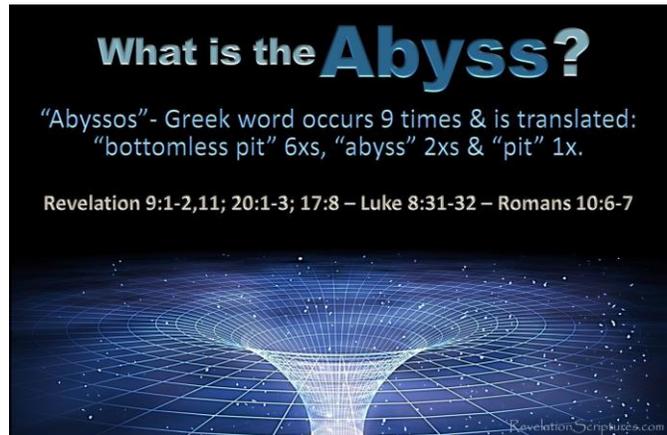
Because the three final trumpet judgments are especially severe for mankind on the earth, they’re called woe judgments. As bad as the first four judgments were, the latter three will be far more severe. This severity is so pronounced that there is a warning of their approach sounded with a voice in the atmospheric heavens. The eagle, may be one of the cherubim (Rev 4:7, Ez 10:15) chosen to give this warning to the earth. The first two of these woe judgments are demonic invasions, and the third one contains the bowl judgments.

The 3 Woes of Revelation		
<b>Revelation 8:13</b> – “Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, ‘Woe, woe, woe to those who <u>dwell on the earth</u> , ( <i>unbelievers</i> ) at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow.” (see handout about “earth dwellers.”)		
<b>Trumpet # 5</b>	<b>Trumpet # 6</b>	<b>Trumpet # 7</b>
First Woe – Fifth Angel	Second Woe – Sixth Angel	Third Woe – Seventh Angel
Rev 9:1-12	Rev 9:13-21, 11:7-13	Rev 10:7, 1:14-19, 15:1, 4-8, 16:1-21

## 4. What are the last two Trumpet Judgments?

**5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet & the 1st Woe:** \_\_\_**Demons**\_\_\_ will be unleashed on earth. (9:1-12)

- 1) **Their leader:** The star is certainly a fallen angel, not a celestial object, & most likely \_\_\_**Satan**\_\_\_ himself. (v. 1, Job 38:7, Is 14:12-15, )
- 2) **Their place of Origin:** The Pit of the Abyss (or “bottomless pit”) is a place of incarceration where God sovereignly chose to lock up certain, most \_\_\_**wicked**\_\_\_ & vile demons in a pit of punishment. (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6-7, Revelation 9:2, 11, 11:7, 17:8)
- 3) **Their Character:** Satan will release the vilest demons when he opens up the bottomless pit & they will be like locusts swarming out to plague the earth. (v. 2-3)



John Phillips - “Picture what the world would be like if we were to open the doors of all the penitentiaries of earth and set free the world’s most vicious and violent criminals, giving them full reign to practice their infamies upon mankind. Something worse than that lies in store for the world. Satan, cast out of heaven, is now permitted to summon to his aid the most diabolical fiends in the abyss to act as his agents in bringing mankind to the footstool of the Beast.” (John Philips)

- 4) **Their power & torment:** Innumerable (like locusts) demons will have power to torment & inflict excruciating \_\_\_**pain**\_\_\_ for 5 months like scorpions on those who are not sealed (144,000, Rev 7:2). While their sting will paralyze they will be limited in that they cannot kill. The fact that they are not to harm vegetation only highlights that they are not like the natural locust which has interest in the earth; the demons only have interest in harming man physically. (v. 3b-6)
- 5) **Their appearance:** They have the appearance **LIKE** horses prepared for battle, with what looked **LIKE** crowns on their heads & their faces were **LIKE** humans & their hair **LIKE** women’s hair, and their teeth **LIKE** lion’s teeth, with breastplates **LIKE** iron, and made a noise **LIKE** many chariots with horses rushing into battle, & tails **LIKE** scorpions. (v. 7-10)



6) **Their king:** The angel of the abyss whose name is Abaddon & Apollyon is their King, who may be Satan, but is most likely a high-ranking demon in Satan's hierarchy. Both his names mean "\_\_\_**destroyer**\_\_\_." (v. 11)

**6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet & the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe:** Four fallen angels are released as leaders of a second demonic invasion of 200 million demons (not Chinese) for the purpose of \_\_\_**killing**\_\_\_ a third of the earth's population. (9:13-19)

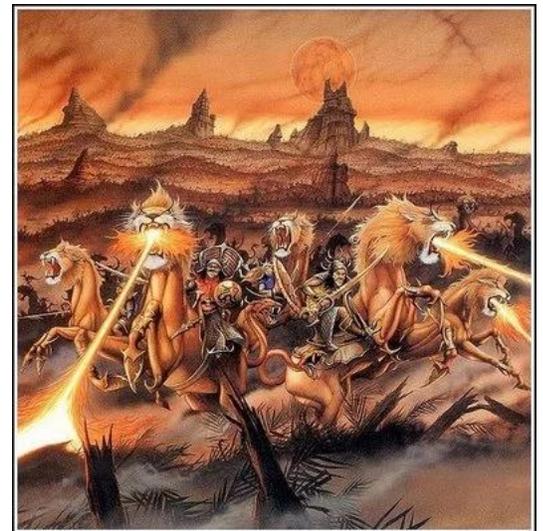
1) **Their announcement:** The sixth angel with the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet comes from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God who announces the release of four mighty demonic angels.

2) **Their identification:** These four angels were \_\_\_**bound**\_\_\_ indicating that they were demons.

3) **Their location:** The site of these demon's imprisonment was the great river Euphrates in the middle East where sin originated in the garden of Eden (Gen 2:14). It is possible that these four demons controlled the four major world empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Roman (Daniel 10).

4) **Their destruction:** Because a third of the earth (over a billion people) will be killed, it doesn't seem plausible that this describes a \_\_\_**human**\_\_\_ army, but rather an army of **two hundred million demons**, not Chinese.

5) **Their description:** The demons rode horses, wore breastplates with the very colors of hell on them. The heads of the horses were like lions, and fire and smoke came out of their mouths. And they had tails with deadly venom in which they poured out plagues on the earth.



**5. How does the world respond? (9:20-21).** Still being under the influence of the devil, the world continues in their depravity descending into mass false religion, hating one another and hating God!

With all of the catastrophe one would think that the world would repent. But instead the world displays amazing hardness of heart. Those who were not killed “did not repent.” In spite of the Gospel being preached by the 144,000 and the two witnesses, the world continued in their sin. ***They continue to perform 5 sins:***

- 1) They refused to repent of the \_\_\_\_ **worship** \_\_\_\_ of demons and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone & wood.
- 2) They refused to repent of violent crimes of \_\_\_\_ **murder** \_\_\_\_.
- 3) They refused to repent of \_\_\_\_ **sorcery** \_\_\_\_, or *pharmakon*, drugs believed to induce a higher religious state of communion with deities.
- 4) They refused to repent of sexual \_\_\_\_ **immorality** \_\_\_\_.
- 5) They refused to repent of \_\_\_\_ **thefts** \_\_\_\_.

the  
**REVELATION**  
of JESUS CHRIST

Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

**The answer to “who will be able to stand?”**

**(7: 1-3)** “After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out 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 or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Chapter 7 marks the first pause in the three groups of judgements determined for the tribulation week. We will see that there is a pause in between the 6th and 7th trumpets as well as in between the 6th and 7th bowls. In the midst of all of the devastation, these pauses serve to give a “breath” to the reader and also to mark out significant events, characters or story lines important to understanding the whole of the day of the Lord events. In this case, the judgement is paused in the narrative to reveal the significant outpouring of Gods sovereign grace, mercy and faithfulness and His ability to deliver His own to final salvation.

**Bad science?**

John is not attempting to describe a “flat earth” as many critics of Gods Word would claim, rather he is describing the four “quadrants of the earth”. The fact that the winds are described in conjunction with the four corners here prove that this is what John sees since wind currents blow from the North, South, East and West. Winds are critical in the hydrological process that causes water from the surface of the ocean, large bodies of water and the land to evaporate up into the atmosphere were it is then poured back down onto the earth in various forms of precipitation. The winds also help to regulate the earths temperature.

Parenthetically, accurate modern geodetic measurements in recent years have proved that the earth actually does have four “corners”. These are protuberances standing out from the basic “geoid”, that is, the basic spherical shape of the earth. The earth is not really a perfect sphere, but is slightly flattened at the poles. Its equatorial bulge is presumably caused by the earth’s axial rotation, and its four “corners” protrude from that.

*Henry Morris - The Revelation Record (Wheaton, Ill.:Tyndale, 1983, pg 126)*

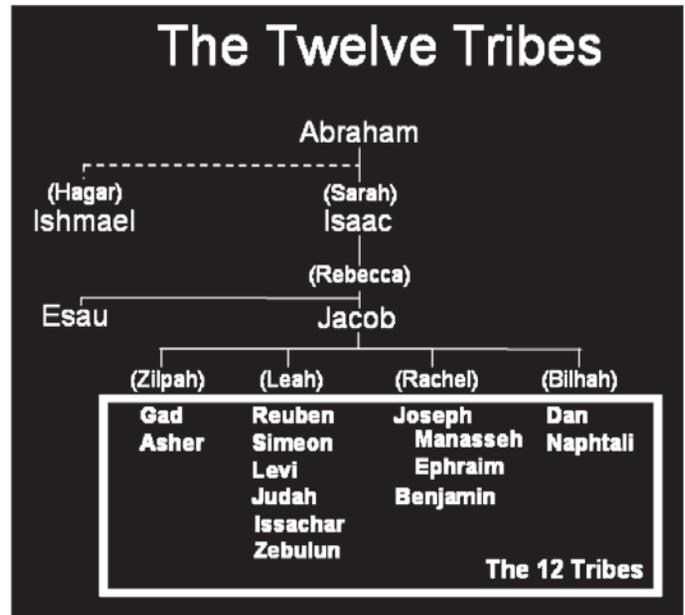
**The 144,000 Jewish missionaries**

**(7: 4-8)** “And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand, from the tribe of Gad twelve thousand, from the tribe of Asher twelve thousand, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand, from the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand, from the tribe of Levi twelve thousand, from the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand, from the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand, from the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.”

**“He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” Ps 121:4**

One of the most amazing proofs as to the veracity of scripture is how Israel as a people has been preserved through the ages, despite the judgement of the diaspora. Despite theories such as “the ten lost tribes theory”, there has never been a “loss” of identity concerning the tribes of Israel. Both Peter and James speak of the 12 tribes and Jacob (Gen 49) and Moses (Deut 33) both give detailed prophecies for each of the twelve tribes that speak directly to the future Millennial reign of Christ.

Neither the initial Assyrian and Babylonian captivities nor the current scattering as a result of the Roman siege in 70 AD have caused the Word of the Lord to fail and here in the Revelation we find the “last word” on the matter as the Lord takes the time to specifically mention each of the tribes that will be represented by these 144,000 witnesses to the earth. This being said we are left to ask about two specific names:



**1) Where is the Tribe of Dan?**

- Prophecies given:
    - Given by Jacob: “A serpent...” (Gen 49:17) - symbol of sin
    - Given by Moses: “Leap from Bashan” ( Deut 33:22)
  - Left allocated territories ( Judg 18)
    - Deborah: “Didn’t leave his ships” (Judg 5:17) - Did not aid in defending other tribes
  - Omitted from genealogies (1 Chr 1-8)
  - Tribe through which idolatry entered the land (Lev 24:10-16; Judg 18:1,2,30-31)
  - Idolaters name to be blotted out (Deut 29:18-21)
  - A leader in apostasy under Jeroboam (1 Kgs 12:28-30)
    - and 100 years later (2 Kgs 10:29)
    - the “Voice of Calamity” (Jer 4:14; Heb); Amos 8:14; Heb)
    - Curse: Jer 8:16
  - Not sealed in the Tribulation (Rev 7) - Not protected from harm
- And yet**, Dan shall judge his people as one of the tribes of Israel (Gen 49:16) and Dan inherits in the Millennium (Ezek 48:1).

**2) Where is the Tribe of Ephraim?**

- Was also associated with Jeroboam’s idolatry (Hos 4:17)
- Since Joseph = Manasseh + Ephraim the three are used elliptically in scripture.

When we discuss chapter 20 we will look closely at the kingdom as described in the Old Testament in books such as Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah; etc. These promises made in Gods Word will be fulfilled for Gods sake and not mans as Ezekiel records. Chapter 14 also describes this same group

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

and an interesting term is used to describe them; “first fruits” (v14). They indeed will be the firstfruits of the harvest in ***Israels final redemption***, but that is not all. They will be the firstfruits of those ***saved from the entire 70th week***. An important question that arises in regards to these firstfruits is when they will be sealed.

In the context of the pre-tribulational view of the catching away of the bride of Christ, the translation of the church would leave the earth void of any biblical witnesses; thus the need for the “firstfruits” to be established. In the 5th seal we saw a multitude of martyrs before the throne of God that were slain because of their testimony of Christ. We now come to the pause in between the 6th and 7th seal and we read “after this”. So that would beg the question of timing/order; how could there be martyrs in seal 5 and the first fruits show up now?

We must remember the context of each of the parenthetical passages tucked in between the 6th and 7th event of each of the groups of judgements. So we do not have to make this a point of contention here, but instead understand that it is from the “great multitude” that the 5th seal martyrs come, and it is from the witness of the 144,000 that the great multitude will come.

### **A great multitude; the saints from out of the tribulation**

**(7: 9-14) “After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”**

In the progression of the pause we see a basic “cause and effect” relationship detailed by John. He has taken from the focus of the terrible judgements in the succession of the seals to the awe inspiring view of the firstfruit witnesses and the resulting harvest from the nations that come as a direct result. This group is now identified as separate from the 144,000 and there are several identifying things that show that they are not the same as the church that is represented by the 24 elders:

#### **Tribulation Saints**

- **Not Crowned**
- **Palms in there hands**
- **Saved “out of” the Tribulation**
- **Stand before the throne**
- **Not recognized by John**

#### **24 Elders**

- **Crowned**
- **Harps, not Palms**
- **Kept “out of” the Tribulation (3:10)**
- **Sit on thrones (1Cor 6:2,3; 1Pe 2:9; Rev 1:6)**
- **Recognized by John**

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

**(7: 15-17) “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.”**

The redeemed from out of the Tribulation are able to be before the throne of God for the same reason that any man is able; because of ***the blood of the Lamb***. The elder describes to John that they are engaged in continual spiritual service and sheltered by His spread out tabernacle over them. This is like the ***Shechinah presence*** that God placed over His people in the Old Testament that was illustrative of His protective presence (Lev 26:11-12; Ezek.37:27; Zech.2:10-11; 3-8). This is in contrast to the horrors they have been delivered out of through martyrdom and death.

For those holding the view that the promise to the church in Philadelphia indicates that the church will go through the Tribulation while being preserved through it, (the same way Noah was during the flood), or even those who hold to a pre-wrath view of the rapture will have a difficult time explaining what is described here. As has been stated before, there has always been persecution and martyrdom since the beginning of the church, so the martyrdom of those beheaded for the testimony of Christ during the Tribulation is not unique except in its global scope and quantity. However these seen by John and described by the elder are shown to have been suffering under the same sovereign disasters that the Lord will bring upon the whole earth as seen in the seals so far.

They have experienced the suffering of the great famine, the lack of fresh water and the scorching heat of the ***“global warming”*** that God will bring upon the earth while His judgements are being poured out. In reality the only specific group of Gods chosen that is guaranteed to not suffer harm is the 144,000 witnesses chosen to be the firstfruits of Gods salvation during the Daniels 70th week. The Lord Jesus is shown as the shepherd who leads these who have suffered to life giving water, unlike the false shepherds on earth that lead many astray into eternal drought, heat and thirst. For all who have suffered in Christ, the great reality here is that there will be no more sorrow in heaven and we see the tender imagery of the loving heavenly Father as He personally comforts His own.



### **The 7th seal - Gods response to the cry of the martyrs**

**(8:1-6) “When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.”**

## The Trumpets

Trumpets are one of the most important instruments in scripture associated with heralding significant events. Trumpets are sounded with assembly or gathering as seen with the **congregation of Israel** (Num 10:2) and with the gathering of **the church** (1Cor 15:52; 1Thes 4:16). They are also associated with **war** (Num 10:9; 2Chron 13:12; Ezek 33:3; Josh 6; Jdg 7), the heralding of a **new king** (1 Ki 1:34,39) and in **worship** (1Chron 16:6, 42; 2 Chron 5:12-13). Zephaniah 1:14-16 has trumpets associated with **the day of the Lord** as we see here in the trumpets that are about to sound.

It is important to understand that these trumpets usher in direct judgements from heaven as the angels sound them off. These judgements are more intense than the seal judgements and yet they will give way to the final most devastating judgements of the seven bowls. In verses 1-6 of chapter 8 we observed the silence in heaven just prior to the sounding of the first trumpet and in observation of Gods response to the cries for retribution from the saints gathered before the throne. Scripture often has silence observed at the judgement of the Lord (Hab 2:20; Zeph1:7; Zech 2:13).

The first 4 trumpets will bring destruction upon **the ecology of earth**. They are known as the **“judgement of the thirds”**. The very things that the earthbound take for granted in their failure to acknowledge God as the Creator, will now be taken away from them. The judgements brought upon the Egyptians by God directly mocked the imagined gods that they worshipped. Romans talks about this tenancy of fallen man:

*“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*  
Rom 1:25 (NASB)

**Modern humanism** and **pagan spirituality** are the same thing as we are constantly bombarded with propaganda that the earth and its creatures are being destroyed by men and drastic measures need to be taken in order to preserve these things. This religion is really nothing new. Many of today's top leaders are, in one way or another, involved in **“gia worship”** - the worship of earth and its creatures and, in fact, view the mass of humanity as a plague on the earth that needs to be drastically reduced in number.

The earth and animals are more valued than the 50 million + babies that have been slaughtered in the name of choice. But this folly will be crushed by the ecological devastation that God will bring upon the very things that earth worshippers cling to the most and they will not be able to escape.

## The Trumpets



### The 1st Trumpet

**(8:7) “The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.”**

The judgement in the first trumpet is probably associated with the activities seen in response to the ***prayers of the saints*** (v5). We see the hail and fire mixed with blood thrown to the earth just as the angel threw the censer with the fire and prayers of the saints from the altar to the earth. History has demonstrated that large Volcanic and seismic events often generate their own weather patterns that include severe thunderstorms, lightning and hail.

#### “Mixed with Blood”

There are a couple of possibilities concerning the blood. The amount of ash in the atmosphere would mix with the condensing water and fall back to earth as an “ash rain”, something that has been observed in historic volcanic events, and could have a reddish appearance. The word blood (αἷμα - haima - hī'-mä) usually refers to:

***Actual blood*** be it of men or animals.

Things that ***resemble blood*** such as grape juice.

***The seat of life.*** = the seat of life as it is judged by God speaks to His justice carried out on those who killed the saints of God.

#### Textual Conflict?

The destruction of all of the green grass here in the 1st trumpet often causes conflict when we get to the 5th trumpet. The locusts that are unleashed are told to not harm the green grass of the earth and so the logical question that arises is how can they be prevented from harming that which has already been destroyed? The mentioning of their “agenda” more significantly points out that they are not the kind of locusts that we experience in nature. So by pointing out that they will not go after green grass doesn't necessarily mean that there is green grass.



## The 2nd Trumpet

**(8:8,9) “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 creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.”**

What John sees here is clearly a meteor. As meteors plummet toward the earth, the friction causes most to completely burn up which produces fire. This meteor is large enough to pass through the atmosphere and impact “the sea” (not seas). If we should be this technical here it is interesting to note that the *Pacific Ocean* covers just about a third of the earth's surface. The sea becoming blood could be the same type of judgement as the Lord turning the Nile to blood in Moses time (Ex 7:20-21) which did not require a meteor, or it could be the blood saturated water from the rotting sea creatures.

Again the notion of blood meaning “the seat of life” is vivid here not just figuratively, but literally. The meteor also destroys a third of mans ships that are not only caused by the immediate impact, but by the tsunamis that will be spawned as a result of the meteors impact in the sea.



## The 3rd Trumpet

**(8:10,11) “The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.”**

Some try to make this meteor Satan or another fallen angel, but there is no contextual reason to do so, because when we are expected to understand a fallen star this way we are told to as we see in the 5th trumpet. This meteor is called bitter because it turns a third of the sources of fresh drinking water to *toxic state*. The waters around geyser basins are poisonous due to the toxic metals leached into them.

Notice that it is not just the rivers, but the springs of fresh water. In just a short time this will cause many people to perish. Again those who are on the earth will be reminded of the things taken for granted.



## The 4th Trumpet

**(8:12) “The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.”**

The description given here seems to indicate that the sun, moon and stars are directly impacted, but it does not say with what. Later in 16:8-9 the heat of the sun intensifies so it may be that the Lord, by His sovereign creative power actually shrouds the visible, physical light that is given off by these celestial bodies (rather than atmospheric gases and ash) which seems to impact the intensity with which the light given off by these bodies will reach the earth. The result will be dramatic changes in the climate on the earth and in the sea as temperatures will destabilize and the tides will be impacted.

### A global warning

**(8:13) “Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"”**

The remaining three trumpets will be significantly different from the first four, so much so that the Lord will have the warning of them dramatically proclaimed for all to all hear at once. Woe is a term used to announce ***judgement and condemnation*** throughout scripture (Num 21:29; 1Sam 4:7-8; Job 10:15; Ps 120:5; Eccl. 10:16; Isa. 3:9; Jer. 4:13; Lam 5:16; Ezek 13:3; Hos 7:13; Amos 6:1; Mic 2:1; Nah 3:1; Hab 2:6; Zeph 2:5; Matt 11:21; Jude 11). Three woes are proclaimed here; one for each remaining trumpet.

“Earth dwellers” in Revelation refers to those who ***reject Christ*** and hate His people. Their hopes and dreams are tied into this present, passing age. Contrast that with those who trust in Christ whose hopes and dreams are tied into salvation and the coming age. The demonic swarm that will be unleashed will not be able to harm Gods people, but will be able to devastate the earth dwellers. Trumpets 5 and 6 bring ***demonic manifestation*** that will have a destructive outcome for humanity. Humanity has no idea how much of God’s grace is in operation every moment of the day restraining evil; but there will be no ignorance of this fact when His judgement is poured out releasing the restrained demons.

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

Paul tells us that demons are what is really behind the idols that men worship:

*“What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”*

1Cor 10:19-21 (NASB)

As the Lord removes the veil of His protection mankind will be introduced to their “gods” as they really are and it will be a terrifying reality.



### The 5th Trumpet

**(9:1-2) “Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.”**

Unlike the stars that have fallen from heaven with the previous trumpets, this star is specifically described as a fallen angel. In Revelation 12:7 a war breaks out in heaven that will result in Satan and the other fallen angels being cast down to earth. The results of that event is most likely what we see here. This is not a fictitious scenario, but is very real.

**The following comes from Chuck Missler’s study on Luke (pgs 189-190)**

#### Sheol

Sheol, occurs in the Old Testament sixty-five times. This word sheol is derived from a root word meaning “to ask,” “demand”; hence, insatiableness (Prov 30:15,16). It is rendered “grave” thirty-one times (Gen 37:35; 42:38; 44:29,31; 1Sam 2:6; etc.). In thirty-one cases in the Authorized Version this word is rendered “hell,” the place of disembodied spirits. The inhabitants of sheol are **“the congregation of the dead”** (Pro 21:16).

It is the abode of the **wicked dead** (Num 16:33; Job 24:19; Ps 9:17; 31:17) etc.;

It is also of the **good** (Ps 16:10; 30:3; 49:15; 86:13) etc. Sheol is described as deep (Job 11:8), dark (Job 10:21,22), with bars (Job 17:16). The dead **“go down”** to it (Num 16:30,33; Eze 31:15,16,17).

## Hades

a[|dhj, Hades, the Greek word for that which is **out of sight**, is the word used to denote the state or place of the dead; it is translated “hell” 11 times in the New Testament. The Septuagint used hades to translate the Hebrew *l'Av she'owl*, (**the place of the dead**) on 61 occasions (Gen 42:38; Ps 139:8; Hos 13:14; Isa 14:9, et al).

In Greek it is associated with Orcus, the infernal regions, a dark and dismal place in the very depths of the earth, the common receptacle of disembodied spirits. In the Greek conceptions, it had two subterranean divisions: Elysium and Tartarus.

Hades refers to the abode of the unsaved dead prior to the great white throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). It is a **prison** (1 Pet 3:19) with **gates and bars and locks** (Matt 16:18 Rev 1:18) and it is **downward** (Matt 11:23 Luke 10:15). The righteous and the wicked are separated.

Some view the blessed dead as in a part of Hades called Paradise (Luke 23:43). They are also said to be in “Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22). However, the rich man **lifted up his eyes** (v.23); the “bosom of Abraham” was “afar off.” They are as opposite and disconnected as the zenith and the nadir. Abraham’s bosom is in heaven (Matt 8:11). Most of the early church fathers viewed Paradise as a part of Heaven, not Hades.<sup>1</sup> The “two compartment” view is an accommodation of the Greek conception.

## Gehenna

Gehenna (originally Ge bene Hinnom; i.e., “**the valley of the sons of Hinnom**”), a deep, narrow ravine to the south of Jerusalem, separating Mount Zion from the so-called “Hill of Evil Counsel.” (The U.N. headquarters are presently on this hill, much to the amusement of the Israelis.)

It was in the Valley of Hinnom that the idolatrous Jews offered their children in sacrifice to Molech (2Ch 28:3 33:6 Jer 7:31 19:2-6). This valley afterwards became the common receptacle for all the refuse of the city. Here the dead bodies of animals and of criminals, and all kinds of filth, were cast and consumed by fire, always kept burning.

It thus, in process of time, became the idiom of the place of everlasting destruction. In this sense it is used by our Lord 11 times in His discourses (Matt 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9;23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5). Hades and Gehenna are somewhat opposites in both location and destiny: **Hades is geocentric** (Matt 12:40); Gehenna is “**in the outer darkness**” (Matt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). Hades is temporary; it will ultimately be cast into Gehenna (Rev 20:14).

## Tartarus

Another word translated “hell” but only one use in the New Testament (2 Peter 2:4). **The deepest abyss of Hades**. Homer’s Iliad: “...As far below hades as the earth is below heaven...” It is the **specific place of incarceration of the angels that sinned in Genesis 6**.

## Not Your Everyday Locusts

**(9:3-6)** “Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.”

There are several important facts about these locusts that show they are not naturally occurring locusts, but something quite different.

1. ***Their place of origin - hell.*** The use of locusts to describe them is important as it speaks to the sheer quantities and utter frenzy with which they will move about the earth.
2. ***Their purpose - to harm the earth dwellers:*** The fact that they are told not to hurt vegetation shows that they don't have the same function as natural locusts.
3. ***Their surpassing power and torment:*** Although they will not be able to kill, they are equipped with some sort of neurotoxin that brings paralysis to its victims. Note how death is desired yet not obtainable. This is hard to explain otherwise.

## Their appearance and their “king”

**(9:3-6)** “The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.”

Some would say that John is describing modern day weapons of war, but they do not come out of hell. These are very real demonic creatures that John does his best to describe. The most significant detail given is that they have a king over them. This is not true of naturally occurring locusts according to Proverbs 30:27. Both Abaddon and Apollyon mean “***destroyer***”

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

in the Hebrew and the Greek and will impact both Jews and Gentiles. This one is called the angel of the Abyss and he is ***over the demons, not one of them***. This begs the question; is there a difference between angels and demons?

### What are demons?

There are many scholars who believe that there is a difference between fallen angels and demons. The understanding of this will become more relevant later in this study and so it is important to lay some necessary ground work here. To do this we will look at Genesis 6 for some background information.

*“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they [were] fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [is] flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare [children] to them, the same [became] mighty men which [were] of old, men of renown.”*

Gen 6:1-4 (KJV)

Not until Augustine was the clear teaching of this passage given an unbiblical interpretation. All ancient Jewish scholarship, including the writings of Josephus, speak of the unnatural offspring spawned by this unholy activity; the giants. Both Peter (2Pe 2:4) and Jude (6) make mention of this event with reference to their judgement in the abyss. This is what many scholars view to have been the fallen angels attempt to ***corrupt the image of God*** in light of the promise given in Genesis 3:15 where God proclaims to Satan “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

The desire of Satan and the fallen angels is to be ***worshipped above God*** and they mock Him in any way possible. God made man in His own image and therefore what better way to mock His glory than the attempt to “make” men in their own image. This is exactly what happened and cannot, nor should not be explained away by something that is more acceptable in natural terms like the sons of God equating to some godly line of Seth. If the DNA of natural man could be effectively corrupted, the “Seed” of the woman could not come and crush the head of the serpents seed.

Some would argue that Christ Himself said that angels neither marry nor are given in marriage, but then He explains why; they can’t die and therefore don’t need to procreate (Luke 20). But that doesn’t mean they cannot engage in sexual activity with natural women. Jude says that they “went after strange flesh” (7) when comparing their activity to homosexuality.

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

This very activity is what the particular fallen angels in Gen 6 are currently bound in the Abyss for. Further proof that this activity was actual sexual activity that involved the mixing of angelic DNA with human DNA (seed or zera` in the Hebrew or sperma in the Greek) is the offspring that came as a result; the “mighty men of renown”. Natural men with natural women don’t produce giants as seen in many places in the Old Testament like Goliath who was approximately 10 feet tall or the King of Og who was about 12 feet tall.

Understanding what actually happened in Genesis 6 is very important as it explains the reason for a worldwide flood that destroyed all creatures save 8 people and the pure animals that were preserved on the ark. It also explains why the Israelite spies felt like “***grasshoppers***” in the site of the inhabitants of Canaan and why the Lord insisted on the Israelites completely destroying every man, woman and child of certain tribes they were to take the land from. Those who criticize the character of God who demanded such things have no idea what he was really cleansing the earth from; abominations in his sight.

Genesis 6 goes on to clarify this reality when describing Noah. God says of Him “Noah was a just man [and] perfect in his generations,...”(v9). Notice he was “just” which speaks to his relationship with God and he was “perfect” or “***pure***” in his “generations” or “genealogy”.

So what does this have to do with demons? Many scholars believe that demons are not the same as angels but are in fact the ***disembodied spirits*** of the corrupted humanity destroyed in the flood. Angelic appearances on the earth throughout scripture always appear as men. Cases such as Abraham and Sarah, Lot, Daniel and Joseph being visited are just some examples and each time the angels’ appearance is as men and there is no indication that they had to “find” habitation whereas the demons always seek embodiment and cannot manifest outside of human or animal habitation. This is clearly demonstrated in the bazaar events surrounding the demoniac in the Gerasenes.

We are told in Hebrews 13:2 that we may even entertain angels unaware which again speaks to the fact that they appear as men when they manifest in the natural realm. In the parable Jesus tells about “strong men” inhabiting a natural man (Mat 12:29; Mar3:27; Luk 11:21) we again are looking at an example of demons who seek habitation. The locust hoard that rises out of the ashes seem to have been able to possess some sort of bazaar form that may very possibly have been ***engineered*** for them by means that will be discussed later in this study.



## The 6th Trumpet

**(9:13-19)** “Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone. A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.”

This is a different demonic hoard under the command of four angels other than the angel of the bottomless pit. While they are also “bound” it doesn’t seem to be in the abyss as in the case with Apollyon, king of the abyss and demonic locusts. Insights from the book of Daniel seem to indicate that fallen angels have specific geographic locations assigned to them and we are told by Paul that our real battle is against the supernatural armies of darkness that are described as having “ranks” (Eph 6:10-11). He is not only speaking of the specific fallen angels and demons bound in the abyss, but also of those in heavenly places.

These certain four angels have at their command a demonic army that is not the same as the locust army previously described. This army is the same that is described by the prophet Joel when he foresees the day of the Lord:

*“Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been anything like it, Nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations. A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, and nothing at all escapes them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. With a noise as of chariots they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the*

## Session 14 - Revelation 7-9

*stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle. Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale. They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths. They do not crowd each other, They march everyone in his path; When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief. Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?"*  
Joel 2:1-11 (NASB)

The depravity of man is so strong that his sinful, willful disobedience is not thwarted:

**(9:20-21) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.**