

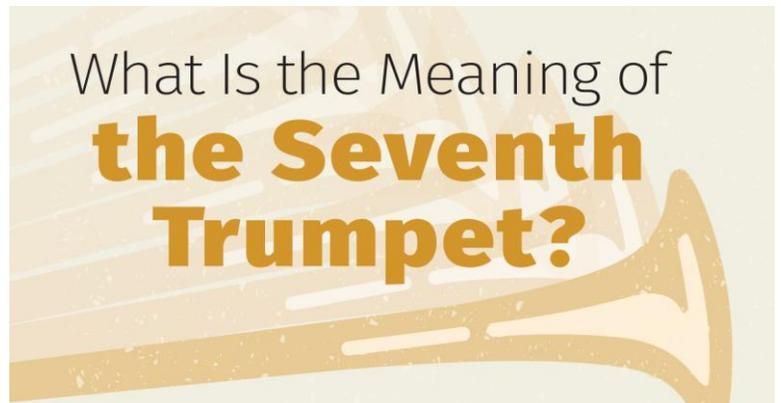
What Must Take Place After This (The 7th Trumpet & Satan v. Israel)

Text: Revelation 11:15-12:17

Main Idea: The blowing of the seventh Trumpet will signify the final victory and the final events leading up to the coming of Christ to set up His Kingdom on the earth and reign forever and ever!

1. What is the Significance of the Blowing of the 7th Trumpet? (v. 15-19)

- Is the 7th Trumpet the same as the “last trumpet” in 1 Cor 15:52? Often times mid-tribulationists maintain that the Church will be raptured to heaven at the midpoint of the 7-year tribulation and equate the “last trumpet” in 1 Cor 15:42 with the 7th trumpet. But when you look at a comparison of the trumpets it seems apparent that these two trumpets are Not the same.



	Trumpet in 1 Cor 15	Trumpet in Revelation 11
Subject	Church	Wicked World
Result	Catching up of the Church to be with the Lord	Judgment of godless world
Character	Trumpet of God’s grace	Trumpet of God’s judgment
Timing	Signals the close of the life of the church on earth – it’s the last trumpet of the church age	Marks a climax in the progression of Tribulation judgments – it’s the last trumpet of judgment in preparation for the Kingdom of Christ

Mark Hitchcock, 101 Answers to Questions About the Book of Revelation, page 161

- The blowing of the 7th Trumpet (which is the 3rd Woe) does not **immediately** initiate anything on the earth but introduces the next series of judgments which are the 7 bowls of judgment introduced in 15:5. Revelation 11:15-15:4 is still a part of the parenthetical interlude which describes more events that happen during the Tribulation.
- The blowing of the 7th Trumpet introduces the ultimate purpose of the Tribulation. Loud voices of angels in heaven made a declaration that Jesus Christ will finally take what is rightfully His. The verb tense “**has become**” is known as a proleptic

orist, describing a future event that is so certain that it can be spoken of as if it has already taken place. While the events of the 7th trumpet had not taken place yet, they are so certain that the end result is now declared. Heaven rejoices and the angels make **two announcements**:

- 1) The **Kingdom** of the world (singular) including the world's diverse national, political, social, cultural, linguistic and religious groups is in reality one kingdom under one king, the usurper Satan (see 2 Cor 4:4, Eph 2:2, Jn 12:31). Satan's rule will finally come to an end as it will be fully conquered and become the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. What Satan offered Jesus in the temptation will now be taken on Jesus' terms (Luke 4:5-8). Satan and his demons will be ultimately overthrown and Jesus will rightfully rule on the earth as Scripture promised (2 Sam 7:12-16).



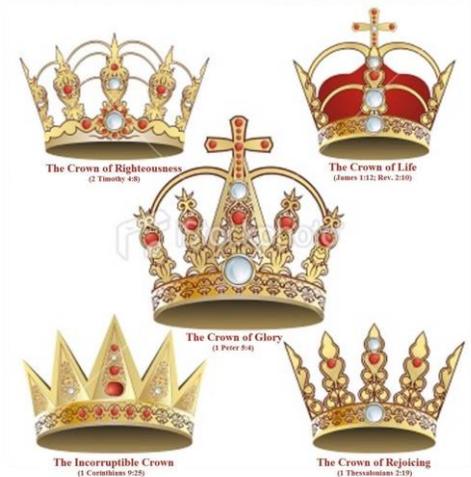
- 2) The end result will be that Jesus Christ who is not only Lord but also the Messiah will **reign**. This reign will begin during the earthly Millennial Kingdom and after 1000 years will merge with the eternal Kingdom where Christ will reign forever and ever. For evidence of Christ's earthly reign see Rev 15:2-4, Ps 2:6-9, Is 2:2-3, Dan 2:34-35, 44-45, 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27, Micah 4:1-3, Zech 14:9, Luke 1:31-33.
- Praise & gratitude flow from the 24 elders, which are representatives of the raptured church, who had been eagerly awaiting the reign of Christ. (v. 16-18). Their prayers have been answered as Christ has begun to reign. At the blowing of the 7th Trumpet they praise God & recognize 6 key events that are happening. (v. 17-18)
- 1) They recognize the **glory** of God by praising three of God's attributes: 1) **God's omnipotence** ("Almighty" – irresistible power), 2) **God's eternity** ("who is and who was"), & 3) **God's sovereignty** ("for you have taken your great power and begun to reign"). (v. 17)
 - 2) They recognize that the nations will continue to be **enraged** (v. 18a). In spite of all that has happened, the nations are still defiant and enraged at God and the prospect that Christ's kingdom will be established over the whole earth. The world with Satan's influence will eventually assemble armies to fight against God at

Armageddon (16:14-16, 20:8-9) with no desire to repent but have anger, resentment and hostility toward heaven (16:11).

- 3) They recognize that God's wrath has come (v. 18b). This is again a proleptic aorist, revealing that God's future wrath is spoken of as if it had already happened. God is going to judge the unbelieving world with wrath (Ez 38-39). The sounding of the 7th trumpet marks the fulfillment of the great judgment event that all the prophets foresaw and the saints of all the ages have longed for.
- 4) They recognize that judgment has come (v. 18c). Time is the word *Kairos*, which refers to a season, era, or occasion. At the establishment of Christ's kingdom, all judgments will take place, including the judgment of the dead. Here the elders seem to combine all judgments into one.

- 5) They recognize that all believers of all time will be rewarded including servants, prophets & the saints and all who fear the name of the Lord (v. 18d, Rev 22:12, 1 Cor 3:8). God will reward believers and they will inherit the Kingdom of God both in the millennial kingdom and eternal state. Crowns will be awarded, the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8), the crown of life (James 1:12, Rev 2:10), and the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4).

The Five Christian Crowns



- 6) They recognize that the blowing of the 7th Trumpet will be for the “destroying of the destroyers of the earth” (v. 18e). This is not people who destroy the environment, but rather sinners who remain in their lawlessness, including the antichrist and his followers, and Satan himself who is the ultimate destroyer as well as the whole world economic system and religious system called Babylon (19:2).

- Also bound up in the blowing of the 7th Trumpet is the promise to believers of unbroken fellowship with God forever. This is symbolized by the imagery of v. 19, namely the opening of the Temple of God in heaven and the ark of His covenant which symbolizes God's communion with the redeemed, because it was there that blood sacrifices were offered to atone for men's sins (Lev 16:2-16, Heb 9:3-7). Because of God's majesty, there were flashes of lightening and sounds of thunder and earthquakes & a great hailstorm (see also 4:5, 8:5, 16:17-18).



2. What are the Identities of the three key Persons in chapter 12?

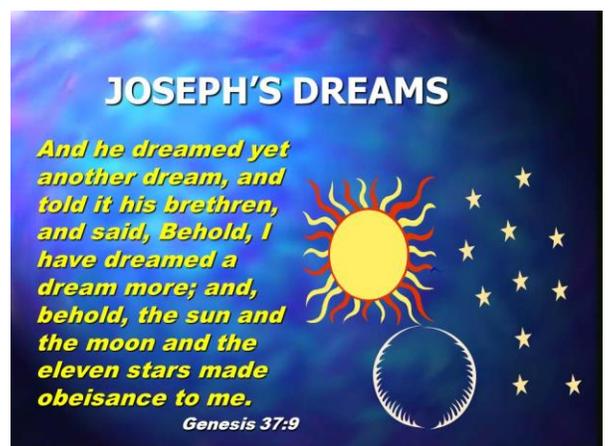
- **Who is the Woman clothed with the sun?** (v. 1-2) The fact that she is called a “great sign” in heaven makes it clear that this woman is a symbol of another reality and not to be taken literally. This is the first of seven signs in Revelation 12-19 (see also v. 3, 13:13, 14, 15:1, 16:14, 19:20). All of these signs point to realities.

1) Catholic scholars believe this to be Mary, the mother of Jesus, because the woman here gives birth to Jesus. The problem is that v. 6 states that the woman will flee into the wilderness for 1260 days which never happened with Mary.



2) Among Protestants, a weak option is that this woman represents the Church of Jesus Christ. The New Testament often refers to the Church as a woman or “bride.” But it is very clear that the Church did not birth Jesus, but rather Jesus gave birth to the Church, born upon the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the sending of the Holy Spirit.

3) The **best option** is that the woman pictures Israel as did the OT (Jer 3:1, 20, Ez 16:32-35, Hos 2:2, Is 50:1). Here the woman is clothed with “the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out being in labor and in pain to give birth.” This is a very similar vision that Joseph had in Genesis 37:9-10 where the sun, moon and 11 stars represented Joseph’s father, mother and 11 brothers which were all the sons of Israel. In keeping with this imagery, it is clear that this is Israel who gives birth to the Messiah as Isaiah 9:6 teaches. The woman here is a picture of the nation of Israel rising to prominence in the end times. The fact that she is clothed with the sun and moon reveals that she is illuminating. Israel is God’s redeemed people with glory and brilliance and dignity because of her exalted status as God’s chosen people. Furthermore, Israel is God’s light bearer to mankind. God always intended Israel to be God’s light in the world, and during the Tribulation Israel will be that light.



- **Who is the Great Red Dragon & the third of the stars of heaven?** (v. 3-4). This is the second sign given. It is clear that the dragon is none other than Satan. Revelation 12:9 provides the key for interpretation (also 20:2). He is depicted as having 7 heads and 7 crowns representing seven consecutive world empires running their course under Satan's dominion: namely Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the antichrist's future empire (17:9-10). The final kingdom ruled by the antichrist will be a 10-nation confederacy and the 10 horns represent the kings who will rule under the antichrist (17:12, Dan 7:23-25). Since stars are often symbolic of angels (Job 38:7, Rev 9:1), it is clear that these stars are Satan's angels. The context also confirms this in v. 7 when the war that is made is made with the "dragon and his angels." Satan swept away a third of the angels with him when he fell (Is 14:12-15, Ez 28:12-17) and they were cast to the earth. Their ministry was focused on killing the messiah who was born from the woman Israel. History shows how Satan attacked Israel from the very beginning to prevent Jesus from being born or to distort the birth line of Jesus (Matt 2:13-16). Even during the ministry of Jesus, Satan attempted to get Jesus to abandon His mission (Matt 4:1-11).



- **Who is the Male Child born of the Woman?** In spite of all the efforts of Satan to destroy the child that Israel birthed, he was unable. The child born is clearly Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, the descendant of David who was the fulfillment of prophecy (Gen 3:15, 2 Sam 7:12-16, Is 7:14, 9:6, Mic 5:2).

- 1) And this child is the one who "is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron." Jesus will rule during His earthly millennial kingdom. Ps 2:7-9 indicates that this rule is a breaking shattering work of judgment. An iron rod is something that cannot be broken. Jesus' rule will not be broken. He will swiftly and immediately judge all sin and put down all rebellion.
- 2) Between His incarnation and coronation was his exaltation when Jesus was caught up to God and to His throne. This speaks of his ascension. Satan could not stop Jesus from being exalted to the right hand of the Father as the perfect savior.



- **Israel will flee to the wilderness where she will be protected & nourished by God for 1260 days during the “Great Tribulation.”** (v. 6, see 12:13-17)

3. What is the great _____ War _____ described in v. 7-17?

There has always been a war going on in the heavenly places (Eph 6:12). Satan has been roaming the earth seeking someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8) and he continually engages attacks against God and God’s people. This world is controlled by Satan and he will continue to want to control it. But this supernatural war of Satan against God will reach its climax in this passage. Satan will make a last attempt to gain control of the universe from the Almighty God. There will be a coming war in heaven between the Holy Angels & the fallen angels. It will be the war of all ages. This is the final assault on God before Christ’s return. It will be both a battle in the heavens and a battle on the earth against the woman.



Henry Morris – “With what weapons and by what tactics this heavenly warfare will be waged is beyond our understanding. Angels cannot be injured or slain with earthly weapons, and such physical forces as we know about are not able to move spiritual beings. But these beings do operate in a physical universe, so there must exist powerful physico-spiritual energies of which we yet can have only vague intimations, energies which can propel angelic bodies at super luminary velocities through space and which can move mountains and change planetary orbits. It is with such energies and powers that this heavenly battle will be waged and the spectators in heaven (including John) will watch in awe. When Michael finally prevails, and Satan is forced forever out of the heavens, a tremendous cry of thanksgiving will resound through the heavens. (The Revelation Record [Wheaton, Ill: Tyndale, 1983], 224).

- **There will be a great war in the _____ heavens _____.** (v. 7-12). Satan has actively opposed the holy angels since his fall (Dan 10:12-13, Jude 9). But this conflict will be between Satan and Michael & his angels. Satan will start the battle. We don’t know what will trigger the battle, but it may be the rapture of the Church (1 Thess 4:16-17). Michael the defender of God’s people will protect them against satanic destruction (Dan 12:1). Satan will be defeated and thrown down from heaven to the earth along with his angels. As a result, there will be great celebration not by the angels but by the redeemed glorified saints in heaven. They will rejoice that salvation has arrived as well as the Kingdom and the authority of Christ. The basis for victory over Satan was the blood of the Lamb and they overcame Satan’s

assaults through the word of their testimony. Therefore, there was great rejoicing, but a woe was given to those left on the earth because Satan's wrath will be violent on the earth against God's people in those remaining days.

- **There will be a great war on the _____earth_____.** (v. 13-17). When Satan was thrown to the earth, he will attack the woman, Israel with a vengeance. There will be 3 attacks. 1) Satan will attack Israel and they will flee to the wilderness (v. 6). Jesus predicted this in the Olivet Discourse (Matt 24:15-22). God will help them directly (Ex 19:4), but they will also be helped while in hiding by some of the Gentile nations (Matt 24:31-40). 2) Being thwarted to massacre the Jewish people, Satan will resort to long range tactics. He will pour out trouble on Israel desiring them to be swept away. The flood may be water, false teaching, or even an army of invaders. But the Lord will protect them and this flood will be swallowed up by the earth. 3) Thoroughly frustrated, Satan will make war with the rest of Israel's offspring which may be the 144,000, or even Gentile Tribulation saints who are sons of Abraham by faith. These are the ones who have kept the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

