

## THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

**INTRODUCTION:** In this study we see how in every age (after each sealing period) the rejecters of God's truth and mercy bring destruction upon themselves. Also, how in our time we may be sealed and thus escape the terrors of the great and dreadful day of the Lord, the judgment of the living.

### ARE THE TRUMPETS SYMBOLICAL OR LITERAL?

1. They must be symbolical since the results and effects of these common literal elements when mingled together are completely different from those described in the prophecy.
  - a. Literal fire, hail and blood mixed together do not have the singular results as described in the prophecy. Instead, the fire would melt the hail and burn up the blood and/or be extinguished by them.
  - b. Likewise, a literal burning mountain cast into the sea would be extinguished or would convert the waves to steam. The results are different than prophecy.
2. Thus we see if some of this prophecy is symbolical, than all of it must be.

### WHAT IS THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS?

1. The trumpets, like the plagues, bring destruction upon the wicked after their probation has closed.
2. Being 7 in number (completeness), like the 7 seals, they cover the world's entire history, destroying the wicked who reject the truth for each sealing period. Thus though described separately, in reality each trumpet follows its corresponding seal as they pass in review before the great Judicial Tribunal.
3. Again, like the seals in the Judgment, they begin with those who first lived upon the earth. **GC 483**

### THE FIRST TRUMPET

1. Must be sought as far back in history as the first destruction of a wicked multitude--the flood.
2. **Fire** - Most common of the three elements - The Holy Spirit **Ex. 3:2; 19:18; Jer. 23:29; Acts 2:3**
3. **Casting** - Descending of the Holy Ghost with words of truth **John 14:19; 1 Peter 3:18**
4. **Blood** - The life of the flesh...mortal life
5. **Hail** - Destruction... **Job 38:22, 23**
6. **Trees** - Show stature, sturdiness, stability, long life. The inmates of the ark were progenitors of post-diluvian world.
7. **Grass** - common people **Isa. 40:67; Dan. 4:15**
8. **"the third part"** - All the wicked... as a third of the angels were cast out of heaven.

### THE SECOND TRUMPET

1. This post-flood destruction is preceded by the message of the ceremonial system.

The Israelite movement is the first post-flood church with a message--ceremonial system.

2. **Mountain** - The Old Testament church **Zech. 8:3; Isa. 2:3**
3. **Burning with fire** - God's present in the midst and round about. **Ex. 3:2**
4. **A third part of the Sea** - The storehouse of the waters (original abode) of peoples, multitudes and nations. **Rev. 17:15; Isa. 42:10**. The Israelite movement reached only a part of the world, those wicked with whom the movement came into close contact, especially in the Promised Land.
5. **Became blood** - Those with whom the Israel came in contact: Israel was a life-saving agent or an agent of destruction.
6. **"creatures...had life and died"** The third part in the sea which died are those newly converted heathen who had eternal life, but who sinned it away ("died")
7. **Ships** - Heathen religion and their temples (shelter and convey people). God commanded that they ("ships") be destroyed by the Israelites. (**Deut. 12:2, 3**)

### THE THIRD TRUMPET

1. The period of the Bible. Those who do not accept the Old Testament in this period are destroyed.
2. **Star** - The Word of God; the Old Testament. The only light-bearing object from Heaven is the Word. (**Ps. 119:105**) Since it falls only on the "third part" (a portion), it is the Old Testament, which was accessible to only a portion of the nations.
3. **Rivers** - the nations. The "third part" (wicked) are the heathen nations which came into close contact with the Bible.
4. **Fountains** - His chosen people (the twelve tribes of Israel), in whom His word was the waters of life, making them living fountains. **John 7:38; Deut. 33:28**
5. **Wormwood** - An herb which, when used medicinally, has purging and cleansing qualities. The word of God has the power to purge away the cause and effects of spiritual debility and to restore healthy functions and tone to the sin-sick soul.

### THE FOURTH TRUMPET

1. The Church of God is subjugated by Babylon.
2. **Sun, moon, and stars** - the church of God in three parts. Joseph's dream of the sun, moon and stars bowing to him, as interpreted by his father Jacob, signified that the church at that time (present truth) was comprised of his father (the sun--the repository of the unwritten word of God), his mother (the moon--holy temple), and his brother (the stars--congregation of the saints). It is correlated to identify the location of the church and its condition.
3. **"a third part"** - One of the three periods of the nation's history, from the occupation of the promised land to the captivity in Babylon. The three periods are:
  - a. from the exodus from Egypt to the possession of the Promised Land.
  - b. from the occupation of the Promised Land to the captivity in Babylon;
  - c. from the deliverance from Babylon to the Advent of Christ.
4. **"smitten", "darkened"** - The smiting of the sun, moon, and stars symbolically reveals a punishment upon ancient Israel. The nation (stars) was taken into Babylonian captivity, the temple (moon) destroyed, and the service (sun) abolished.

Thus resulted spiritual darkness in the earth for over 70 years until the temple was rebuilt and the sacrificial services reestablished.

5. “**day**” - That portion of the earth where the light of the sun directly shines, the promised land.
6. “**night**” - That portion of the earth where the sun is reflected by the moon and the stars--the heathen.
7. Since the religious system of ancient Israel was the only spiritual light in all the ancient world, then the extinguishing of that light (the “day”) meant also that the heathen (the “night”) also did not receive light.

### THE WOES

1. The woes signify a change between the first four and the last three trumpets. Following the crucifixion of Christ and the ushering in of the New Testament era, the woes point to (1) Satan persecuting the faithful and (2) Satan persecuting the heathen.

### THE FIFTH TRUMPET

1. This period is signified by the appearance of Christ, His crucifixion and resurrection, and the going forth of the early Christians to preach the gospel.
2. **Star** - Jesus (1<sup>st</sup> Advent) **John 1:14; Rev. 22:16**
3. **Key** - Deliverance from sin and death--the Gospel
4. **Bottomless Pit** - Earth in its state as a prison house for sinners. (**Rev. 20:3**)
5. **Smoke** - Christ’s crucifixion. The sacrifice of the ceremonial system prefigured Christ’s sacrifice. **AA 14; DA 632**
6. **Darkened sun and air** - Darkness over the land from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> hour. **Mark 15:33**
7. **LOCUSTS** - Christians. Should not kill (**Matt. 5:38, 39**) Swarm like locusts **Acts 2:41, 47**
8. **Crowns like gold** - The authority of Christ **Matt 16:19**
9. **Hair of women** - Church their glory **1 Cor. 11:15; Jer. 6:2**
10. **Teeth of lion** - Power to kill **Acts 5:1-11**
11. **Breastplates of iron** - Faith and love **1 Thess. 5:8; Acts 5:42**
12. **Sound of wings...to battle** - Fearlessness. **Acts 20:20-22**
13. **Their king** - Jesus **1 Cor. 10:1-4**
  - a. **Abaddon** - destroyer of His enemies. **Lk. 19:14; Deut. 12:2, 3**
  - b. **Apollyon** - Exterminator of wicked. **Rev. 19:15-18**
14. **Tails** - Laity **Rom 12:5**
15. **Stings** - torment to wicked. **Acts 4:16-18; John 12:19**
16. **Five months** - Crucifixion to Ezekiel nine.
17. **Glad to die but cannot** - ready to die **Acts 20:18, 19.23-27** but cannot **Daniel 12:1, EW 34; Luke 17:31, 33**

### THE SIXTH TRUMPET

1. The church is liberated from her long bondage to the tyranny of church-state rule. The angels prepare themselves on four successive occasions for the eventual

execution of death upon the wicked. By the threefold message (fire, smoke, and brimstone) are the wicked killed.

2. **The time of the sixth seal** - Before 1844 (voice comes from golden altar). **Rev. 9:13**. Events of sixth recorded from **Rev. 9:14 to Rev. 11:4**. Sixth trumpet sounded before 1260 day period. (**Rev. 11:3**)
3. **The river Euphrates** - Typifies Babylon; waters where whore sitteth (**Rev. 17:15**). Capitol city of ancient Babylon built on both sides of the Euphrates. **Jer. 46:10, 13; PK 523, 531**
4. **Angels loosed** - Set church free from Babylonian captivity after 1798 **Jer. 29:10**
5. **Four fold message** -
  - a. **an hour** - "Fear God and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment has come." **Rev. 14:7**
  - b. **a day** - "The great and dreadful day of the Lord" **Mal. 4:5; TM 475**
  - c. **a month** - The latter rain in the first month. **Joel 2:23; Rev. 18:1**
  - d. **a year** - The year of the redeemed (sealing and deliverance of 144,000) **Isa. 63:4**
6. **Horses** - Gospel workers under different circumstances. **Zech. 14:20**
7. **Heads of a lion** - The lion, king of the beast, is strong and fearless. These are fearless in their efforts to spread the gospel truth.
8. **Horsemen** - Angels who do the killing
9. **Breastplates of fire** - protection of the Spirit
10. **Fire, smoke, brimstone**
  - a. **fire** - power of the Holy Spirit
  - b. **smoke** - sacrifices of Christ
  - c. **brimstone** - destructive judgments of God
11. **Serpent-like tails** - Converts; with which they do hurt--shows active part in the work.

## THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

1. The sounding of this trumpet brings the Judgment to an end and announces that the "kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord." The mystery of God is now finished. **Rev. 10:7**. He which is Holy and just must remain so and likewise he which is filthy. It is also a time for saints to receive their reward.
2. The opening of the temple now indicates the end of the judgment; the close of probation. Then no man will be able to enter the sanctuary "till the seven last plagues are fulfilled".
3. That the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet will not sound until after the gospel closes also proves that the trumpets bring destruction upon those wicked who reject the truth.

**SUMMARY:** "Can there be anyone who has ascended the present heights of divine revelation, commanding full perspective on the conflict of the ages as it comes in review before the Judgment throne, and yet has not realized that upon his gladly complying with the message of the hour hands his eternal destine. If there be such a one unpersuaded by this final warning, then 'neither will (he) be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.' Luke 16:31. He shall experience

tragedy indescribable: His name shall be blotted from the books. His life shall be in forfeit to the destroyers. His soul shall faint with 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' Matt. 8:12. He shall perish from the earth--lost forever." **5 Tr. 117, 118**