"TRUMPETS OF WRATH"

Revelation 8-9
6-5-2022



INTRODUCTION:

***The future trumpet judgments serve as a warning to repent today!**

I. Trumpet # 1 - The <u>earth</u> will be severely damaged (8:7)

II. Trumpet # 2 - The <u>sea life</u> will be greatly diminished (8:8-9)

III. Trumpet # 3 - The <u>water supply</u> will be limited (8:10-11)

IV. Trumpet # 4 - The <u>daylight</u> will be drastically reduced (8:12-13)

V. Trumpet # 5 - The <u>torment</u> will be unbearable (9:1-12)

VI. Trumpet # 6 - The <u>death toll</u> will be massive (9:13-19)

CONCLUSION: 9:20-21

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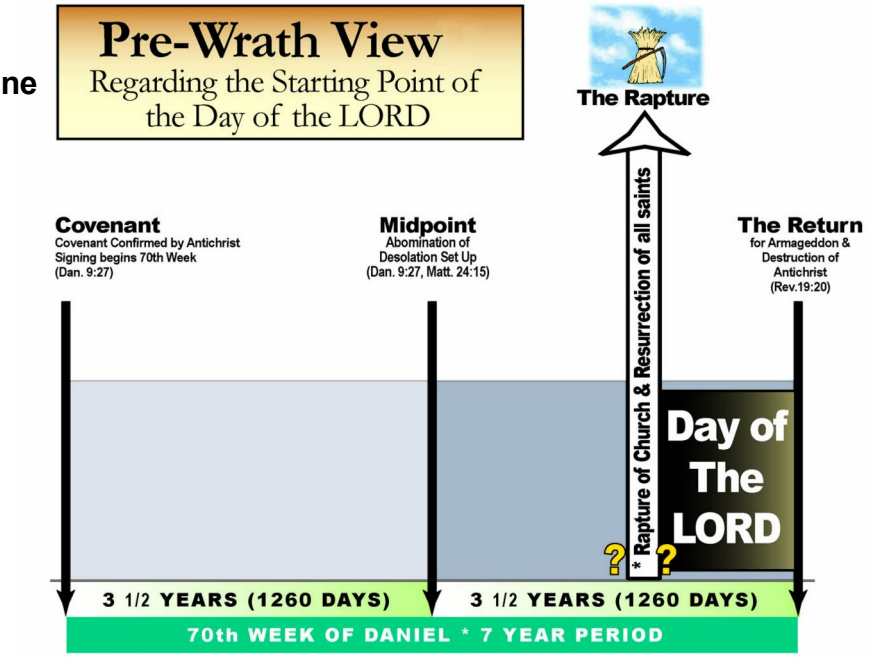
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INTRODUCTION: **Time Line**



*The Arrow is placed on the time-line to indicate the sequence of events surrounding the Rapture. The Arrow is NOT an exact time indicator.

8:1

"Silence in Heaven" = the calm before the storm; "the heavenly hush before the hellish horror."

The silence depicts suspense and anticipation as all of Heaven awaits the fulfillment of the Day of the Lord's wrath. As the final seal (the seventh seal) is opened, the scroll will now be opened, and it's contents fulfilled.

The silence, no doubt, is a cessation of the praise described in 7:10-12.

Even the cherubim, of whom it is said, *"They rest not day and night saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty"* (4:8) now are silent . . . something unusual, something of tremendous importance, must be about to take place. (J.B. Smith, p. 137).

**This silence is a fulfillment of Zephaniah 1:7 which declares: *"Hold thy peace at the presence of the LORD God: for the day of the LORD is at hand"* (note also Zeph.1:14-18, esp. v. 16 *"a day of the trumpet"*).

8:2

"Seven trumpets"

I believe that the Trumpet Judgments will be the ultimate fulfillment of the feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23)

The 7 feasts of Israel in Leviticus 23:

1. Messiah died at Passover
2. Was buried during Unleavened Bread
3. Arose to fulfill Firstfruits
4. Sent His Spirit and began gathering His harvest on Pentecost
5. Will Return for the Rapture and Day of the Lord for Trumpets
6. Israel will repent at Yom Kippur
7. The LORD will tabernacle among us in the Kingdom to fulfill Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:24-27
The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah) “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: but ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.
And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement (Yom Kippur): it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.”

Jewish people today believe: “The shofar will be blown on the Day of Judgment when Moshiach comes. We thus blow the shofar on Rosh Hashanah to remind us to examine our deeds and contemplate how we can improve them”. (Chabad.org)

In the O.T. there were 3 primary purposes of the blowing of a trumpet (shofar):

1. To summon people together
2. To warn of danger
3. To announce war

One Day, the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and God’s people will be raptured
Then God goes to war upon an unbelieving world in the Day of the LORD.

Here in Revelation as in several O.T. passages the blowing of a trumpet serves as a warning of impending judgment (SEE Jer. 4:5, 19, 21; 6:1; cp. Hos. 5:8; Amos 3:6, SEE Zeph. 1:14-2:3 *v. 16).

The 7 trumpet judgments involve the <u>first</u> state of God's out-poured wrath, whereas
the 7 bowl (vial) judgments describe the <u>final</u> stage of God's out-poured wrath (15:1).

The 7 trumpets serve as a final warning and foreshadowing of what immediately follows.
NOTE: The parallels between the 7 trumpets and 7 vials (bowls) [The major difference between the trumpets and the vials is the intensity and extensiveness of the judgments]

> For example:
> The trumpets describe <u>partial</u> destruction ("the third part" - 7:7-12; "not kill them" - 9:5; "slay the third part of men" - 9:15) whereas the vials describe <u>total</u> destruction.

Trumpet #1 -	**1/3 burning (8:7)**
Vial #1 -	***Sores on <u>all</u> with the mark (16:2)***
Trumpet #2 -	**1/3 sea becomes blood (8:8)**
Vial #2 -	***All sea becomes blood (16:3)***
Trumpet #3 -	**1/3 of fresh water smitten (8:10)**
Vial #3 -	***All fresh water smitten (16:4)***
Trumpet #4 -	**1/3 of sun darkened (8:12)**
Vial #4 -	***Sun scorches men with fire (16:8)***
Trumpet #5 -	**Torment for five months (9:10)**
Vial #5 -	***Intense torment (16:10-11)***
Trumpet #6 -	**1/3 men killed (9:15)**
Vial #6 -	***Armageddon (16:16)***
Trumpet #7 -	**"Thy wrath is come" (11:18)**
Vial #7 -	***"It is done" (16:17)***

8:3

"Golden censer . . . Golden altar" -

"Censer" - a decorative vessel used for burning incense
"Gold" - symbolic of purity
"Altar" - the reality of what the O.T. golden altar of incense represented

In Exodus 30:1-10, the altar of incense stood in front of the curtain that shut off the Holy of Holies (it was outside the Holy of Holies and incense was to burn morning and evening). The composition of the incense was precise (Ex. 30:34-38) (cp. sacrilege of Nadab & Abihu - Ex. 10:1-3).

NOTE: the connection between burning incense and prayer (Lk. 1:10).

The last time the word **"altar"** appeared in Revelation was in 6:9-10 when the Souls under the altar asked when God would judge the world and avenge their shed blood.

8:4

"Incense...with the prayers" - The incense and the prayers would ascend up to God and remind Him of what His saints suffered during the Tribulation (Rev. 6:9-11) God is now going to answer of prayers of the "souls under the altar".

God never forgets the prayers of the righteous. All of the torment that God's people will face during the Tribulation will cause them to ask God not to let it continue; to not allow the wickedness of men to go unpunished. One day God will answer those prayers.

8:5

"Fire of the altar" - a reference to burning coals from off of the altar (cp. Lev. 16:12; Is.

6:6)
"Voices" - loud sounds

"Thunderings and lightenings . . . an earthquake" = are all signs of impending doom (cp. the same occurs as the seventh vial is poured out - 16:17-18).
The powerful sound of voices, thunderings, lightnings & an earthquake break the silence of verse 1.

Thunders are mute rumblings of nature which tell of the approaching storm.

> Lightnings perhaps suggests the rapidity with which the judgements will strike the earth.
>
> The earth quakes as if to shudder at the outrages of her inhabitants. (Smith, p. 139)

8:6
As the 7 angels sound their trumpets, supernatural judgments occur.

The unusual nature of the judgments (EX: hail, fire mixed with blood - v. 7, etc.) is to prove to man that God is now judging (in contrast to the first five "seals" which are the natural results of man's sin). These judgments are not the result of man (we are not to interpret these judgments as being the result of nuclear wars or natural catastrophes) but are the direct intervention of God during "the day of the Lord."

A Practical Key Truth -- ** The future trumpet judgments serve as a warning to repent today!

I. Trumpet # 1 - The earth will be severely damaged (8:7)

"Trees and grass" burned. Previously, God (through an angel) told four other angels not to hurt the earth, sea, or trees, until the 144,000 Jews were sealed (7:2-3).
Now they are sealed and protected from suffering the effects of what follows.

> Note: Although the 144,000 Jews are the only people God specifies as being sealed, the 144,000 are not necessarily the only people on earth who will be sealed; Other Jews and Gentiles will evidently be sealed also so as to live through the horrors of the Day of the LORD, and to inherit the Millennial Kingdom (Is.60:14-16).

Imagine the effect this judgment will have on the earth!
The coolish effect of grass will be removed and the oxygen supplied by 1/3 of the trees is stopped.
Much of the earth will quickly become a dry, dusty waste land or desert.

II. Trumpet # 2 - The <u>sea life</u> will be greatly diminished (8:8-9)

8:8
"Mountain burning with fire" – What is this "mountain burning with fire"?
A falling star, meteor or super nova?

God prophecies that the destroying mountain of Babylon will be burnt and rolled down from its loftiness (Is. 51:25)
This mountain , however, seems to be figurative of something else: ***"<u>AS IT WERE</u> a great mountain"***

"The sea became <u>blood</u>" - Why blood?
ANSWER: Bloody water is payback for innocent blood shed (Rev. 16:4-6).

8:9
1/3 of sea life dies because of the bloody waters. Imagine the putrefying <u>odor</u> of rotting sea life floating on the surface of bloody seas and covering the shores of beaches.
"Ships...destroyed" - they are destroyed by the force of the submerging "mountain" as it violently shakes the waves. Jesus warned of "sea waves roaring" in the last days (Luke 21:25).

III. Trumpet # 3 - The <u>water supply</u> will be limited (8:10-11)

8:10
Whereas v. 8-9 described God's judgment upon the ocean, now He unveils His judgment upon the fresh water.

8:11
"Wormwood" = a bitter plant common to Palestine.
When people have no water to drink, rather than die of thirst, they force down water unfit for human consumption and die as a result.
Contrast this with the bitter waters at Marah which were sweetened. If God could sweeten the bitter (undrinkable), He can in reverse make bitter (undrinkable) the sweet water.

IV. Trumpet # 4 - The <u>daylight</u> will be drastically reduced (8:12-13)

8:12
A day will still last 24 hours since the orbiting rotation of the earth around the sun does not change, but the amount of sunlight and moonlight will be drastically reduced (Amos 8:9 - *"And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day."*).
Can you imagine it getting dark by 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.?

Note: The "Sun" which was temporarily & totally darkened and the "moon" which was temporarily & totally altered in its color at the 6th. seal (Rev.6:12) <u>will return to 2/3rds of their light.</u> <u>Not</u> all of the stars fell unto the earth at the 6th. seal, so that 1/3 of the stars which remained will be darkened at the 4th. Trumpet.

8:13
Whereas the first four trumpet judgments describe what happens to the <u>material universe and earth</u>, the last 3 (also called *"woes"*) describe what happens to the <u>people</u> remaining on the earth.
"Woe" - an exclamation of warning, a threat of despair.
The angel is saying: "Look out! Get ready! You have had it!"

V. Trumpet # 5 - The <u>torment</u> will be unbearable (9:1-12)

9:1
"A <u>star</u> fall from heaven" (cp. 8:10)

A reference to an intelligent angelic being (cp. v. 2 - ***"He"***)
The word ***"star"*** is used of angelic creatures elsewhere in Scripture (cp. Rev. 1:20; Job 38:7).
This one who has the key is evidently a good angel who casts Satan into this same pit for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).

"Bottomless pit" - an abyss where demons are kept.
The demons feared this “deep” pit (Lk. 8:31); many of whom are presently chained in darkness there *"reserved unto judgment"* (II Pet. 2:4).

Note: The Antichrist will be killed, descend into this pit and ascend out of it at the mid-point of the final 7 years (Rev. 11:7, 17:8).

9:2
The saying "Where there is smoke, there is fire" certainly applies here (cp. 9:17, 18; 18:9, 18; 19:3).

9:3

"Locusts" = their location (from the pit), power (like scorpions - v. 3, 5), and description reveals them to be something other than literal locust (cp. v. 7-9).

They are clearly demons. For this occasion, God allows them a time of freedom and a power to inflict injury on those who rejected God.

9:4
Normally, locusts devour plant life, but these creatures, being demonic, will torture people.

Among those who are sealed are the 144,000 redeemed Israelites (Rev. 7). God sets apart and protects His own.

9:5
"It was given them" (cp. v. 4 - "It was commanded them") - God is in ultimate control. Even the demons obey Him; they can do nothing unless it is "given them."

Why ***"five months"***? Five months may be the only time remaining until the "Day of the LORD's wrath" is over; Also it is interesting that the duration of 5 months alludes to the normal life span of the locust.

"Scorpion" - a nocturnal creature that looks like a combination of a spider and a crab. It has a tail that it curls over its back in position to strike at its prey and to inject its poison (venom).

The sting of a scorpion affects one's central nervous system and causes severe pain and often fatality.

9:6
The pain inflicted by the demonic locust army is so severe that people will wish to die to escape it, but will not be able to.
For five months, they will be in intense agony and no doctor will have a remedy!
Today, suicide is a "way out," but then it will not be!

9:7-10
SEE Joel 2:1-11 which describes these creatures and their destruction in "the day of the Lord."

9:11
"Contrary to ordinary locusts (Prov. 30:27), these have a king over them" (Smith, p 145).
This ***"king"*** over them is apparently not the angel that opened the pit, but their leader - no doubt a reference to Satan, who fits the description of "destroyer" ("Abaddon"; "Apollyon" - cp. Is. 14:17).

VI. Trumpet # 6 - The death toll will be massive (9:13-19)

9:15

God has <u>everything planned out</u> right to the hour of a particular day, and day in a particular month, and month in a particular year.

9:16

The phrase ***"I heard the number"*** stresses the fact that the 200,000,000 figure is literal, not figurative.

9:17

"They are demon-possessed, hideous monstrosities."

CONCLUSION: 9:20-21

9:20

"Repented not" = they would not change their mind (shows the hardness of the human heart)

"Worship devils" = "The gods whom men worship become agencies of their own torment. Similarly, the gods of Egypt- the Nile, frogs, lice, flies, etc., were turned into plagues upon their worshippers." (Smith, p. 142).

9:21

One's <u>religious</u> life has a direct bearing on his <u>moral</u> life.
Who you worship affects how you behave! As Paul said: Because of idolatry, *"God gave them over to a reprobate mind"* (Rom. 1).

"Murders" - a reference to those who were martyred for Christ's sake;

"Sorceries" - drug use and other potions. From the Greek word, we derive our English "pharmacies" (drug store).

Today, while one's heart is <u>tender</u>, is the day of salvation! (II Cor. 6:2).
In the Day of the LORD, it will be too late to repent (Rev. 22:11) for those who have not been sealed by God.