

Read Revelation!

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:3)

Chapter 8-11: Seven Trumpets!

With the opening of the seventh seal, seven angels come forward to sound the coming of seven judgments. A vision of things in the Heavenly Temple (8:1-5) indicates that these judgments in the Tribulation period will come in answer to *“the prayers of the saints”* enduring the evil of that time. Apparently there really is a Temple arrangement in Heaven after which the Temple of Israel was fashioned (See Hebrews 8:1-6, 9:1-24, and Revelation 6:9, 9:13, 11:19, and 15:5-8).

I. Judgment on the Earth (8:7).

Notice that one-third of plant-life will be destroyed.

II. Judgment on the Sea (8:8-9).

Notice that one-third of ocean creatures will die.

III. Judgment on the Rivers and Fountains (8:10-11).

Notice that one-third of the water will be poisoned and many men will die.

IV. Judgment on the Sun, Moon, and Stars (8:12).

Notice that these heavenly bodies will not shine for one-third of the day or of the night. Look up Chapter 16, and see the similarities of the first four trumpets and the first four vials.

V. Judgment Out of the Pit (8:13 - 9:12).

The last three trumpets are called *“woes”* and will be worse than the first four. When the fifth trumpet sounds, John sees *“a star fall from heaven”* (v. 1—also called *“the angel of the bottomless pit”* and identified with the Devil, v. 11) and open *“the bottomless pit”* to release *“locusts upon the earth”* (v. 3). Obviously, these are not insects, but rather they will be devils sent among men to torment them. (Compare this torment with the *“pain”* inflicted on men by the fifth vial in Revelation 16:10-11). This will be a spiritual/physical judgment of great proportions that will last *“five months.”* We know that the Devil is *“king over”* a great number of fallen angels (See Matthew 12:24 and 25:41). We also know that many of them are now *“in everlasting chains under darkness”* (Jude 6). The bottomless pit is Hell as it now exists. Fallen angels will be released from Hell by the Devil to strike wicked men and foment wars. Does the Lord use the Devil to punish people? Take the time to read these Old Testament scriptures and see that Satan is restricted by God and can be used for divine purposes as God gives him permission to do things: II Samuel 24:1 and I Chronicles 21:1; I Kings 22:6-23 and II Chronicles 18:1-22; Job 1 and 2.

VI. Judgment by an Army (9:13-21).

The fifth trumpet announced an attack by an army of devils. The sixth trumpet announces an attack by a huge army of men. Apparently they will come from the East, across the Euphrates River (v. 14—See Revelation 16:12, the sixth vial). One-third of men will be killed in this attack. The army of devils will not kill men, but only torment them (vs. 5-6). All of these terrible judgments will be sent to call people to repentance. However the wicked will not repent. Revelation 9:21 is the first verse in this book that mentions “*sorceries*.” This sin, associated with idolatry, murder, fornication, and thievery, is mentioned again in Revelation 18:23, 21:8 and 22:15, and will be widespread in the Tribulation. Each time the word is used in Revelation, it is translated from the Greek word *pharmakeia*, which means the use of drugs in occult practices.

VII. Judgments to Close the Tribulation (Chapters 10 and 11).

Just before hearing the seventh trumpet, John sees “*another mighty angel*” (a lot like the one in Daniel 12:5-9) who tells him “*that there shall be time no longer*” (10:1-7). This means that time is up. It’s time for the Kingdom of God! Then God gives him a “*little book*” (10:8-11) and tells him to eat it (as Ezekiel was commanded in Ezekiel 2:9 - 3:3). He is told, “*Thou must prophesy again before many peoples*.” This part of his vision meant that, through the Book of Revelation, John the apostle will prophesy to people over the centuries, and especially to the nations of people in the Tribulation period. Then John gets the vision of the “*two witnesses*” that will preach in Jerusalem for 3½ years (Revelation 11:1-14). These two are clearly compared to Elijah (notice vs. 5-6) and Moses (v. 6). The end of the Old Testament predicts that Elijah will come again before “*the great and dreadful day of the Lord*.” Verse 9 of Revelation 11 seems to indicate that there will be world-wide television in the Tribulation. The two witnesses will be killed, and the whole world will look at their dead bodies on the ground. An international holiday will be declared (v. 10) to celebrate their deaths because “*these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth*.” Then, after 3½ days, God will raise them from death right before the eyes of the world, and catch them “*up to heaven*,” as in the Rapture (vs. 11-12). At this time, there will be “*a great earthquake*” which will destroy a tenth of Jerusalem and kill 7000 people (Several earthquakes are reported in the Book of Revelation—6:12, 16:18). Certainly, the world will pay attention to what God is doing! The saved will glorify God (v. 13), and the wicked will harden their hearts (9:21). When John hears the seventh angel sound his trumpet, a spectacular announce-ment of the Kingdom of God is made (11:15-19). When the time of the seventh trumpet ends, the Kingdom will come. Chapters 12 through 14 present visions that explain some of the “wonders” of the Great Tribulation, and then the judgment narrative continues in Chapter 15. See the opening of the heavenly Temple at the end of Chapter 11 (v. 19). See the open Temple again in Chapter 15, where the narrative continues (vs. 5-8). See that the seventh trumpet not only announces the Kingdom, but also the “*last plagues*” that will hit the earth before the King comes!