

Lesson 10 The Seven Trumpet Judgments, Revelation 8:6-Revelation 11

Looking at the chronology of the Judgments

Some of the hardest things for me to grasp in the study of history are the events that occur at the same time all over the world in different places. I am attempting to put into words those events we would put side by side as happening at the same time in the book of Revelation. Hopefully, this will serve as a refresher for where we are in our story of the end times and also as a summary for the entire tribulation period from the Rapture of the Church to the end of all things.

I am calling on your minds to be insightful during this movement through the tribulation period in the book of Revelation. As you read through this summary, think about what you would put in parentheses that, which occurs at the same time on both sides of the scroll or that, which might be a different view. Just as Adam's loins contained all the "seed" of all those that followed, the scroll, which is the title deed to the earth, contains not only all of the seal judgments, but all of the trumpet judgments and bowl judgments as well. Don't get freaked out by this. It will make sense to you in time.

We started Part 3, Revelation 6-19, Daniel's seventieth week, with looking at the preceding two chapters, Revelation 4 and 5, and the law of land redemption in Israel. This led up to looking for the only One who was worthy to break the seals of the title deed to the earth. Jesus was the only One found worthy to break the seals because He had purchased for God, men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation on the earth. He had paid the price for their redemption with His own blood. He was Mankind's Kinsman Redeemer. Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation were about the things that were current in John's days towards the end of the first century of Christianity. These were of the reality of the churches of the day and the things of which they were struggling. In between chapters 3 and 4 we have a noteworthy change of focus. We find a scene in heaven in chapters 4 and 5. After chapter 3, the Church on earth is not mentioned again until we get to chapter 19 of Revelation. That something that changes the focus of the writing at this point is the Rapture of the Church and its obvious absence from the world scene when we get to the Tribulation in chapter 6.

Jesus breaks the first seal in **Revelation 6** and the first of the seven sealed judgments of God's wrath is released on the earth and on the earth dwellers. The first four seal judgments broken are the four horsemen of the Apocalypse. Each different rider rides a different horse and depicts a different judgment upon the earth. The rider of the white horse had a bow but no arrow indicating he galloped across the world in peace. The second rider had a red horse and he took peace from

the earth or in other words, he rode across the earth by warring. The third rider came out on a black horse with scales of starvation and famine in his hands. The fourth rider came on a pale sickly looking horse with Death and Hades riding in tandem. The fifth seal broken brought those into view whose souls were under the altar awaiting the vengeance of God for their lives had been taken from them. When the sixth seal was broken, there was a great earthquake and there were cosmic disturbances causing the earth dwellers to hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains knowingly fleeing from God's presence and His wrath. At this same time in **Revelation 7**, the 144,000 bondservants of the Lord are sealed on their foreheads, 12,000 each from the 12 tribes of Israel: Judah, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Simeon, Levi, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin. These same 144,000 bondservants are seen later in **Revelation 14:1-5** as standing on Mt. Zion with the Lamb, singing a "new song." These are described as those who were virgins, those not defiled with women. They followed the Lamb wherever He went. They were redeemed by God and the Lamb and were seen as the First Fruits. In other words, they were redeemed first with the promise of more to-be-redeemed coming after them. They were the evangelists who preached the Gospel to the rest of the world and were responsible for the great multitude of people in Heaven seen back in Revelation 7. With the breaking of the seventh seal, there is silence in Heaven.

Here is where I want you to shift gears. I want you to put what follows into a parenthesis. At this point, I want you to turn the scroll over and read the back of the scroll. Think of this as the time to get ready for the final seal judgment to be released upon the earth dwellers and the earth. Remember this scroll was "written inside and on" the back (**Revelation 5:1**). (On the back of the scroll is "silence about the space of one-half hour." In other words there is silence in Heaven for 30 minutes. ODD! This is especially odd, because Heaven is most likely outside of time, as we know time to be. Now with the breaking of the seventh seal, we have seven more angels with seven more judgments called the seven trumpet judgments. Before they begin to sound their trumpets, things happen in Heaven. Each of the seven angels is given a trumpet. Another angel is present and with much incense in the golden censer, offers up that incense upon the golden altar as the prayers of the saints. The smoke of the incense with the prayers of the saints ascends up before God. Then this same angel fills the same golden censer with fire from the altar and throws it to the earth. Voices, lightning, and an earthquake occur on the earth. Parenthesis closed).

Revelation 8: Now, turn the scroll back over to the front. The angel with the first trumpet sounds, then the second, third, and so on in **Revelation 9** until we have six trumpets sounded. (Now, turn the scroll over to the back once again. Before the final seventh trumpet sounds, we have another parenthesis. Think of this time as getting ready for the final seventh angel to sound the seventh trumpet judgment. Here in **Revelation 10-11** we have another mighty angel come down from heaven and he has a little book in his hand. The angel cries like a lion roars and seven thunders utter their voices. John the Revelator is about to write down what the

seven thunders utter but is told instead to seal them up and not write them down. "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets." Then John is told to take the little book and eat it. It will be sweet and taste like honey, but will be bitter in his stomach. John eats the book and it tastes like honey in his mouth, but in his stomach it is bitter. Then John is told to prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings." Then John is given a measuring rod to measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. Here is where God introduces His two witnesses who prophesy at the temple of God on the earth for 42 months. After the death and resurrection of the two witnesses, the 2nd woe or 6th trumpet judgment is over and the seventh angel is cleared to sound. **Revelation 11:14** The seventh angel sounds. There is a loud voice in heaven and it says, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." Now before we see the unleashing of the last group of judgments called the bowl judgments, we are going to look at what Harry A. Ironside, in his lectures on Revelation, calls the "great actors for good and evil in the last days," in **Revelation 12-13**. The pictures we are getting of these actors on this side of the scroll is from the viewpoint of events specifically in relationship to Israel. These are those actors: the woman clothed with the sun, the Man-child who is to rule the nations with a rod of iron, the archangel Michael, the dragon or the serpent of old, the Devil, the coming world confederacy and its blasphemous head, and the lamb-like Beast. **Revelation 14** speaks to the Second coming of Christ and the 144,000 bondservants who stand with Him on Mount Zion. Here, we are also introduced to seven more angels of whom one is like the son of man. The first angel flies in Mid-heaven and preaches an eternal gospel to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. The second angel declares Babylon the great is fallen. The third angel warns if anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives the mark, he will also drink of the wine of the wrath of God and will be tormented forever. The fourth angel, like the son of man, has a sharp sickle in his hand to reap the harvest of the earth. The fifth angel comes out of the Temple in heaven also with a sharp sickle. And the seventh angel, who has power over fire, comes out from the altar and tells the one who has the sharp sickle to put his sharp sickle in and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth because her grapes are ripe. All of this that goes before has been preparation for the next seven plagues or judgments of God to be unleashed on the earth and the earth dwellers that have worshiped the beast and received his mark and have rejected the Lord as their Savior. Parenthesis closed).

Revelation 15-16 Now turn the scroll back over to the front side again. The seven angels with the seven bowls or vials of plagues are ready to pour the contents of their bowls upon the earth. John writes that these plagues are the last of the wrath of God, for "in them the wrath of God is finished." John sees those who have been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God and they are singing the song of Moses and also the song of the Lamb. The first angel pours out his bowl on the earth, and then the second, and the third until the seventh bowl is poured out. The sixth angel

pours out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and the river dries up so that those kings from the east who are preparing to fight the war for the great day of God, the Almighty, in the place called Har-Magedon, can get ready.

Revelation 17 and 18 describe the doom of Babylon in detail. In **Revelation 19**, we have the Lord's descent to the earth, accompanied by the armies of heaven, to establish His millennial kingdom. I believe this will be where Christ comes for His remnant of the Jewish people who will finally proclaim Him as their Messiah.

Days 1 and 2 **The First Four Trumpet Judgments**

With the last seal judgment comes the next 7 trumpet judgments. We've seen how heaven has readied herself for these next 7 trumpet judgments. There has been silence in Heaven for ½ hour. What do you think this silence in Heaven represents? I know we have spoken of this before in part 3 of this Revelation study. Why is there a calm with no wind, no rain, no hail, no thundering right before a storm on this earth? Is the calm a pause, a few minutes to collect ourselves, a few more minutes to get ready for what we know is coming? Is it a gift from God to stop whatever we are doing and do what is absolutely essential for our survival?

Jeff and I came from Indiana to Colorado thirty years ago next June. Indiana is known to Hoosiers as Tornado Alley. A tornado in Indiana in 2002, one-half mile wide, stayed on the ground for 80 miles devastating everything in its pathway. That tornado dissipated 5 miles to the southwest of where my parents lived in Indianapolis. Not a soul was killed or even hurt. When I go back to Southport now, I always look for the large opening, between buildings, that is north of the Steak in Shake in Southport where that tornado came through. God blessed Indiana residents with no fatalities from tornadoes that day. However, no fatalities after a tornado, has not always been the case. I was nine years old, living in Indianapolis with my parents, when 47 tornadoes touched down in the Midwest states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, the weekend of Palm Sunday, 1965. There were 271 people killed (137 in Indiana) and 1,500 injured (1200 in Indiana). Needless to say, one of the reasons I was willing to move to Colorado was so my family could escape the destruction of the very powerful tornadoes seen in Indiana. I learned very early in life that the trumpet blaring "tornado watch" meant conditions were right for a tornado to form. The trumpet blaring "tornado warning," meant a tornado had been sighted and I needed to take cover immediately.

Do you suppose that during this ½ hour of calm in Heaven, the angels responsible for Believers in Christ still on the earth will be readying themselves to protect them through the coming trumpet judgments? If those Believers who are already in Heaven, are allowed to view what is about to happen on the earth, will they be using the ½ hour of calm to give up prayers to God for their loved ones still present on the earth in the Tribulation. I have to think that during this time, God is giving those who have not yet taken the mark, those who are not yet under the deluding

influence of the anti-Christ, those who have not yet accepted His Son, a little space for repentance. Could it be that the angel-priest who fills the golden censer with the fire of the altar, is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, still making intercession for those who are still on the earth? After all with the opening of the final seal judgment and the commencing of the seven trumpet judgments, the final drama of the Great Tribulation begins.

The First Trumpet Judgment – Hail, Fire, mingled with Blood thrown down upon the Earth

Please read **Revelation 8:7**.

What followed after the first angel sounded?

What happened to a third part of the trees and all the green grass?

What is the grass a symbol of in **Isaiah 40:6**?

Continue reading **Revelation 8:7**. If all “flesh” is grass, then the picture of Man in **Revelation 8:7** is associated with all grass that is burned up. What does this say about Man?

If the grass is a symbol of Man’s frailty, then what is the meaning behind the trees in **Revelation 8:7** in regards to Mankind?

What was Nebuchadnezzar likened to in **Daniel 4:10-26**?

What were the cedars of Lebanon likened to in **Isaiah 2:12-13**?

What does **Matthew 3:10** imply about trees? What does this imply about Mankind?

Grass is Man in weakness. The Trees are Man in his pride. All the green grass being burned up is a symbol of how frail humanity really is. The one-third of the trees being burned up is symbolic of God’s judgment on Mankind for his pride. He thinks he is powerful, but in reality, he is frail like the grass.

Joel 1:18-20 KJV reads, “How do the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field. The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”

Tim LaHaye in his Prophecy Study Bible page 1377 believes John the revelator sees the devastation of the first trumpet judgment as a picture “of a vast global conflagration in which one third of the vegetation of earth is burned up. This is a literal experience that shall terrify the whole earth.” In their Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, pages 392-393, Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson, say this about the blood which is mingled with fire: “Blood” (Greek, *haima*) is often used in Scripture to describe pollution or even disease after it has been exposed for a long time on clothes or skin. Blood was not to be eaten (**Leviticus 7:26**) and because bathing was at a premium in a hot climate, women were unclean for a time after menstruation (**Leviticus 12:4**). The reason is that blood putrefies so quickly and rapidly becomes germ ridden. Blood then becomes a metaphor in **Revelation 8:7** of a terrible disaster of awful circumstances that come upon the earth.”

What is the significance of “a third,” mentioned in connection with six of the trumpet judgments? Is this literal or an approximation?

Notice that “all” the green grass is burned up in this first trumpet judgment.

It is apparent that this first trumpet judgment has negative effects on the ecology and climate of the earth. Subsequently, all life suffers.

So the first angel’s trumpet releases a fiery judgment upon those earth dwellers that have rejected God’s salvation, and those who have accepted the mark of the beast, even though the Gospel message has been given to them over and over again.

The Second Trumpet Judgment – A Burning Mountain is cast upon the Sea

Please read **Revelation 8:8-9**.

Please read **Jeremiah 51:25**. What is the similarity between this verse and the events of **Revelation 8:8-9**? Massive Hint: go back and read **Jeremiah 51:1** to see to whom this chapter is written.

A “destroying mountain” in the Old Testament is a symbol of literal Babylon, says Harry A Ironside in His lecture on the breaking of the seventh seal.²³ In the New Testament in Revelation, the great mountain burning with fire thrown into the sea

²³ Harry A. Ironside, *An Ironside Expository Commentary on Revelation, “The Breaking of the Seventh Seal” Lecture*, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI, reprinted 2004, p. 87.

is symbolic of “Spiritual Babylon.” This mountain is brought to an end when thrown into the sea on this judgment day. I think Harry Ironside sees the Babylon of Revelation as spiritual, because the literal Babylon of the Old Testament was to be destroyed completely and never to be rebuilt. Remember, we don’t really know whether the Babylon of Revelation is representative of the actual city of Babylon, or Rome (the city on seven hills), or Jerusalem (also symbolically called Sodom), or if Babylon is the world system. What do you think? Go ahead and read about the destruction of Babylon described in **Revelation 17 and 18**.

Jeremiah 51, may have been written to the Babylon of Jeremiah’s day and meant literal Babylon, but there is much similarity to the spiritual Babylon we will see in the book of Revelation. If you have the time, read through the entire chapter of **Jeremiah 51** and record any insights below:

When Daniel and his friends were taken to Babylon, they were given new names. Their old names reflected Jehovah God who they worshiped. The newer Babylonian names given to them reflected the names of the god of the Babylonians, “Bel.” What do we know about gods other than Jehovah God? What were (or are) they in reality?

Babylon was the source of many if not all of the idols Mankind has worshiped down through the ages. This may be another reason that Ironside sees the Babylon of Revelation as spiritual Babylon. I have mentioned this in the past, but I will mention it again here: the gods of the Babylonians were passed down to the next ruling kingdoms of the earth with name changes. So, the Babylonian gods or idols were passed to the next ruling kingdom, the Medo-Persian kingdom, the Medo-Persians to the Greeks, and finally, the Greeks to the Romans. The names of the gods changed each time a new ruling empire came to absolute power, but they were the same idols/gods of the former empires.

When this second angel sounds his trumpet, Babylon will be cast into the “great sea of the nations.” With it will go the idols of this world and the world-system. God will have complete victory over idolatry.

Tim LaHaye in his Prophecy Study Bible, page 1377, says this about this great burning mountain cast into the sea, “This may refer to nuclear devastation or a giant asteroid or meteor that comes from outer space, killing one third of aquatic life.” Tim LaHaye and Ed Hinson’s Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, page 393, say some have suggested the mountain falling into the ocean represents a

mushroom cloud from an atomic explosion that pollutes the waters. I could see this happening even in our day. They go on to say, "Half of the island of Krakatoa in the Japanese Strait of Sunda exploded and disappeared in the year 1883. Ships at sea were thrown miles inland on other islands, and many more were sunk. Millions of fish died and polluted the waters. Many sea creatures were electrified and boiled by the heat and static voltage. The explosive rumblings of the island were heard a third of the way around the world! The explosion was so loud that the sound waves killed many people." This naturally occurring phenomena described here indicates that the events of the second trumpet may come about in a similar and literal way.

Either way we look at this second trumpet judgment, it will leave the earth desolate, destroying the environment that both man and animal depend on for life. It will be like no other time.

The Third Trumpet Judgment – A Burning Star named Wormwood falls upon the Waters

Please read **Revelation 8:10-11**.

What or who is the burning star here?

Who were the seven stars that Jesus held in His right hand in **Revelation 1:16, 20**?

Tim LaHaye in the notes of his Prophecy Study Bible, page 1377 says, "The third trumpet calls forth 'Wormwood,' which in Greek is *apsinthos*, a bitter, often poisonous herb or drug that will pollute one third of the fresh water on earth. The desperation of mankind in that day will be unbelievable. "

Do you remember the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor malfunction on April 26, 1986? Do some research on this event in history and record what you find below:

The Chernobyl incident happened after my daughter was born, but before my son was born. The word, Chernobyl, means "wormwood." The nuclear devastation on that day was not only to the environment both surrounding the immediate area of the city of Chernobyl in the Ukraine and the outlying towns where the poisonous radiation traveled, but it also had its effect on the children exposed. This has been a very long time ago, but we actually supported two children affected by the Chernobyl disaster with untainted food and medicines. I seem to remember they had some pretty severe effects to the radiation poisoning. Their names were Natasha Stravinsky and Egor Stalnik.

Of course, Harry Ironside sees a different side to this judgment. He says in his lectures on Revelation that “Stars in the prophetic Scriptures are religious dignitaries” ...like those in **Daniel 12:3**: “Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” He goes on to say here in Revelation, concerning the third trumpet: “we have a star whose influence over man is so great that when he falls the third part of men are poisoned because of the evil influence of this apostate leader.”²⁴ I get the idea that Ironside believes this is Ha-Satan being kicked out of Heaven. Certainly, when Ha-Satan was kicked out of Heaven and thrown to the earth, he took with him a third of the angels. Please see **Revelation 12:4**. Certainly, at this time on the earth, a part of the unholy trinity (the False Prophet or the Second Beast) will hold a high position in the religious realm. Certainly, he will cause many to “burn” in the end.

The Fourth Trumpet Judgment – Sun, Moon, Stars are Smitten upon the Heavens

Please read **Revelation 8:12**

At the sounding of the fourth trumpet judgment, the light from the moon, the sun, and the stars are smitten. Their light emitted will be lessened by one-third because their celestial bodies have actually been struck by some outside object. Perhaps their orbits are disturbed after this, causing unusual happenings with the gravitational pull of the planets on each other.

What effect will this have on crops and the world’s already weakened food supply?

What effect will this have on peoples’ life styles?

Will this cause people to look Heaven ward and call upon the name of the LORD for salvation?

Harry Ironside asks the question, “If the light that is in thee be darkened, how great is that darkness?” He is quoting from **Matthew 6:22b**. He also says in his commentary on the fourth trumpet judgment, “When God presents His truth to people, responsibility comes with it. When God presents Christ to them, tremendous responsibility is put upon them.” My friend and prayer warrior, Mary Kay Rowe, always use to tell me that with the acceptance of the light you’ve been given by God, He will give you more light. But what does this say about these on the earth who have been given the full light of the Gospel message in the past and now with their rejection of that light, their light is diminished by one-third? My son-in-law’s grandparents are in Christian Science. Both have heard the true Gospel many

³² Ibid, p. 88.

times. The grandfather outright rejects the Gospel message. The grandmother asked me to lead her through the “sinners prayer,” although she told me afterwards, she didn’t believe she was a sinner. They both have had the opportunity to receive light. I’m hoping that **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12** doesn’t apply to them, but I wonder if it does. Please go back and read these verses in context. This is **2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 NASB**, “ For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”

Days 3-5 **The Three Woes – the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Trumpet Judgments upon People**

Please read **Revelation 8:13**

You will notice at this point that the final three trumpet judgments are also known as the three “woes.” Harry Ironside says these three woes speak of “a more intensified form of judgment than any previously portrayed.”²⁵ What is happening here with the intensification? What did Jesus tell the Jewish people in **Matthew 24:8**? How do birth pangs intensify, as a woman gets closer to delivering her baby?

Do you remember the word “entachei” that I referred to in lesson 9?

The Greek word “entachei” used in Revelation means rapid fire. This is how John uses this word in **Revelation 1:1**: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things ‘which must soon take place;’ and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John. It’s that “which must soon take place” that is: when it does take place, events will happen quickly afterwards. Not only will these judgments come faster and faster as we draw closer to the finish line, but these judgments will become harsher and harsher and exacting their toll on people now rather than upon the earth, upon the sea, upon the waters, and upon the heavens. The demonic locusts of the fifth trumpet judgment and the horsemen of the sixth trumpet judgment will come upon the people of the earth, the earth dwellers.

The Fifth Trumpet Judgment/ 1st Woe - Men without the seal of God tormented by locusts for 5 months, but no harm to the grass, trees, and any green thing

Please read **Revelation 9:1-12**

Who is this star in **Revelation 9:2** and the king in **9:11**?

³³ Ibid, page 89.

In John Walvoord and Roy Zuck's The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 952, they believe this "star" to be Ha-satan himself, the one who is also cast out of Heaven. We do know from Revelation 1 that the seven stars in Jesus' right hand are the seven angels of the seven churches represented in **Revelation 2-3**. We also know that Ha-satan is an angel. So, this is definitely a possibility. But, Ed Hinson and Tim LaHaye postulate in their Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, page 394, that this "he" that is "a star" could also mean an elect angel sent by God or another evil angel doing ha-Satan's work, rather than ha-Satan himself. Ironside believes this "star" is ha-Satan. In any of these views, it is apparent that this "star" or this "angel" will carry out a direct order from the Lord Himself.

What is this "star" given and what is its significance?

What did this "star" do with this key given to him?

What came out of this bottomless pit?

What came out of this smoke from the bottomless pit?

What or who, do you think these "locusts" represent?

Hinson and LaHaye say "Almost all Bible scholars believe this represents a horde of demonic beings coming upon earth to torment people."²⁶ Ironside says this, "under this fifth trumpet, we have the development of the apostasy, of which this leader is evidently the head. He opens the bottomless pit, using a 'key.' We have been made familiar in the Gospels, with the thought of the key where Christ commits to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and you will remember our Lord's words to the lawyers, 'Ye have taken away the key of knowledge' (Luke 11:52). From these Scriptures, it is clear that a key implies a system of teaching and possibly ritual observances connected with it." Knowing, from above, that Ironside believes the "star" to be ha-Satan, himself, this smoke can be seen as ha-Satan's system of erroneous teachings and damnable heresies that have brought the strong delusion of **2 Thessalonians 2:11**.²⁷

In his own special way of spiritualizing what he sees in Revelation, Ironside believes the darkening of the sun by the smoke implies "the blotting out, from

³⁴ The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, Tim LaHaye, Ed Hinson, General Editors, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene Oregon, 2004, p. 394.

³⁵ Revelation: An Ironside Expository Commentary, H.A. Ironside, Kregel Publications Reprint, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004, p. 91.

before men's eyes or minds, the supreme source of light. Their whole spiritual sky will be made dark by the false system with which they will be deluded...(this is so good – my comment)...The air is particularly Satan's realm. He is called 'the prince of the power of the air' (Ephesians 2:2). The darkening of the air implies the control of this realm by satanic agencies."²⁸

What do locusts do?

What will these locusts here in Revelation do instead?

Literal locusts will devastate the crops, the grass, the trees, everything in a matter of moments and then they will move on. These locusts are "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?"

To what insect is their sting likened?

Of the 1,000+ known species of scorpion, only 25 have venom that is deadly to humans.²⁹

How long do they have to torment men?

Why five months?

Do you suppose someone afflicted will perhaps come to the Lord for salvation during these five months? If they do, will they tell others? The torment will stop if they accept Him as the Lord. Will men still be so rebellious, they would rather be in intractable pain, then give in and surrender?

How does John describe these locust-like creatures? See **Revelation 9:7-11**.

Will the locust-like creatures be allowed to kill men?

Who is king over these locust-like creatures? Where have you heard the name Abaddon or Apollyon before?

³⁶ *bid.*

³⁷ Wikipedia, "Scorpions," Monday, January 1, 2018

It is apparent to me that those with the seal of God on their foreheads will be exempt from this sting.

The first woe is past, there are two more woes (two more trumpet judgments) to go.

The Sixth Trumpet Judgment/ 2nd Woe – the four angels bound in the great river Euphrates are loosed to slay one-third of humanity

Please read **Revelation 9:13-19**.

The second woe (the sixth Trumpet Judgment) begins with an angel from the golden altar before the throne of God in Heaven. This angel tells the sixth angel with a trumpet to sound to release the four angels who are bound at the Great River Euphrates. You will remember that this river was one of the four rivers mentioned in the creation story. Hinson and LaHaye believe these angels bound at the Euphrates River are fallen angels or demonic creatures who are bound and chained.

What is the significance of the River Euphrates?

The Euphrates River runs into the Tigris River and forms an 1800-mile waterway through present day Iraq. It was in this area of the world that Nimrod, the king of Assyria acted out his aggression against God and corporately rebelled with others against God at the Tower of Babel. See **Genesis 10:8-10**. It was also in this area where polytheism and astrology had their beginnings and from here were spread all over the globe. It's not really all that surprising that the end times would have four demons bound at the River Euphrates awaiting their release with the sounding of the sixth trumpet judgment so that they might kill a third of Mankind.

Ironside tells us this about Revelation 9:15, "We are told that the four angels were prepared, not exactly as our Authorized Version reads – for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, but for 'the hour, day, month, and year.' That is, there is a definite moment in the mind of God at which this awful power is to be let loose." ³⁰ This is also how my NASB reads: for 'the hour, day, month, and year.'" Until, that definite hour, day, month, and year, not all of the evilness of men, can bring about the conflict spoken of here in verses 16-19. But when the time is right, no one will be able to hold back these four evil angels with their evil agendas, either.

The sixth trumpet angel is told to release the four angels (demons) who are bound at the Euphrates River. So, who is responsible for this 200 million-count army on

³⁸ Ironside, p. 96

the move to destroy one-third of humanity? Is God responsible or is ha-Satan responsible?

At this time, how many horsemen will come to torment humanity?

Will this be a literal 200 million-man army or will this be a 200 million army of demons?

How would you describe these horsemen and their horses?

What are the colors of fire and hyacinth and brimstone?

Rit dye in the color "hyacinth" can be located online from Amazon. It is either a lilac purple or a lavender purple (jacinth). Brimstone is better known as "sulphur." The color is lemon yellow. I am assuming the color "fire" could be hues of reddish orange, blue and white. So these breastplates the riders are wearing are lemon yellow, reddish-orange, bluish white and purple.

What kills a third of Mankind? Does this third of Mankind include the Believers in Christ living in that day?

It looks like to me that only the anti-Christ and his human followers will be able to kill the "tribulation saints."

What will happen to the rest of Mankind, unbelievers, that are not killed by these plagues?

It is hard to believe, but we are told in verse **9:20**, the rest 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. I just wonder about these who will not repent. Will they not believe they are sinners?

In these beasts, from where does their power come?

Revelation 9:19 says "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."

Do you think all of these catastrophic judgments have been designed to make men turn to God? These are the sins that are widespread in that day and keep men from Christ: the worship of demons and idols, murders, sorceries (drugs), sexual immorality of all kinds, theft and robbery. Doesn't look so good for our present generation does it?

This is what Ironside says concerning the above rebelliousness of man: "This is in accordance with the general testimony of Scripture, which nowhere intimates that punishment produces penitence. The Restorationist and Universalist teachers deny this and insist that all punishment, whether in time or eternity, is with a view to the final salvation of the delinquent and that eventually all men will learn by judgment, if they refused to learn by grace, and will turn to God for salvation. But both here and later in this same book of Revelation, we find that the heaviest judgments of God, falling on guilty men, do not soften the stony, rebellious hearts; rather, men become hardened in their sins and are more blasphemous and God-defiant when judgment is poured out upon them than they were before."³¹ Could this be any truer than we see today in our culture? This is exactly what Paul has said in **Romans 1:21-23**, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four footed animals and crawling creatures."

The seventh trumpet judgment - releases the next seven bowl judgments upon the earth and the earth dwellers.

Here is where I want you to change gears as I explained in the introduction to this lesson on the seven trumpet judgments. Right before the seventh trumpet is sounded, we are going to turn the scroll over and read what I see should be in parentheses, namely the opening of the Little Book by John and also the appearance of the two witnesses. We will look at the opening of the little book first from **Revelation 10** and then the appearance of the two witnesses in **Revelation 11**. Then, the angel with the seventh trumpet will sound and release the next seven bowl judgments upon the earth and the earth dwellers.

Opening of the Little Book

Please read **Revelation 10: 1-11**.

Who is this other strong angel coming down out of heaven? Is it just another angel who stands out as strong? Or is this a picture of the angel-priest of whom we saw officiating at the altar in the seventh seal judgment?

³⁹ Ironside, p. 97.

Dr. J.Vernon McGee in his Thru the Bible with J.Vernon McGee commentary says there is much disagreement among the Bible expositors as to the identity of this angel. H.A. Ironside believes this strong angel to be Christ. Others, Like Dr. John Walvoord consider him to be just another strong angel. I must admit I side with Dr. Walvoord, but I liked what Ironside says about this strong angel being Christ. I am going to share parts of what Ironside said in his commentary concerning this strong angel with you here. Excerpts are taken from pages 100 to 107.

“This mighty angel can surely be no other than that same glorious Angel of the Covenant whom we have already beheld standing at the golden altar officiating as the Angel-priest of the heavenly sanctuary. Of no created angel could such glorious things be said as those that John here mentions in connection with this wondrous being.”

“...the rainbow that was round about the throne of God in chapter 4 is now seen wrapped, as it were, about the head of this mighty angel...His feet, we are told ‘were pillars of fire,’ thus linking Him with the same wondrous Being described in chapter 1 (of Revelation), of whom we read that “his feet were like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace.”

Of the little book, “it is the title deed to the earth, the seals of which have been broken...The Lord descends with this title deed in His hand.”

“He cried as a lion roareth” because the Angel and the Lion of Judah’s tribe are one the same.”

“When the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.’ As Mediator of the new covenant, He seals up the utterance of the seven thunders. It is not necessary for us to know *what* they uttered. They speak of judgment that is due wayward man, but He Himself has born the judgment, and those who trust in Him need never know its dreadful secrets.”

“John tells us that when the book was in his mouth it was very sweet, but when he had eaten it his inward parts were made bitter...Prophetic truth is generally sweet and attractive to those whose interest is just being awakened in it. But, if follow up, if they really eat the book, it leads to self-judgment and to separation from evil, and this task will always be bitter...”

McGee believes there is ample evidence to show that this angel is only a mighty angel. In the Old Testament, Christ was seen as the “angel of the Lord.” But, now, after He has taken humanity upon His person, He is not seen as an angel again in the New Testament. According to McGee another strong angel whom we were introduced to in Revelation 5:2, is not the Christ as Ironside believes. This strong

angel's clothing with a cloud is not a "cloud of glory," only a cloud. The rainbow that was on his head...this is a cap for the angel's uniform. And the feet of bronze as pillars of fire is also just part of his uniform. This mighty angel has come to make a special announcement of the coming judgment.

Another thought, John fell as dead before the Lord Jesus in Revelation 1. If this angel had been the Lord Jesus, he would have fallen down and worshiped Him in chapter 10 as well.

What is this little book that is in the hand of the mighty angel and John is to take and eat of it?

Is this little book the seven-sealed scroll?

If this little book is the seven-sealed scroll, whose hands originally held this little book in the book of Revelation? See **Revelation 5:1**.

To whom did the Father hand the seven-sealed scroll?

Is what is happening with the current trumpet judgment present in this little book, this seven-sealed scroll?

After the Lord Jesus Christ removes the seals, to whom does He transfer the book?

Finally, who is instructed to go to the mighty angel and request the book so that he may eat it?

How does God show us, in the authority given to this mighty angel, that the land and the seas are God's own possession? See **Revelation 10:2**.

If this little book is the seven sealed title deed to the earth, then why is it called "little?" This is going to take some thought on your part. As a Massive Hint: the time of the Tribulation is going to be seven years.

Dr. Marvin R. Vincent, a Bible expositor around the turn of the 20th century, made a marvelous comment: "The Jews were accustomed to speak of thunder as 'the seven voices' of God. See **Psalms 29**. In this very brief Psalm, the voice of the LORD occurs seven times.

John was instructed not to write down what the seven thundering(s) spoke. What do you think those seven thundering(s) revealed to John?

John was instructed to eat the little book. What was it going to taste like in his mouth?

What was the little book going to feel like in his stomach?

This is what McGee says, "It is sweet to know the Book of Revelation and what God intends to do, but when we find out that judgment is coming to the Christ-rejecting world around us, we cannot rejoice in that. The prophecy becomes bitter."³²

What did "they" say to John after he ate the little book and it was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach? And who is the "they?"

How do we know that there will be no more delay in the judgment that is coming? See **Revelation 10:7**.

The Two Witnesses

Please read **Revelation 11:1-14**.

Revelation 11 continues the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. Remember we are still on the backside of the scroll seeing all the behind-the-scenes happenings.

John was then given a measuring rod and was instructed to measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Which temple of God do you think he was to measure? Is this the Temple in Heaven or the Temple that is rebuilt in Jerusalem on earth at the start of the Tribulation period?

What is John to leave out of the measurement and why? See **Revelation 11:2**.

Therefore the measurement of the temple of God at this time is limited to the Holy Place, the room that encompasses the Holy of Holies. Remember that the church is a Temple of the Holy Spirit today. Therefore, this passage has to be for the Jewish people.

As reference for the time period that we are dealing with here, read **Luke 21:24**. What is this period of time called in Luke 21?

⁴⁰ J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible with J.Vernon McGee, Vol. 5, Thru the Bible Radio, Pasadena, California, 1983, p. 977.

McGee says that Jerusalem is still trodden down of the Gentiles. How do we know this today? Who is in Jerusalem? Who has a mosque on the Jews most holy site? You who have been to Jerusalem, are the Gentiles still there and do the Jews have control of their most holy city? McGee says, ...when you get into the Great Tribulation Period and come to the last half of it, the Time of the Gentiles will run out in forty-two months. How long is forty-two months in light of the Tribulation Period?

Please read **Revelation 12:14** and **Daniel 7:25 , 12:11**.

What else is John to measure in the Temple?

Which altar is John to measure, the golden altar of incense or the brazen altar where the sacrifice is made?

Who else is John to measure?

Please read Revelation 12:14 and **Daniel** To whom will the Lord grant His authority? See **Revelation 11:3**.

How long will they prophesy?

How will they dress for this period of time?

Are they human witnesses?

Please go back to the **Zechariah 4:3, 11-14** and read about who these two olive trees and these two lampstands are that stand before the Lord in the Old Testament. Who are they?

These two witnesses in Zechariah are two individuals, Joshua and Zerubbabel, who withstood tremendous difficulties for their time.

Who are these two witnesses according to **Revelation 11:4**? Are they Enoch and Elijah? Are they Moses and Elijah? Are they Elijah and John the Baptist? Or are they two unknown witnesses? Please read **Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:11**

How many is the required number of witnesses according to the Law? See **Deuteronomy. 17:6**. Also see **Matthew 18:16**.

These two witnesses will be lights before the powers of darkness during the 3 and ½ years of their preaching. These two witnesses will be able to bring fire down from heaven. These two witnesses will be filled with the Holy Spirit. These two witnesses will be immortal and immune to all attacks until their mission is done.

I don't know whether or not this is comforting for you, but this is what J.Vernon McGee has said in his radio broadcast that comforts me greatly; "All of God's men (and women) are immortal until God is through with them. And when He is through with you, He will remove you from the earth."

Continuing on, these two witnesses will have the power to shut heaven so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophecy. These two witnesses will have the power over water to turn them to blood. These two witnesses will smite the earth with all sorts of plagues, as often as they will. These two witnesses are granted unlimited authority.

The witnesses will finish their testimony. And in the middle of the week, when the anti-Christ has control over the whole world, he will be permitted by God to kill the two witnesses. It will be a temporary win on ha-Satan's part.

How long will their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified? See **Rev 11:8**. These two witnesses' dead bodies will be treated by the culture around them as dead animals, not worthy of a burial.

Why is this city of Jerusalem compared to Sodom and Egypt?

For 3 and ½ days the world will be able to look upon the features of these two dead men (probably by television or Internet). Their deaths are an occasion for a celebration of all those on earth the two witnesses denounced in the 3 and ½ years they preached. They will even send gifts to each other. Then something happen...after 3 and ½ days, the two witnesses are resurrected by God while all the world is watching. And as the world is watching, they will hear the Lord God tell the two witnesses to come up hither. And the two witnesses, fully alive, ascend to Heaven in the cloud.

The second woe is complete. There is one more woe to come and this woe will open up the floodgates for the final showdown of the seven last judgments of God's great wrath. Turn the scroll back to the front. We are in real time again.

As a final assignment for this lesson, return to the lesson with the chart of the judgments and fill in the boxes for the seven trumpet judgments.