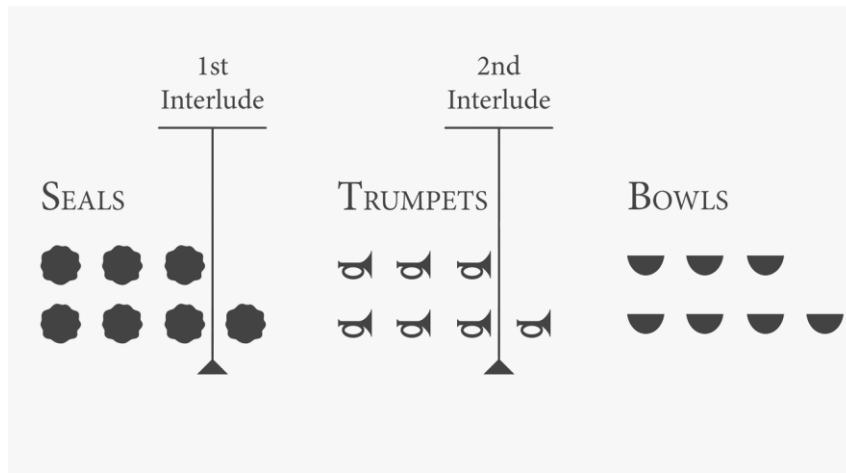


Revelation 7 & 8 – Great Multitude And Four Trumpet Judgments

Revelation 7 – A Great Multitude



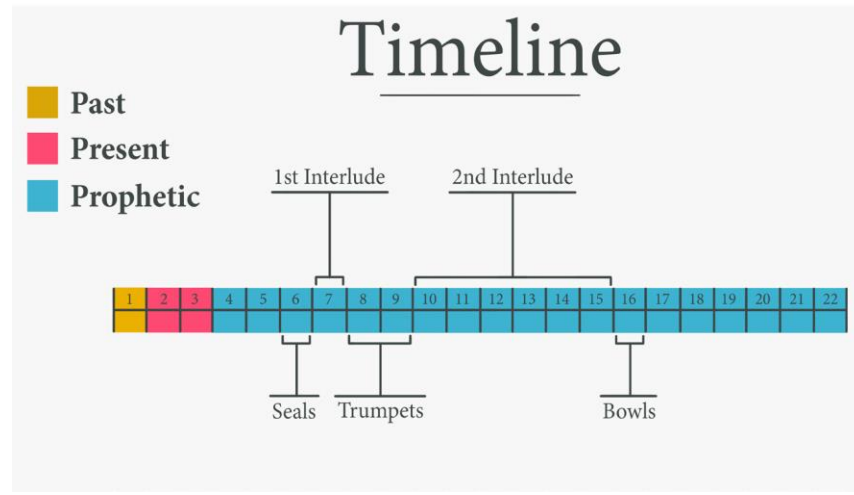
Vss. 9-17: *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and people and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...”*

- Those mentioned in vss. 9-17 are those who have been saved and then martyred during the tribulation period (vs. 14). Some see them as the same group noted in Rev. 6:9-11.
- Palm trees are prevalent in the millennial city and temple (Eze. 40:16) and were associated with celebrations.
- I believe those noted in these verses are saved during the tribulation and had not consistently rejected the Gospel (vs. 14). See 2 Thess. 2:1-12.
- The Holy Spirit is still working in the tribulation period, bringing people to salvation. They are saved by the blood of Christ (Rev. 7:14; Rev. 12:11,17).
- They give praise to God in vss. 11-12 along with other believers and angels.
- Vss. 15-16 shows what they will not have to deal with in the tribulation period because they have come to faith in Christ and are now in heaven. God will shelter them as they are in His presence. Jesus will be their shepherd (vs. 17).

Practical Application:

- Knowing the believers are suffering for their faith, we pray and support them.
- People are saved during the tribulation, but we must share the Gospel now.

The Trumpet Judgments Of Revelation 8



Rev. 8:1-2: *“When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.”*

- The silence could be an awesome hush in response to what is going to follow.
- The mention of a half hour could indicate that there is a concept of time in heaven. Perhaps John is referring to time from the earthly perspective.
- The mention of silence in heaven is unusual. We do not see in the rest of Revelation this being a pattern. Heaven is filled with noise.
- What about the trumpet judgments? For what were trumpets used?

A) Calling the nation of Israel, as an alarm, or public notification (Num. 10:1-6).

B) They were used at appointed feasts, burnt offerings, or peace offerings.

C) Trumpets sounding are followed by a great event or announcement (Ex. 19:16; Ex. 20:18; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:16).

- How should we interpret the seven trumpets?

A) Many see it as a reworking of the seven seal judgments. They see all the judgments as one series of judgments, and three purposes or explanations.

B) Some see the seven trumpets as the judgments of the seventh seal, the seven bowls being the judgment of the seventh trumpet.

Vss. 3-6: *“And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar...”*

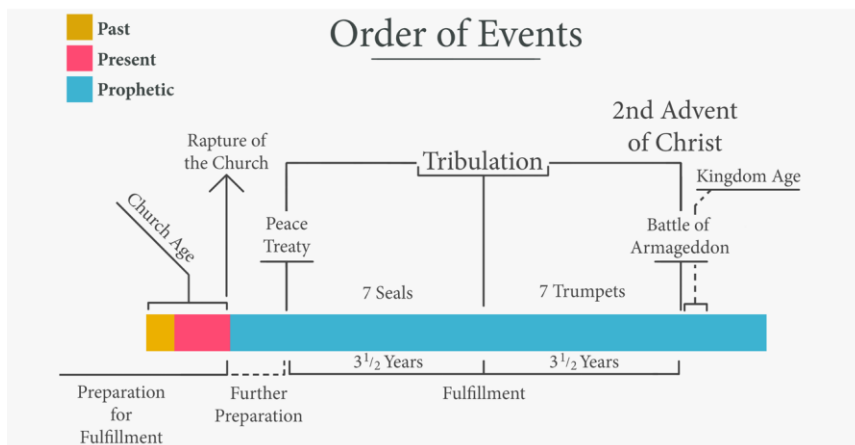
- In the Old Testament incense was symbolical of the ascending prayer of the officiating high priest.

- We are not sure what is being prayed by the saints in heaven, but they may be praying for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:9-10).
- The prayers mentioned here relate to the trumpet judgments. The incense may also refer to the prayers of the saints, probably those we met in Revelation 7.
- Note that the angel takes the censer (vs. 3), fills it with fire from the altar, and throws it to the earth. In Isaiah 6, coals from the altar were used in cleansing Isaiah. Some see this as God's judgments cleansing the earth.
- The phenomena mentioned in vs. 5 are tied to God's awesome power and might (Ex. 19:16-19; Rev. 16:18).

**** It has been noted by some that there may be a direct connection between the prayers of the saints ascending to God and God's judgments descending upon the earth.**

**** Some think there are similarities between the trumpet judgments and the Egyptian plagues.** God is punishing the evildoer and delivering His people.

**** The timing of the trumpets:** I believe the trumpets are in the second half of the tribulation period. The fourth seal judgment kills a fourth of humanity, and the sixth trumpet kills another third. If the trumpet judgments are in the first half of the tribulation, you have half the world's population dead. Mt. 24:21 talks of the Great Tribulation, which is the second half of the tribulation. I think that is when the trumpets occur.



**** Some believe that Rev. 8:7-12 describes nuclear war.** Those who hold to this believe the passage looks exactly like what would happen if there was a nuclear war.

Vs. 7: *“The first angel blew his trumpet, and there was followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.”*

- These trumpet judgments are literal, not symbolic as some think of them as. If we interpret them subjectively, it can lead to all kinds of problems.
- Note that this first judgment is from heaven. Whatever is hurled to the earth, burns up one-third of the trees and all the green grass.

- Is it literal blood that we read of here? The word translated “blood” when used in Revelation is literal, unless the word “like” precedes it. See Rev. 1:5; 5:9; 6:10,12; 8:8; 11:6; 12:11; 14:18-20; 16:3,4,6; 17:6; 19:2.
- The hail and fire mingled with blood could be the result of hail and fire, but most likely, the blood comes from heaven also.
- The blood is possibly a reminder of what has happened to God’s people who have been martyred.
- There are various views on vs. 7. Some think it describes nuclear chemical warfare. Others see it as colored rain, pointing to an agricultural disaster yet to come. Others see it for what it says.
- The number “one-third” is not random. It shows God is in control.

Vss. 8-9: *“The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood...”*

- Some believe the “great mountain” refers to a meteorite. I do not know for sure.
- One-third of the sea becomes literal blood. There is no “like” before the word. The blood could occur because of the death of the sea creatures, which this “great mountain” kills one-third of. I believe the blood is literal.
- The “mountain” also destroys one-third of the ships on the sea. It must cause catastrophic waves.
- There are those who think the word “sea” represents people since it is used in that way in Revelation in some places, and because of that the “sea” here is representative of the people of the earth who will be judged.
- I believe the “sea” is water. This is judgment on the oceans of the world.

Vss. 10-11: *“The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water...”*

- This trumpet is judgment on the water sources. The word “star” in Revelation is symbolic (Rev. 1:16) as well as literal. Context determines the meaning.
- I believe this is a literal star blazing like a torch.
- The name of the star is “wormwood.” Many people will die from the water.
- The Hebrew for “wormwood” means “to curse” (regard as poisonous, therefore accursed). Some translate it as “hemlock.”
- Its use in the OT is seen as bitter and poisonous (Deut. 29:18; Jer. 9:12-16).
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary says, *“Poison is literally “wormwood”, a plant known for its bitter pulp and often associated with poison.”*
- David Garland writes, *“Wormwood is a plant producing a bitter noxious juice.”*

Practical Application:

- We need to be thankful for the grace that has saved us as we see what happens to a world that has rejected Christ. This should humble us as we read this.
- We see sin’s effects on people and the planet. Pray and share.

