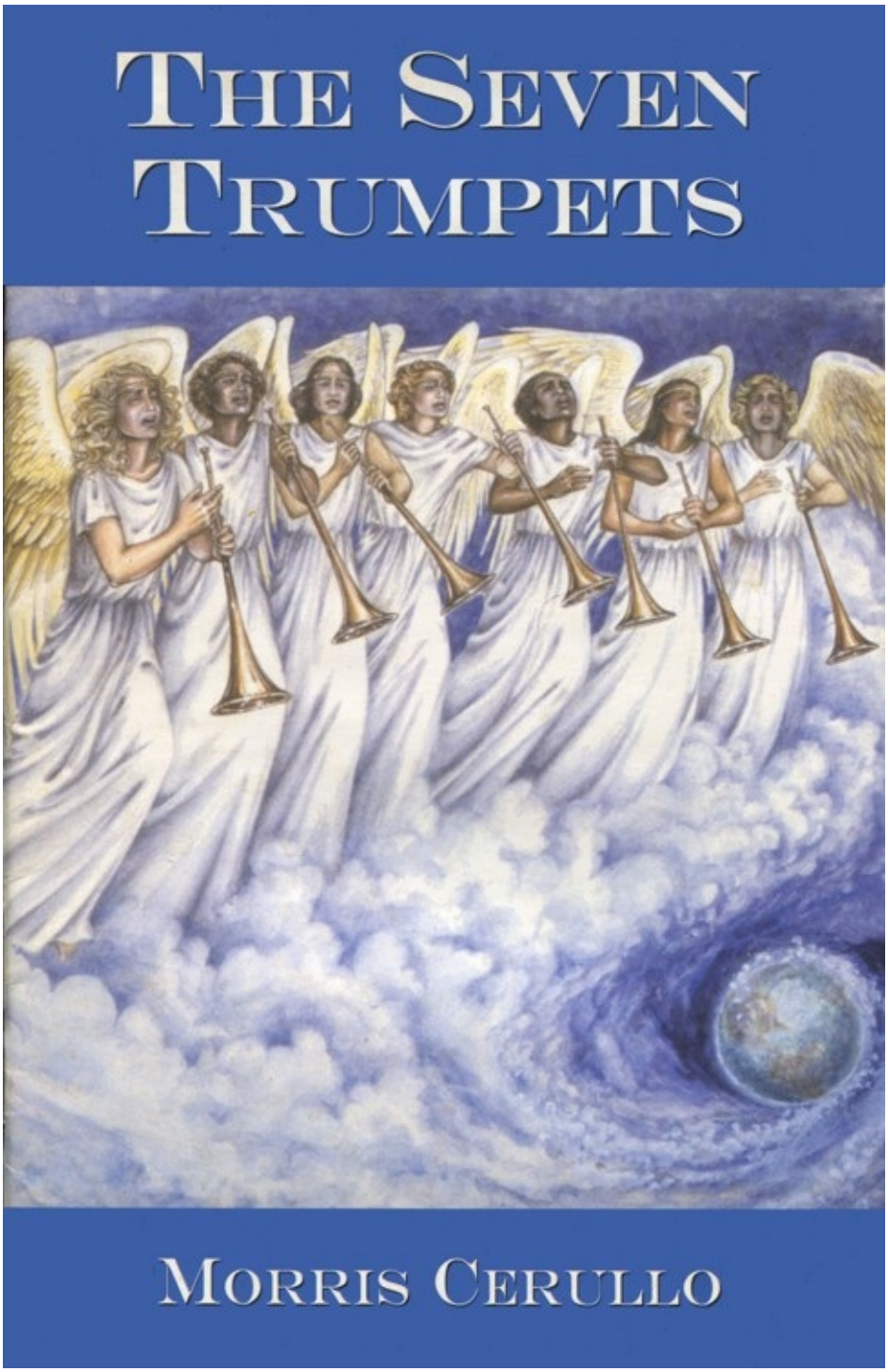
The Seven Trumpets



Morris Cerullo



THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

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INTRODUCTION

The Seven Trumpets When Will They Sound?

The Greatest Concert in History Revelation

Chapters 8-11

“The beginning of sorrows”— that is what Jesus called the end-time signs we have studied so far as we have progressed chapter-by-chapter through the Book of Revelation.

As we learned in our previous studies, the structure of this prophetic book is summarized in Revelation 1:19 where the Apostle John is commanded to *"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter."*

In book one of this series, we analyzed the supernatural vision God gave John— *"things which thou hast seen.”* Book two, focused on the messages from the Spirit to the churches—the things which are. In the **third** book of the series we dealt with the first portion of Revelation 4:1 where John is commanded to *"come up hither"*— a key verse in understanding Revelation. As we learned, the command to *"come up hither"* signifies the rapture of the Church of Jesus Christ and it marks a transition in the book. All that follows are *"the things which*

shall be hereafter" —events that occur after the rapture of the Church from earth to Heaven.

In our **last study,** we actually entered the throne room of God (Revelation chapters 4-5) and witnessed the

beginning of the end as a book with seven mysterious seals was opened by **Jesus** (chapters 6-7). The following chart summarizes the events **which** will occur when the first six seals of the book are opened.

Seal Reference	**What It Is**	**What It Represents**
1 Rev. 6:2	Rider on a white horse	False Christs
2 Rev. 6:3-4	Rider on a red horse	War
3 Rev. 6:5-6	Rider on a black horse	Famine/pestilence
4 Rev. 6:7-8		

Rider on a pale horse

Death

5 Rev. 6:9-11

Altar with souls

Cry of the martyred

6 Rev. 6:12-17

Signs in heaven /earth Great day of Lord is

at hand

This book, *The Seven Trumpets,* is an intense analysis of the events which occur when the seven trumpets of God's judgment begin to sound. It all begins with Jesus opening the seventh seal..

CHAPTER 1

THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL

1

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto

him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Revelation 8:1-6)

When Christ opens the seventh seal, there is absolute silence in heaven for about a half an hour. No earthquakes, no thunder, no lightening, no voices, no praise and worship—just total silence.

I have never been in a storm where a tornado has struck, but I am told that just before it strikes, there is a tremendous hush. The air is motionless. There is no movement anywhere, not even the rustling of leaves. During this silence, it seems as if the wind, rain, and elements of nature are gathering momentum before their fury is unleashed.

This is similar to the silence John witnessed in this

tremendous vision. For a period of about half an hour there was a solemn, breathless silence as God prepared to

pour out His judgments upon the earth. Can you imagine the thoughts which must have flooded John's mind during this time? What will the opening of this seventh seal reveal? Will there be more fearful-looking horsemen riding forth to bring judgment upon the earth? Will the earth be destroyed? What will be the final events signaling the end?

Some time during this profound silence, seven angels assemble before God and each of them is given a trumpet. Then another angel comes and stands at the altar, having a golden censer and incense symbolizing the prayers of the saints. Many times the word "angel" will be used for a man, since it means "messenger." Other times it is used for the angels in heaven. This particular references says, *"And another angel came and stood at the altar"* to minister. This would seem to indicate that this angel is Christ in His present ministry as our high priest ".. *even Jesus, made an*

high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 6:20). The censer is always mentioned in connection with the high priest (Leviticus 16:12).

As the prayers of the saints ascend before God filling heaven with a sweet-smelling aroma, the angel fills the censer with fire from the altar and casts it down upon the earth (Revelation 8:4-5).

Suddenly, the silence in heaven is shattered. Voices sound, lightning flashes, thunder crashes, the earth shakes, and the seven angels prepare to sound their trumpets.

Prayer Is Vitally Linked With God's End-Time Plan

Beloved, it is so important for you to understand the tremendous significance of the prayers of God's people and how prayer is vitally linked with God's end-time plan.

The Opening of the Seventh Seal

In these verses—right before God's judgments are poured out upon the wicked—the prayers of God's people are offered to God on the golden altar before His throne. The prayers ascend unto God, along with the incense, and

become a sweet-smelling savor in His nostrils.

You will remember that in chapter five—before Christ opened the seven seals—the elders and cherubim also lifted golden vials fall of odors symbolizing the prayers of the saints. In both of these crucial times in the unfolding of God's end-time plan, the prayers of God's people ascend before His throne and activate the process.

Beloved, our prayers here on earth in behalf of the lost, our cries to God regarding the wickedness and immorality surrounding us, our intercession for God's intervention against the evil forces unleashed on the world today are not forgotten. They ascend before God as a sweet-smelling incense in His nostrils.

In response to these prayers of the saints, the angel—Jesus Christ takes the censer, fills it with fire, and casts it down to the earth. The prayers of God's people release the seven angels to sound their trumpets which unleash the judgments of God upon the wicked.

Right now, throughout the world, God is pouring out the last great anointing—the end-time prayer anointing. He is bringing us to a new strategic level of warfare

prayer! Through this strategic level of prayer, the people of God will be used mightily in this end-time to push back the enemy in the nations, to tear down the strongholds blinding the hearts and minds of the lost, and to release those who are bound by Satan's power.

God has given to us—His Church—His power of attorney. We are His delegated authority upon the earth. As we enter into this new level of warfare prayer and

begin to pray with authority, God will release His power to fulfill His end-time plan. In response to the prayers of God's people, we will see the greatest demonstration in history of His mighty power—miracles of salvation, healing, deliverance, and restoration—greater than we have ever known!

So, from our study of Scripture it is clear that the seven trumpets:

- Sound after the rapture (Revelation 4:1).
- Sound in response to the accumulated prayers of God's people (Revelation 8:3-5).

• Bring God's judgment upon the earth (Revelation 8:5).

CHAPTER 2

THE SOUNDING OF THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS

2

The awesome silence in Heaven is shattered as the first four of seven trumpets begin to sound in succession...

The First Trumpet:

The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. (Revelation 8:7)

When the first angel sounds his trumpet:

• Hail and fire mixed with blood is hurled upon the earth.

• One-third of the trees are destroyed.

• All of the green grass is destroyed.

This fierce storm will cause utter chaos on earth. The storm will look like hail mingled with blood. The reddish color may be a mixture of sand or pollution blown up into

the clouds by some of the most fierce winds ever witnessed.

Think of the utter devastation when plants and food supplies for both man and animal are destroyed and fertile lands become barren as a result of the destruction of the trees.

The Second Trumpet:

And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great

mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. (Revelation 8:8-9)

When the second angel sounds his trumpet:

• Something like a huge mountain of fire is thrown into the sea. The exact nature of the mountain is not specified. It could be something supernatural that God creates or it could be an erupting volcano.

• One-third of the sea is turned to blood. "Blood" signifies that the water has turned red. We must

always remember that John speaks in the language of appearance—he did not run a microscopic analysis of the water. A similar event occurred in Egypt with the first plague (Exodus 7:14-25).

• One-third of the living creatures in the sea die.

• One-third of the ships are destroyed. It is possible that this occurs as a result of the tidal effect of the mountain striking the water.

Imagine—the ensuing shortage of sea life for food, the devastation to the fishing industry, and the interruption of shipping commerce and trade!

It is interesting to note that this particular judgment was predicted by the prophet Zephaniah centuries ago:

I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the Lord. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling-blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the Lord. (Zephaniah 1:2-3)

The Third Angel:

And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star

from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. (Revelation 8:10-11)

When the third angel sounds his trumpet, a great star —Wormwood—falls from the sky like a blazing torch and one-third of the rivers and springs of water are contaminated.

Wormwood is the name of a very bitter herb. It became a symbol of idolatry because of its bitterness. Idolatry is a bitter taste for God to swallow, therefore He gives the idolater the bitterness of wormwood judgment:

And the Lord saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. (Jeremiah 9:13-15)

Can you imagine the chaos and ensuing panic that will result when there is a shortage of water?

The Fourth Angel:

And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. (Revelation 8:12)

When the fourth angel sounds his trumpet:

• One-third of the sun is darkened.

• One-third of the moon is darkened.

• One-third of the stars turn dark.

• One-third of the day and night are without light.

Some kind of unusual eclipse will occur in the heavens. Whatever it is, it is a judgment of God. He will be behind it and it will strike fear in the ungodly of this world. God has had enough!

Even in our wildest imaginations, we cannot picture the horrifying scenes that John witnessed as these first

four trumpets sounded. He saw the very powers of heaven shaken by Almighty God!

The rapture itself, which we previously studied about in book three of this series, will cause tremendous economic devastation on the earth. Think about it.. thousands of properties will be in foreclosure because Christians who were making payments on these loans are raptured. Many businesses will no longer have CEOs or management personnel—they went in the rapture. There will be a shortage of essential personnel—doctors, nurses, fire-fighters, law enforcement officers—thousands of them, gone in the rapture. Farmers, truckers, teachers, lawyers, stock brokers—devastation and confusion will result in every segment of society through the disappearance of multitudes in the rapture.

But now, can you even imagine the added devastation as the water supply and greenery of the entire earth are affected? Many people will die. The ocean—the fishing and shipping industries—will also be severely impacted. The terrifying blasts of these first four trumpets are not a figment of John's imagination. They are a REALITY.

Jesus prophesied that they would happen. As frightening and awesome as they sound, the worst is still to come. Three more trumpets are yet to sound.

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CHAPTER 3

THE FIFTH TRUMPET—THE FIRST WOE

3

Can you just imagine John standing there, his face pale, an ashen white? A terrible, sinking sensation has gripped him, as God has unveiled His end-time plan revealing four of the judgments that one day will come upon the earth. As John stands there trembling at the sights he has just witnessed, he tries to prepare himself for the sounding of the next trumpet. What fearful judgments are yet to come?

Anxiously, his eyes dart from one end of the heavens to the other...

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

(Revelation 8:13)

As the angel flies in midair, a loud warning is given. Three "woes" are pronounced upon those living upon the earth. These three "woes" are pronounced by reason of the judgments that will occur at the sounding of the remaining three trumpets.

As we will see, the three woes of the last three trumpets are:

1. A plague of demon locusts: Revelation 9:1-12.
2. The plague of demonic horsemen: Revelation 9:13-21.
3. The casting out of Satan to earth: Revelation 11:15-15

The Seven Trumpets

13:18.

The blasts of the trumpets in the Book of Revelation are startling as they announce God's judgments that are coming upon the earth. They strike terror in the hearts of the wicked. But remember. . to the Christian these trumpets are a sound of victory and triumph over evil. As I have told you repeatedly—the purpose of prophecy is to

prepare, not to scare. Prophecy is given so we will be ready for what happens in the future. When these trumpets sound, believers will already be raptured and in the presence of the Lord. The trumpets will be the glorious signal that God is preparing to deal with sin and evil according to His divine plan and in answer to the prayers of His people down through the centuries.

Today, however, as God's end-time army, we have an awesome responsibility. It is our duty to take our positions as strong, mature, and fully equipped soldiers to sound an alarm—to warn our co-workers, unsaved loved ones, friends, and neighbors that the time is at hand. It is time to prepare for Christ's coming! It is time to sound an alarm!

The Fifth Trumpet Sounds

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the

earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion,

when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails, and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the

Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. (Revelation 9:1-12)

The fifth angel lifts his trumpet to his lips and blows.

The loud blast of the trumpet echoes through the heavens.

The first thing John sees is a star falling to the earth. This star is not an actual star, but is symbolic of a person.

The key to the bottomless pit is given to the "star." This "star" is a divine agent, possibly an angelic being, who has been dispatched to the earth on a special mission. He has been authorized to unlock the bottomless pit.

Undoubtedly, this is an angel of God because Christ has the key to the underworld:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

Later on, in Revelation 11:7, John sees the Anti-Christ ascend out of this same pit. In Revelation 20:1-3, John watches as an angel descends from heaven, binds Satan in chains, and casts him into the bottomless pit for a thousand years.

In Revelation 9:2, as this angel opens the bottomless

pit, smoke billows forth like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The smoke is so thick that the sun and sky are darkened by it. Out of this dense smoke comes a swarm of what John describes as locusts. Throughout the Old Testament, locust were symbolic of destruction. Bred in the desert, they invaded cultivated areas in their search for food. They often traveled in columns one-hundred feet deep (the equivalent width of an eight-lane freeway), and up to four miles in length!

Before God delivered Israel out of bondage, He sent a similar plague of locusts upon Egypt, which devoured all vegetation throughout the land:

And the locusts went up over all the land of Egypt, and rested in all the coasts of Egypt: very grievous were they; before them there were no such locusts as they, neither after them shall be such. For they covered the face of the whole earth, so that the land was darkened; and they did eat every herb of the land, and all the fruit of the trees which the hail

had left: and there remained not any green thing in the trees, or in the herbs of the field, through all the land of Egypt. (Exodus 10:14-15)

The demonic locusts of Revelation are different from the plague of locusts that came upon the land of Egypt, however. They have a different mission:

1. They are commanded by God: Revelation 9:4.

2. They are given scorpion-like power: Revelation 9:3. The scorpion is a large member of the arachnida class, 4 to 7 inches in diameter including the leg spread.

3. They are told not to hurt the grass, trees, or any green thing: Revelation 9:4. Normally, locust rapidly devour such greenery.

4. They are not permitted to kill anyone, but are to

torment those who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads: Revelation 9:4-5. You will recall that there are 144,000 who have God's seal of supernatural protection on them (Revelation 7:2-4).

The locust can only harm those who do not have this seal.

5. The duration of their torment is five months: Revelation 9:5. We are not told why the plague ceases after the fifth month. Perhaps the locusts die off naturally, some chemical or mechanical method of extermination is discovered, or God simply ends the plague at that time.

6. Their sting is painful—like that of a scorpion: Revelation 9:5.

7. They are pictured as long-haired, flying creatures with the appearance of horses, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron, and tails like scorpions: Revelation 9:7-9. As this great swarm of locusts assembles together, they resemble horses that are prepared for battle. They are ready to attack. As they fly through the air, their number is so great that the noise of their wings is like a great squadron of horses and chariots rushing into war. The crowns on their heads are symbolic of the power they are given to torment men for a period

of five months. Their breastplates of iron indicate their invincibility. There will be no possible way of striking them in a vulnerable spot. John describes their teeth as being like lion's teeth, which emphasizes their fierceness. They do not use their teeth as a lion does to tear apart its victim, however. Instead, they use their scorpion-like tails to torment.

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The Seven Trumpets

8. They have a king named Abaddon, which is the Hebrew word for destruction. In Greek he is called Apollyon, which means destroyer: Revelation 9:11. When the angel of Revelation 9:1 comes from heaven, the evil angel bound in the abyss will be loosed. He will take with him his demon locusts and torment men. God is going to release this plague of demonic locust out of the bottomless pit upon the wicked who refuse to repent of their evil. God's purpose for sending this judgment is to punish the wicked and to call them to repentance. During this time when the fifth trumpet is sounding,

the wicked are going to be so tormented by the terrible scorpion-like sting of these locusts that they will try to kill themselves but will not be able to do so:

And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them. (Revelation 9:6, NAS)

Each trumpet judgment John has witnessed has been more fearsome than the previous one. Now, as the horror of this tormenting plague of locusts fades before John's eyes, he waits for the two remaining trumpets that are yet to sound. *"One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes hereafter"* (Revelation 9:12).

CHAPTER 4

THE SIXTH TRUMPET—THE SECOND WOE

4

Four trumpets have sounded declaring the coming judgments of God. John has seen and heard awesome sights and sounds—hail, fire, and brimstone, and fearful signs in the heavens. After the sounding of the first four trumpets, he sees an angel flying through the heavens

pronouncing three woes that will come upon the earth at the sounding of the final three trumpets.

In the last chapter, we learned when the fifth trumpet sounds, the first woe is released upon the earth—the plague of locust-like creatures. Now it is time for the sixth angel to blow his trumpet and release the second woe upon the earth:

And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued

out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. (Revelation 9:13-19)

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The Seven Trumpets

When the sixth angel blew his trumpet, John heard a voice from heaven from the golden altar that is before God, saying: *"Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates"* (Revelation 9-14 RSV). God, who is a God of purpose, plan, design, and objectivity, has prepared four angels and kept them bound at the Euphrates River specifically for this time of future judgment.

Never forget—God has an end-time plan and a specific timetable. There is a time set for every event that will take place upon the earth in the last days. Once God's judgments are set in motion—from the breaking of the first seal, until the new heavens and earth are established —nothing can stop them. Always remember-God is on the throne and He is in control!

As these four angels by the River Euphrates are loosed,

John sees a great army extending across the horizon as far as his eyes can see. The number of these horsemen is two-hundred MILLION! Led by the four angels, this army is given power to kill one-third of the world's population by the fire, smoke, and sulfur that comes out of their horses' mouths (Revelation 9:17-18). Who are these fierce horsemen? Where are they from? How do they fit into God's end-time plan?

The Invading Army

God promised Abraham and his seed that the land that stretched from the Nile to the Euphrates was their possession (Genesis 15:18). The Euphrates marked the boundary between Israel and her chief enemies. Throughout history, it has been identified as the ancient boundary between east and west. The invading army is approaching from the Euphrates River.

The Euphrates runs a distance of approximately 1,800 miles, and it is extremely difficult and often impossible to cross it. It is twelve hundred yards wide at points and

between ten to thirty feet deep.

In Revelation, chapter 16, when the sixth vial of God's wrath is poured out, the Euphrates River will dry up so that the *"way of the kings of the east might be prepared"* (Revelation 16:12). In January, 1990, a recently-built dam blocking the Euphrates River was closed by the President of Turkey and the river dropped seventy-five percent in one day.

This fierce-looking army that John has seen in his vision is symbolic of a great, end-time, Oriental army that will come from east of the Euphrates. When the sixth trumpet sounds, the great Oriental army, 200 million strong, will be given power to kill one-third of the world's population.

When John wrote the Book of Revelation, such a massive army was beyond comprehension. Today, however, it is a real possibility. In China alone, there are an estimated two-hundred million armed and organized militiamen. China now possesses nuclear capabilities and is emerging as a major world power.

In 1978, the Karakoram Highway extending from the

Singkiang Province in China over the formidable Himalayan mountains into Pakistan was completed. This super-highway covers a strategic area where the frontiers of five countries converge: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, India, and the former Soviet Union. It is the only access China has into Pakistan and the surrounding area.

The Karakoram Highway links up with the Grand Trunk Road and other roads which extend as far as the Euphrates River. The completion of this highway has now

made it possible for the *"kings of the east"* (as prophesied in Revelation 16:12) to cross the Euphrates River to participate in the Battle of Armageddon.

A Union of Kings

The "kings of the East" will join together with "the king of the south" (Egypt and her African allies) and "the king of the North" (including Syria and Turkey) to war against the Anti-Christ:

And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a

whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. (Daniel 11:40)

When the sixth vial of God's wrath is poured out and the Euphrates River is dried up, the alliance of kings and their armies will march over the dry riverbed into Israel, where they will fight the Battle of Armageddon.

A section of China's Karakoram Highway extends through Pakistan to the Indian Ocean. A section of this highway also runs through Afghanistan and Iran to Iraq, where the Euphrates River runs from Turkey to the Persian Gulf. We know that the nations of the earth will be gathered together in the last days for the great battle of Armageddon (Joel 3:2) and China will be among those nations. The completion of the Karakoram Highway makes it possible for the kings of the east to advance into Israel for the great Battle of Armageddon!

As this army advances, the fire, smoke, and brimstone issuing out of the mouths of their horses and their serpent-like tails kill one third of all mankind.

Men Stil Refuse to Repent!

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The Sixth Trumpet—The Second Woe

During the six trumpet judgments, God has been pleading with men upon the earth, giving them additional opportunities to repent and be saved from His wrath that is yet to come. Even though the wicked know that God has brought these judgments to call them to repentance, they still harden their hearts:

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. (Revelation 9:20-21)

Wicked men do not repent of their sins, despite the judgments of God they have experienced. They continue their idolatrous ways, they do not repent of their murders, sorceries, fornications, or thefts. Thus, after the holocaust of the seven seals and the first six trumpets, the world as a whole clings fast to its sin.

It is not God's will that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

God is long-suffering and His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. However, in His eternal plan there is a set period, forever established, in which He has allowed time for men to repent. He will not go beyond that point. When that time comes, the wicked will be cut off. The declaration that will go forth will be:

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be

righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. (Revelation 22:11)

In the closing days of time, a line will be drawn and the wicked will be forever separated from the righteous. There will be no further opportunities given for

repentance. Instead of receiving mercy, the wicked will receive the fury of God's wrath.

What a sobering thought! Beloved, that is why we must blow the trumpet in Zion. We must warn people. We must give of our material resources to advance the Gospel as never before. We must go forth with the message of salvation. We must intercede. We must weep and mourn for sinners who face an eternity without God!

My dear friend, God is revealing His end-time plan to you for a purpose. These are your "marching orders" for this end-time harvest. Blow the trumpet in Zion!

The second woe is past. One third of all mankind perishes. There is a third woe yet to come. But first, there is an important Heavenly interlude...

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CHAPTER 5

A HEAVENLY INTERLUDE

5

Before the seventh and final trumpet sounds, the scene in John's vision once again changes. In chapter ten there is a heavenly interlude and John hears seven thunders and

encounters an angel with a special book:

And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And 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. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. (Revelation 10:1-7)

John saw a "mighty" angel coming down from heaven.

This angel was clothed with a cloud, his face shone like the sun, a rainbow was over his head, and his feet were as pillars of fire. The angel was gigantic! He placed his right foot on the sea, his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. In response, seven thunders

"uttered their voices."

Throughout the Book of Revelation, the sounding of thunder is associated with God's punishment being poured out upon the wicked:

• Thunder sounds before the seven trumpet judgments: Revelation 8:5.

• Thunder is heard before the first vial of God's wrath is poured out: Revelation 11:19.

• Thunder sounds as the seventh vial of God's wrath is released: Revelation 16:17-18.

In Revelation 10:4, we learn that John heard seven different messages given by the thunders and began to write down what he had heard. Suddenly, a voice from heaven commanded John to *"Shut up the things which the*

seven thunders uttered, and write them not" (Revelation 10:4).

In the beginning of John's vision, Christ had instructed him to write down all the things he had seen, the things which are, and the things that were yet to come (Revelation 1:19). But now, John is told not to reveal the meaning of these seven thunders.

Why? What was the purpose of these seven thunders? Why did they sound? Why did God instruct John not to reveal the messages? Did the seven mysterious messages reveal seven additional end-time judgments?

The key to understanding these thunders is TIMING. God has determined a time when the messages of these seven thunders will be revealed. Until that time they will remain a mystery to us.

God revealed information concerning end-time events to Daniel approximately six-hundred and thirty years before John's vision, but he was told to *"shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end"* (Daniel 12:4).

A Heavenly Interlude

Daniel heard and saw things he did not understand and

the meaning of these things was *"sealed till the time of the end"* (Daniel 12:8-9).

Today, God is pouring out revelation knowledge upon His people as prophecy is being revealed to us. More and more will be revealed as Christ's coming draws nearer.

No More Delay

After the seven mysterious messages were sealed up, the powerful angel standing with one foot on the land and one foot on the sea lifted his right hand to heaven and made a solemn oath: "There shall be no more time!" The word "time" here means delay.

• The disciples once asked Jesus, "... *what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"* (Matthew 24:3).

• In a vision, Daniel saw an angel who asked the question, " *How long shall it be to the end of these wonders*?" (Daniel 12:6).

• The martyrs in Revelation 6:10 asked, *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"*

At this point in God's end-time plan, the seven seals have been broken, six trumpets have sounded, and the

seven thunders have "uttered" their voices. Now—at this point in time—the angel proclaims that there shall be no more delays in fulfilling God's end-time plan. The " *mystery of God"* which He declared to His servants the prophets will be fulfilled.

These verses pinpoint the exact time of the end. At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the " *mystery of God"* will be accomplished and God's purposes will be fulfilled.

What Is This Mystery?

29

The Seven Trumpets

The Apostle Paul told the Ephesians,

And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10, NIV)

When this last great alarm resounds throughout the heavens and earth, it will signal the fullness of time—the end of the world as we know it—and will announce God's

final triumph over evil!

At that time, God is going to establish Christ's Kingdom upon earth and give Him dominion over all the nations. God's people will possess God's literal kingdom upon this earth, where we will rule and reign with Him. Daniel saw this in a vision and prophesied:

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (Daniel 7:13-14)

Take It and Eat It!

Up to this point in his vision, John had been observing and hearing awesome sights and sounds as God's end-time plan was revealed. Now the time had come when he must become actively involved:

And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in

the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon

the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as 1 had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings. (Revelation 10:8-11)

A voice from heaven commanded John to take the little book from the angel's hand and he immediately obeyed. He took the book and ate it. The phrase *"eat the little book"* is a type of Hebrew expression for the reception of knowledge. The effect the book had upon John is sufficient proof that the book contains catastrophic events that are to transpire upon the earth. The revelation was sweet to receive, but the content was bitter.

When John had finished eating, the angel gave him his "marching orders." John was commissioned to prophesy

before many peoples and nations (Revelation 10:11). The Greek word used here and translated "before" should be translated "concerning." It means that John would prophesy again concerning peoples, nations, tongues, and kings—which is exactly what he did in the remainder of the Revelation.

It was not sufficient for John to merely hear and observe the revelation of God's end-time plan—he had to reach out and TAKE it. He had to ingest it into his innermost being and share it with others.

Revelation Is for a Purpose

Being able to understand what will happen in the last days is exciting, but it is not enough for you to merely observe and hear the revelation of God's end-time plan. Before the power of this revelation can be realized in your

life, you must appropriate it.

Just as John was instructed to take the little book and eat it, you must take the revelation God is giving you and eat it-ingest it into your inner spiritual being. This is a new

day! God is pouring out revelation understanding in these last days as we have never had before. The revelation God gives must become part of you. Head knowledge is not enough. It must penetrate deep down into your spirit.

Along with the revelation God has given you, there comes a solemn responsibility. Not everyone is called to prophesy as John was, but God does expect you to take the revelation He has given you and share it with others to prepare them for what is ahead.

After John had eaten the book, he said: *"It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour"* (Revelation 10:10). The prophecies in the Book of Revelation are both sweet and bitter. To the Christian they are sweet, but to the ungodly they are bitter. They reveal the glories of heaven and the rewards that are waiting for all those who are faithful unto the end. They also reveal the fearful judgments of God that are coming upon all those who reject God and do not apply the blood of Jesus to their lives.

Remember:

REVELATION

MUST

BE

APPROPRIATED BEFORE IT PRODUCES POWER! You must take the revelation you are receiving, eat it, make it part of your life and share it with others. You must be faithful to share both the bitter and the sweet truths that God has shown you in this revelation of His great end-time plan.

CHAPTER 6

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET—THE THIRD WOE

6

In Revelation 8-9, six trumpets sound. In Revelation 10, there is a heavenly interlude during which John hears seven thunders and encounters the angel with the book. Then, in chapter 11, John receives a very powerful revelation of the Tribulation period which we will discuss in depth in the next book in this series.

After this...

... the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the

kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. (Revelation 11:15-19)

At the sounding of the seventh and final trumpet, a great declaration is made in heaven concerning God's final triumph over evil. John hears loud voices in heaven declaring,

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. (Revelation 11:15)

The sounding of this seventh trumpet brings to a conclusion the purpose and plan of God. The twenty-four elders fall on their faces before God in worship and praise for His mighty power and the great victory He has won. In Revelation 10:7 in *The Amplified Bible,* we read,

But that when the days come that the trumpet call of the seventh angel is about to be sounded, then God's mystery—His secret design, His hidden purpose—as He had announced the glad tidings to His servants the prophets, should be fulfilled (accomplished, completed).

When the seventh trumpet sounds, it is a wonderful time in Heaven but a terrible time on earth. The time has come for the Great Day of the Lord, when God's wrath will be poured out upon the wicked. It is the time for Christ to reward the saints and destroy the wicked:

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to

the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. (Revelation 11:18)

In the concluding verses of Revelation 11, the sanctuary of God in heaven is thrown open. The Ark of the Covenant is revealed and there is an awesome manifestation of God's great power. Lightning flashes, there are loud roars of thunder, another earthquake, and a great hail storm.

When that great seventh trumpet sounds *"... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever"*

(Revelation 11:15). The end of all things is at hand.

Beloved, in view of these things we are learning, I encourage you to live every day with a sense of expectancy, preparing yourself and others for that day when you will see Jesus Christ returning in the cloud: *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and*

godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. (2 Peter 3:11-14)

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Elijah in these end times.

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The Seven Trumpets

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

P. O. Box 85277

San Diego, CA 92186-5277

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism of Canada

P. O. Box 3600

Concord, Ontario L4K1B6

Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

P. O. Box 277, Hemel Hempstead, HERTS HP2 7DH

Tel: (858) 277-2200

Website: www.mcwe.com

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Dr. Morris Cerullo, President
Morris Cerullo World Evangelism

Morris Cerullo's accreditation for spiritual teaching is, in itself, quite formidable: a divine, supernatural call from God to preach and evangelize when he was 15 years old...graduation from New England Bible College...over half a century of experience as a pastor, teacher, author and worldwide evangelist. Many honors have been bestowed on Morris Cerullo, including honorary doctorates of Divinity and Humanities, both by academic and spiritual leaders around the world in recognition of his achievements and contributions to global evangelization. Dr. Cerullo is respected and looked upon by thousands of Nationals as God's end-time apostolic prophet to the nations of the world. Dr. Cerullo's ministry outreaches include:

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Morris Cerullo World Evangelism
U.S • P.O. Box 85277 • San Diego, CA 92186
Canada • P.O. Box 3600 • Concord, Ontario L4K 1B6
U.K. • P.O. Box 277 • Hemel Hempstead • HERTS • HP2 7DH
Website: www.mcwe.com

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