

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 9:13-11:19 | Session 15 | The Trumpet Judgments, Part 2

In the book of Revelation, there are seven pairs of visions given to John. The first pair of visions pertains to events that are taking place in Heaven, and the second part of the pair concerns events taking place on Earth.

- 1.1 | The First Vision in Heaven (4:1-5:14).
- 1.2 | The First Vision on Earth (6:1-7:8).
- 1.3 | The Second Vision in Heaven (7:9-8:6).
- 1.4 | The Second Vision on Earth (8:7-11:14).
- 1.5 | The Third Vision in Heaven (11:15-18).
- 1.6 | The Third Vision on Earth (11:19).

1.4 THE SECOND VISION ON EARTH (8:7-11:14) | THE FIRST SIX TRUMPETS

1.4.6 THE SIXTH TRUMPET (9:13-11:14)

With the sixth trumpet, we receive more detail than any of the others. No less than thirty-three verses are devoted to its description. We will also see *the second woe* (the first woe being described in 9:1-12 with the fifth trumpet judgment).

Verse 13,14—

The first time we read about **the golden altar which is before God**, is in the book of Exodus 30:6, and it is described as being *before the veil* of the tabernacle. In Revelation, there is no veil, and as the angel sounds its trumpet, the voice comes from **the four horns of the golden altar, which is before God**.

Verse 15—

The book of Second Peter speaks of *angels that had sinned and were cast down* to a subterranean region (Greek: *Tartaroo*) and *reserved for judgment*. If we take the 2 Peter passage as indicating these angels are prepared and ready for their own judgment and, along with fulfilling the role as executors of God's judgment, as the book of Jude says, *the judgment of that great day*. These may be the same angels. They are bound now but will be let loose upon the earth during the Tribulation. There is no indication of why they are bound in the Euphrates river. The river is near Babylon, and there may be some connection. Nevertheless, they are loosed for about 13 months and will kill a **third part of men**.

Verse 16-19—

We are introduced to an **army of the horsemen**. This is no small army of **two hundred thousand thousand**; **that** would be 200,000,000. There is much speculation as to who or what this army could be. Some have said it is China's military, but I think it is better to look at this army as supernatural beings—not humans. They come from below. We don't need to make anything up. This massive invasion of the earth leaves death in their wake.

Verse 20,21—

Whatever idolatry mankind is involved in during this time, it doesn't specifically say, except that murdering and fornication are rampant, and that mankind is so jaded by **devils and idols** they will not turn from their wicked evil ways.

1.4.6.1 | CHAPTER 10 | THE LITTLE BOOK AND THE MIGHTY ANGEL

Chapter 10:1,2—

We continue in this chapter with the effects and consequences of the sixth trumpet, but with new details. **Another mighty angel**, not one of the trumpet angels. He **comes down from heaven**. The angel plants his right foot on the **sea** and his left foot **on earth**, which probably means he is proposing to take possession of both the sea and the world to execute more judgment.

Verses 3,4—

This *cry* is a shout of power, not distress. It is a roaring cry in which seven more judgments are pronounced. The **seven thunders** sound, but John is instructed not to write about them. Why they are **sealed up**, we are not told.

Verse 5,6,7—

The execution of final vengeance by God **should be time no longer** that is no longer delayed. The seventh trumpet by the seventh angel will soon sound, expanding into the seven vials of judgment.

Verses 8-11—

In Hebrew idiom, *eating* means to receive knowledge. Should we take this literally, i.e., John actually ate the little book? I don't see why not. Either way, the result is the same. There is sweetness in that the prayers of Israel were about to be answered, but bitterness in that awful judgment will be the form of that answer.

1.4.6.2 | CHAPTER 11 | THE TWO WITNESSES

We are continuing with the Second Vision on Earth, which consists of the six Trumpets but is given to us in three parts. 1. Immediate judgments or plagues, 2. The Mighty Angel and the little book, and 3. The Two Witnesses.

Chapter 11:1,2—

John is given a **reed like unto a rod**; we don't know by whom. But it's a **measuring rod**. John is to **measure the temple of God**. The word **temple** is not from the Greek word that means the entire building. Rather, it is the word *Naos* which means *the holy place*. *There is no temple in Jerusalem today, but there will be a rebuilt temple during the tribulation*. There will be some true worshippers of God, including some of the 144,000 sealed with God's protection. But John is not to measure the court outside the temple, which is **given to the Gentiles**. Today in the dispensation of grace, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, but during the Tribulation, a dispensation of law will be back in force, and there will be a separation between the two. And

for 3.5 years, the times of the Gentiles will be evident. In other words, there will be great oppression, and God will separate the wheat from the chaff.

Verse 3—

And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and their prophesying will coincide with the 42 months of the city of Jerusalem being trampled upon. These two witnesses will proclaim a testimony of God for 1,260 days, which equals 42 months, and 3.5 years, or as Daniel worded it, ***a time, times, and a half*** (Daniel 12:14).

Verse 4—

These two men are described as **the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth**. Zechariah 4 speaks about two olive trees that are *anointed ones that stand before the Lord of the whole earth*. Here we have the **two olive trees** that represent two individuals. They will be endowed spiritually with great power in the face of Satanic opposition. The greatest question about these two men is, “Who are they?” To that, I would say if God had wanted us to know, He would have told us. We know that on the coming day of the tribulation, God will raise up two men whom He will call **“my two witnesses.”** They will exhibit wondrous powers to enable them to carry out the commission He will give them, and the world will hate them for it. Beyond this, there is no more to say about their identity.

Verses 5,6—

They have great power to inflict judgment.

Verses 7-13—

No harm can come to these men during their witness. Not until their testimony is complete can they be injured or overcome. We won't see the account of the rise of the Beast to power until we get to chapter 13, so we have to remember that the book of Revelation is not chronological. The events of chapters 12 and 13 must have already taken place since the Beast is already on earth.

Verse 8—

And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of Jerusalem (where our Lord was crucified). The reason Jerusalem is referred to as **Sodom and Egypt** is to describe the character and condition of Jerusalem in a spiritual and moral sense. Likewise, both Sodom and Egypt had judgments placed upon them.

Verses 9-13—

It is not difficult to grasp how the entire world will be able to **see their dead bodies...and rejoice over** their death. But the parties will be short-lived, for in just three and half days, these men, who had been left in the street to rot, will rise to their feet. Everyone seeing it will be filled with dread and **great fear**. **Like** the Lord after His resurrection, these men ascend **to heaven...and their enemies beheld them**.

A great earthquake followed. And the **glory they gave to the God of heaven**, is not a statement of these people praising God in the form of worship, but more like king Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel, who simply acknowledged another god.

Verse 14—

The **second woe** consisted of the horsemen and the Two Witnesses.

The third woe to come is the result of an angel sounding the seventh trumpet and will occupy four chapters (15-18).

1.5 THE THIRD VISION IN HEAVEN (11:15-18)

1.5.1 | THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

The sounding of the seventh Trumpet takes us back to Heaven to the third vision seen there by John.

Verse 15—

The seventh Trumpet is sounded from Heaven. Notice it is not called the *last trumpet*, for there will be other trumpets sounding before the return of the Lord (Matthew 24:30,31). Other notable trumpets are in 1 Corinthians 15:51,52, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

But, this trumpet produces much activity in Heaven; **great voices in Heaven** begin to speak of the **kingdoms of this world** becoming **the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever**. The kingdom of our Lord is not from this world. It is not built or established by man.

Verse 16-18—

The last two great witnesses of God have finished their testimony, now, all further testimony is withdrawn, and **God's wrath** will take its course. We see a preview here with **the dead** being **judged**. A future picture of the Judgment is given in chapter 20, which is (for the Jewish nation) the first resurrection. Three groups are involved in this resurrection: 1. God's **servants; the prophets** (Old Testament era). 2. The **Saints** (Jewish believers from the *call of Abraham* to the end of the Kingdom offer). 3. Those who **fear thy name** (Dead believers of the Tribulation).

The dead in Christ are not included since they have been previously resurrected, 1 Thessalonians 4.

1.6 | THE THIRD VISION ON EARTH (11:19)

The temple of God was opened. Revelation is the book of *revealing or opening*. There are seven openings throughout the book. 1. A *Door* is opened in heaven (4:1). 2. The *Seals* are opened (6:1-9). 3. The *Abyss* is opened (9:2). 4. The *Temple* of God is opened (11:19). 5. The *Tabernacle* of Testimony is opened (15:5). 6. *Heaven* is opened (19:11). 7. The *Books* of judgment are opened (20:12).

Verse 19—

This is the shortest vision, but it anticipates the end of the book. Seven more judgments are coming from **vials** poured out upon the earth. They follow the seventh Trumpet, but not before John sees several more visions in chapters 12,13,14 and 15.