

Lesson 20 The Seven Trumpets: Chapters 8-11

STUDY GUIDE

1. The vision of the seven trumpets is introduced in vs. 1-6 of Chapter 8. With what is it connected according to vs. 1 and 2? What else seems to have a vital connection with the trumpets according to vs. 3-5? What happens on earth just before the trumpets sound? Has there been any reference to this before?
2. Glance through the seven trumpets (8:7-11:15) and notice the plan. Are the first four alike (8:7-12)? What about the fifth and the sixth? The seventh comes in 11:15. What two visions take place between the sixth and the seventh? How does this plan compare with that of the seven seals?
3. Jot down the seven seals in a column according to the above plan so the trumpets can be studied parallel with them. In the column for the trumpets, answer the following three questions for each of the first four trumpets: What is seen? Where does it strike? What is the result?
4. Parallel to the fifth seal, jot down the outstanding facts about the fifth trumpet (9:1-11). What is seen? Where does it strike? For what purpose? Notice the description in vs. 7-10. Study the sixth trumpet in the same way (9:13-21). What is seen there? What do they do? Against whom is it directed (note vs. 10-21)?
5. Chapters 10 and 11 give the parenthesis. Read Chapter 10 several times until you can recount the episode that is described here. To what do you think this refers (note vs. 6, 7 and 11)? Where does the episode of Chapter 11 take place (see vs. 1 and 8)? What is described in vs. 1? The center of the episode is introduced in vs. 3. Jot down the outstanding facts about these two witnesses.
6. For the seventh trumpet read 11:15-19. To what event does this bring us? How does this compare with the end of the seven seals? Do you think the seven trumpets deal with the same things as the seven seals? If not, how do you relate the two visions?

NOTES

The vision of the seven trumpets is introduced in vs. 1-6 of chapter 8. The vision of the seven trumpets is connected directly with the breaking of the seventh seal, there is silence in heaven for half an hour after its breaking. There was prayer for the saints and then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to sound them. Just before the trumpets were sounded, natural disasters once again returned to the earth as had been the case with the sixth seal.

We see the plan of the seven trumpets is very similar to the seven seals with the first four being alike and then the next two, a parenthesis, and then the seventh. The first four (8:7-12) deal with nature with the fifth and sixth directly against men (chapter 9). The fifth and sixth seal are also the first two of three woes. Between the sixth and seventh trumpet, we see the vision of the angel who placed one foot on the land and the other on the sea and gave to John a book to eat and also the vision of the two witnesses in chapter eleven. We notice that in between the sixth and seventh seal, we have the vision of the great multitude and the 144,000.

(See chart on next page that compares visions of sevens)

	SEVEN SEALS	SEVEN TRUMPETS	7 BOWLS OF WRATH
1	WHITE HORSE BOW ANTI CHRIST'S CROWN CONQUERING & TO CONQUER	1/3 OF THE EARTH BURNT 1/3 OF THE TREES BURNT AND ALL THE GRASS	LOATHSOME MALIGNANT SORE ON THOSE W/ THE MARK OF THE BEAST
2	RED HORSE WAR TAKE PEACE FROM THE EARTH MEN SLAYING ONE ANOTHER PEACE TAKEN FROM EARTH	GREAT MOUNTAIN THROWN INTO THE OCEAN 1/3 BECAME BLOOD 1/3 CREATURES IN THE SEA DIE 1/3 OF THE SHIPS DESTROYED	EVERY LIVING THING IN THE SEA DIED
3	BLACK HORSE INFLATION FAMINE	GREAT STAR FROM HEAVEN FALLS ON 1/3 OF ALL STREAMS & RIVERS & SPRINGS OF WATER STAR = WORMWOOD MEN DIE FROM BITTER WATERS	RIVERS AND SPRINGS BECOME ALL BLOOD
4	PALE HORSE DEATH DEATH W/HADES FOLLOWING AUTHORITY OVER 1/4 EARTH KILLING, WITH SWORD FAMINE & WILD BEAST	1/3 OF SUN & MOON SMITTEN 1/3 OF STARS 1/3 OF DAY DOES NOT SHINE SAME FOR NIGHT	SUN SCORCHES MEN WITH FIRE THEY BLASPHEME GOD AND DO NOT REPENT
5	UNDERNEATH THE ALTAR THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN SLAIN BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY MARTYRS	STAR FALLEN TO EARTH GIVEN THE KEY TO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT - LOCUST FROM THE PIT WITH POWER. BUT THEY CAN ONLY HARM THOSE W/0 THE SEAL. FIRST WOEF	POURED ON THE THRONE OF THE BEAST - KINGDOM BECAME DARK AND THEY GNAWED AT THEIR TONGUE IN PAIN
6	GREAT EARTHQUAKE SUN TURNS BLACK & MOON RED - STARS FALLING TO EARTH NATURAL DISASTERS 144,000 SEALED	RELEASE 4 ANGELS AT EUPHRATES RIVER - PREPARED FOR THE HOUR, DAY, MONTH, AND YEAR 1/3 MANKIND IS KILLED 200,000,000 HORSEMEN 2ND WOEF	WATER OF EUPHRATES DRIED UP FOR THE KING FROM THE EAST. KINGS OF THE WHOLE EARTH PREPARE TO WAR AGAINST GOD
7	SILENCE IN HEAVEN FOR HALF AN HOUR SEVEN TRUMPETS OF GOD'S WRATH ON EARTH	ANGEL W/ 7 PEELS OF THUNDER TWO WITNESSES THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD 10:15 24 ELDERS WORSHIP CHRIST	GREAT EARTHQUAKE SUCH AS THERE NEVER HAS BEEN - 100 LB. HAILSTONES

The Angel with the Little Book

We see in chapter 10, the vision of an angel which issues another seven, these of seven peals of thunder, but John is told not to write these down. The angel is standing on the sea and the land so we can assume he is very large. He offers praises to God and prepares the scene for the seventh trumpet by saying in verse 7, "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." The book then, we could conclude, is that of the prophets. They are written of everything up to this point before, but now John is to be given something more. We see that the book that John ate was sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his stomach. If we read Jeremiah 15:16 and Ezekiel 3:1-3, we see that these two prophets of God had similar experiences.

The Temple, Two Witnesses and 7th Trumpet

Chapter 11 gives to us the vision of the two witnesses. This vision takes place in the city of Jerusalem and at one place (v.1) in the temple. John is given a rod like a staff and told to measure the temple and the people in it, but leave out the court outside the temple because it has been given over to those who tread the holy city under foot for 42 months. For these 42 months, God will give authority to two witnesses for 42 months. These will be clothed in sackcloth and are the two olive trees and the two lampstands, which stand before God. If anyone desires to harm them, fire comes from their mouth and they are destroyed. These two are given the powers over nature to bring plagues on the earth as often as they like. When their testimony is completed, the beast, which comes from the abyss, will make war with them and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ days and everyone will rejoice that they are dead.

After these 3 ½ days, the breath of God enters into them and they live again. This of course causes great fear on those of the city. A loud voice sounds forth from heaven saying, "Come up here", and they arise to heaven. At this time there is an earthquake, which destroys a tenth of the city and 7,000 people are killed. The rest are terrified and give glory to God. These are perhaps the last to receive Christ. This ends the second woe as the seventh trumpet sounds and loud voices in heaven proclaim, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Basically, the seven trumpets end the same way as the seven seals and that is the second coming of Christ. However, it seems that the seven trumpets are giving us greater insight as to what happens during the sixth seal in the great turmoil that exist in nature.