

Trumpets

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



If you're like me, you have read Revelation many times and each time have come away from it with your head spinning – mostly from the center section.

The beginning and ending are pretty easy to understand. Fortunately, it's clear Who wins the war and what the eternal results are.

But, the path from Revelation 4 through 20 can be a bit confusing.

In the midst of this I want to remind you of some important principles. The details of prophecy are rarely understood until they're close to being fulfilled. While we can generally understand the broad strokes of prophecy, we will often be surprised by how the details play out.

So, it's important for us to remember these three things:

1. One purpose of the book of Revelation is expressed in its first verse:

The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place ... (Revelation 1:1, CSB)

God does not want us to be completely in the dark about what's coming so He's revealed certain things to us to warn us and to give us comfort and courage.

2. Much of prophecy won't be understood until it is happening around us or has past. Jesus said:

But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you ..." (John 16:4, CSB)

It's important for you and I to study prophecy even if we don't understand it. If we are not familiar with it, we won't recognize it as it happens and may lose out on important warnings and events.

3. Everything in the Bible is meant to point to Jesus, even prophecy. Again, from the first verse of Revelation:

The revelation of Jesus Christ ... (Revelation 1:1, CSB)

Keeping these things in mind will make our study of Revelation a bit less frustrating. There are many places we can see Jesus. There are several broad themes that are obvious. And lots of details that at this point we can only guess on.

Comparison of Seals and Trumpets

We just finished looking at the Seven Seals and concluded that, in general, they demonstrated the characteristics of God's Kingdom and Satan's Kingdom from the time of Jesus' ascension down through the Second Coming of Jesus.

Today, we will begin looking at another group of seven – Seven Trumpets.

In general, there are similarities in how the Seven Seals and the Seven Trumpets are laid out.

- There are seven of them.
- Just like the seals, the first four trumpets go together and the last three go together.
- And, just as there was a special interlude between the sixth and seventh seals that helped us better understand the seventh seal there is a special interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets.

You may remember the seals ended in a moment of silence following the destruction of the earth at the coming of Jesus.

Let's see if we can figure out when the Seven Trumpets end. Reading from [Revelation 11:15-19](#):

Reading Revelation

The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying,

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

The twenty-four elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God, saying,

We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the

reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail. (Revelation 11:15-19, CSB)

The 7th Trumpet

The first voices we hear after the trumpet blows gives us this information:

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever. (Revelation 11:15, CSB)

The trumpets are still about the battle between the Kingdoms of Satan and God.

This tells us we are at or near the Second Coming of Jesus – at the point where God has taken back complete control.

The words of the twenty-four elders gives us more information:

We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, ... (Revelation 11:17, CSB)

Twice already in Revelation we have seen God referred to in these terms with one important difference:

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come ..." (Revelation 1:8, CSB)

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come. " (Revelation 4:8, CSB)

Here in **Revelation 11**, what is missing?

We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, ... (Revelation 11:17, CSB)

"Who is to come" is missing.

Why?

Because here in the Seventh Trumpet, He *has come* – it's no longer in the future.

Reading on:

We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. (Revelation 11:17, CSB)

Their words confirm what the other voices told us. God, with His great power, has started His reign and taken complete control. His kingdom has triumphed!

The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. (Revelation 11:17, CSB)

This would indicate that probation has or will soon close with lots of people still on Satan's side. As we understand things, this will happen a short time before Jesus' Coming.

The twenty-four elders continue:

The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth. (Revelation 11:18, CSB)

The time has come to judge the dead and to give them what is coming to them.

To those who have accepted Jesus' sacrifice and grace, the reward is eternal life. And, all others are destroyed.

And then we find this final statement:

Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail. (Revelation 11:19, CSB)

To the early Israelites, the presence of the Ark of the Covenant was a comfort. It was an indication of God's presence and protection.

It being revealed here is an indication of more troubling things to come. So while this is close to the Second Coming it appears there is still some more to happen before it takes place.

The trumpets take us very close to the end, but not quite all the way home.

The Impact

The most important truth of this passage – the entire passage of the Seven Trumpets – is: Jesus is coming again and this sinful world and all associated with it will be destroyed.

This is summarized so well in **2 Peter 3**, a passage we looked at a few weeks ago.

It describes the characteristics of God we know and value. The side of God that has drawn us from this world to Him:

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some

people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. (2 Peter 3:8-9, NLT)

It then goes on to describe a characteristic of God we have not generally seen or experienced – the Destroyer of sin and of everything affected by it.

But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. (2 Peter 3:10, NLT)

This seems like a strange act until we consider it must be done to make room for the new heavens and the new earth He promised.

It also goes on to answer the question of how this should affect the way we live our lives:

Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. (2 Peter 3:11-13, NLT)

The Choice

This all breaks down to a simple choice expressed so well in one of the Bible's best known verses, [John 3:16](#).

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16, NLT)

Your choice is to perish or have everlasting life. There isn't a third choice, only these two.

God gave the life of His only Son to pay the penalty for your sinfulness and redeem you from the power of the enemy.

He did this to convince you to put your belief and trust in Him so you will not perish, but have everlasting life. That's life you're still living one billion years from now. In fact, that's only the first of an infinite number of a billion year segments.

Perish or Eternal Life?

That seems like it should be an easy choice to make!

Perish or Eternal Life? Which will it be?

Assignment

Next Sabbath we will continue our series on the book of Revelation titled *Finding Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)* with a message titled *Trumpets, Part 2*. We will take a look at the first four trumpets found in **Revelation 8:2-12**.

- This week spend some time with **Revelation 8:2-12**. Try to read this through several times to become familiar with what it says.
- What do you find comforting in this passage?
- Is there anything about this passage that makes you uncomfortable? Why do you think that is?
- You'll notice that one-third is mentioned in connection with each of these trumpets. Do you think this is an exact number or a general approximation?
- When the third trumpet blew, a great star fell from the sky doing a bunch of damage. Who do you think may be represented by this star?
- Who is doing all the damage going on with the blowing of each trumpet? Can you find any clues?
- What is the most important message you see in this passage?
- How will this affect the way you live your life? Why?

Notes

Text you find in **this color** is a link to more information. It may take you to the Bible verse in context and/or in several different translations utilizing **BibleGateway.com**. In some cases, it may take you to a website where there is additional information. And, it may take you to a PDF copy of previous sermons in this series.

Resource Books

Revelation, Sigve K. Tonstad, Baker Academic, © 2019. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

Revelation of Jesus Christ, Commentary on the Book of Revelation, 2nd Edition, Ranko Stefanovic, Andrews University Press, © 2009. To purchase a paper copy go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#).

Revelation, the Fifth Gospel, Elizabeth Talbot, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2014. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

What We Believe: Prophecies of Revelation for Teens, Seth Pierce, Pacific Press Publishing Association, © 2013. To purchase a paper copy go to the [ABC](https://www.abc-clc.com) or to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). For an iBook, [click here](#). For a Kindle version, [click here](#). Or, for a Nook Book, [click here](#).

Previous Messages in this Series (click on the title to download a PDF copy of it)

- Jan. 9, 2021 – *Present* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 23, 2021 – *Alpha + Omega* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Jan. 30, 2021 – *Available* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 6, 2021 – *Snapshot* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 13, 2021 – *Salvation* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Feb. 20, 2021 – *History, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Mar. 6, 2021 – *History, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

- Mar. 27, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 1* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 17, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 2* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Apr. 24, 2021 – *Beginning, Part 3* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- May 1, 2021 – *Thrones* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 17, 2021 – *The Lamb* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- July 24, 2021 – *The Seals, The 4 Horsemen* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 7, 2021 – *The Seals, How Long* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Aug. 28, 2021 – *The Seals, The 144,000* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)
- Sept. 4, 2021 – *The Seals, Silence* ([click here](#) to watch it on YouTube)

Scripture References

Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT): *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. (Psalm 139:23-24, NLT)*

Proverbs 3:5-12 (NLT): *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

⁷ *Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.*

⁸ *Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.*

⁹ *Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. ¹⁰ Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.*

¹¹ *My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you. ¹² For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.*

(Proverbs 3:5-12, NLT)

Isaiah 41:10-13 (CEV): *Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories. ¹¹ Everyone who hates you will be terribly disgraced; those who attack will vanish into thin air. ¹² You will look around for those brutal enemies, but you won't find them because they will be gone.*

¹³ *I am the LORD your God. I am holding your hand, so don't be afraid. I am here to help you.*
(Isaiah 41:10-13, CEV)

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NLT): *"Look! I am creating new heavens and a new earth, and no one will even think about the old ones anymore. ¹⁸ Be glad; rejoice forever in my creation! And look! I will create Jerusalem as a place of happiness. Her people will be a source of joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and delight in my people. And the sound of weeping and crying will be heard in it no more.*

²⁰ *"No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young! ²¹ In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards. ²² Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards. For my people will live as long as trees, and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains. ²³ They will not work in vain, and their children will not be doomed to misfortune. For they are people blessed by the LORD, and their children, too, will be blessed.*

²⁴ *I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers! ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!"* (Isaiah 65:17-25, NLT)

Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT): *Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30, NLT)

John 3:14-17 (NLT): *And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.*

¹⁶ *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.* (John 3:14-17, NLT)

John 16:1-6 (CSB): *"I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. ² They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or me. ⁴ But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart."* (John 16:1-6, CDB)

John 16:31-33 (NIV): *“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. ³² “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.*

³³ *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:31-33, NIV)*

Romans 8:1-17 (NLT): *So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.*

⁵ *Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. ⁸ That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.*

⁹ *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

¹² *Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

¹⁵ *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. **But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.** (Romans 8:1-17, NLT)*

Romans 8:26-28 (NLT): *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will. ²⁸ **And we know that God causes***

everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (Romans 8:26-28, NLT)

Romans 8:31-39 (NLT): *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? ³² Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one – for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one – for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? ³⁶ (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") ³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39, NLT)

1 Peter 2:11-25 (NLT): *Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. ¹² Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.*

¹³ For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴ or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

¹⁵ It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶ For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷ Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.

¹⁸ You who are slaves must submit to your masters with all respect. Do what they tell you – not only if they are kind and reasonable, but even if they are cruel. ¹⁹ For God is pleased when, conscious of his will, you patiently endure unjust treatment. ²⁰ Of course, you get no credit for being patient if you are beaten for doing wrong. But if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you.

²¹ For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

²² He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. ²³ He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. ²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. ²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2:11-25, NLT)

2 Peter 3:3-15 (NLT): Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴ They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.”

⁵ They deliberately forget that God made the heavens long ago by the word of his command, and he brought the earth out from the water and surrounded it with water. ⁶ Then he used the water to destroy the ancient world with a mighty flood. ⁷ And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment, when ungodly people will be destroyed.

⁸ But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹ The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. ¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God’s righteousness.

¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

¹⁵ And remember, our Lord’s patience gives people time to be saved. (2 Peter 3:3-15, NLT)

Revelation 1:1-2 (CSB): The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. (Revelation 1:1-2, CSB)

Revelation 8:2 – 11:19 (CSB): Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them. ³ Another angel, with a golden incense burner, came and stood at the altar. He was given a large amount of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on

the golden altar in front of the throne. ⁴ The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand. ⁵ The angel took the incense burner, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it to the earth; there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

The Seven Trumpets

⁶ And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

The First Trumpet

⁷ The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire, mixed with blood, were hurled to the earth. So a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The Second Trumpet

⁸ The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the sea became blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The Third Trumpet

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from heaven. It fell on a third of the rivers and springs of water. ¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood. So, many of the people died from the waters, because they had been made bitter.

The Fourth Trumpet

¹² The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day was without light and also a third of the night.

¹³ I looked and heard an eagle flying high overhead, crying out in a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth, because of the remaining trumpet blasts that the three angels are about to sound!"

The Fifth Trumpet

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key for the shaft to the abyss was given to him. ² He opened the shaft to the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft. ³ Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth. ⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green plant, or any tree, but only those people who do not

have God's seal on their foreheads.⁵ They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it stings someone.⁶ In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

⁷ The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. Something like golden crowns was on their heads; their faces were like human faces;⁸ they had hair like women's hair; their teeth were like lions' teeth;⁹ they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of many chariots with horses rushing into battle;¹⁰ and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months.¹¹ They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

¹² The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this.

The Sixth Trumpet

¹³ The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the golden altar that is before God, I heard a voice¹⁴ say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates."¹⁵ So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race.¹⁶ The number of mounted troops was two hundred million; I heard their number.¹⁷ This is how I saw the horses and their riders in the vision: They had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur.¹⁸ A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues – by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths.¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads that inflict injury.

²⁰ The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood, which cannot see, hear, or walk.²¹ And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

The Mighty Angel and the Small Scroll

10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head. His face was like the sun, his legs were like pillars of fire,² and he held a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land,³ and he called out with a loud voice like a roaring lion. When he cried out, the seven thunders raised their voices.⁴ And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!"

⁵ Then the angel that I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven.⁶ He swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it,

the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, “There will no longer be a delay, ⁷ but in the days when the seventh angel will blow his trumpet, then the mystery of God will be completed, as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

⁸ Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

⁹ So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, “Take and eat it; it will be bitter in your stomach, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.”

¹⁰ Then I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I ate it, my stomach became bitter. ¹¹ And they said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.”

The Two Witnesses

11 Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there. ² But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don’t measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.” ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. ⁶ They have authority to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every plague whenever they want.

The Witnesses Martyred

⁷ When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them. ⁸ Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ And some of the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will view their bodies for three and a half days and not permit their bodies to be put into a tomb. ¹⁰ Those who live on the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send gifts to one another because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

The Witnesses Resurrected

¹¹ But after three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” They went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them. ¹³ At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and

seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ *The second woe has passed. Take note: The third woe is coming soon!*

The Seventh Trumpet

¹⁵ *The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying,*

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

¹⁶ *The twenty-four elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying,*

We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

¹⁹ *Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail. ([Revelation 8:2 – 11:19](#), CSB)*

Revelation 21:1-4 (CSB): *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.*

³ *Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. ([Revelation 21:1-4](#), CSB)*