

Trumpets

Part 2

Seeing Jesus in Revelation (and Hearing His Voice)



As we try to understand the message of the *Seven Trumpets* we must recognize there are many views on what they mean – many of which make some sense. What I'm going to present by no means is an open and shut case excluding all other options.

What I will share is close to the traditional, historical Protestant interpretation which was held by most Protestant churches up until the late 1800s and early 1900s.

As I mentioned last week, we will not totally understand all of Bible Prophecy until it is happening around us,

So, you may ask: Why even try to explain it all then? Why waste our time trying to understand something we are not likely to totally understand yet?

I'm glad you asked!

1. God has made the broad themes understandable. Trying to fit the details into the broad themes makes us familiar with them in a way that would not happen if we did not wrestle with them a bit.
2. Much of this may be closer than we think and we may be surprised by how much understanding we actually gain.
3. It all points to Jesus in some way if we are looking for Him. Focusing on Him is always a good thing.

Reading Revelation

Then I saw the seven angels who stand in the presence of God; seven trumpets were given to them. 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. The smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up in the presence of God from the angel's hand. 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.

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

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 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, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

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. 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 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. (Revelation 8:2-12, CSB)

Today we will look some themes running through the trumpets to answer a couple of big questions before we dig into each trumpet in greater detail.

God's Active Will vs. His Permissive Will

First, let's review what we learned about God's *Active Will* versus His *Permissive Will* back when we were looking at the Seven Seals.

More than anything, God wants you and me – along with every living person – to be with Him for eternity. And He wants it to be free from the effects of sin and secure against sin ever raising its ugly head again. He is doing everything He can to make this happen. This is His *Active Will*. This is what Heaven is obsessed with.

However, He knows that in order to get us there and to make eternity secure and free from sin forever, Satan must be completely defeated here and now. And in order for Satan to be defeated, everyone must see clearly who he is, what he stands for, and what life would be like under his rule.

This can only happen if God gives him permission to freely act. This is God's *Permissive Will*. It's the only way to demonstrate the actual consequences of sin in such a way so it will never rise up again.

He has to allow the consequence to play out which, unfortunately, due to the nature of sin, will hurt innocent people. It can even create incredible evil such as terrorist attacks, genocides and war.

God has not promised that life here will be happy or even pleasant. There's a war going on, and we're caught in the war zone – especially when we have given ourselves to Jesus and are trying to live for Him.

We don't know how much longer this world will drag on. But, Revelation is clear on one thing – it will end. The suffering and death does stop!

In the meantime, we must continue to trust God and live our lives day to day following as He leads us.

An important question we must answer as we look through the trumpets is: Where is all the bad stuff coming from? Is it retribution from God? Or, is it Satan acting out because God has withdrawn His presence and protection giving the enemy more freedom to hurt and destroy?

The third trumpet gives us some insight into this.

The Third Trumpet

When the third trumpet blows, John saw a great star, blazing like a torch, falling from the sky.

From our study of Revelation 1 you remember that angels are often represented as stars. And so, a great star falling from heaven would have to be Satan himself, who was kicked out of heaven because of his rebellion.

Isaiah also saw this in vision:

“How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.” (Isaiah 14:12, NLT)

So Satan was thrown to the earth and do you remember what he polluted? The rivers and the springs of water.

In the Bible pure water and springs represent spiritual refreshment and nourishment.

At a key moment at one of the festivals in Jerusalem Jesus stood up and shouted to the crowd that was gathered around:

“Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him ...)
([John 7:37-39](#), NLT)

Pure water represents the grace and love of God that leads us to salvation.

Here in the Third Trumpet, Satan polluted a third of the waters. This would indicate he twisted the pure message of the Gospel in ways that kept people from really coming to God leading to their eternal death.

We’ll talk more about when and how this took place in a later message.

The point for now is this: Satan is responsible for twisting the pure message of the Gospel and therefore ultimately responsible for the resulting eternal deaths.

This is an example of God’s *Permissive Will* at work.

This gives us a hint as to who is responsible for the bad stuff in the other trumpets as well. While God has punished nations, especially Israel at times, He is not generally in the retribution business. He is rarely the Author of devastation, destruction, natural disasters, and mass casualties.

The type of bad things happening with the blowing of the trumpets are rarely brought on by the Creator. They are events more in keeping with the enemy.

The fact that they happened when the trumpets were blown is an indication of God’s *Permissive Will*, not His *Active Will*. These events are Satan going as far as he is allowed to at any given point in earth’s history. He continues to demonstrate the evil that would take place if he were allowed to rule.

Thirds

This brings us to the idea of thirds, a term is used all throughout the trumpets.

It’s also used in some Old Testament prophecies (see [Ezek. 5:12-13](#); [Zech. 13:8-9](#)), and it’s noted that Satan took out a third of the angels with him in his rebellion against God (see [Rev. 12:4](#)).

Most every time a third is mentioned in the Bible, it is related to Satan or to judgements relating to his kingdom.

So we see in this passage relating to the trumpets, the bad things happening, are mostly happening to those in Satan’s kingdom.

This is significant, because it tells us that Satan doesn't care about his followers in any way. He will destroy them as quickly and as willingly as he will try to destroy the followers of Jesus if it suits his purpose.

It is also been suggested that a third is a number that could be interpreted as pretty big or significant, but not most or the majority.

Your Part

The most important message in all this that I see is implied rather than explicitly stated. If followed, it will counteract what Satan is doing to twist the message of the Gospel.

I find it stated well in **Colossians 1**, in a prayer Paul prayed for the people in the church there:

... We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. (Colossians 1:9-10, NLT)

This prayer helps you understand some important elements of prayer.

First you should be asking to know God's will for your life. What does He want you to be doing right now, right where you are? And, what direction does He want you to head?

When you know this – and follow it – your life will honor and please God. And as you get to know Him better, you will keep growing!

Reading on:

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. (Colossians 1:11, NLT)

Second, you need to ask for God's glorious power to strengthen you to give you endurance and patience.

Your life with Jesus is a marathon, not a sprint. You are in it for the long haul. There will be times when you feel tired, discouraged, and beat up. You may even feel like giving up. Know that God will give you strength through His power to keep you moving.

When life gets tough, learn to focus on God rather than on the problems. The problems may not magically disappear, but you will find strength and courage to deal with them.

Reading the rest of this passage:

May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. (Colossians 1:11-14, NLT)

And third, you need to recognize where you have come from and where you are headed. This will bring you joy and thankfulness!

You used to be part of the kingdom of darkness – this was before you came to know Jesus. When you came to Him, He rescued you by purchasing your freedom (with His death), forgave your sins, and transferred you into His Kingdom.

It is God's gift from beginning to end. It only happens when you stay with God.

That's your part – keep coming to God and staying with Him. He'll keep you growing and moving in the right direction.

This is what will keep you from being deceived by Satan and his worldly wisdom.

Keep doing your part – keep coming to God!

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](https://www.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](#).

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- 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](#))
- Sept. 28, 2021 – *Trumpets* ([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 14:12-17 (NLT): *"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ¹³ For you said to*

yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ¹⁴ I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Instead, you will be brought down to the place of the dead, down to its lowest depths. ¹⁶ Everyone there will stare at you and ask, 'Can this be the one who shook the earth and made the kingdoms of the world tremble? ¹⁷ Is this the one who destroyed the world and made it into a wasteland? Is this the king who demolished the world's greatest cities and had no mercy on his prisoners?'" (Isaiah 14:12-17, 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)

Jeremiah 2:10-13 (NLT): *"Go west and look in the land of Cyprus; go east and search through the land of Kedar. Has anyone ever heard of anything as strange as this? ¹¹ Has any nation ever traded its gods for new ones, even though they are not gods at all? Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols! ¹² The heavens are shocked at such a thing and shrink back in horror and dismay," says the LORD. ¹³ "For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me – the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!"* (Jeremiah 2:10-13, NLT)

Jeremiah 17:12-13 (NLT): *But we worship at your throne – eternal, high, and glorious! ¹³ O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who turn away from you will be disgraced. They will be buried in the dust of the earth, for they have abandoned the LORD, the fountain of living water.*

(Jeremiah 17:12-13, 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)

Luke 10:17-20 (NLT): *When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, “Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!”*

¹⁸ “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. ²⁰ But don’t rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.” (Luke 10:17-20, 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 4:4-26 (NLT): *He had to go through Samaria on the way. ⁵ Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. ⁷ Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Please give me a drink.” ⁸ He was alone at the time because his disciples had gone into the village to buy some food.*

⁹ The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, “You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?”

¹⁰ Jesus replied, “If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.”

¹¹ “But sir, you don’t have a rope or a bucket,” she said, “and this well is very deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² And besides, do you think you’re greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his animals enjoyed?”

¹³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. ¹⁴ But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

¹⁵ “Please, sir,” the woman said, “give me this water! Then I’ll never be thirsty again, and I won’t have to come here to get water.”

¹⁶ “Go and get your husband,” Jesus told her.

¹⁷ “I don’t have a husband,” the woman replied.

Jesus said, “You’re right! You don’t have a husband – ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and you aren’t even married to the man you’re living with now. You certainly spoke the truth!”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you must be a prophet. ²⁰ So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?”

²¹ Jesus replied, “Believe me, dear woman, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming – indeed it’s here now – when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. ²⁴ For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know the Messiah is coming – the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

²⁶ Then Jesus told her, “I AM the Messiah!” (John 4:4-26, NLT)

John 7:37-39 (CSB): On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! ³⁸ Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” ³⁹ (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.) (John 7:37-39, NLT)

Colossians 1:9-14 (NLT): So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He

has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. (Colossians 1:9-14, NLT)

Revelation 7:15-17 (CSB): For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. The one seated on the throne will shelter them: ¹⁶ They will no longer hunger; they will no longer thirst; the sun will no longer strike them, nor will any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will shepherd them; he will guide them to springs of the waters of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Revelation 7:15-17, 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 voice ¹⁴ 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)

Revelation 22:17 (CSB): Both the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Let anyone who hears, say, "Come!"

Let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who desires take the water of life freely.

(Revelation 22:17, CSB)