

I. REVIEW:

- A. In ***Part Four*** of the book of Revelation “***Jesus’ Battle Plan***” there are “***five chronological sections***” that describe events unfolding on earth in a sequential order. Each “***chronological section***” is followed by an “***angelic explanation***” to help us understand the “***why’s***” behind the “***what’s***” of that section.
1. ***The five chronological sections*** tell us “***what happens to the Antichrist’s empire and his followers***” in twenty-one judgment events (7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 bowls) that intensify in severity, as they unfold on earth in a sequential order. They are the ***main storyline*** of judgment released against the kingdom of darkness upon the earth through the praying Church in the order that they occur.
 2. ***The five angelic explanations*** follow each of the chronological sections and function as a “parenthesis,” pausing the storyline, while an angel explains to John the “why” and “what” regarding the events he just witnessed, like “***Why God’s wrath is so severe?***” and “***What will happen to God’s people?***” including:
 - a) ***What Satan will do to oppose us***, using the ***Antichrist’s persecution*** and ***Babylon’s seduction***.
 - b) ***What Jesus will do to help us*** through ***angelic intervention*** and the prophetic ministry of the ***Two Witnesses***, while releasing power, provision, protection, direction and reward.

II. THE SEVENTH SEAL AND THE RELEASING OF THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS (8:1–6)

- A. The opening of the seventh seal commissions seven angels who will sound the trumpet judgments along with an accumulation of the prayers of the saints offered in heaven (Rev. 8:1–6). During the fifth seal the martyrs before the throne cried out for justice upon the earth. With the sixth seal, the Lord answered them by cosmic disturbances, including an opening in heaven where the wicked encountered the wrath of God and a giant earthquake. In the seventh seal, the Lord continues to answer the martyrs by targeting the Antichrist’s empire through the trumpet judgments.

*¹When He opened the seventh seal, there was ***silence in heaven*** for about half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were ***given seven trumpets***. ³Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was ***given much incense***, that he should offer it ***with the prayers of all the saints*** upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, with the ***prayers of the saints***, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. ⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with ***fire from the altar***, and ***threw it to the earth***. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. ⁶So the ***seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound***. (Rev. 8:1-6)*

- B. ***Silence in heaven***: There will be a dreadful yet glorious silence ***in heaven*** for half an hour in anticipation of God’s judgments as the seven angels prepare to release them (Rev. 8:1). It took the priest approximately thirty minutes to offer incense in the temple (Lev. 16:13; Lk. 1:10, 21; Heb. 8:5). There will also be silence ***on the earth*** in light of God’s end-time judgments (Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13).

But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him. (Hab. 2:20)

- C. An angel will be given much “heavenly” incense to offer with the prayers of the saints. This will provide a supernatural strengthening of the end-time prayer movement that results in releasing fire on earth with cosmic disturbances and an earthquake (Rev. 8:3–5). The prayers of the saints are imperfect because of human weakness (Rom. 8:26). The only thing needed to be “added” to our prayers is the perfect intercession (incense) of Jesus, which may be what is given to the angel (Heb. 10:12; Rom. 8:34).

²⁶...*the Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for... (Rom. 8:26)*

³⁴*Christ...at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)*

- D. **Prayer of all the saints:** the prayers that are offered represent those from all the saints throughout history including those from the generation the Lord returns.
- E. God’s trumpet and bowl judgments are not released on the saints, but on the Antichrist’s empire. They will destroy the resources of the Antichrist’s armies. The trumpet and bowl judgments parallel the ten plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh (Ex. 7–12). The walls of Jericho fell after Joshua blew seven trumpets (Josh. 6) as a prophetic picture of the fall of the Antichrist kingdom.
- F. As Moses released the plagues on Egypt through prayer, and as the first apostles released God’s power through prayer in the book of Acts, so the praying Church will be involved with Jesus as He releases His judgment on the Antichrist. The miracles of Exodus and Acts will be combined and multiplied on a global level. The Old Testament prophets prophesied that miracles like those seen in Moses’ generation would occur in the end times (Mic. 7:15; cf. Isa. 10:22–25; 11:12–16; 30:30; Jer. 16:14–15; 23:7–8; Ezek. 38:22; Joel 2:30).

¹⁵*As in the days when you came out of...Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)*

¹²*The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do... (Jn. 14:12)*

- G. The book of Revelation is like an end-time book of Acts and a “*canonized prayer manual*” for the end time church to pray in unity, knowing the sequence of God’s judgments on the Antichrist. The end-time prayer movement will need the unified prayers of the entire body of Christ worldwide to release this measure of power against the Antichrist who will be the greatest oppressor in human history.
- H. A primary theme in Revelation is God’s judgment against the Antichrist’s empire. A secondary theme is the Antichrist’s persecution of the saints (Rev. 12:12; 13:4, 8). In the Tribulation, the Church need not fear that they will be powerless victims. Rather, they will be operating in power under Jesus’ leadership. Only 12 of the 403 verses (3%) in the book of Revelation refer to persecution.
- I. Christianity is more about *relating to* and *partnering with Jesus* to see God’s glory and kingdom released on the earth and to drive evil off the planet than it is about escaping hell. The Lord wants to release His purposes on earth in context to deep partnership with His beloved people.
- J. The Lord told Moses to divide the sea rather than waiting for God to do it (Ex. 14:15–16), and He told Moses to speak to the rock to release God’s provision of water from it (Num. 20:7–8).

¹⁵*The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me?.. ¹⁶But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it...” (Ex. 14:15-16)*

⁷*The LORD spoke to Moses, ⁸“...speak to the rock...it will yield its water.” (Num. 20:7-8)*

III. THE RELEASE OF THE TRUMPET JUDGMENTS (REV. 8:6)

- A. *The trumpet judgments have a 3-fold purpose.* First, to hinder the Antichrist empire's spread of evil and persecution by destroying their natural resources. Second, to warn unbelievers of increased judgment by God and rage from Satan, thus creating an optimum environment for people to get saved. Third, to rally the saints to pray with unity as they see the trumpets unfold.

⁶So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Rev. 8:6)

- B. Just as the seal judgments, the seven trumpets are *literal* (not symbolic), *future* (their fulfillment is still in the future), *progressive* (increasing in intensity), and *numbered* (released in a sequential order).
- C. They are *supernatural acts* of God released against the Antichrist's empire through nature (first four trumpets) and demons (fifth and sixth trumpets), not merely *natural* acts portrayed in symbolic language.
- D. The trumpet judgments are "*limited*" to *one-third* as highlighted twelve times (Rev. 8:7–12). In other words, they are warnings of more to come in the seven bowls (Rev. 16:1–21). *The limitation* of the judgment as one third gives the wicked opportunities to repent before further wrath is released.
- E. The *first four trumpets* punish the Antichrist's empire by destroying their natural resources that support life (not directly touching people). The *fifth and sixth trumpets* will directly afflict humans by demonic torment and then killing one-third of the human race.
- F. In the *first four seals*, God lifts restraints off humans so that they destroy one another's resources. In the *first four trumpets*, God will destroy the resources of Antichrist's empire.
- G. In the *fifth and sixth seals*, the heavens will be opened to release supernatural activity (Rev. 6:9–11). In the *fifth and sixth trumpets*, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm (Rev. 9:1–21).
- H. The first five trumpets (Rev. 8:7–12) parallel the plagues of Egypt. The first (Rev. 8:7) parallels the seventh plague of hail with fire and blood (Ex. 9:22–26). The second and third (8:8–11) parallel the first plague of the Nile turning to blood (Ex. 7:19–25). The fourth (Rev. 8:12) parallels the ninth plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21–23) and the fifth (Rev. 9:1–11), the eighth plague of locusts (Ex. 10:12–20).

IV. THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS: DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (REV. 8:7–12)

- A. The first four trumpets will destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire (Rev. 8:6–12), affecting the *environment* (trees, grass, sea, rivers, sky), *food supplies* (vegetation, meat, fish), *sea trade*, *water supplies*, and both *light and heat* (sun, moon, stars). Their purpose is to destroy, not kill.

- B. *First trumpet*: will destroy food supplies by burning one-third of the earth's vegetation (Rev. 8:7). A supernatural event, like a meteor storm, with hail and fire will burn the earth's trees and grass.

⁷The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. (Rev. 8:7)

- C. *Second trumpet*: will destroy food supplies and sea trade (Rev. 8:8–9). A huge burning object like a mountain will fall, turning one-third of the sea into blood and destroying one-third of marine life and ships. Some see this *only* referring to the Mediterranean Sea (Rev. 18:17–18; Isa. 2:12–16). The second trumpet corresponds to the first plague of Egypt where the rivers became as blood, killing fish and polluting the land (Ex. 7:14–25; Ps. 105:29).

⁸The second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (Rev. 8:8-9)

- D. **Third trumpet:** will poison one-third of the earth's fresh water supply (Rev. 8:10–11). A great burning star or meteoric mass will fall from heaven poisoning fresh water (rivers and springs). The saints will be protected as they were during the Egyptian plague on the Nile (Ex. 7:14–25).

¹⁰The third angel sounded: And a great star fell...burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. (Rev. 8:10-11)

- E. **Fourth trumpet:** will destroy light and heat by darkening one-third of the sun, moon and stars (Rev. 8:12). This supernatural work of God will affect heat, health, agriculture, navigation, etc. Our lack of understanding of how this will occur is not a sufficient reason to see this as symbolic. This trumpet corresponds to the ninth Egyptian plague from which Israel was spared (Ex. 10:21–23).

¹²The fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars...a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. (Rev. 8:12)

²¹The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, which may even be felt.” ²²...there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days...

²³But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings. (Ex. 10:21–23)

V. UNDERSTANDING THE FIFTH AND SIXTH TRUMPETS (REV. 9)

- A. The fifth and sixth trumpet judgments will release two demonic armies on the earth (Rev. 9:1–21). In an act of mercy and judgment, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm, manifesting their hatred for humans as the demonic realm in Hell is temporarily allowed upon the earth.
- B. Demons hate the people who worship them as much as they hate Christians—they hate *all people* because they were made in God's image. Satan is a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44). He never changes. His hatred will not be openly seen on earth until the fifth and sixth trumpets. Many will be deluded in thinking that Satan will give them favor for their loyal service to him.
- C. People will be turned over to Satan to experience the terrors of his hatred giving them opportunity to repent before taking the mark of the Beast, which will be blasphemy. God wants unbelievers to see the truth about Satan, but He will honor the choice of the wicked by turning them over to the sin they love (Rom. 1:24–28).

¹⁹Some...whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (1 Tim. 1:19)

⁵Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:5)

²⁴Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies...

²⁶For this reason God gave them up to vile passions...exchanging the natural use for what is against nature...²⁸God gave them over to a debased mind... (Rom. 1:24–28).

VI. FIFTH TRUMPET: TORMENT BY DEMONIC LOCUSTS (REV. 9:1–11)

A. The fifth trumpet will release an army of demonic locusts who will inflict pain on people (Rev. 9:4).

¹The fifth angel sounded: I saw a star fallen [descended] from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. ²He opened the bottomless pit...³out of the smoke locusts came on the earth. To them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth...but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months...like the torment of a scorpion...⁶In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. (Rev. 9:1–6)

B. **Star fallen:** The word for *fallen* here can be translated as *descended*. Most likely this is a good angel descending from heaven with the key to open the bottomless pit to judge the wicked. The activity of this angel parallels the actions of a good angel with the key to the bottomless pit to bind Satan (Rev. 20:1). Jesus has all authority in the spiritual realm (Rev. 1:18; 3:7).

C. **Opened the pit:** There is a pit at the center of the earth that holds fallen angels that have sinned and lost their authority (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6). Other angels that fell are still permitted to keep their delegated authority in “heavenly places” (Deut. 32:8; Dan. 10:13, 20; Eph. 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12, Col. 1:16; 2:15). From this compartment of Hell called the abyss (Greek) demons are being reserved in prison to be instruments of God’s end-time judgment to inflict torment on those who worship the Beast. It’s in this location where Satan and all fallen angels will be kept in prison for 1,000 years when the Lord returns (cf. Isa. 24:21–22; Rev. 20:1–4, 7). This passage implies a “huge shaft,” currently sealed, extending from the earth’s surface to the depths of the earth where demons are imprisoned.

⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment... (2 Pet. 2:4)

D. **Seal:** the saints receive a seal resulting in them being protected from God’s judgments (Rev. 9:4).

³...to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴They were commanded not to harm the grass...but only those men who do not have the seal of God... (Rev. 9:3–4)

¹⁹I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy [physical and spiritual], and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Lk. 10:19)

E. **Men will seek death:** The anguish of a scorpion sting will drive people to such despair that they will seek suicide. This compares to the eighth plague—though it was without inflicting pain (Ex. 10:12).

F. John described this demonic locust army (Rev. 9:7–11) by comparing them to horses prepared for battle wearing golden crowns with human faces. These locusts are supernatural, demonic beings, not natural locusts. They can distinguish between unbelievers and believers (who have God’s seal). The details here include the names, rank, description, and torment of demons. I believe we are to interpret these details at face value. Satan’s hierarchy includes a demonic king named *Abaddon* (Hebrew) or *Apollyon* (Greek) or *destroyer* (English).

⁷The shape of the locusts was like horses...on their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men...¹¹They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Rev. 9:7, 11)

VII.SIXTH TRUMPET: DEATH BY DEMONIC HORSEMEN (REV 9:12–21)

- A. In the sixth trumpet, four demons will be released to lead a demonic cavalry to kill one-third of the human race. In the fifth trumpet, people will seek to die (Rev. 9:6). Their prayer will then be answered as the demons they worship kill them. This parallels the tenth plague (Ex. 12:29–32).

¹³The sixth angel sounded: I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴saying to the sixth angel... “Release the four angels [fallen demonic beings] who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” ¹⁵So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. ¹⁶Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million...¹⁷I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them...out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. ¹⁸By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed... (Rev. 9:13–18)

- B. The sixth trumpet will be commissioned by the angel who serves at the golden altar of prayer to release the four angels of death in answer to the end-time prayer movement (Rev. 8:3–5; 9:13). The horns of the altar was a place of asylum to cry for mercy. Good angels are not bound, only evil angels.
- C. God will commission them to kill one-third of the human race. They are demons *prepared* for a specific work of judgment in the end times. The four angels give leadership over part of the demonic army of 200 million horsemen. Possibly each commands 50 million demonic horsemen.
- D. Using population estimates for 2050, if there are 10 billion on the earth at the beginning of the Great Tribulation, one-quarter will die (2.5 billion) at the fourth seal (Rev. 6:8), leaving 7.5 billion, another one-third (2.5 billion) die in this plague, leaving 5 billion. These numbers do not include the wicked killed in the bowl judgments or executed outside of Jerusalem. The Lord said through Isaiah that there would be massive loss of life at this time: “I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold” (Isa. 13:12), where “few men are left.” (Isa. 24:16) in the time when “The Lord will judge all flesh and the slain of the Lord shall be many.” (Isa. 66:16)
- E. The four primary demonic strongholds in society will be murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft (Rev. 9:21). There will be more demonized people on earth than any time in history.

²⁰The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent...²¹They did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21)

- F. Sin will reach its greatest heights in history (Dan. 8:23; Isa. 24:4–5). The Antichrist’s empire will be like a “corporate Pharaoh” with hardened hearts. Sin will become ripe (Rev. 14:18; 17:4; 18:5). As Jesus said, this nears the moment when righteousness and the wickedness mature together at the end of the age (Mt. 13:29–30). People will love sin and the Antichrist while deeply hating Jesus, the truth and the saints.

²³In the latter time...when the transgressors have reached their fullness... (Dan. 8:23)

- G. Many of those who are “secular” will become “spiritual” as they knowingly engage in perversion, dynamically connected to the spirit realm. Immorality will be more than sexual hedonism; rather it will actively involve demon worship and connections.

VIII. ANGELIC EXPLANATION #2 - PROPHETIC DIRECTION (REV. 10–11)

- A. Revelation 10:1–11:13 is an angelic explanation (parenthetical section) that follows after the worldwide crisis described in Revelation 9. Angelic explanations answer questions such as “*What happens to the saints?*” in the crisis described in the chronological section that it follows. During the Great Tribulation, the final 3 1/2 years of natural human history, deception and confusion will climax in society along with the other negative trends.
- B. In the crisis in Revelation 9, demons will kill one-third of the earth, leaving many in *deception* and *confusion*. There will be more demonized people on earth than at any time in history. The earth will be dominated by four strongholds—murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft (Rev. 9:21).

¹⁵So the four angels...were released to kill a third of mankind...²⁰The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent...that they should not worship demons...²¹They did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21)

- C. There will be many false signs at that time (Mat. 24:4-5, 11, 24; Rev. 13:13; 16:14; 18:23; 19:20; 2 Thes. 2:8–9).

⁴Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵Many will come...and will deceive many...¹¹Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many... ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. (Mt. 24:4–5, 11, 24)

- D. In this angelic explanation (Rev. 10:1–11:13), God assures His people that He will release prophetic direction and great power to help them. They will understand God’s heart and plans.

1. *In Revelation 10*, God promised to release new, significant prophetic understanding that will help people avoid deception and overcome confusion. He will do this through a mighty angel seen by the inhabitants of the earth that will release the resources of heaven (Rev. 10:1–2) and by releasing the seven-thunder prophecy at the time which John was able to hear but not permitted to write (Rev. 10:2–4). In essence, God has prepared in advance insight and strength for the Church to prevail in this hour.
2. *In Revelation 11*, the two witnesses will preach with great power and release God’s judgments against the Antichrist’s systems during the final 3½ years of this age. They will release judgments against the Antichrist and his empire, strengthening the Church for 3 1/2 years of ministry before their martyrdom.

- E. There will be a great outpouring of the Spirit (Joel 2:28–32). All believers will receive prophetic dreams and visions, etc. The Lord released a “down payment” on Joel’s prophecy on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16). Yet it was not completely fulfilled in Peter’s generation. For example, the signs such as the sun and moon growing dark with blood, fire, and smoke did not occur. In Acts 2, the Spirit rested on only 120 believers in *one city*. The fullness of Joel’s prophecy requires a *global dimension*.

- F. One of the greatest needs in the end times will be the need for prophetic understanding (Jer. 23:20; 30:24; Dan. 11:33–35; 12:3, 9–10; Joel 2:28–29; Mal. 4:5; Mt. 17:11; Acts 2:17–18; Rev. 11:3-6; 3:18; 13:18; 17:9; cf. Isa. 28:19–23; 43:18–20; Dan. 9:22).

³³Those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁵And some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrdom], to refine them [believers], purify them, and make them white, until the time of the end; because it is still for the appointed time. (Dan. 11:33-35)