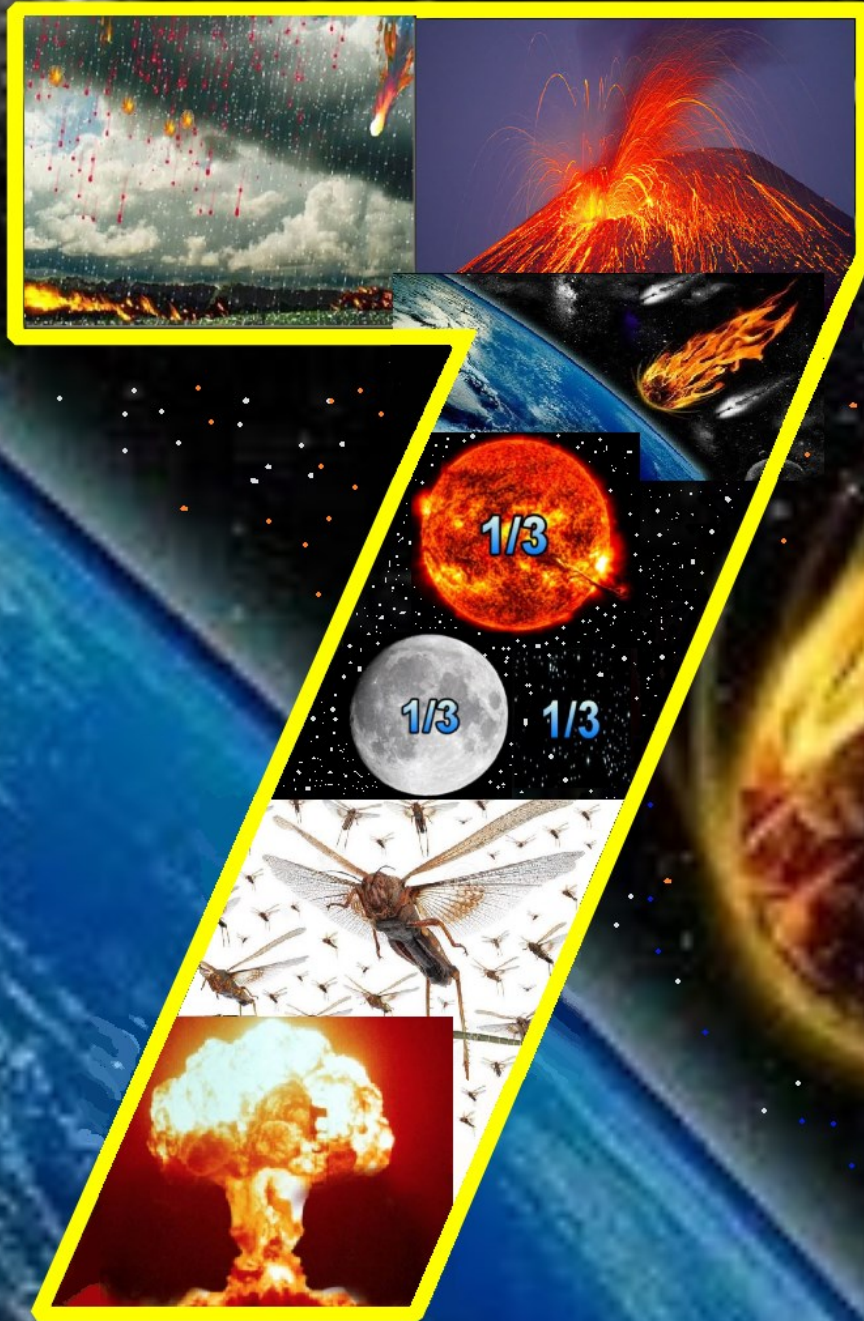


THE



TRUMPETS

GOD'S FINAL WARNINGS TO MANKIND!

(Isaiah 26:9)

With my soul have
I desired thee in the night;
yea, with my spirit within me
will I seek thee early:
for when thy judgments *are* in the earth,
the inhabitants of the world
will learn righteousness.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

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THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Introduction

"The angel, the mighty angel from heaven, is to lighten the earth with his glory, while he cries mightily with a loud voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen" (Revelation 18:2). Oh, how I wish the church to arise and shine because the glory of the Lord has risen upon her. What can we not do in God if every human agency is doing its very utmost! "Without Me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). We would lose faith and courage in the conflict if we were not sustained by the power of God. Every form of evil is to spring into intense activity. Evil angels unite their powers with evil men, and as they have been in constant conflict and attained an experience in the best modes of deception and battle, and have been strengthening for centuries, they will not yield the last great final contest without a desperate struggle. All the world will be on one side or the other of the question. The battle of Armageddon will be fought, and that day must find none of us sleeping. Wide-awake we must be, as wise virgins having oil in our vessels with our lamps. What is this? Grace, Grace."

"The power of the Holy Ghost must be upon us, and the Captain of the Lord's host will stand at the head of the angels of heaven to direct the battle. **Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded, vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth.**"

Scenes of stupendous interest are right upon us, and these things will be sure indications of the presence of Him who has directed in every aggressive movement, [the One] who has accompanied the march of His cause through all the ages, and who has graciously pledged Himself to be with His people in all their conflicts to the end of the world. He will vindicate His truth. He will cause it to triumph. He is ready to supply His faithful ones with motives and power of purpose, inspiring them with hope and courage and valor in increased activity as the time is at hand.

Deceptions, delusions, impostures will increase. The cries will come in from every quarter, "Lo, here is Christ! Lo, there is Christ!" "But," said Christ, "Go ye not after them." There will be one fierce struggle before the man of sin shall be disclosed to this world, who he is and what has been his work. While the Protestant world is becoming very tender and affectionate toward the man of sin, shall God's people take their place as bold and valiant soldiers of Jesus Christ, to meet the issue which must come, their lives hid with Christ in God? Mystic Babylon has not been sparing in the blood of the saints, and shall we be wide-awake to catch the beams of light which have been shining from the light of the angel who is to brighten the earth with his glory?

Letter 112 1890

Ellen White illuminated the future battles God's remnant were to expect in the previous transcript that she originally wrote to her family members : Emma, Edson and Willie - her precious children.

It is important to note that Ellen White is discussing future events. The time she discusses is the time when the loud cry of the mighty angel of Revelation 18 is sounding. There is going to be a desperate struggle between good and evil You can only be on one of two sides. She specifically refers to solemn events that will transpire at that time - **TRUMPET AFTER TRUMPET WILL SOUND and VIAL AFTER VIAL WILL BE POURED OUT**. She describes these scenes as ones of stupendous interest and continues "these things will be sure indications of the presence of Him who has directed in every aggressive movement, [the One] who has accompanied the march of His cause through all the ages, and who has graciously pledged Himself to be with His people in all their conflicts to the end of the world."

Ellen asks the very important question: "Shall we be wide-awake to catch the beams of light which have been shining from the light of the angel who is to brighten the earth with his glory?"

Do you understand the importance of what she has said? She has definitely placed the SEVEN TRUMPETS in the context of the final warning messages given at the time of the loud cry which is yet to take place - the time when the earth is ablaze with the glory of the angel of Revelation 18. God is waiting for His church to ready herself. Are you ready? Are you in Babylon? Or is it time to leave Babylon? Such important questions that we as individuals have to ask ourselves.

Jeremiah also saw this time and was taken aback by what he saw in vision:

Jeremiah 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

Jeremiah 4:20 Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.

Jeremiah 4:21 How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?

Jeremiah 4:22 For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.

The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages and what may be expected in the time to come. All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order....

The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis.

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear.

"I am pained at my very heart; ... I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled." Jeremiah 4:19, 20.

PK 536—537

Ellen White quotes Jeremiah and states that prophecy will be fulfilled in its order. The Bible only gives a correct view of these things and we are on the verge of a stupendous crisis. The trumpet will sound and destruction is cried. Jeremiah is experiencing heartfelt pain and anguish and in verse 21 asks the question : How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?

The prophecy of the seven trumpets in Revelation 8,9 and 11 is yet future. Trumpets are associated with warnings. The trumpets will blow and are the warnings of God sent to a world who have to make a choice. This choice is about who they will worship - the creator God who made the universe or the God of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), Satan - the destroyer, the evil one who appears as an 'angel of light' and blinds or deceives those who prefer darkness rather than light. This is the last opportunity before the testimony of God's witnesses comes to an end

God's witnesses are his watchman and are called to draw the attention of the world to their creator God. God has pre-announced the judgments he will use to awaken, alarm and warn the world that His return is imminent. This announcement is in the word of God in the final book of the Bible - Revelation - [Revelation 1:1](#) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

[Ezekiel 33:2 - 7](#) Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman:

If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;

Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head.

He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

Ezekiel was a designated 'watchman' to the house of Israel (Ezekiel 33:2). The watchman knowing impending danger was near needed to sound the alarm. The 'sword of the Lord' was to come upon God's people. The expression 'sword of the Lord' represents the judgments He allowed to fall upon Israel and other nations to awaken them to their sinful condition and need to heed the Creator God and his law. David - King of Israel numbered the children of Israel and was disobedient to God's specific command not to do so (1 Chronicles 21:1-3). Through God's prophet Gad, David was given a choice as to which judgment or punishment he would choose as a result of his disobedience.

1Chronicles 21:11 So Gad came to David, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Choose thee

1Chronicles 21:12 Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before thy foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; **or else three days the sword of the LORD**, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD de-storying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

The 'sword of the Lord' caused the deaths of seventy thousand men (1Chronicles 21:14) as a result of the pestilence unleashed as a punishment for David's sin.

It is the responsibility of God's watchmen to : "If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people;" (Ezekiel 33:3). When God's judgments or sword are going to take place it is the responsibility of His watchman to blow the trumpet and broadcast the warning to all who will listen. It is the responsibility of God's witnesses to prophesy again (Revelation 10:10) and warn the world and its inhabitants that the seven trumpets heralding God's judgments are going to take place. The lion roars and the trumpets sound during the time of the loud cry echoing the plea to 'Come out of Babylon my people.'

Jeremiah 25:31 A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.

Micah 2:12 I will surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee; I will surely gather the remnant of Israel; I will put them together as the sheep of Bozrah, as the flock in the midst of their fold: they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men.

The phrase: "A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; "is a reference to the loud cry of the angel of Revelation 18. Note the purpose of the 'noise': the Lord has a controversy with the nations and will plead with all flesh. In Micah is described the gathering of the remnant of Israel and how 'they shall make great noise by reason of the multitude of men'. The loud cry is pictured again and it is the remnant of Israel that are proclaiming the message to the world.

The last great conflict is before us; but help is to come to all who love God and obey his law, and the earth, the whole earth, is to be lighted with the glory of God. "Another angel" is to come down from heaven. This angel represents the giving of the loud cry, which is to come from those who are preparing to cry mightily, with a strong voice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." April 19, 1906 — Be Vigilant RH Ch 1420

My brethren, we must have Jesus enthroned within, and self must die. We must be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and then we shall not sit down, saying unconcernedly, "What is to be will be. Prophecy must be fulfilled." Oh awake, I pray you, awake, for you bear the most sacred responsibilities! **As faithful watchmen you should see the sword coming and give the warning, that men and women may not pursue a course through ignorance that they would avoid if they knew the truth. The Lord has enlightened us in regard to what is coming upon the earth that we may enlighten others,** and we shall not be held guiltless if we are content to sit at ease with folded hands and quibble over matters of minor importance.

If the watchmen sleep under an opiate of Satan's and do not recognize the voice of the true Shepherd and do not take up the warning, I tell you, in the fear of God, they will be charged with the blood of souls. **The watchmen must be wide-awake, men who will not slumber at their post of duty, day nor night. They must give the trumpet a certain sound that the people may shun the evil and choose the good.**

Light must come to the people through agents whom God shall choose, who will give the note of warning that none may be in ignorance of the purposes of God or the devices of Sa-tan. **At the great heart of the work Satan will use his hellish arts to the utmost. He will seek in every possible way to interpose himself between the people and God and shut away the light that God would have come to His children. It is his design to keep them in ignorance of what shall come upon the earth.**

All should be prepared to hear the signal trumpet of the watchman and be ready to pass the word along the walls of Zion that the people may prepare themselves for the conflict. The people must not be left to stumble their way along in darkness, not knowing what is before them and unprepared for the great issues that are coming. There is a work to be done for this time in fitting a people to stand in the day of trouble, and all must act their part in this work. They must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ and be so fortified by the truth that the delusions of Satan shall not be accepted by them as genuine manifestations of the power of God. MS 18 1888

What a great responsibility rests on the people of God! We have to warn humanity of the impending 'sword' or God's judgments. Ellen White writes : "The Lord has enlightened us in regard to what is coming upon the earth that we may enlighten others...They must give the trumpet a certain sound that the people may shun the evil and choose the good...The people must not be left to stumble their way along in darkness, not knowing what is before them and un-prepared for the great issues that are coming." The seven trumpets will be sounded at the time of the latter rain which occurs during the 'loud cry'. They will be convincing testimonies to the accuracy of God's prophecies recounted in His word (Revelation 8, 9 and 11).

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

The heavenly fire thrown down from the altar in heaven is representative of the latter rain. Note immediately after this event the seven angels with seven trumpets are about to sound. For further information about **The Latter Rain** go to the study at www.prophesyagain.com.au

They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, "It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel." CET 177.2

Ellen White asked the question at the beginning of this study : "Shall we be wide-awake to catch the beams of light which have been shining from the light of the angel who is to brighten the earth with his glory?" Those beams of light included the revelation that the seven trumpets were yet future events. As watchmen on the walls of Zion it is our duty to warn the world and to prophesy again of the sword that will come and offer to a dying world the free gift of salvation from God while there is still time.

It will be the saddest of moments to hear the voices of people who were never warned. Ellen White shares a vision at a meeting of the Huntsville Church Board :

"There was a scene presented to me. It was the night before the Sabbath. That is when that scene was presented. I looked out of the window, and there was an immense ball of fire that had come from heaven, and it fell where they were casting buildings with pillars, especially the pillars were presented to me. And it seemed as if the ball came right to the building and crushed it, and they saw that it was branching out, branching out, enlarging, and they began to cry and mourn and mourn, and wring their hands; and **I thought some of our people stood by there, saying, "Well, it is just what we have been expecting; it is just what we have been talking about; it is just what we have been talking about." "You knew it?" said the people. "You knew it, and never told us about it?" I thought there was such an agony in their face, such an agony in their appearance.**

MS 152 1904

Catastrophic events will take place during the sounding of the trumpets.. God's witnesses, like Moses, will:

Revelation 11:6 " have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. " The trumpets are prophesied by God's witnesses. Yet the trumpets are given with mercy - they only impact on one third of the earth, sea, fountains of waters and the sun, moon and stars. God's witnesses prophesy for a period of 1260 literal days and give the loud cry combined with the message of the angel who lightens the earth with his glory (Revelation 18). See the **Revelation 11 study** on this website for more information about events during the 1260 day time period.

From this introductory study we can conclude the following:

- ♦ That the seven trumpets are future events.
- ♦ We have a responsibility as watchmen to warn humanity of the impending judgments of God .

- ♦ The trumpets are designed as a wake up call to all that Christ is coming and to prepare to meet him.
- ♦ The trumpets are judgments given with mercy.
- ♦ The trumpets sound during the loud cry and the fourth angel's message of Revelation 18.

THE FIRST TRUMPET



Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

This faith must be the great element in the power which rules the characters of God's people. He displayed great signs and wonders in Egypt, showing His command over all the natural world and over the powers which the Egyptian oppressors worshipped. **Once again the Lord God of Israel is to execute judgment upon the gods of this world as upon the gods of Egypt. With fire and flood, plagues and earthquakes, He will spoil the whole land. Then His redeemed people will exalt His name and make it glorious in the earth. Shall not those who are living in the last remnant of this earth's history become intelligent in regard to God's lessons?**
MS 85, 1899

God is going to execute judgment on the gods of this world just as he did upon the gods of Egypt. In Egypt the worship of nature had superseded the worship of the Creator God. The ten plagues poured out on Egypt were designed to show that the Creator God of the universe had "command over all the natural world and over the powers which the Egyptian oppressors worshipped." Notice what type of judgments are going to be poured out : "**With fire and flood, plagues and earthquakes, He will spoil the whole land.**" Also take note of what God's remnant people will be doing at this time: "**His redeemed people will exalt His name and make it glorious in the earth.**" God's witnesses at the time of the latter rain and loud cry will be declaring: **Revelation 14:7** Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. The trumpet warnings will be blown by God's witnesses admonishing the world's inhabitants to "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." The hour of his judgment is come will be present truth for the world. The earnest plea to worship the Creator God and acknowledge His true day of worship in doing so - the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment - echoes around the world.

In Egypt worship of nature and a multiplicity of man-made gods was essential to an individuals health, wealth and status. Today's society is a mirror of history. The prime, motivating influence for many is to serve themselves. "Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law" is an expression authored by Allister Crowley an English occultist and writer who whilst in Egypt authored his 'Book of the Law' dictated to him by an entity named Aiwass who he later identified as his holy guardian angel. (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thelema>)

This so called 'Book of the Law' is certainly not of heavenly origin yet the same spirit was prevalent even when Christ was on earth. Christ said: *[[Mat 15:9]] KJV* But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. You cannot truly worship the Creator God if you are teaching and obeying the commandments of men. It is the commandments of God that He wants you to obey. This will be the catch cry of God's witnesses - "worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." His true worshippers will keep His law: *[[Rev 14:12]] KJV* Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

Before the trumpets are sounded, the outpouring of the latter rain takes place. The coals of fire are cast into the earth and the cleansing coals representative of the spirit of God purify His remnant readying them to prophesy in sackcloth (Revelation 11:3). An earthquake also signifies that the latter rain has taken place.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joel 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Joel describes the outpouring of the latter rain and refers specifically to the wonders that take place in the earth and heavens. These wonders refer to the trumpet warnings of Revelation 8 and 9. Blood and fire the first two wonders are combined in the first trumpet: *[[Revelation 8:7]] KJV* The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and **fire mingled with blood**, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

This trumpet warning of judgment is literal. The impact on the environment is devastating. Today man be-moans the destruction of forests like the Amazon. But when a third of the world's forests are destroyed the whole world suffers. Trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide. Not only does the atmosphere have to deal with the smoke and pollution created by the burning of the trees, there are now significantly less forests to convert the CO₂ into oxygen. Global warming caused by the retention and increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere now rapidly increases. Man's attempts to avert a disastrous rise in world temperatures and the unpredictable climate changes that happen as a result are futile.

Remember how Ellen White states that God will execute judgments upon the gods of this world :"**Once again the Lord God of Israel is to execute judgment upon the gods of this world as upon the gods of Egypt. With fire and flood, plagues and earthquakes, He will spoil the whole land.**" The judgments of God are very real and are designed to warn and remind people of the soon coming of Christ. He wants people to realise that time is running out. Fire,

hail and blood are elements that God enables with his word to cause destruction and fulfil His word:

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Nahum 1:4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

Note that **"the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm"**. All God has to do is speak just like He did at creation - **Psalms 33:6** By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He created by His word and He destroys by His word - 'He rebuketh' the sea and dries up all the rivers at His word. **Psalms 104:7** At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. David describes how God's voice which is likened to thunder controls the movements of the oceans keeping them within their boundaries, but He can also dry seas up with His word. (**Psalms 106:9**) The God who created nature, who 'hath his way in the whirlwind and storm' will plead with humanity through the judgments he delivers through His creation. The fiery storm of hail mingled with blood of the first trumpet will be sounded by God's witnesses as with a loud voice they repeat the first angels message 'the hour of his judgment is come - worship him that made heaven and earth and sea and the fountains of waters ' **Revelation 14:7**. Turn to the Creator God and worship Him - honour Him by keeping His law.

The traditional Adventist view of the trumpets has been to rely on historical accounts of events that happened during the collapse of the Roman Empire and interpret the hail, fire and blood symbolically. The question must be asked is :Are the hail, fire and blood symbols or figures in the context of the trumpets?

William Miller in his written work: ***Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology*** gives some advice when it comes to interpreting prophecy:

Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy, to represent future things, times and events; such as mountains, meaning governments; beasts, meaning kingdoms.

Waters, meaning people.

Lamp, meaning Word of God.

Day, meaning year.

PROOFS

Dan.ii.35,44. vii.8,17. Rev.xvii.1,15. Ps.cxix.105. Ezek.iv.6.

To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense you need look no further, if not, look again.

How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively.

PROOFS

Rev.xii.1,2. xvii.3-7.

EXPLANATION OF PROPHETIC FIGURES

HAIL, denotes wars, slaughter and desolation, by some Northern government. Isa.xxviii.2,17. xxx.30,32. Rev.viii.7.

Miller's rules of Biblical interpretation have merit. However, even his interpretation of prophecy was not 100% foolproof. Miller actually believed the seven plagues or vials had already been poured out:

“holding that six of the seven plagues were already past, being symbolic of the judgments of God on the Papacy going back to the Reformation. While he thought the seventh plague was still future, it did not presage any special persecution for the saints other than what they had always had to endure throughout the centuries.” **Ellen G. White Letters and Manuscripts: 1845 – 1859 Vol 1, 85**

Not long after the disappointment of 1844 a vision given to Ellen Harmon was included in the pamphlet 'A Word to the Little Flock':

“The vision given to Ellen Harmon constituted a major departure from mainstream Millerite thinking. This probably explains why, when this vision was included in the pamphlet A Word to the “Little Flock” 16 months later, James White felt it necessary to include a section offering biblical support for the position “that the seven last plagues were all in the future, and that they were all to be poured out before the first resurrection.” For White himself, this represented a reversal of his earlier Mil-laurite position”. **Ellen G. White Letters and Manuscripts: 1845 – 1859 Vol 1, 88**

Today, just like in the days post 1844 we need to examine our beliefs and traditions and ask ourselves – Are we letting the Bible interpret itself? Or are we trying to interpret prophecy and use symbols and figures when the context obviously is literal? The pioneers with revelation from the spirit of prophecy were able to conclude that the seven plagues had not been poured out. Surely we with similar evidence and enlightenment available can come to a similar conclusion. Ellen White wrote in 1890: “Solemn events before us are yet to transpire. Trumpet after trumpet is to be sounded; vial after vial poured out one after another upon the inhabitants of the earth.”

A key proof text used by Miller for interpreting hail as a symbol is:

Isaiah 28:2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, *which* as a tempest of hail *and* a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

The text compares a mighty and strong one to a 'tempest of hail', 'a destroying storm' and 'a flood of mighty waters overflowing'. It is obvious in the text that a simile is being used – a comparison is being made between the devastation caused by the strong one and the impact a storm with hail and overflowing waters would have – both cause destruction. The strong one IS NOT HAIL but is “**AS A TEMPEST OF HAIL**”.

Miller himself states “If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively.”

In Isaiah 28:2 the term hail in the context is definitely being used in a figurative sense. But can the same be said for Revelation 8:7:

Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of

trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

A trumpet or warning is sounded just as Moses warned Pharaoh of the impending plagues in Egypt, God's witnesses will prophesy again and warn the world of God's judgments and why they are falling. The trees and green grass burn – is this a literal burning? It certainly is! What has caused this destruction? Hail and fire mingled with blood has fallen upon the earth similar to what fell upon Egypt.

Exodus 9:22 And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

There is no simile or comparison being made between a strong one and the hail in Revelation 8:7. The hail and fire is HAIL AND FIRE. As the herb of the field was destroyed in Egypt so will it be in God's first trumpet warning to humanity.

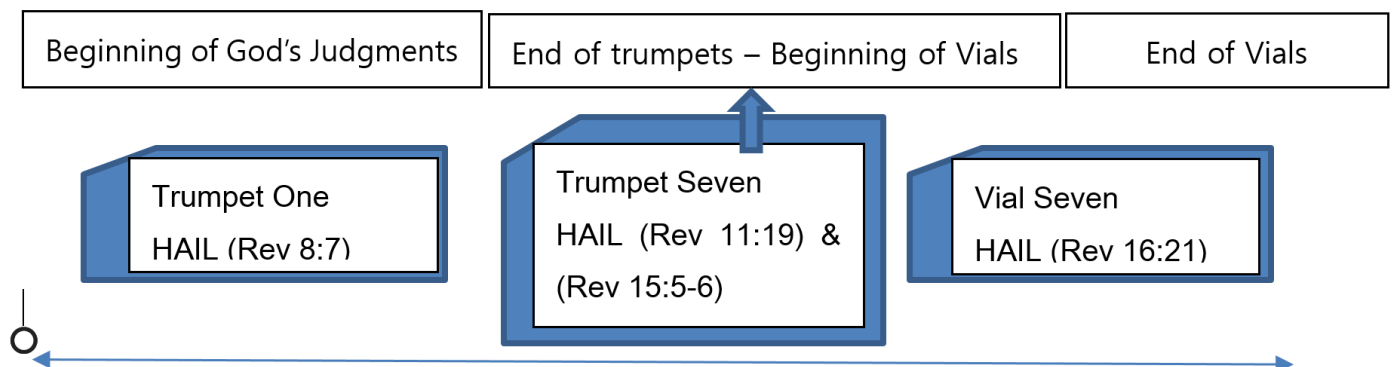
It is also interesting to compare other verses in Revelation to assess if hail is used in a figurative or literal sense. Just prior to the outpouring of the plagues and after the seventh trumpet has sounded – Revelation 11:19 describes an earthquake and great hail:

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

And when the seventh vial is poured out at the end of the plagues a great hail falls from heaven:

Revelation 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

In all references in Revelation the hail is literal, just as the earthquakes are literal. They signify the beginning and end of God's judgments.



Investigating how often hail is mentioned in the Bible we find that the word hail is used 38 times in 34 verses. Within 26 or 76% of those verses hail is used in a literal sense. That sense being hail that comes from the sky at God's command. One verse in that literal group states:

Job 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,

Job 38:23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

It is a well known theme throughout the word of God – He who created the earth, its inhabitants, its atmosphere and weather patterns utilizes the natural forces of His own creation as judgments, hoping that mankind would realise, before it was too late, that He is their creator and deserves their worship.

Hail and fire were the fifth plague in the land of Egypt:

Psalms 105:32 He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

Psalms 148:8 Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

It was demonstrated to the Egyptians that the earth is under the control of the living God, that the elements obey His voice, and that the only safety is in obedience to Him. PP 269.3

A number of other references to hail being used as a judgment include:

Joshua 10:10 And the LORD discomfited them before Israel, and slew them with a great slaughter at Gibeon, and chased them along the way that goeth up to Bethhoron, and smote them to Azekah, and unto Makkedah.

Joshua 10:11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Haggai 2:17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to me, saith the LORD.

Psalms 18:13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.*[[Psalms18:14]] KJV* Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

The next passage from Isaiah refers to when the spirit is poured from on high. This is a reference to the latter rain.

Isaiah 32:15 Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest.

Isaiah 32:16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness re-main in the fruitful field.

Isaiah 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

Isaiah 32:18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isaiah 32:19 When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place.

What is shocking about this passage is Verse 19. God's people will dwell safely when the hail comes down on the forest and the city will be devastated by the impact of the hail - it shall be made low – or brought down or abased. This one verse describes the hail of the first trumpet impacting the forest and refers to the seventh plague when cities will be laid low and destroyed. At this time in the future, the safety of God's true followers is sure. They dwell in quiet resting places and peaceable habitations. This passage is truly a promise for those living in the time of the end.

The hail is mingled with fire and BLOOD. The question is asked: 'If the hail and fire are literal is the blood literal too?' It is interesting to note that the very word used for blood in Revelation is:

h1. G129

Transliteration: **aima**

Phonetic: *hah'-ee-mah*

Thayer Definition:

blood

of man or animals

refers to the seat of life

of those things that resemble blood, grape juice

blood shed, to be shed by violence, slay, murder

This term can be used in both a literal sense, or in other words actually be blood, however the word can be used to describe those things that resemble blood. Because the trumpet is a future judgment of God the actual scientific composition of the blood will be totally at His discretion. The concept of blood rain is not new and throughout history events have been recorded where blood like substances have fallen from the sky. For further information on this topic check out:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_rain

From our study of the first trumpet we have come to the following conclusions:

- Our creator God is going to judge the modern gods of this world as He did to the gods of Egypt – with fire, floods, plagues and earthquakes.
- When God pours His spirit out (the latter rain) there will be seen: wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
- Even our pioneers changed their understanding of prophecy when the Bible and spirit of prophesy revealed to them truth and light.
- The majority of texts in the Bible referring to hail –refer to literal hail.
- God has used literal hail in judgments throughout the Bible and has an armoury or treasures of natural elements that he has reserved for the time of trouble.
- The blood which comes down with the fire and hail will appear to be blood and may be literal or a substance resembling blood.
- The first trumpet warning of hail, fire and blood is going to be a literal event similar to the plagues that fell on Egypt.

The first trumpet will herald the soon return of Jesus Christ. God is merciful and restricts its impact to a third of the forests. It is time to recognise that there truly is a God. The creator God desires that his children worship Him and obey Him.

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

SIX MORE TRUMPETS ARE YET TO SOUND!



THE SECOND TRUMPET

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

Revelation 8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.



As in the FIRST TRUMPET study we recognise that God's judgments are delivered by His witnesses during the time of the latter rain and these judgments are designed to awaken humanity to heed the first and second angel's messages and worship the true and living God who created the universe. Like the first trumpet and the plagues of Egypt, the second trumpet judgment is literal and not symbolic. The mountain burning with fire is a real mountain. It is literally burning and literally cast into the sea. It then has a devastating impact on the creatures of the sea and any shipping in reasonable proximity. Once again it is important to notice that one third of the creatures in the sea and one third of the ships are affected. This judgment is tempered by the mercy and compassion of God - it does not impact on all sea creatures or shipping, only a third suffer from this act of God.

The only other scripture reference to a mountain being cast into the sea other than the trumpet reference itself in Revelation 8:8 is that spoken by Christ himself. Found in the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Christ refers to a mountain being cast into the sea:

Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also **if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.**

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, **That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea;** and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Why would Christ specifically refer to a mountain being cast into the sea? Did Christ know that one day his witnesses on earth would, like Moses and Elijah, witness for the true and living Creator God? Just like Moses and Elijah they would stand before rulers and kings and prophesy again and broadcast to the world that the Lord of the Sabbath, the only true and living God wanted them to worship Him and turn from the false gods of their own creation. With unwavering faith in the Creator God His witnesses will declare the impending judgment of a mountain being cast into the sea, just as He stated would happen when present on earth in the form of humanity. Just

like the fig tree withered at Christ's word, so, a mountain burning with fire, will be cast into the sea. Christ says: 'it shall be done' and 'he shall have whatsoever he saith'. Christ's end-time witnesses will have complete faith in God's word and declare the imminent judgment and also point humanity to the God who made the earth and sea and desires their worship and honour.

According to William Miller's interpretation of symbols 'Mountains' or a 'mountain' was believed to be a symbol of government/s. Proof texts for this interpretation that are provided are: Isaiah 2:2 and Daniel 2; 35. The question we must ask is: Can this principle of making a mountain the symbol of government be applied to the description of the second trumpet?

Lets see how the symbol fits:

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great **GOVERNMENT** burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea be-came blood;

Revelation 8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed

If the mountain represents a government does the sea represent people? If that was the case you would have the following scenario:

Revelation 8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great **GOVERNMENT** burning with fire was cast into the **MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE**: and the third part of the **PEOPLE** became blood;

Revelation 8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the **PEOPLE**, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed

It is quite obvious to see that making the mountain and sea symbolic does not make sense. By applying Millers rule:

How to know when a word is used figuratively: If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be under-stood literally; if not, figuratively. ***Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology***

It appears that when we use symbols to interpret this trumpet we are 'doing violence to the simple laws of nature'. Creatures are not IN the people and neither are the ships IN the people. In reality the two verses that describe the second trumpet are referring to a REAL or LITERAL mountain being cast into the sea.

The typical Adventist understanding of the second trumpet is outlined by Uriah Smith in his book Daniel and Revelation. The Bible is scarcely referred to in order to explain what is taking place as the trumpet sounds, rather, swathes of the writing of the historian Edward Gibbon are quoted :

“The history illustrative of the sounding of the second trumpet evidently relates to the invasion and conquest of Africa, and afterward of Italy, by the terrible Genseric. His conquests were, for the most part, naval; and his triumphs were “as it were a great mountain burning with fire, cast into the sea.” What figure would better, or even so well, illustrate the collision of navies, and the general havoc of war on the maritime coasts? “***Daniel and Revelation , 1897 Uriah Smith, pg. 458***

The quote from the Bible “as it were a mountain burning with fire” is determined to be a figure or symbol. But no comparison is being made with anything within the verse itself. The Bible is not referred to in order to determine what the figure might represent, rather a fanciful historical event

is selected to portray the “mountain burning with fire”. The collision of navies and general mayhem is the mountain burning with fire cast into the sea. The demise of a third of the sea creatures is not referred to, neither the third part of shipping.

We must ask ourselves the question is this what John truly saw? Imagine seeing an actual mountain on fire and falling into the sea. Because the mountain is literally collapsing into the sea he uses the phrase “as it were” or it appeared to be a mountain falling into the sea, however it disappears from John’s vision and is no more. The resulting tsunami from a huge mountain or volcano falling into the sea would certainly destroy shipping and creatures within the sea. The destruction within the ocean is caused by the extreme temperatures of the fiery mountain and the huge displacement of water that occurs as the result of the mountain collapsing into the sea.

The Creator God who made nature is able to command nature to do his bidding. :

Nahum 1:5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. *

Nahum 1:6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Micah 1:2 Hear, all ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.*

Micah 1:3 For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth.

Micah 1:4 And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place..

Notice in the above passages what God is able to do to the 'high' places. The mountains **MELT** or become **MOLTEN**. Truly God can move mountains and cast them into the sea. In Micah 1:2 the message is given as a witness to **ALL** the people in the earth.

However in the first verse of Micah we note that Micah's primary message at his time is for Samaria and Jerusalem:

Micah 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Morasthite in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, **which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.**

Micah 1:5 For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? is it not Samaria? and what are the high places of Judah? are they not Jerusalem?

Micah 1:7 And all the graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate: for she gathered it of the hire of an harlot, and they shall return to the hire of an harlot.

The reason God is angry with Samaria and Jerusalem is because of their false gods, which the true God of heaven now judges - they are beaten into pieces, burned with fire and laid desolate. Yet this message is not only relevant for Samaria and Jerusalem it is intended for the world. As

Micah 1:2 states: " Hear, **all** ye people; hearken, O earth, and all that therein is: and let the Lord GOD be witness against you,". God's trumpet judgments are truly judgments against the false gods and idols held dear by not only His people - Jacob, but those of the world:

Once again the Lord God of Israel is to execute judgment upon the gods of this world as upon the gods of Egypt. With fire and flood, plagues and earth-quakes, He will spoil the whole land. MS 85, 1899

The sin of Samaria is just as real today as it was back in Micah's time. A false God - the trinity - has crept insidiously into the Adventist church and God's professed people will be judged. Satan, the god of this world, is honoured by the worship of any false God and the majority of Christianity worship the trinity god - a god that Satan himself has inspired and created. For more information on why the trinity is a false god please view and download the [SDA GOLDEN CALF](http://www.prophecyagain.com.au) study and other [TRINITY](http://www.prophecyagain.com.au) discussions on the website : www.prophecyagain.com.au

The prophet Ellen White states:

This is a time when every soul needs to cling earnestly to God. Those whom the Lord is leading to do his last work in the earth are to stand as Micah and Zephaniah and Zechariah stood in their day, to call to repentance and good works. **The writings of these prophets contain warnings and instruction applicable to this time, and should receive our careful study. They should teach us to shun every phase of evil that made such warnings essential to the people of the past.** Let every soul arouse and make diligent examination of self, that everything that would separate the people of God from righteousness may be put away. Review and Herald September 16, 1909 — An Appeal for Self-Sacrificing Effort

In Micah we read: (Quote Micah 1:2-7; 2:1-5, 7, 12, 13; Micah 3.) 21MR 87.4...

Oh, how soon the scenes of destruction and desolation will come and be universal, we cannot tell. "Be ye also ready," saith the Lord, "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." 21MR 87.5....

These scenes will soon be witnessed, just as they are clearly described. I present these wonderful statements from the Scriptures for the consideration of everyone. The prophecies recorded in the Old Testament are the word of the Lord for the last day, and will be fulfilled as surely as we have seen the desolation of San Francisco. 21MR 87.9

.Amos 4:13 For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name

The only true God - the creator God declares unto us what His thoughts are through His word - the Holy Bible. The second trumpet will sound - God's true witnesses will declare that a mountain is going to be cast into the sea - they have the utmost faith that God will perform what he has said.

1Corinthians 13:2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

Let us be reminded that even though we have the faith to move mountains it is the love of God or charity that makes us complete.

The creator God of the universe will enable you to move mountains. Are you ready to be a witness of GOD'S mighty power and love?

FIVE MORE TRUMPETS ARE YET TO SOUND!

THE THIRD TRUMPET

Burning as a Lamp



Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

Revelation 8:11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

We now reach the time of the sounding of the third trumpet. The first two trumpets have devastated different areas in the world. Hail mingled with fire and blood has burnt a third of the trees and grass. A mountain burning with fire has been cast into the sea - its impact causes the death of a third of sea creatures, turns a third of the sea to blood and any ships in the area are destroyed.

The question has been asked and answered in the previous three studies - Why is God sending these destructive judgments? God's mercy, so freely given to all is about to come to an end! The ultimate event - Christ's second coming is soon to take place. These trumpets are God's warnings to the last generation that his coming is near - even at the doors (Matthew 24: 33)!

God's witnesses (Revelation 11: 3, 6) at this time are sounding the trumpet warnings and the mighty three angels messages. The first angels message is a key message for all the world and particularly emphasizes who the true and creator God of the universe is:

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Thus far the earth and sea have been impacted on by the first and second trumpet. The third trumpet affects the fountains of waters and rivers - they are made bitter or poisoned by the impact of a star that appears like a burning lamp as it enters the earth's atmosphere and slams into the earth.

Water - essential to sustain life is so contaminated that when drunk by the thirsty inhabitants of the region affected causes their deaths. Previous trumpets have impacted on the ability to

transport essentials to those in need - the earth's seas and atmosphere have been contaminated and travel via sea and air is deemed dangerous. Water which would normally be sent as quickly as possible after an event like this cannot reach its destination in a timely manner. People drink the water because they are so desperate, but die as a result.

An interesting verse in Isaiah 33 captures the difficulties experienced as a result of the outpouring of the judgments of God:

Isaiah 33:8 The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man.

Travel becomes extremely difficult as a result of the ruin caused by this star or meteor colliding with the earth. Communication networks are brought into disarray as some satellites are destroyed because they lie in the path of the approaching star.

God's witnesses are protected and provided for at this time:

Isaiah 33:15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

Isaiah 33:16 He shall dwell on high: his place of defence *shall be* the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters *shall be* sure.

The precious people of God during the time of the trumpets will be protected by God. This is the time that Job writes about:

Job 5:19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles : Yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

God has provided unique and direct promises for God's people to claim at this time. He states that your waters will be sure. God does not provide contaminated water. Just like he made bitter waters sweet for Israel (Exodus 15: 24,25) when they were wandering in the wilderness - God can also make bitter waters sweet for his end time people.

Will God's people experience hardship and difficulties? Absolutely! But God is faithful and true to his word. Your water and bread will be sure!

However, because the trumpets are sounding during the loud cry, when God's witnesses are prophesying in sackcloth, those in the prophetic church of Smyrna will be required to lay down their lives for the sake of God's truth and the honour of his law. For more information about this fact please refer to the [Revelation 11 study via this link](#).

The purpose of the trumpets is to plead with mankind to turn to the true God - the Creator of the universe whilst there is time. Each trumpet has been prophesied before it happens by God's witnesses (Revelation 11:6). God's witnesses echo the first angels message throughout the world:

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

God's judgments have certainly arrived and these seven trumpets sound with mercy as they only impact on a third of God's creation. Each of the trumpets are wake up calls for humanity. The time of the Gentiles is soon to be fulfilled:

Psalms 46:10 Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth

An obvious question to ask is : Why does God call the star - Wormwood? The Greek word is only used twice in the King James Version of the New Testament and that is in [Revelation 8:11](#):

And ^{G 2532} the ^{G 3588} name ^{G 3686} of the ^{G 3588} star ^{G 792} is called ^{G 3004} **Worm-wood**: ^{G 894} and ^{G 2532} the ^{G 3588} third part ^{G 5154} of the ^{G 3588} waters ^{G 5204} be-
came ^{G 1096} **wormwood**; ^(G 1519) ^{G 894} and ^{G 2532} many ^{G 4183} men ^{G 444} died ^{G 599} of ^{G 1537} the ^{G 3588} waters, ^{G 5204} because ^{G 3754} they were made bitter. ^{G 4087}

The word Wormwood can be used figuratively or literally.

G894

ἄψινθος

apsinthos

ap'-sin-thos

Of uncertain derivation; *wormwood* (as a type of *bitterness*, that is, [figuratively] *calamity*): - wormwood.

Total KJV occurrences: 2

The star is called wormwood and contaminates a third of the rivers and fountains of waters - they actually become wormwood or bitter as a result. The many men dying as a result of the contamination of the waters is a judgment from God.

This judgment was prophesied in the Old Testament a long time ago and goes like this:

[Jeremiah 9:12](#) Who is the wise man, that may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?

[Jeremiah 9:13](#) And the Lord saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;

[Jeremiah 9:14](#) But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them;

[Jeremiah 9:15](#) Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people with wormwood and give them water of gall to drink.

[Jeremiah 9:16](#) I will scatter them also among the heathen whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

First it is interesting to note the conditions on the earth at the time of this prophecy: for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through? The first trumpet certainly involved the burning up of a third of the trees and all the green grass. The earth does truly look like a wilderness and none passeth through! But what are the reasons God has sent these trumpet warnings to mankind for?

The spiritual state of the world and the church are as barren as the wilderness they dwell in. Verse 13 and 14 explain the reason why this is the case. The points made are as follows:

- They have forsaken God's law
- They have not obeyed God
- They have walked after the imagination of their own heart
- They have walked after Baalim which their fathers taught them.

Mankind, including the church and the world are on the verge of spiritual bankruptcy. The time of the 'loud cry' and the three angel's messages is their final opportunity to be snapped out of the Laodicean state they are in and wake up to their spiritual blindness and nakedness:

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Ellen White writes of such a time when the law of God has been forsaken:

Truth is sown for the righteous. Christ came to sow the world with truth, that man might have a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ His only begotten Son. If men receive the truth in its correct bearings, it will be because they search the Scriptures to understand for themselves what saith the Lord, that they may obey His voice. But in this age of the world the masses of the people have turned away their ears from hearing the Word of the Lord, lest they should be disturbed by His plainly specified requirements. Their condition is described by the prophet Jeremiah: Ms 60—1900.1

Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord: Shall they fall and not arise? Shall he turn away and not return? Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I harkened and heard, but they spake not aright; no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? Every one turneth to his course as a horse rusheth into the battle. Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming: but my people know not the judgment of the Lord. How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken; lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them? MS 60—1900.2

This description is now being fulfilled to the letter in the religious world. The Lord declares: "Every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness from the prophet, even unto the priest, every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, nei-

ther could they blush; therefore shall they fall among them that fall; in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down,” saith the Lord. MS 60—1900.3

This representation is true of those who claim to be teachers of the people and who are leading them astray. They refuse obedience to the Word of the Lord. Yet they say, The law of the Lord is with us. “Especially is this fulfilled in their course with regard to the original Sabbath of Jehovah. Instead of observing the memorial Sabbath, the day that God has blessed and sanctified they honor a spurious Sabbath, a heathen idol Sabbath. They exalt it by their man made theories. And they declare. the law of the Lord is with us. “and all who violate the Sunday will be dealt with according to our laws. MS 60 - 1900.4

At the time of the ‘Loud Cry’ and the warning sound of the seven trumpets the majority of the religious world reveals contempt for God by choosing to worship on Sunday, the first day of the week in direct violation of the law of God as given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This is the crisis point! Who do you obey? Do you obey God or man?

This is the issue that will rock the world. Man made theories and traditions are exalted above the law of the true, creator God. Another clue from Jeremiah is that the people who will be given wormwood and gall to drink are following after the imagination of their own hearts and after Baalim (Jeremiah 9:14).

Who is this false God that they worship?

Satan is working to the utmost to make himself as God and to destroy all who oppose his power. And today the world is bowing before him. His power is received as the power of God. The prophecy of the Revelation is being fulfilled, that all the world wondered after the beast. Revelation 13:3. MS 394, 1907 par 13

Under Satan’s direction men have set up an image to be worshipped, even as Nebuchadnezzar set up an image on the plains of Dura and commanded all men to fall down and worship it. They have exalted the first day of the week, putting it in the place of the Sabbath of the Lord. .

Ezekiel 28:2 Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou has said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Satan is that false god whom the majority of the religious world bows down to. It has been his sole purpose, ever since being ejected from heaven, to seduce and mislead humanity and literally become recognized as God by the world.

Unless men shall know God as Christ has revealed him, they will never form a character after the divine similitude, and will therefore never see God. It is a matter for astonishment among the angels in heaven, that any who have once known God should become careless, should permit their minds to be absorbed in any temporal pursuit, and allow their attention to be diverted from the God of heaven, so that they wantonly and willingly forget their Maker and substitute for him other lords and other gods. The day has come when there are lords many and gods many, and Satan has purposed to interpose himself between God and the human

soul, so that men shall not give homage to God in keeping his law. Satan has wrapped about him garments of angelic brightness, and he comes to men as an angel of light. He causes the guilty soul to see things in a perverted way, so that he hates that which he should love and loves that which he should hate and despise. God is so misrepresented to him that he cares not to retain the true and living Father in his knowledge, but turns to the worship of fake Gods. He knows not the love of God is without parallel, yet Christ has revealed that love to a fallen world. John calls upon the world. To behold the wondrous love of God, saying, Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. RH March 9 1897

We are reminded of Jeremiah's prophecy and why people are given wormwood to consume:

Jeremiah 9:14 But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them;

Jeremiah 9:15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people with wormwood and give them water of gall to drink.

When we disobey the almighty creator God of the universe and prefer to worship Baalim or other God's we are by choice worshipping Satan.

God has a controversy with the inhabitants of this world. Satan has come to them disguised as an angel of light, and under his direction the majority of Christians bow at idolatrous shrines and worship an unknown god.
MS 63 1897 1897

The above quote makes it clear. The controversy God has with humanity is that they are worshipping an unknown God. Note who is worshipping this unknown God - THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS! The first six trumpets are warnings to the professed followers of God who are in reality, worshipping an unknown God to turn to the only true God and creator of the universe. This unknown God is the TRINITY, a god of man's creation, a god whose three persons exist co-eternally, denying that the heavenly Father ever had a literal son. Jesus Christ is only playing the role of a son. There are several articles on the Prophecy Again website which clearly outline the issues connected with worshipping the trinity and why it is abhorrent to God. Recommended studies include : [The Son of God](#), [The SDA Golden Calf](#) and [Trinity: Truth or Tradition](#). Click on each link to head to this extra information essential to your understanding of this critical issue.

Ezekiel prophesied of a time when God's people follow the imagination of their own hearts:

Ezekiel 8:12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? For they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.

Jeremiah 9:14 But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

Jeremiah and Ezekiel agree. It is the ancients of the house of Israel in Ezekiel that are in the dark spiritually, as in their innermost imagination they believe God cannot see them and has forsaken the earth. In Jeremiah 9:14 the fathers or ancients of Israel have taught Israel to follow Baalim, who is now embedded in the imagination of their hearts. Baalim is the 'image of jealousy' that sits in the gate in the north:

Ezekiel 18:5 Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

Jeremiah 9:15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

Jeremiah 9:16 I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

Comparing Ezekiel and Jeremiah, it is Baalim or the 'image of jealousy' that initiates God's judgments upon his people. It is the worship of false God's and ultimately Satan that causes God to state: "Therefore...Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. This judgment is described as a sword.

Leviticus 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

Leviticus 26:15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

Leviticus 26:16 I also will do this unto you;...

Leviticus 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate and your cities waste.

Leviticus 26:46 These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

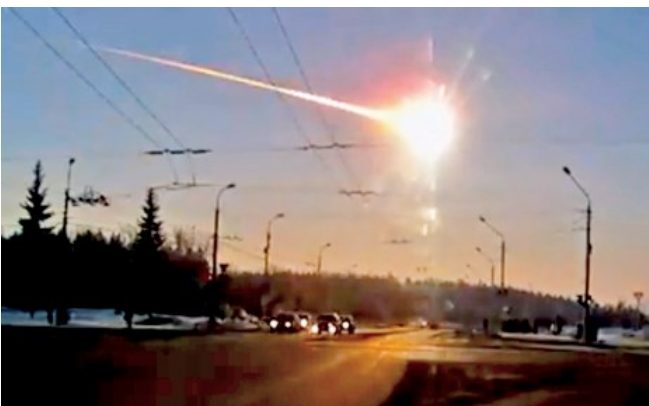
God declared to the children of Israel that a sword or judgment would come upon them if His statutes, commandments and covenant were broken and despised. David disobeyed God when he numbered Israel. The prophet Gad informed David that he had to make a choice of punishment for disobeying God's commands:

1 Chronicles 21:12 Either three years' famine; or three months to be destroyed before their foes, while that the sword of thine enemies overtaketh thee; or else three days the sword of the LORD, even the pestilence, in the land, and the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the coasts of Israel. Now therefore advise thyself what word I shall bring again to him that sent me.

David chose the 'sword of the Lord'. The third trumpet will be a sword to God's professed

people and they will be given wormwood and the water of gall to drink. The third trumpet is a judgment or sword of God that is given with mercy for those who are still not wholly given to sin and the total disregard of the commandments of God:

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;



Just like the previous two trumpet warnings, only a third of God's creative works are affected: one third of the rivers and fountains of waters are impacted upon. This is the time of the 'loud cry' and the time when God's witnesses are prophesying in sackcloth (Revelation 11:3) preaching the three angels messages and drawing the attention of the whole world to the importance of honoring their creator and being obedient to him by keeping all his commandments.

There are many who will tell you that if you keep the law of God you have fallen from grace. They make strong assertions for which they have no foundation, to lead people astray, for they do not know whereof they speak. The prophet says, Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples." Those who are seeking to destroy the law are not of the class who are sealing the law among the disciples of Christ, but they are of the class who shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. "The dragon is represented as persecuting those who keep God's commandments. Evil angels conspire with evil men against God and his people. Persons of influence are stirred with a power from beneath; the energies of apostasy are united to deceive or to destroy the champions of truth. ST, April 22, 1889, par 8

Those prophesying in sackcloth are God's true witnesses and are described thus in Revelation:

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The message the saints/witnesses are giving to humanity is that they need to:

Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

The call to come out of Babylon reverberates around the world. Babylon, that 'great city' who has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication is destined for destruction. For too many years she has spread her false doctrine throughout the empire of the papacy, but now even the Protestant churches have totally embraced her beliefs and are prepared to promote legislation which makes void the law of the ten commandments.

The great sin charged against Babylon is that she "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." **This cup of intoxication which she presents to the world represents the false doctrines that she has accepted as the result of her unlawful connection with the great ones of the earth.** Friendship with the world corrupts her faith, and in her turn **she exerts a corrupting influence upon the world by teaching doctrines which are opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ.** GC 388.2

Babylon's god is the Trinity, her Sabbath is Sunday and she teaches doctrines that are "opposed to the plainest statements of Holy Writ." God's witnesses proclaim the call "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

The third trumpet is a wake up call to Babylon:

Jeremiah 2:11 Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods?
But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.

Jeremiah 2:12 Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly
afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsak-
en me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken
cisterns, that can hold no water.

Why should the heavens be astonished, horribly afraid and desolate? God's professed people worship gods that are 'no gods'. They have forsaken the true God, the Creator God who is the 'fountain of living waters'. Their broken cisterns can hold no water. They are devoid of the spirit of God.

The heavens have released the star, burning as a lamp which has devastated a third of the rivers and fountains of waters, but the next trumpet will smite the heavens – the sun, moon and stars. The heavens should be astonished! It is their turn next!

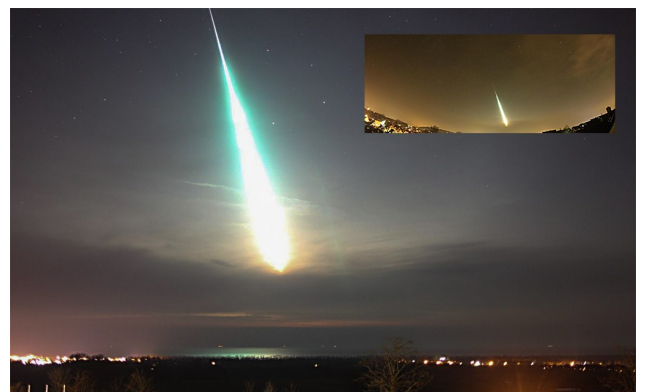
Jeremiah 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen,
and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed
at them.

Jeremiah 10:3 For the customs of the people *are* vain:...

The Word of God is very clear there are going to be "signs of heaven" and the heathen will be dismayed at them! Why? Because their customs are in vain!! If you read on in Jeremiah Chapter 10 you will find that those customs are their worship of their self-made gods. Read it for yourself! The trinity is a god manufactured from the traditions of Rome or the papacy. The trinity has been adopted by the majority of Protestant churches. Rome now bears sway in these religions. The doctrines of the wine of the wrath of her fornication have been imbibed. The true and Creator God of the universe send signs from heaven to try and awake those who are drunk with the Papacy's doctrines. The heathen are dismayed! Their trinity god who they have honoured throughout their lives is very real to them. The counterfeit trinity god has been constructed to be so like the true God that they cannot even bear to dishonour him by investigating the truth of the matter. Satan's masterpiece – the trinity has helped him become the god of this world – he gladly receives their honour and praise and ultimately deceives the whole world when he counterfeits the second coming of Christ. (See the article : [Satan's Personation of Christ](#) for more details).

The third trumpet is surely a sign from heaven. Prophesied by Jeremiah so long ago the worm-wood and gall that the idolatrous were warned about finally becomes a reality as that star or meteorite burning as a lamp crashes to the earth poisoning one third of the earth's water supplies.

These signs from heaven are also mentioned elsewhere in the Bible:



Joel 2:30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Luke 21:25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

Joel's reference to the wonders in heaven is during the time of the latter rain. This is the time of the Loud Cry (Revelation 18) and the three Angel's messages (Revelation 14) and the prophesying in sackcloth of God's witnesses (Revelation 11). Christ's coming is imminent and the seven trumpet warnings including signs from heaven are designed to be his final call to humanity. He desperately desires for Laodicea to awake before it is ever too late. He longs for the Gentiles to come to the light of his truth and presence.

Addendum : Should the third trumpet be interpreted symbolically?

In traditional Adventist teaching the seven trumpets have been interpreted symbolically. The first four trumpets, are not symbolic. The use of the term 'star' is referred to in:

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell **a great star** from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

Revelation 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the **third part of the stars**; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and **I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth**: and **to him was given** the key of the bottomless pit.

Quite a few commentators believe that the star mentioned in the third trumpet is the same as the star that falls from heaven in the fifth trumpet. Let's examine the scripture itself to determine whether that is so. The key difference between the fifth and third trumpet star is that in the fifth trumpet we know the star is symbolic because **'to him was given'** the key of the bottomless pit. The context of the verse easily identifies the use of a symbol. Who the 'him' is in the fifth trumpet can be determined by comparing scripture to scripture.

Isaiah 14:12 How art thou **fallen from heaven**, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou **cut down to the ground**, which didst weaken the nations!

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven**.

The above two scriptures absolutely confirm who the star is in the fifth trumpet – it is none other than Satan himself. The use of the word 'him' has clearly denoted that the word star is used in a symbolic sense. This is not however the case in the third or fourth trumpets.

Miller's interpretation of symbols was applied to the seven trumpets using proof texts to determine what the symbols represented. Stars and Waters were interpreted as follows:

STARS – Ministers in the church, or rulers in the world

Rev. 12:1; Dan. 8:10; 12:3; Jude 13

WATERS – Flesh or people

Num. 24:7; Isa. 48:1; 8:7; John 5:8; Rev. 17:

RIVERS – People living on the rivers, mentioned

Isa. 8:7; Rev. 8:10; 16:4

Let us apply these symbol interpretations to the third trumpet:

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great **'ruler'** from heaven, burning as **it** were a lamp, and **'the ruler'** fell upon the third part of the **'people living on the rivers'**, and upon the fountains of **'people'**;

Revelation 8:11 And the name of the **'ruler'** is called Wormwood: and the third part of the **'people'** became wormwood; and many men died of the **'people'**, because they were made bitter.

Where else are rivers and fountains of waters referred to in Revelation? Comparing scripture to scripture especially in the same book will help reveal if applying symbols is a valid method of interpretation in this context. The exact terminology is also used in the seven last plagues:

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the **rivers** and **fountains of waters**; and they became blood.

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Revelation 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Consistency in interpretation is warranted when considering the identical nature of the elements being impacted. Let us make this passage symbolic and see if it makes sense:

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the **people** and **fountains of people**; and **they became blood**.

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the **people** say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Revelation 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and **thou hast given them blood to drink**; for they are worthy.

The first issue that arises is the repetition that the vial is poured upon the **people** and upon the **fountains of people**. Does **'fountains of people'** make sense? The Hebrew word for 'Fountain' is used 12 times in the New Testament and refers to the idea of gushing or a source or supply of water and can refer to other sources eg. Blood, 'water of life', etc. Nowhere else in scripture are people referred to as a fountain. The application of people as 'fountains' is questionable in this scriptural context and in the context of the seven trumpets.

Notice that if waters are symbolic for people in this context that according to Verse 4 the

people **became blood**. If this is the case obviously a mass slaughter has taken place. But the question must be asked: If the people truly became blood why in Verse 6 does it state:” **thou hast given them blood to drink**; for they are worthy?” If the people are blood, how can they drink blood?

It is obvious when interpreting ‘waters’ as people in the context of the seven plagues or vials it is ridiculous to say the least. Yet the very same terminology is used in the seven trumpets and the application of ‘waters’ as people in that context is deemed to be an accurate application. The application of the symbol in the trumpets is inconsistent when compared to the way other scripture within the same book is interpreted.

A very important rule that William Miller also relied upon in prophetic interpretation is:

How to know when a word is used figuratively: If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally; if not, figuratively. Revelation 12:1,2;17:3-7.

The use of the symbol ‘waters’ for people is definitely used in Revelation 17:

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore **that sitteth upon many waters:**

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The **waters which thou sawest**, where the whore sitteth, **are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.**

It must be noted that in the very same chapter that symbols are used that the explanation of what those symbols mean is also given. This is a commonplace occurrence throughout prophecy. If symbols are used they are explained by God there and then. The ‘waters’ that the whore sits on are representative in Revelation 17 of: **peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.** The very important point must be made is that just because the symbol is relevant in the vision in Revelation 17 does not give us licence to apply it holus-bolus throughout the whole of Revelation and scripture.

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto **living fountains of waters:** and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Imagine applying the symbol of ‘people’ for ‘waters’ in the above context:

Revelation 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto **living fountains of ‘people’:** and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The application of the symbol in this context does not make sense. Likewise applying the symbol in trumpet three destroys the true meaning of the text:

Revelation 8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great **‘ruler’** from heaven, burning as **it** were a lamp, and **‘the ruler’** fell upon the third part of the **‘people living on the rivers’**, and upon the fountains of **‘people’**;

Fountains of people as we have highlighted in previous texts is a reference that is made to a literal water or fluid not to people. In the same context we also have the next statement:

Revelation 8:11 And the name of the **'ruler'** is called Wormwood: and the third part of the **'people'** became wormwood (**'the ruler'**); and many men died of the **'people'**, because they were made bitter.

Many men died of the people could also be phrased: **'Many people died of the people'**. Again we can see that applying a symbol in this context just does not work. Truly Miller's following rule of prophetic interpretation applies in this case:

"How to know when a word is used figuratively: If it **makes good sense as it stands**, and **does no violence to the simple laws of nature**, then it must be understood literally."

FOUR MORE TRUMPETS ARE YET TO SOUND!

THE FOURTH TRUMPET

(Rev 8:12) And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

The fourth trumpet sounds and a cataclysmic event takes place in the heavens. A third part of the sun is 'smitten'. The word for smitten in Greek is itself very descriptive:

G4141

πλήσσω

plēssō

place'-so

Apparently another form of **G4111** (through the idea of *flattening* out); to *pound*, that is, (figuratively) to *inflict* with (calamity): - smite. Compare **G5180**.

Total KJV occurrences: 1

The sun is pounded or flattened out. It is definitely inflicted with a cosmic battering which has immense affects for the heavenly bodies within its reach. The earth reliant on the cycle of day and night over a 24 hour period now has that cycle shortened by a third. The cycle of day and night now only lasts for sixteen hours instead of twenty four.

From a scientific point of view this event could arise due to a variety of reasons. The sun could take a direct hit from a large heavenly object pushing it off course then creating a domino effect on a third of the moon and a third of the stars causing their light to be darkened.

The sun, moon and stars play a significant role in end time apocalyptic events. Already the world's inhabitants have endured the physical impacts of the first three trumpets. People have lost their lives, homes and have been spiritually shaken by the hail and fire mingled with blood of the first trumpet, a burning mountain cast into the sea turning a third of it into blood (second trumpet) and a star falling from heaven that poisoned a third of the fountains of waters (third trumpet).

The three angel's messages of Revelation 14 are resounding through the world. The first angel's message draws the world's attention to their creator, the God who spoke the heavens into existence. The sun has been smitten and other heavenly bodies are also affected. The creator of the heavens fulfils the prophecy of the fourth trumpet and at the same time appeals to humanity for their respect and worship.

(Rev 14:7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: **and worship him that made heaven,** and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

During this time of earth's history a 'Sunday' law has been set up and authorised as a legislative enactment in the USA. The 'day of the SUN' has replaced the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment. God's eternal law has been made void in that land and movements are happening abroad in countries all across the world to follow suit.

The worship of creation or the created is abhorrent to God. So much so that in his eternal law he set forth very specific instructions about worship:



(Exo 20:2) I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

(Exo 20:3) Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

(Exo 20:4) **Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:**

(Exo 20:5) **Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:** for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

(Exo 20:6) And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Satan hates the law of God and ever since sin entered the world he has seduced humanity to direct worship away from God to himself.

Satan's enmity against Christ has been manifested against his followers. The same hatred of the principles of God's law, the same policy of deception, by which error is made to appear as truth, by which human laws are substituted for the law of God, and men are led to worship the creature rather than the Creator, may be traced in all the history of the past.

GC88g1

(Deu 4:15) Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day *that* the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:

(Deu 4:16) Lest ye corrupt *yourselves*, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

(Deu 4:17) The likeness of any beast that *is* on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,

(Deu 4:18) The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that *is* in the waters beneath the earth:

(Deu 4:19) **And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them,** which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

At the time of the fourth trumpet who you worship is the captivating and essential decision to be made by all humanity. It is ironic that God chooses to smite the sun which essentially has become a god that the majority of Christian denominations honour above the Creator himself.

How can this be? Christians and Catholics worship God! Only when you understand how idolatry has penetrated the so called Christian and Catholic religions can you see how error is now perceived to be truth and that the laws of man have superseded the law of God. The BIG QUESTION and question upon which the eternal destiny of every human being hangs is: Who do you worship? Who do you obey?

The worship of the sun as a deity certainly existed in Egypt:



In this stone relief fragment from the Cairo museum Nefertiti wife of Pharaoh Akhenaten is praying to the sun god Aten.

In [ancient Egypt](#) the sun god [Re](#) was the dominant figure among the high gods and retained this position from early in that civilization's history ... When the [pharaoh Ikhнатon](#) reformed Egyptian religion, he took up the cult of the ancient deity Re-Horakhte under the name of [Aton](#), an older [designation](#) of the [Sun's](#) disk. Under Akhenaton, the sun's qualities as creator and nourisher of the Earth and its inhabitants are glorified.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/sun-worship>

Satan is an artful counterfeiter. His modus operandi has always been to deceive. He is the father of all pagan religions and idol worship. Whatever he could invent to replace the true God that humanity would then honour as a substitute for God, Satan would weave into the fabric of life and existence itself. By deceiving humanity into worshipping creation rather than the creator he led them to discard the law of God and God himself.

The law of God gives very clear guidelines about how to honour God and man. We have already examined the requirements of the first and second commandments regarding idolatry. Now we will examine the fourth commandment – the very commandment of God which has been under attack for a long period of this earth's history, yet at the end of time it is made void by the nations of this world in honour of the god of this world – Satan.

(Exo 20:8) Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

(Exo 20:9) Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

(Exo 20:10) But the seventh day *is* the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates:

(Exodus 20:11) For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Jesus himself said of the law of God:

(Mat 5:18) For verily I say unto you, **Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.**

(Mat 5:19) **Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven:** but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The fourth commandment as well as the other nine will not pass away till heaven and earth pass and till all is fulfilled. Has heaven and earth passed away yet? When I look out my window the earth and heaven still appear to be here! Look out your window – what do you see? Basically the law of God as established in Eden and repeated at Mount Sinai is still in operation – right till when heaven and earth passes away according to Christ.



When you are told that the law of God has been done away with you are listening to the lies of the devil because Christ told us the opposite. This is why at the end of time the three angel's messages are sounding. The second message is full of meaning:

(Rev 14:8) And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great

city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

The churches that make up spiritual Babylon include the harlot of Revelation 17 (the papacy) and her daughters – any protestant churches that have followed her lead and have drunk her wine. Wine is a symbol of false doctrine.

(Isa 29:9) Stay yourselves, and wonder; cry ye out, and cry: **they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink.**

(Isa 29:10) For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

(Isa 29:11) And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it *is* sealed:

(Isa 29:12) And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

(Isa 29:13) Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but **have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:**

Isaiah describes a people who have been deceived, a people who follow the precepts of men and they appear to be drunk. They have no vision or understanding. The question you have to ask yourself is: Does my church teach me to follow God's precepts or the precepts of men? Do you know where the true God wants his law to be written?

(Pro 7:1) My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

(Pro 7:2) **Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.**

(Pro 7:3) **Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.**

Are the precepts of men written in your heart or the precepts of God?

Returning to how God's law was changed into precepts of men we find that the fourth commandment is no longer kept by the churches of Babylon. How did this happen?

In Roman culture, Sunday was the day of the Sun god. In paganism, the sun was a source of life, giving warmth and illumination to mankind. It was the center of a popular cult among Romans, who would stand at dawn to catch the first rays of sunshine as they prayed.

The opportunity to spot in the nature-worship of their heathen neighbors a symbolism valid to their own faith was not lost on the Christians. One of the Church fathers, St. Jerome, would declare: "If pagans call [the Lord's Day] [...] the 'day of the sun,' we willingly agree, for today the light of the world is raised, today is revealed the sun of justice with healing in his rays." [▲](#) St. Jerome, Pasch.: CCL 78, 550, as quoted in: [CCC](#) 1166

On 7 March 321, Constantine I, Rome's first Christian Emperor, decreed that Sunday would be observed as the Roman day of rest:[10]

On the venerable Day of the Sun let the magistrates and people residing in cities rest, and let all workshops be closed. In the country, however, persons engaged in agriculture may freely and lawfully continue their pursuits; because it often happens that another day is not so suitable for grain-sowing or vine-planting; lest by neglecting the proper moment for such operations the bounty of heaven should be lost.[11]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunday>

The first day of the week – Sunday has been substituted for the seventh day of the week and has now become the chosen worship day for millions of Christians. Satan through devious means has counterfeited the seventh day Sabbath and replaced it with the first day of the week. The worship on this day is received by Satan himself in his position as 'god of this world'. His carefully laid plans have come to fruition – he has succeeded in making the nations of this world drunk with the wine of Babylon.

Joel prophesied about this time period in earth's history a long time ago and now it is coming to pass:

(Joe 3:14) Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

(Joe 3:15) **The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.**

(Joe 3:16) The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD *will be* the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

(Joe 3:17) So shall ye know that I *am* the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

The time period of the seven trumpets is the 'valley of decision' and God's messengers are at this time sounding the 'loud cry' of the three angel's messages to the world. The trumpets are real judgments and warnings to those who will listen and hear God's voice.

Joel clearly states that: **'The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.'** This is describing a literal event. And there are numerous other places in scripture that refer to the heavenly lights created by God being impacted in the latter days:

(Luk 21:25) **And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars;** and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

(Luk 21:26) Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: **for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.**

Christ himself describes signs occurring in the sun, moon and stars. The shaking of the heavens occurs after these signs and happens just before Christ's second coming:

(Mat 24:29) **Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**

(Mat 24:30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Isaiah also prophesied about physical signs occurring in the heavens:

(Isa 13:9) Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

(Isa 13:10) **For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

(Isa 13:11) And I will punish the world for *their* evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

(Isa 13:12) **I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.**

(Isa 13:13) Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

The judgments of the Lord will take place according to Isaiah. Here again in these scripture references we have the stars, sun and moon having the light they give being darkened. What is most interesting is verse 12. Why would Isaiah include a statement like that in the midst of a prophecy about future judgment and destruction? Remember this is the time of the 'loud cry' – the witnesses of God are giving their testimony to the world at the peril of their lives. Those that respond to the three angel's messages and believe God's truth and want to obey his precepts and not the precepts of man are being refined in a time of judgment. By choosing to follow the true God and creator of the heavens and the earth they are becoming God's precious people. They have rejected fables, tradition and error and are refined from sin.

(1Pe 1:7) **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,** though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

(Rev 3:18) **I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich;** and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

The gold tried in the fire is faith that works by love. Only this can bring us

into harmony with God. We may be active, we may do much work; but without love, such love as dwelt in the heart of Christ, we can never be numbered with the family of heaven. COL 158.3

The man in Isaiah is made: 'more precious than fine gold'. His value far supersedes that of metal that can be subject to rust and decay. In the time of judgment described by Isaiah, people that are choosing to follow the truth are being brought into harmony with God and are truly more precious than gold.

It is also interesting to note that Isaiah also describes the heavens being shaken:

(Isa 13:13) Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Note how Isaiah's timeline of events is the same as that of Christ. The sun, moon and stars are impacted (Verse 10) prior to the shaking of the heavens just prior to the return of Christ. Scripture agrees with scripture revealing the heavenly authorship of the spirit of God.

Amos prophesied of a time when the sun would go down at noon and that the earth would be darkened in a clear day:

(Amo 8:7) The LORD hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works.

(Amo 8:8) Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as *by* the flood of Egypt.

(Amo 8:9) And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

It is the 'works' of Jacob or God's professed people that has led to the land trembling and ultimately being 'cast out and drowned as the flood of Egypt'. This flood connects with the description of Jeremiah when describing the overthrow of literal Egypt by the king of Babylon (Jeremiah 46:8). The earth during the sounding of the seven trumpets experiences a flood of catastrophic events that are evidence of God using his armoury of creation – fire, hail, mountains, comets, asteroids and the list goes on...

(Job 38:22) Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,

(Job 38:23) Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

The trumpet warnings blow, but the fourth trumpet is a final warning for God's professed people. When the fifth trumpet or first woe sounds God's people are sealed. This is a significant point to note:

(Rev 9:4) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

The smiting of the sun in trumpet four is the final warning for God's professed people to believe in the Creator God of the universe, to depart from the worship of the image of jealousy positioned in the entry at the north gate:

(Eze 8:5) Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold northward at the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

This 'image of jealousy' is none other than the trinity – the idol god that the majority of Christianity has adopted to replace the true God of the universe. In the [third trumpet study](#) this issue is brought to the fore – you are encouraged to read that study and other material on the [trinity](#) subject available on this website to understand why it is of such great importance. Remember that it is who you worship and who you obey that are the key issues for each human being to decide at this tumultuous time when the trumpets are blowing.

Every human being is at the crossroads during the time of the blowing of the trumpets. God's law has been made void and substituted with the precepts of man. Will you be able to refuse the mark of the beast at this time even if it means death?

The third angel's message resounds throughout the world:

(Rev 14:9) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

(Rev 14:10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

(Rev 14:11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

(Rev 14:12) Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

In Revelation 13 the arising of the beast and his image is foretold:

(Rev 13:4) And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

(Rev 13:11) And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

(Rev 13:12) And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

(Rev 13:14) And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

(Rev 13:15) And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

(Rev 13:16) And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

(Rev 13:17) And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

(Rev 13:18) Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six.

A confederacy of forces is arraigned against God's witnesses at the end of time. Spiritual Babylon is formed and every element of which it is composed demands worship. The dragon or spiritualism's king, Satan, demands worship. The Papacy or Catholic Church sitting aloft on the composite beast demands worship and obedience. And America the home of Protestantism, is described as 'making an image to the beast' and enforcing the worship of that image causing all to receive a mark. If you choose not to worship the image of the beast you are to be killed.

Who you worship at the end of this world's history is definitely a life or death question.

This image to the beast is none other than the glorification and the enshrinement in the law of the state of 'first' day worship. In total opposition to the fourth commandment in the law of God, apostate Protestantism, in America, is foremost in setting up the mark of the beast.

The third angel's message warns "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand. The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God..."

God's smiting of the sun and darkening of a third of the moon and stars is a fitting testimony to those who are on the precipice of deciding whether to worship the Creator God of the universe or the dragon and his earthly representatives. The pagan act of worshipping the sun has been condemned by God himself in his physical smiting of the sun.

Sun worship or worship of the sun god on his day – Sunday, is abhorrent to God:

(Eze 8:15) Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? turn thee yet again, *and thou shalt see greater abominations than these*.

(Eze 8:16) And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, **between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.**

(Eze 8:17) Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose.

(Eze 8:18) Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, *yet* will I not hear them.

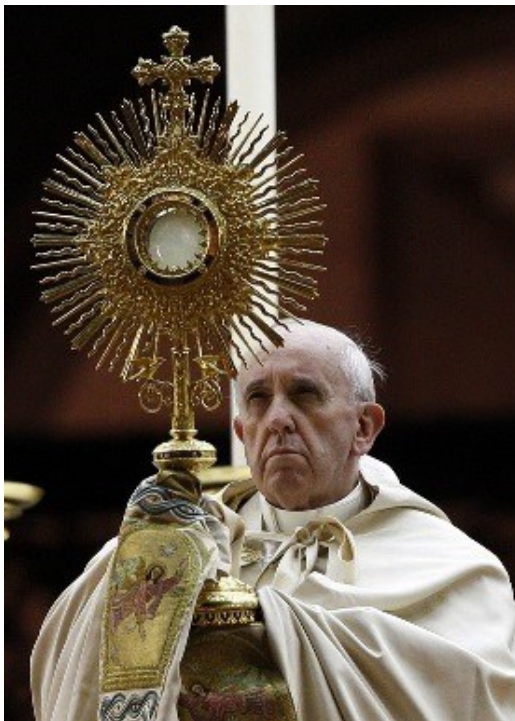
Ezekiel gives a disturbing picture of God's professed people worshipping the sun. God's reaction to this is to state 'I will also deal in fury'. In Ezekiel chapter nine God unleashes this fury and begins at the sanctuary and with the ancient men who have misled his people.

False worship is entrenched in the majority of world religions and the ancient worship of creation rather than the God who created is rife.

At this time – when the sun is smitten in the sounding of the fourth trumpet God is wanting you and I to hear his voice echoed through the heavens

Psalms 19:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

Psalms 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth



knowledge.

Psalms 19:3 *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

Psalms 19:4 *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.*

The heavens themselves are a testament or witness to their creator. The fourth trumpet is a message that they bear from the God who created them. The heavens will certainly declare the glory of God when the fourth trumpet sounds. Turn to the Creator God and worship him in spirit and in truth. Obey God's law and not the precepts of men.

Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Peter and the apostles had it right when questioned by the high priest about preaching in the name of Christ. God is whom we obey and we will always obey God rather than man.

God provides his people with protection during the sounding of the seven trumpets. His special promises for this time state:

Psalms 121:6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

Psalms 121:7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

May God grant you His wisdom imparted to you by His spirit. May you be prepared for the soon return of Jesus Christ. The trumpet warnings will truly sound and themselves be a testimony of God's grace and mercy as he saves to the uttermost those that come to him through His son and High Priest Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

THREE MORE TRUMPETS ARE YET TO SOUND!

THE FIFTH TRUMPET

The first four trumpets have sounded and the earth has been heavily impacted on by the plagues (trumpets) that have been let loose on humanity and the earth.

Trumpet One: Hail mingled with fire and blood – destroys a third of the green grass and trees.

Trumpet Two: A burning mountain is cast into the sea turning a third of it into blood and destroying a third of ships and sea creatures.

Trumpet Three: A great star falls from heaven and poisons a third of the rivers and fountains of waters.

Trumpet Four: The sun is smitten. The moon and stars are also affected: a third of them shine not in the day or night.

God has given his angels trumpets to sound to warn humanity that Christ is soon to return. All need to prepare to meet him. Get Ready! Get Ready! Is the catch cry of God's servants and the three angels messages resound throughout the world. Fear God and give glory to him! Babylon is fallen! Do not worship the beast and his image or receive his mark in your forehead or hand! It is God's law that has been trampled upon. The first day of the week has been sanctioned by the government and enshrined in law as the day all should worship on contrary to the fourth commandment of the law of God – the seventh day Sabbath. Scripture has been fulfilled to the letter:

Isaiah 24:3 The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.

(Isaiah 24:4 The earth mourneth *and* fadeth away, the world languisheth *and* fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

Isaiah 24:5 **The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.**

Isaiah 24:6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.

It is because of sin – transgression of God's law that these judgments have come. The inhabitants of the earth have 'changed the ordinance' or 'changed the law' and in doing so have broken the everlasting covenant. The trumpets have been given with mercy. They can be compared to the ark built by Noah. God has instructed the people that a flood is coming and to be saved they need to enter the ark. The ark is really obvious. Its construction has been constantly in the media of the day – everyone knows what Noah is up to. God is very clear about the destruction to come and Noah preaches the last day message fearlessly and with conviction.

God's servants at the end of time are preaching the soon coming of Christ. They don't have an ark that they are constructing but they have the Word of God. They declare God's word – they sound his trumpet warnings and plead with humanity to realise that God has sent these warnings to prove that he is the God who created them and loves them. God loved them so much he sent his only begotten son to the world to save them. The trumpet warnings are announced by God's servants just as Moses announced the plagues to Pharaoh in Egypt before God's people were rescued.

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Revelation 11 refers to the two witnesses smiting the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. God's people – his witnesses announce the trumpets before they take place. Their mighty witness testifies of their Creator God and the call to leave Babylon rings through the earth as a loud cry. To find out more about the final witnessing period of God's servants you are also encouraged to read the study on **Revelation 11** on the website www.prophesyagain.com.au Like Noah, God's last day people give the warning messages. Time is running out. Worship the Creator God who made all things. Flee from Babylon and her poisonous doctrines that Satan has employed as a counterfeit to deceive the nations. The announcements of each trumpet are designed to be miraculous messages allowed by God to awaken humanity to Christ's imminent return.

Amos 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done *it*?

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

Amos 3:8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

God's watchmen and women sound the trumpet warnings. The Lord God has spoken and they are compelled to prophesy:

The Lord God of Israel is to execute judgment upon the Gods of this world as upon the Gods of Egypt. **With fire and flood, plagues and earthquakes, He will spoil the whole land.** Then His redeemed people will exalt His named make it glorious in the earth. **Shall not those who are living in the last remnant of this earth's history become intelligent in regard to God's lessons?**—Manuscript Releases 10:240, 241 (1899).

When the children of Israel were in bondage to the Egyptians, God revealed himself as a God above all human authority, all human greatness. The signs and miracles he wrought in behalf of his people show his power over nature, and over the greatest among those who worshiped nature, who ignored the power that made nature. **God went through the proud land of Egypt just as he will go through the earth in the last days. With fire and tempest and death the great I AM redeemed his people, to make them glorious as his special representatives.** July 10, 1900 — The Lord's Vineyard Review and Herald.

The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while the door is closed to those who would not enter. — 9Testimonies for the Church 97

The time of God's destructive judgments is a time of mercy. Each trumpet has been limited to impacting a third of creation revealing God's judgment and also his desire to awaken people to the momentous decisions they need to make. Should they just accept the status quo and receive the mark of the beast or should they put their very lives on the line and commit to keeping God's commandments including the seventh day Sabbath?

After the first four trumpets have sounded we hear a startling warning:

Revelation 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The first four trumpets have had a significant impact on the earth and its inhabitants, however the next three trumpets are described as the harbingers of 'WOE'.

G3759

oûaí

ouai

oo-ah'ee

A primary exclamation of grief; "woe": - alas, woe.

Total KJV occurrences: 47

The trumpets yet to sound are going to be more devastating than those that have already sounded.

Let us examine the first woe or the fifth trumpet:

Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

The first verse in this trumpet warning reveals to John a 'star' falling from heaven to the earth. That star is then referred to as 'him'. Straight away we recognise a distinct difference between this star and the third trumpet that announced the falling of a star to the earth called 'Wormwood'. The star in the third trumpet was a literal star. The star in the fifth trumpet is an individual as in the remainder of the verse he is given a key – the key to the bottomless pit. Who is this fallen star? What do the scriptures declare about him?

The symbolism of a star in the book of Revelation is explained in the very first chapter:

Revelation 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:** and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Symbolic stars in Revelation are angels. The star at the beginning of the fifth trumpet has fallen from heaven to earth. Christ himself referred to the 'falling' of this angel or star:

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

The writings of Isaiah testify to his falling from heaven:

Isaiah 14:12 **How art thou fallen from heaven,** O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Isaiah 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I

will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:
Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; **I will be like the most High.**

Pride was born in the heart of the once majestic 'star' or angel of heaven Lucifer. He wanted to exalt his throne above all 'stars' of God or God's angels. Christ, the only begotten son of God, the 'bright and morning star' (Revelation 22:16) was a 'star'. Lucifer was particularly jealous of the son of God who was the only one who could enter into counsels with his Father. The Father and his son had a special and unique relationship (Zechariah 6:13), however, Lucifer – the covering cherub began to feel he was being treated unfairly and saw no reason why he should not be a participant in these significant meetings:

The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities. The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer's sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood. Ms43b-1891.3

Lucifer ... , before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. **A special light beamed in his countenance and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; yet Christ, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created....** FLB 67.2

Revelation 12 describes the ejection of Lucifer and the angels sympathetic to his cause from heaven:

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Scripture is very clear about who the fallen star or angel referred to at the beginning of the fifth trumpet or first woe is – it is none other than Satan himself.

Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

Let us now examine the next part of the verse: “to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”

Two obvious questions we are led to ask are:

What is the bottomless pit?

And

Why is he given a key to the bottomless pit?

G12

ἄβυσσος

abussos

ab'-us-sos

From G1 (as a negative particle) and a variation of G1037; *depthless*, that is, (specifically), (infernally) “*abyss*”: - deep, (bottomless) pit.

Total KJV occurrences: 9

G5421

φρέαρ

phrear

freh'-ar

Of uncertain derivation; a *hole* in the ground (dug for obtaining or holding water or other purposes), that is, a *cistern* or *well*; figuratively an *abyss* (as a *prison*): - well, pit.

The bottomless pit is referred to in a few select places in the New Testament and particularly the book of Revelation. It refers to a depthless abyss. Attaching the word ‘pit’ helps us in the context of the fifth trumpet to understand that this abyss can symbolically refer to a ‘prison’ in a figurative sense but a pit can also be a hole in the ground. The message being conveyed here is that this depthless space wherever it may physically be has been under lock and key till this point in time. There is a transition going on. The key is given to the ‘angel’ fallen from heaven. He now has control of the bottomless pit.

It is important to note that in the description of the fifth trumpet it clearly identifies who the ‘angel’ or ‘star’ of the bottomless pit is:

Revelation 9:11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.

This verse helps confirm our original conclusion that the fallen ‘star’ was an angel. This angel is described as a ‘king’. He is king over the ‘locusts’ who escape from the bottomless pit which he opens after his receipt of the key. The terms ‘Abaddon’ and ‘Apollyon’ help confirm the angel’s identity:

G3

Ἀβαδδών

Abaddōn

ab-ad-dohn'

Of Hebrew origin [H11]; a destroying *angel*: - Abaddon.

Total KJV occurrences: 1

G623

Ἀπολλύων

Apolluōn

ap-ol-loo'-ohn

Active participle of G622; a *destroyer* (that is, *Satan*): - Apollyon.

Total KJV occurrences: 1

Satan has the key to open the bottomless pit. His titles of Abaddon and Apollyon reveal his true purpose and nature – he is the angel of **DESTRUCTION** and delights in his role as a **DESTROYER**.

The key given to the 'king' or 'angel' from the bottomless pit signifies that there has been a decision made to give him control of this abyss. Who was in control of the abyss before the fifth trumpet sounded?

The Bible once more reveals the answers to our questions:

Luke 8:27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

(Luke 8:29) (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)

Luke 8:30 And Jesus asked him, saying, **What is thy name?** And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

Luke 8:31 And **they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.**

Luke 8:32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

Luke 8:33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

Christ when on earth was confronted by a devil possessed man desperate for divine help. The man was possessed by many devils who pleaded with Christ not to be sent back to the 'deep' or bottomless pit. Christ granted their request and the devils entered into a herd of nearby swine which then ran down a precipice into the sea where they drowned. The devils knew that Christ had the power over them and they did not want to return to the 'deep' or bottomless pit. The evil angels desire to avoid the bottomless pit helps confirm that the pit is utilized as a type of prison or containment facility for demonic forces. Ultimately Christ had power over the bottomless pit – he had the key or control over demons and could command them to go back to the pit if he so desired.

It is the heavenly control over demonic forces that is relinquished to a certain extent when the fifth trumpet sounds and the key of the pit is handed to the angel of the pit – Satan.

Revelation 9:2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Revelation 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

It is very important to note that the locusts that emerge from the bottomless pit are given power and that power is directly compared to the power of scorpions. Why are scorpions included in this description? Scripture and words from Christ himself help to make the connection between the locusts and scorpions clear:

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, **Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.**

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, **I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.**

Luke 10:19 Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions**, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this **rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you**; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

The disciples are rejoicing that they too have been able to cast out '**devils**' or demons in the name of Christ. Christ then reassures them that the power he gives enables them **to tread on serpents and scorpions** – he confirms who he is referring to as serpents and scorpions in the next verse when he states – 'rejoice not, that **the spirits** are subject unto you.'

In the fifth trumpet or first woe Satan is given control over the bottomless pit. Prior to this symbolic key being given to Satan it was Christ who was in control of the bottomless pit and the evil angels within it.

THE BOOK OF JOEL AND THE TRUMPETS

It is fascinating to compare scripture to scripture because in doing so the Bible explains the true meaning of its symbols. The book of Joel written almost a thousand years before John wrote Revelation refers to the coming of an army like no other ever seen before - the time of the army's arising is during the 'Day of the Lord' - the time period just prior to Christ's coming in the clouds of heaven. Please find below a table comparison of the fifth trumpet and the army as described in Joel. The similarities between the two help confirm that they are referring to the same time and event:

LOCUST COMPARISON – Revelation 9 and Joel 1&2

Revelation 9	Joel 1 & 2
<p>(Rev 9:2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.</p> <p>(Rev 9:3) And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.</p> <p>(Rev 9:4) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.</p> <p>(Rev 9:5) And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.</p> <p>(Rev 9:6) And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.</p> <p>(Rev 9:10) And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.</p>	<p>(Joe 2:1) Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;</p> <p>(Joe 2:2) A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, <i>even to the years of many generations.</i></p> <p>(Joe 2:10) The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:</p> <p>(Joe 2:6) Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.</p> <p>(Joe 2:3) A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.</p> <p>(Joe 1:19) O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.</p> <p>(Joe 1:20) The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.</p>
<p>(Rev 9:7) And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads <i>were</i> as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.</p> <p>(Rev 9:9) And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.</p> <p>(Rev 9:8) And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.</p>	<p>(Joe 2:4) The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.</p> <p>(Joe 2:5) Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.</p> <p>(Joe 1:6) For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.</p>

Without a doubt the first two chapters of Joel relate to last day events and the descriptions given by Joel have a direct relationship to Revelation 9 where the locust army is released by the King of the bottomless pit – Satan himself.

TOO LATE FOR GOD'S PROFESSED PEOPLE (THE FOOLISH VIRGINS)

In the context of the previous 4 trumpets that have sounded before it is interesting to note what Isaiah writes about the reaction of God's people to their enemies and his desire to awaken them to their spiritual poverty:

Isaiah 9:13 For the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 9:14 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day.

Isaiah 9:15 The ancient and honourable, he *is* the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he *is* the tail.

Isaiah 9:16 For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err; and *they that are* led of them *are* destroyed.

Isaiah 9:17 Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one *is* an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:18 **For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the bri-ers and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up *like* the lifting up of smoke.**

Isaiah 9:19 **Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land dark-ened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire:** no man shall spare his brother.

Isaiah 9:20 And he shall snatch on the right hand, and be hungry; and he shall eat on the left hand, and they shall not be satisfied: they shall eat every man the flesh of his own arm:

Isaiah records the impact the leaders of the people have on God's professed people –

Isaiah 9:16 For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err; and *they that are* led of them *are* destroyed.

In Joel it describes a similar scene:

Joel 1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

The leaders are intoxicated and described as drunkards and so are the people that follow them. They are intoxicated with the wine of Babylon.

Priests and scribes and rulers were fixed in a rut of ceremonies and traditions. Their hearts had become contracted, like the dried-up wine skins to which He had compared them. While they remained satisfied with a legal religion, **it was impossible for them to become the depositaries of the living truth of heaven.** They thought their own righteousness all-sufficient, and did not desire that a new element should be brought into their religion... Man must be emptied of self before he can be, in the fullest

sense, a believer in Jesus. When self is renounced, then the Lord can make man a new creature. **New bottles can contain the new wine.** The love of Christ will animate the believer with new life. In him who looks unto the Author and Finisher of our faith the character of Christ will be manifest. A Call to Stand Apart pgs. 16 - 17

When the locust nation or army of demons is released by Satan it is too late – the new wine is cut off from the mouths of those who have preferred to imbibe the wine of the wrath of the whore – full of spiritual abominations and fornication. (Revelation 17:4). Note Isaiah states:

Isaiah 9:14 Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day.

Isaiah 9:15 The ancient and honourable, he *is* the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he *is* the tail.

There is a 'cutting off' that takes place and note it starts with the leaders and the false prophets. These verses are echoed in Ezekiel 9 where a mark is placed on those who sigh and cry for the abominations that God's people are choosing to be involved in described in Ezekiel 8. In the final verses of Ezekiel 8 we see:

Ezekiel 8:15 Then said he unto me, Hast thou seen *this*, O son of man? turn thee yet again, *and* **thou shalt see greater abominations than these.**

Ezekiel 8:16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, *were* about five and twenty men, with **their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.**

Prior to God's instruction to place a mark or seal on those that sigh and cry for the abominations that are taking place we see the 'greater' abomination is the choice that has been made to worship the 'sun'! To do this they have turned their backs on the temple of the Lord. This choice to worship the sun god mirrors exactly what will take place during the trumpets. The smiting of the sun in the fourth trumpet is a message for all those who are worshipping the sun by choosing to worship on Sunday the first day of the week instead of God's seventh day Sabbath according to the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11). But even more particular it is for those who profess to be God's commandment keeping people!

Revelation 9:4 And it was commanded them that they **should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

By the time the fifth trumpet sounds the seal of God has been placed in his witnesses foreheads. Compare the above verse to the instruction given by God in Ezekiel 9:

Ezekiel 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.**

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark –Ezekiel 9:6

Hurt...only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. Revelation 9:4

The mark or seal of God has already been placed on the God's true witnesses before the fifth trumpet sounds. And the declaration is made:

Ezekiel 9:5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

There is a delay though between the declaration and the execution of the command by God to slay all, including young and old. This is also revealed in Revelation 9:

Revelation 9:5 And to them **it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months:** and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

This time of torment takes place during the invasion of the 'locust' or demonic army – the sounding of the fifth trumpet or first woe. God's professed people have been misled by the ancient men or leaders of Israel and the lying prophets. They too have imbibed the wine of the wrath of fornication in the golden cup of the whore who has been revived and is now represented as one of the heads of the beast (Revelation 13:1-3).

Isaiah wrote his message for God's people who were soon to be invaded by the Assyrian Army—and in the end time his advice echoes down the chambers of time to when the first woe sounds. Only this time the seal of God has been placed on his servants and a woe is pronounced on all God's professed people—who have preferred to remain hypocrites:

Isaiah 9:17 Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one *is* an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still.

In the above verse the Lord describes the condition of his people including the young men, the fatherless and widows –EVERYONE IS A HYPOCRITE!

According to www.dictionary.com a hypocrite is:

a person who pretends to have virtues, moral or religious beliefs, principles, etc., that he or she does not actually possess, especially a person whose actions belie stated beliefs.

In the fourth trumpet the sun was smitten. God's people under the suppression of spiritual Babylon had the choice to worship God or accept the mark of the beast:

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Revelation 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Under threat of fines and imprisonment they have accepted the mark of the beast and in doing so worship his image. This act of worship is captured in Ezekiel 8:16 where God's professed people are worshipping the sun. They are also worshipping the dragon:

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and **all the world wondered after the beast.**

Revelation 13:4 And **they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast**, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

It is the leaders that have caused the people to err and which ultimately leads to their condemnation and destruction. (Isaiah 9:16)

The fifth trumpet is aptly described as the first woe because that is exactly what it is to God's professed people. All have been deemed hypocrites – the Lord has no joy or mercy for the leaders, young men, fatherless or widows. They have been cut off. They have received the mark of the beast. They have not received the seal of God. The torment felt by those who preferred to compromise and by doing so deny truth is palpable. They have made the wrong choice and the torment spoken of in the third angel's message is very real to them:

Revelation 14:11 And the **smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

God's anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still to those who have not chosen to receive the mark of the beast and worship the dragon. The close of probation is imminent but there are two more woes to come. As the seventh trumpet is about to sound the mystery of God will be finished and probation will close.

The 'cutting off' or closure for God's professed people has taken place:

1 Peter 4:17 For the time *is come* that **judgment must begin at the house of God:** and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Ezekiel 9:6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and **begin at my sanctuary.** Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house.

But I speak not my own words when I say that God's Spirit will pass by those who have had their day of test and opportunity, but who have not distinguished the voice of God or appreciated the movings of His Spirit. Then thousands in the eleventh hour will see and acknowledge the truth. 2SM 16.1

The time of God's destructive judgments is the time of mercy for those who have had no opportunity to learn what is truth. Tenderly will the Lord look upon them. His heart of mercy is touched; His hand is still stretched out to save, while **the door is closed to those who would not enter**.—Testimonies for the Church 9:97.

We now need to understand what the symbols used by John in Revelation 9 when referring to the locusts mean:

The Smoke

The fifth trumpet describes the opening of the bottomless pit and the smoke that arises. The smoke even blocks out the sun and the sky or atmosphere is darkened:

Revelation 9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

The smoke is even compared to the smoke of a great furnace. This smoke is literal smoke and from it emerges the creatures described as locusts:

Revelation 9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

It is interesting to compare scripture with scripture to understand why smoke is present at this event.

Isaiah 9:18 **For wickedness burneth as the fire: it shall devour the briars and thorns, and shall kindle in the thickets of the forest, and they shall mount up like the lifting up of smoke.**

Isaiah 9:19 **Through the wrath of the LORD of hosts is the land darkened, and the people shall be as the fuel of the fire: no man shall spare his brother.**

Note that it is wickedness which burns as fire. When Satan releases his demonic forces the smoke which accompanies their release signifies their spiritual character – wickedness through and through. This entrance of the fallen angels to earth is spectacular and captures the imagination of all humanity. The time spoken of by Paul has come:

2 Thessalonians 2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2 Thessalonians 2:9 *Even him,* **whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,**

2 Thessalonians 2:10 **And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness**

in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

A proper analysis of verse 7 reveals the true rendering of this verse and hence its true meaning:

◀ 2 Thessalonians 2:7 ▶

Text Analysis

Strong's	Transliteration	Greek	English	Morphology
3588 [e]	to	τὸ	the	Art-NNS
1063 [e]	gar	γὰρ	indeed	Conj
3466 [e]	mystērion	μυστήριον	mystery,	N-NNS
2235 [e]	ēdē	ἤδη	already	Adv
1754 [e]	energeitai	ἐνεργεῖται	is working,	V-PIM-3S
3588 [e]	tēs	τῆς	-	Art-GFS
458 [e]	anomias	ἀνομίας·	of lawlessness;	N-GFS
3440 [e]	monon	μόνον	only [there is]	Adv
3588 [e]	ho	ὁ	the [one]	Art-NMS
2722 [e]	katechōn	κατέχων	restraining [it]	V-PPA-NMS
737 [e]	arti	ἄρτι	at present	Adv
2193 [e]	heōs	ἕως	until	Conj
1537 [e]	ek	ἐκ	out of	Prep
3319 [e]	mesou	μέσου	[the] midst	Adj-GNS
1096 [e]	genētai	γένηται.	he might be [gone].	V-ASM-3S

http://biblehub.com/text/2_thessalonians/2-7.htm

Note the translation below taken from the literal English above:

“The indeed mystery already is working of lawlessness; only the restraining at present until out of the midst he might be.”

The English Majority Text translates verse 7 thus:

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **He who now restrains will continue until one arises from out of the midst.**”

The **mystery of iniquity or Satan's esoteric influences have been working ever since the fall of Eve** beguiled by the serpent in the Garden of Eden **and even before in heavenly realms** when a third of the angels were deceived by the evil one. Satan is being **restrained** by God – . Satan is restrained until out of the midst he arises. The amazing connections between 2 Thessalonians 2 and the fifth trumpet are only now being understood. The working of Satan with all power, signs and lying wonders can only take place when the restraining influences of God are released. How does this take place in the fifth trumpet? Satan at the very beginning is given the

KEY TO THE BOTTOMLESS PIT. The restraint is let go or released.

Paul writes about the impact this release has on those that will ultimately perish:

2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2 Thessalonians 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God's professed people who have decided to receive the mark of the beast believe a lie. They didn't love the truth enough but preferred the fruits of unrighteousness. Their torment will be very real during the sounding of the fifth trumpet or first woe.

Satan appearing as Christ takes on all the physical attributes of Christ as described in Revelation

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

He does come in the clouds of smoke that arise from the bottomless pit. However he is not allowed to fully replicate the coming of Christ. Every eye shall not see him at the same time although through the use of media his arrival will be broadcast to every corner of the world.

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. (Revelation 1:13-15). The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: "Christ has come! Christ has come!" LDE 163.2

Satan will personate Christ and twist scripture to suit his portrayal of the coming of Christ. An understanding of what happens when you die and the state of the dead according to the word of God is essential otherwise you will be deceived. He is going to bring with him at his coming those that have died as living witnesses to the 'fact' that he is truly their long awaited saviour. He will use scriptures to support his case:

1Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

Satan will state that he is the Christ that rose from the dead; he will even bear the scars he received in the house of his friends (Zechariah 13:6). He will also bring those which 'fell asleep in him'. This will be a most overpowering deception because the deceased loved ones of people will appear and describe to their relatives wonderful stories about heaven. The array of people that arrive with Satan could include the apostles, past popes, children, Mary his mother and the list is seemingly endless. All are demons clothed in the garb of humanity desperate to deceive even the very elect. (Mark 13:22).

He [Satan] has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. The counterfeit is perfect; the familiar look, the words, the tone, are reproduced with marvelous distinctness.... Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions.—The Great Controversy, 552, 560 (1911). LDE 161.4

The apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They deny the divine origin of the Bible.—The Great Controversy, 557 (1911). LDE 157.12

It is Satan's most successful and fascinating delusion—one calculated to take hold of the sympathies of those who have laid their loved ones in the grave. Evil angels come in the form of those loved ones and relate incidents connected with their lives, and perform acts which they performed while living. In this way they lead persons to believe that their dead friends are angels, hovering over them and communicating with them. These evil angels, who assume to be the deceased friends, are regarded with a certain idolatry, and with many their word has greater weight than the Word of God. —The Signs of the Times, August 26, 1889. LDE 161.3

THE LOCUSTS

The locust army that appears from the smoke of the bottomless pit is described using an array of symbols that help determine their origin and purpose.

Revelation 9:7 And the shapes of the locusts *were* like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men.

Features of the locusts described in the fifth trumpet describe them as:

- Like unto horses prepared unto battle

- Wearing crowns like gold
- Having faces of men.

Horses and locusts do not initially strike us as having similarities – however a horse in battle gear can certainly look like a locust. Locusts have a natural armament – their hard shell. Locusts have wings, horses have speed. The horse's ears look like the locusts antennae.



The word 'shapes' of the locusts is referred to in other translations as the 'likenesses of' or 'appearance' of. Locusts travel in 'swarms' or vast numbers. Horses in battle would also appear to be in vast numbers. A contradiction exists when you contemplate what this locust army has been instructed NOT to do. They are not to hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads (Revelation 9:4). Obviously these locust like creatures are not really locusts. The term locust has been used in this context to describe the vast numbers that exist. At the counterfeit second coming of Christ Satan (Apollyon/Abaddon) will appear with a vast number of evil angels. Angels have wings and this locust army is viewed by John for what it is – this swarm of evil angels are about to prey not on the green vegetation of the earth but on mankind itself.

Crowns of Gold

'and on their heads *were* as it were crowns like gold.' [Revelation 9:7](#)

The locusts are described as wearing crowns like gold. This is the time of Satan's lying signs and wonders. He appears as Christ accompanied by his demonic host who appear as beautiful angels and personate the apostles, loved ones who have died and numerous other people who after dying have gone to heaven and received their reward - their heavenly crown. This is a most challenging deception for people who do not understand what the word of God teaches about what happens when you die. Death is described as a sleep and the dead in Christ will rise first when he comes the second time:

[1 Thessalonians 4:16](#) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

[Ecclesiastes 9:5](#) For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know

not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Ecclesiastes 9:6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

If you do not know the truth about what happens when you die – you are strongly advised to study and shew yourself approved (2 Timothy 2:15). Check out the video links and downloadable booklets available on this topic via the following link:

<http://www.prophesyagain.com.au/death.html>

Satan's demonic host appearing as loved ones who have died and gone to heaven now return with beautiful but deceptive stories of the marvels and wonders of heaven. They have the crowns of life they were given by Christ himself to show as indisputable evidence of where they have been since their death.

"Their loved ones will appear in robes of light, as familiar to the sight as when they were upon the earth. They will teach them and converse with them. And many will be deceived by this wonderful display of Satan's power. The only safety for the people of God is to be thoroughly conversant with their Bibles, and be intelligent upon the reasons of our faith in regard to the sleep of the dead." RH April 1, 1875

"Satan is a cunning foe. And it is not difficult for the evil angels to represent both saints and sinners who have died, and make these representations visible to human eyes. These manifestations will be more frequent, and developments of a more startling character will appear as we near the close of time. We need not be astonished at anything in the line of deceptions to allure the unwary and deceive, if possible, the very elect.

RH April 1, 1875

The crowns of gold will be accompanied by 'robes of light'. Truly Satan's lying signs and wonders have almost reached the pinnacle of deception.

Faces of Men

'and their faces *were* as the faces of men.' **Revelation 9:7**

The locust horde are described by John as having men's faces. John sees them for what they are – a swarm of evil angels finally released from the bottomless pit – yet they have faces of men.

(Joe 2:6) Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

Here we have another description confirming the deceptive outward appearance of Satan's evil horde. They appear as people who have died and returned with the counterfeit Christ – Satan. An inner struggle takes place within human hearts – is this person really who they say they are? They appear exactly as they remember them yet with a heavenly glow about them. At the same time

God's witnesses are giving the 'loud cry' and are warning people against drinking the wine of Babylon –the false doctrine that the 'soul' is immortal and never dies:

What do Catholics believe happens to a person after death ? Question from Maria on 12/30/2001:

What do Catholics believe happens to a person after death ?

Answer by Fr. John Echert on 12/31/2001:

At the moment of death, the soul is separated from the body and no longer sustains order within the natural body; as a result, the body begins to corrupt and left to its own will decompose. **The soul, however, is immortal and never ceases to exist, once created. Immediately upon death, the soul of each person is judged by the Lord, either to eternal life or the damnation of hell.** For those damned to hell, such a soul immediately experiences hell thereafter. For a soul judged to heaven, if the soul is truly holy then it may immediately experience the fullness of heaven. We call such souls "the saints." For those who are judged to eternal life yet still have some attachment to sin or there is some temporal punishment due for sin, such a soul experiences purgatory in the manner that God determines. Purgatory is really a blessing, for not only does the soul know that it is destined for heaven but purgatory purges anything from the soul which would limit the vision and enjoyment of God in heaven. **Eventually, when the end of the world comes about, there will be a resurrection of the bodies of all the dead and final judgment of all souls and the angels in which we will all see the justice and mercy of God. Our bodies will be resurrected and body and soul will be rejoined,** for to be a human person means to have both body and soul. This is true both for the saved and the damned, and both will experience either eternal happiness or eternal suffering in both body and soul. ©

<http://www.ewtn.com/v/experts/showmessage.asp?number=340085>

The locusts have faces of men. When Satan counterfeits Christ's coming his evil angels described as locusts will appear as the resurrected loved ones who have finally had their soul's united with their bodies. Deception and destruction - [2Thessalonians 2:9](#) ... the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders is designed to deceive even the very elect:

[Matthew 24:24](#) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

[2Corinthians 11:13](#) For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

[2Corinthians 11:14](#) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

[2Corinthians 11:15](#) Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

“Moreover, the apostles, as personated by these lying spirits, are made to contradict what they wrote at the dictation of the Holy Spirit when on earth. They deny the divine origin of the Bible, and thus tear away the foundation of the Christian’s hope, and put out the light that reveals the way to Heaven.”

4SP 375.1

Revelation 9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions.

Hair of Women

‘And they had hair as the hair of women.’

The symbol of ‘hair of women’ is designed to convey the appearance of ‘holiness’. A Nazarite would grow his hair during his ‘separation unto the Lord’. The locusts masquerading as saints who have died and are now resurrected have dedicated themselves to the ‘Lord’ during their time of separation with the ‘Lord’.

Numbers 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth *himself* unto the LORD, he shall be holy, *and* shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

But in reality the locusts have long hair like women because they are stubbornly wicked and have never repented of sin:

Jeremiah 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending *them*:

Jeremiah 7:26 Yet **they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.**

Jeremiah 7:27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

Jeremiah 7:28 But thou shalt say unto them, **This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.**

Jeremiah 7:29 **Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.**

God’s people in the above verses have been disobedient and have not received correction. They have refused to repent. If they had they would have cut off their hair and lamented their evil state.

The locusts which were once beautiful angelic beings in heaven who served the living God have

fallen from their high estate. Their long hair symbolises their wicked and unrepentant condition. They have chosen to follow Satan, chosen wickedness above righteousness, and now having been released from the bottomless pit seek to gather willing followers from the 'generation of his wrath'.

Jude 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

In the fifth trumpet Satan has been given the key to the bottomless pit. He releases these angels from their everlasting chains for the time of his lying signs and wonders. Their deceptive appearance symbolised by the 'hair of women' aptly captures their total devotion to wickedness and unrighteousness.

Teeth of Lions

'their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions.'

Joel 1:6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

Joel refers to a nation that also have teeth like lions. It is interesting to note the advice he gives to his audience right at the beginning of his book:

Joel 1:2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

Joel 1:3 Tell ye your children of it, and *let* your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation.

Joel wants us to sit up and take notice. The army he is about to describe is going to play an active role in end time events.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.



The symbol of lion's teeth in the Bible is connected with the wicked and is designed to depict the damage and destructive power that they delight in creating. Satan's demonic host, the embodi-

ment of wickedness have been let loose to hurt and torment.

David and Solomon referred to the wicked and their 'lion-like' teeth:

Psalms 57:4 **My soul is among lions:** *and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.*

Psalms 58:3 **The wicked are estranged from the womb:** they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Psalms 58:4 Their poison *is* like the poison of a serpent: *they are* like the deaf adder *that* stoppeth her ear;

Psalms 58:5 Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

Psalms 58:6 **Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD.**

Proverbs 30:14 **There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives,** to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

Psalms 7:1 **Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.** O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:

Psalms 7:2 **Lest he tear my soul like a lion,** rending *it* in pieces, while *there is* none to deliver.

It is the souls of men that are at stake. Satan the destroyer of souls is at the helm of his wicked army and like lions they ravage the souls of men. But at this time the merciful and just God pleads with humanity through his two witnesses (Revelation 11:3) and he is a strong deliverer to those who cry to Him for help (Psalms 18:2).

Revelation 9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

Breastplates of Iron

'And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron'

The people of God are admonished to put on a 'breastplate of righteousness'. In contrast the locust army wear breastplates of iron.

Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,** and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and **having on the breastplate of righteousness;**

The breastplate we all are encouraged to wear is also described as a breastplate of faith and love:

1Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, **putting on the breastplate of faith and love**; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Jeremiah, God's watchman to the house of Israel describes the state of Israel in the eyes of God:

Jeremiah 6:27 I have set thee *for* a tower *and* a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way.

Jeremiah 6:28 They *are* all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: *they are brass and iron*; they *are* all corrupters.

Jeremiah 6:29 The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; **the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away.**

Jeremiah 6:30 Reprobate silver shall *men* call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.

Israel is described as being 'brass and iron' because no matter how much God remonstrated with them about their spiritual condition they would not change their evil ways.

Jeremiah 17:1 **The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron**, *and* with the point of a diamond: **it is graven upon the table of their heart**, and upon the horns of your altars;

Instead of the law of God, their sin is written with a pen of iron, inscribed on the tables of their heart. Satan's locust army have iron breastplates on because the breastplate they wear reveals the spiritual condition of their hearts. They do not obey the commandments of God and instead rebellion is etched into their hearts and minds and their very beings.

The Sound of their Wings

'the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.'

Joel 2:4 The appearance of them *is* as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

Joel 2:5 **Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains** shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, **as a strong people set in battle array.**

The invading army in Joel also sounds like chariots and they are a 'strong people set in battle array'. The wings of Satan's angels descending to the earth make a tremendous noise comparable to the noise of many chariots and horses running to battle. The world will be enthralled with the arrival of the counterfeit Christ – Satan and the vast number of angelic beings with their wings fanning the air. The whole atmosphere seems to throb and vibrate and the sound or noise of chariots and horses comes from their wings as they descend to earth.

Revelation 9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.

Tails like Scorpions, and Stings in their Tails

The swarm of evil angels has been described as locusts with an array of 'wicked' and 'deceptive' characteristics – crowns of gold, faces like men, teeth like lions, breastplates of iron. Now we are told that these locusts have tails like scorpions and stings with which they hurt men. This symbolic description was used by the saviour himself to refer to demonic spirits:

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Note that Christ himself identifies and labels unclean or demonic spirits as serpents and scorpions. This promise given by our precious saviour is now and will especially during the fifth trumpet be a sure declaration that God's witnesses can cling to as a reassurance of God's defence of his people – **'and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'** God's witnesses will also have power **'over all the power of the enemy'**. In the time of Satan's lying signs and wonders the Lord will protect and empower his witnesses.

The symbol of a scorpion was used by the Lord in His instructions to Ezekiel about the message he had to give to the children of Israel:

Ezekiel 2: And he said unto me, Son of man, **I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me:** they and their fathers have transgressed against me, *even* unto this very day.

Ezekiel 2:4 For **they are impudent children and stiffhearted.** I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 2:5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for **they are a rebellious house,**) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 2:6 And thou, **son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.**

Ezekiel 2:7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for **they are most rebellious.**

The 'rebellion' of God's people has been particularly stressed by God when communicating to Ezekiel. He is raising up Ezekiel to prophesy to the children of Israel. What is most interesting is that the Lord identifies his people as 'briers and thorns' and 'scorpions'. He encourages Ezekiel to not be 'afraid of their words' or 'dismayed at their looks.' Obviously the rebellion of the people is exhibited clearly by their 'words' and 'looks'. The spirit guiding the children of Israel is a rebellious one. Satan the author of sin is leading them in their rebellion against God and his evil spirits have entered their hearts and minds. They truly deserve the title of 'scorpions'!

1Samuel 15:23) For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

The 'scorpions' of Israel are in close alliance with spiritual forces that resemble the sin of witchcraft or divination. They are indulging in the very 'sin' of arrogance and pride that Lucifer initiated in heavenly realms.

We have been able to identify clearly how scorpions are used as a symbol for unclean or demonic spirits that can possess the minds and hearts of men. Scorpions have 'stings in their tails' – What might these 'stings' represent?



Revelation 9:5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was* as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

Revelation 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

The torment or anguish experienced by the victims of the scorpions or evil angels is real. This is the time of the third angel's message given by the two witnesses:

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and **they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image**, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Once individuals make a decision to accept the mark of the beast instead of listening to the two witnesses they are tormented by their decision and Satan's evil spirits. Joel describes this torment in an interesting way:

Joel 2:6 Before their face **the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.**

Joel 2:7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and **they shall not break their ranks:**

Joel 2:8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and **when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.**

Joel 2:9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, **they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.**

The people are in pain or tormented by this army of Satan's angels. Note the description of the army itself: they do not break their ranks meaning they are very organised and hell-bent on ensuring they can sting or deceive as many individuals as they can.

This army cannot be destroyed by earthly means. Being demonic spirits no earthly weapon can destroy them – **‘when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.’**

Satan’s demonic agents also have the ability to materialise anywhere or in front of anyone that is not protected by God. They shall truly enter in at the windows like a thief. No earthly security system can prevent them from entering into the privacy of people’s homes. They can appear anytime and anywhere. They also love to frequent the darkness, making the night a particular time when they will torment their victims. Is it any wonder **‘they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image.’**

Revelation 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

Because those who have accepted the mark of the beast are possessed by demonic spirits even though some of them desire to die the demons that control them will not allow them to accomplish their desire.

Their Power was to Hurt Men Five Months.

A time period of five months is mentioned twice in the description of the first woe or fifth trumpet (Revelation 9:5 and 9:10). This equates to a 150 day time period each month equivalent to 30 days. This trumpet is sounding within the time period of the 1260 days or 42 months of Revelation 11. The two witnesses – God’s people are prophesying in sackcloth and are preaching the three angel’s messages and the soon return of Jesus Christ. This is still the time of mercy for those hearing and getting the opportunity to respond to this message for the first time. Unfortunately the door of mercy has closed to those who knew the truth and didn’t act upon it. The judgment has taken place for God’s professed people – their cases are decided.

1Peter 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?

A parallel for God’s people exists when we revisit the time of the worldwide flood in Genesis:

Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 8:3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated.

Noah and his family were protected in the ark by God and the angels sent to ensure their safety during the cataclysmic flood which covered the whole earth. The appearance of Satan and his evil horde represented as a locust army in Revelation 9 and Joel 1 and 2 during the fifth trumpet is the time specified in 2 Thessalonians:

2Thessalonians 2:9 *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with **all power and signs and lying wonders**,

He has been granted **‘all power’** when given the key to the bottomless pit. During the five months or one hundred and fifty days of the fifth trumpet his demonic angels can torment or hurt any person who has not received the seal of God. Those who have been sealed in contrast are protected from Satan’s devilish designs for the five months or one hundred and fifty days of the fifth trum-

pet. Noah's family on the ark were also protected and safe from harm within the ark for the same time period of one hundred and fifty days.

Our analysis of the fifth trumpet is almost complete. The incredible comparisons between the locust army of Revelation 9 and the army in Joel chapter 2 is worth examining in closer detail especially when considered in the light of a statement by Ellen White:

The **second chapter of Joel speaks of the judgments that will come up on the world for their iniquity**: Ms18-1904.16

Revelation 9:11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.

Revelation 9:12 One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Satan is the king over the locust/scorpion horde and he will have the key of the bottomless pit till the coming of Christ when he is cast into the pit and a seal placed upon him preventing him from deceiving the nations until he is loosed at the end of his one thousand year sentence:

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Two more woes are to come and Satan and his demons are deceiving individuals and nations to the best of their ability. He knows his time is short!

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, *ye* heavens, and *ye* that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because **he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

Conclusion

Reflecting on the definite connections between Joel and Revelation we see the same story being told.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

<p>(Joe 1:15) Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD <i>is</i> at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.</p> <p>(Joe 1:19) O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.</p> <p>(Joe 1:20) The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.</p>	<p>(Rev 8:7) The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.</p> <p>(Rev 8:10) And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;</p> <p>(Rev 8:11) And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.</p>
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In the first chapter of Joel conditions are described that exist on earth during the time when the Day of the Lord is at hand. Fire has burned pastures and trees and rivers have dried up. When you consider the first few trumpets in Revelation the first trumpet involves devastation of grass and trees by fire. In the third trumpet what waters exist after an asteroid impact are poisoned. Fire will often take place during dry conditions and periods when drought is prevalent. Rivers will stop flowing and dry up.

God's two witnesses during their prophesying in sackcloth for forty two months (1260 days) will like Elijah announce that rain will not fall:

Revelation 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

The time period Joel is prophesying about is during the time of the three years and six months prophecy of God's end time witnesses. The three angel's messages are sounding and the fourth angel of Revelation has united with them swelling their message into a loud cry.

JOEL	REVELATION
<p>(Joe 2:1) Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for <i>it is</i> nigh at hand;</p> <p>(Joe 2:2) A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, <i>even</i> to the years of many generations.</p> <p>(Joe 2:3) A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land <i>is</i> as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.</p>	<p>(Rev 9:2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by : and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.</p> <p>(Rev 9:4) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.</p> <p>(Rev 9:5) And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment <i>was</i> as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.</p>

Joel announces in the second chapter that God's people need to 'blow the trumpet in Zion'. It is imperative that the alarm be sounded because 'a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like' are going to arise. God's people need to be prepared spiritually before these people or this army appear. It is interesting to note that behind this army a flame burneth. The devastation of the first four trumpets and the lack of rain during this time has already been noted in Joel chapter one.

In the description of this army by John the Revelator they arise out of smoke which connects with the reference Joel has made to fire devouring before them. The locust army of Revelation is instructed not to 'hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.' Joel's refers to: 'the land *is* as the garden of Eden before them.' This army is forbidden from hurting the grass, trees and other green things. Joel's prophecy identifies specifically the timing of the arrival of this army or great nation and John confirms it. Even though there are still some places on earth which have not been impacted on by the fires and are referred to as being like the 'Garden of Eden' this army cannot 'hurt' the plants and trees.

JOEL	COMMENTARY
<p>(Joe 2:12) Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye <i>even</i> to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:</p> <p>(Joe 2:13) And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he <i>is</i> gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.</p> <p>(Joe 2:14) Who knoweth <i>if</i> he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; <i>even</i> a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?</p> <p>(Joe 2:15) Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:</p> <p>(Joe 2:16) Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.</p> <p>(Joe 2:17) Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where <i>is</i> their God?</p> <p>(Joe 2:18) Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people</p>	<p>Joel is so concerned about the arrival of this army he emphasises what God's people need to do to spiritually prepare to meet their God:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • turn ye <i>even</i> to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: • rend your heart, and not your garments • turn unto the LORD your God <p>The leaders or priests and ministers have an incredible responsibility as they are instructed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blow the trumpet in Zion • sanctify a fast • call a solemn assembly • Gather the people • sanctify the congregation • weep between the porch and the altar <p>Once the people and the leaders sincerely repent God can act on behalf of his people.</p>

JOEL	COMMENTARY AND COMPARISON (REVELATION)
<p>(Joe 2:19) Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:</p> <p>(Joe 2:20) But I will remove far off from you the northern <i>army</i>, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.</p> <p>(Joe 2:21) Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.</p> <p>(Joe 2:23) Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first <i>month</i>.</p> <p>(Joe 3:16) The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD <i>will be</i> the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.</p>	<p>The Lord promises that he will take care of his people. Those people with the seal of God in their foreheads are protected from the invading army of the fifth trumpet.</p> <p>The northern army or locust army of Revelation 9 will be ‘removed far off’ from God’s people. More details of this victory are given in Joel chapter 3. Joel 3: 9 -16. The heathen nations rally and join forces with Satan’s devilish war machine. This is also described in Revelation: (Rev 16:13) And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs <i>come</i> out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.</p> <p>(Rev 16:14) For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, <i>which</i> go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.</p> <p>(Rev 19:19) And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.</p> <p>Joel reassures God’s people not to fear but to rejoice because he will do great things for them!</p> <p>God will empower his witnesses with the latter rain – his holy spirit. When the Lord roars (See 7 Thunders study), the trumpets will sound. And the Lord at that time ‘<i>will be</i> the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.’</p>

(Rev 9:11) And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.

(Rev 9:12) One woe is past; *and*, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Satan is the king over the locust/scorpion horde and he will have the key of the bottomless pit till

the coming of Christ when he is cast into the pit and a seal placed upon him preventing him from deceiving the nations until he is loosed at the end of his one thousand year sentence:

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Two more woes are to come and Satan and his demons are deceiving individuals and nations to the best of their ability. He knows his time is short!

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because **he knoweth that he hath but a short time.**

Conclusion

The book of Joel is designed to be a specific encouragement to God's people in the last days. It describes the impacts of God's judgments – the seven trumpets and particularly focuses on the fifth trumpet and the arrival of Satan's army and how they will conduct their warfare of torment.

Joel stresses the importance of repentance and heart preparation for the events God's people will need to meet in the last days. God will hear them and provide for their needs. He details events that will happen in the last days - (**Joe 2:30**) And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. God's witnesses will be empowered with the latter rain to give the final call to anyone that will listen and respond to the three angel's messages and the fourth angel's message to flee Babylon before it is ever too late. Multitudes are in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). The time of the Gentiles is soon to be fulfilled (Revelation 11:2).

The northern army belonging to the King of the North will come to its end. The great controversy between Satan and Christ is almost over! What amazing reassurance Joel gives us of events soon to take place! It is incredible to contemplate that God gave Joel a message about the fifth trumpet locust army hundreds of years before John the Revelator received his seven trumpet vision. God wants his people to be prepared for the time of Satan's lying signs and wonders before it happens. Are you ready to meet your saviour today? Would Christ pour out upon you his Holy Spirit in the form of the latter rain? Will you be sealed before the fifth trumpet sounds? These are all serious questions we need to individually answer.

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

May God continue to bless and guide you in your soul preparation for the incredible events that are soon to take place.

Are we to wait until the fulfilment of the prophecies of the end before we say anything concerning them? Of what value will our words be then? Shall we wait until the judgments fall upon the transgressor before we tell him how to avoid them? Where is our faith in the word of God? Must we see the things foretold come to pass before we will believe what he has said? In clear, distinct rays light has come to us, showing that the great day of the Lord is at hand, "even at the door." Let us read and understand, before it is too late. RH July 28, 1904, par. 13

TWO MORE TRUMPETS ARE YET TO SOUND!

THE SIXTH TRUMPET

The second woe sounds:

Revelation 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Revelation 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

Revelation 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Revelation 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

Revelation 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Revelation 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

Revelation 9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails *were* like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The fifth trumpet has sounded and the devil and his angels were unleashed to deceive mankind. Satan has counterfeited the second coming of Christ to the best of his ability. He has been welcomed with open arms by the majority of Christian religions and even those from mystical religions have recognised and accepted him. The pope welcomes him with open arms and worships him as Christ

Daniel 11:38 But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and **a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.**

Daniel 11:39 **Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory:** and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Daniel writing about the reception of Lucifer as Christ by the papal system recognises him as a 'strange god'. Satan parading as Christ is honoured with gold, silver and precious things. The Catholic or universal church recognises Satan as their long awaited saviour and acknowledge him and increase him with glory. The majority of protestant religions also follow suit.

It is after the five months (Revelation 9:5) of torment and anguish in which Satan and his angels with their 'lying signs and wonders' (2 Thessalonians 2:9) have gone out to deceive the world that the sixth trumpet sounds. Not all religions and nations have fallen for his beguiling appearance and strategic craftiness.

It is at this point in time that we examine the description of the sixth trumpet:

Revelation 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

When the sixth angel sounds a voice is heard from the 'four horns of the golden altar'. Why is the golden altar mentioned and the particular reference to the golden altar's four horns?

Remember that the golden altar has previously been mentioned at the beginning of the sounding of the trumpets:

Revelation 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer *it* with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

The use of the golden censer pinpoints the timing of the sounding of the trumpets. They begin to sound during the antitypical day of atonement and particularly at the time when much incense is being used and many prayers are ascending to the throne of the Father. For more information about this time please read the [Latter Rain study](http://www.prophesyagain.com.au) at www.prophesyagain.com.au

In the sixth trumpet the voice comes from the four horns of the golden altar. In the Day of Atonement when the high priest is cleansing the sanctuary his final actions involve him placing blood upon the four horns of the golden altar to cleanse it:

Leviticus 16:18 And he shall go out unto the altar that *is* before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and **put *it* upon the horns of the altar round about.**

Leviticus 16:19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

Leviticus 16:20 And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy *place*, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

Let's stop there! Can you see how significant the mention of the four horns of the altar in the sixth trumpet is? The very next action of the high priest is to deal with the scape goat. The sixth trumpet is taking place on the cusp of the close of probation. The sounding of the sixth trumpet is the final warning message for all humanity. All six trumpets have been mingled with mercy. But the sixth trumpet is truly one of the most devastating for mankind. By the time it is over one third of mankind will be destroyed (Revelation 9:18)

Revelation 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

The voice from the four horns of the golden altar, which is the voice of Christ our heavenly high priest and judge who has entered into the final stages of the Day of Atonement, instructs the sixth angel to loose four angels that are bound in the river Euphrates.

An obvious question to ask is are these angels servants of God or Satan? Satan's angels were released from the bottomless pit in the fifth trumpet, but it is now obvious that even though they

have been freed from their place of confinement God still exercises control over their actions. In the fifth trumpet they were allowed to torment the inhabitants of the earth but were not allowed to do the same to those with the seal of God. In the sixth trumpet it is revealed that the four angels that were bound are now loosed and given the freedom to wreak havoc and deceive the nations (Revelation 20:3) just as their commander - Satan has instructed them to do. God's angels are obedient and have no need of being forcibly restrained – Satan's angels are disobedient to their maker and therefore require restraint.

We must now examine the geographic location where the angels are bound and then loosed – the Euphrates river.



The Euphrates river begins in Turkey and winds its way through the countries of Syria, Iraq and borders Iran just before it flows into the Persian gulf. What is significant about where the angels are bound is that these nations are all Muslim countries. A Muslim is someone who follows the religion of Islam. These deceptive angels are loosed to deceive the nations and believers of Islam. It is only when scripture is compared with scripture that the broader picture and significance of this event can be understood.

The sixth trumpet sounds and the seventh trumpet or third woe cometh quickly (Revelation 11:14). Probation for mankind closes just as the seventh trumpet is about to sound (Revelation 10:7). The sixth trumpet is the final warning for mankind. The judgement in heaven of those living at this time is about to close. Where else in scripture is this closure of probation for mankind described?

In the very last book of Daniel – chapter 12 verse 1 we read:

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The above verse describes the cessation of judgement and the beginning of the great time of trouble. The sixth trumpet sounds just before the time of trouble begins when the wrath of God is unleashed. Let's go back into Daniel 11 and see if there is any event that takes place that is similar to the events described in the sixth trumpet.

Notice the comparison table of Revelation 9 - the sixth trumpet and the war between the King of the North and South in Daniel 11. Both events taking place - just on the border of the close of probation for mankind.

EVENTS of the Sixth Trumpet – Revelation 9	EVENTS in Time of the end – Daniel 11
<p>(Rev 9:15) And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.</p> <p>(Rev 9:16) And the number of the army of the horsemen <i>were</i> two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.</p> <p>(Rev 9:17) And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses <i>were</i> as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.</p> <p>(Rev 9:18) By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.</p> <p>(Rev 9:19) For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails <i>were</i> like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.</p> <p>(Rev 9:20) And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:</p> <p>(Rev 9:21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.</p>	<p>(Dan 11:40) And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.</p> <p>(Dan 11:41) He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many <i>countries</i> shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, <i>even</i> Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.</p> <p>(Dan 11:42) He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.</p> <p>(Dan 11:43) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians <i>shall be</i> at his steps.</p>

What are the common themes we can identify when comparing the sixth trumpet with the war between the King of the South and North in Daniel 11?

- Both events are taking place just prior to the close of probation.
- Both are descriptions of 'war'.
- The countries from where the initial conflict arises are Islamic nations. (The King of the South and the area through which the Euphrates flows).

When scripture is compared with scripture the results are incredible. Daniel saw the sixth trumpet war take place and John the Revelator adds important detail to help those living in the last days know and understand the events connected with the close of probation. The biggest armed conflict since the world began will take place just prior to the close of probation.

Who is this war between? Daniel 11 verse 40 – 43 provides great detail about the countries involved and the two warring factions are titled the King of the South and the King of the North.

Who is the King of the North at this time in our world's history – just before the close of probation?

The King of Fierce Countenance (Satan) has come as Christ in the fifth trumpet and has been welcomed by his servant or representative on earth – the pope. The papal system's deadly wound is healed. The description of this King of the North and the confederacy that is spiritual Babylon is made plain in Revelation Chapter 13:

Revelation 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

John the Revelator describes to us the ruling powers that bear sway at the time of the end. The beast represents a conglomeration of nations that have joined forces and Satan the dragon spirit has inspired its conception. Ten kings wear ten crowns as represented by the horns. This is also the time described in Revelation 17:

Revelation 17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

Revelation 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

The beast in Revelation 13 is made up of segments of three of the beasts referred to in Daniel 7. These beasts represented the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece. In the time of the end this composite beast rises from the waters:

Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

This beast has arisen from “peoples, multitudes nations and tongues.” The beast represents the political powerhouse of a confederacy of nations. The ten kings have their crowns. These ten kings united in one confederacy are represented by the ten toes in the image of Daniel 2. They assume power at the very end of time – they ‘receive power as kings one hour with the beast’ (Revelation 17:12).

A key point to note about this composite beast is that it receives its power from the dragon or Satan. The spirit of the dragon has entered into the hearts and minds of the leaders of willing nations and religions. The dragon’s sole purpose is to instigate and form a world government that will be ready to give him total allegiance when he deceives them by personating Christ in the fifth trumpet. The Roman beast of Daniel chapter seven at this point in time is the papal system represented by the whore in Revelation 17:

Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

Revelation 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.

The great whore of Revelation 17 sits on many waters or on the ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues’. She rides the beast:

Revelation 17:7 And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, **and of the beast that carrieth her**, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.

The King of the North at the end of time is the political and religious power combination of spiritual Babylon. Satan or the dragon is worshipped as well as the beast and the whole world wonders after the beast (Revelation 13:3). You could even call it a combination of ‘churchcraft and statecraft’:

The mingling of churchcraft and statecraft is represented by the iron and the clay. This union is weakening all the power of the churches. This investing the church with the power of the State will bring evil results. Men have almost passed the point of God’s forbearance. **They have invested their strength in politics, and have united with the papacy.** But the time will come when God will punish those who have made void His law, and their evil work will recoil upon themselves. Ms63-1899.31

So the beast of Revelation 13 is yet to rise out of the sea. This beast represents the political or ‘statecraft’ part of spiritual Babylon. The papacy, the whore or that great city (Revelation 17:18) riding on top of this beast is the ‘churchcraft’ part represented by the iron attempting to mix with

clay in the image of Daniel 2. There is however one more element to spiritual Babylon or the King of the North we need to understand. In Revelation 13 another beast is described:

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

Revelation 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

This beast arises from the earth but is in deceptive attire – he has horns like a lamb, yet speaks like a dragon. Satan has come as Christ in the fifth trumpet. He appears as a wonderful majestic being personating Christ. The papacy welcomes him with open arms and so does Protestant America. He has come to usher in world peace but must deal with any contentious elements that refuse to recognise him for who he is.

“The beast” mentioned in this message, whose worship is enforced by the two-horned beast, is the first, or leopard like beast of Revelation 13—the papacy. The “image to the beast” represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas. GC 445.2

One of the marked characteristics of these false religious powers is that while they profess to have the character and features of a lamb, **while they profess to be allied to heaven, they reveal by their actions that they have the heart of a dragon, that they are instigated by and united with satanic power**, the same power that created war in heaven when Satan sought the supremacy and was expelled from heaven. Ms139-1903.15

Apostate Protestantism has accepted the false sabbath instituted by the Roman Catholic Church. They have cradled this child of the papacy. Very soon all who refuse to worship this idol will be forbidden to buy or sell. The advisability of enacting such a law is now being discussed. But the people of God will enter into no controversy with the world over this matter. They will simply take God’s Word for their guide and maintain their allegiance to Him whose commandments they keep. They will obey the words of Jehovah recorded in the thirty-first chapter of Exodus, verses twelve to eighteen: Ms110-1904.59

The final King of the North in Daniel 11 is described in Revelation as a coalition or confederacy of willing nations represented as kings or horns including the USA, the whore of Revelation 17 or the Papacy and Satan – the ‘strange’ god who has been welcomed by the Papacy and Protestant nations all around the world. The beast is described in Revelation 13 as having ‘seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy’. It is no coincidence that this beast is strikingly similar to the beast or dragon in Revelation 12:

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven

crowns upon his heads.

The Revelation 12 beast or dragon is Satan but it also represented the nation of Rome. The beast of Revelation 13 also has seven heads and ten horns:

A correct interpretation of the symbols employed is necessary to an understanding of this message. What is represented by the beast, the image, the mark? GC 438.1

The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with [Revelation 12](#), with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ at His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan ([Revelation 12:9](#)); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Saviour to death. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era was the Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion. Thus **while the dragon, primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome.** GC 438.2

Just like the dragon in Revelation 12 is primarily Satan, the beast in Revelation 13 is an image of himself. Satan or the devil infuses his spirit into every segment of the world empire he has been pivotal in joining together. Ellen White refers to this beast as the papacy. In a secondary sense it is the papacy. The whore riding on the beast, sitting on its heads has acted on Satan's behalf and brought together this confederacy of nations – spiritual Babylon or the King of the North has been formed.

[Daniel 11:40](#) And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and **he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.**

We have been able to examine from scripture who the King of the North is at the end of time. We must now identify who the King of the South is at this time. Fortunately Daniel 11 has a very detailed description of the nations involved:

[Daniel 11:41](#) He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many *countries* shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.

[Daniel 11:42](#) He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

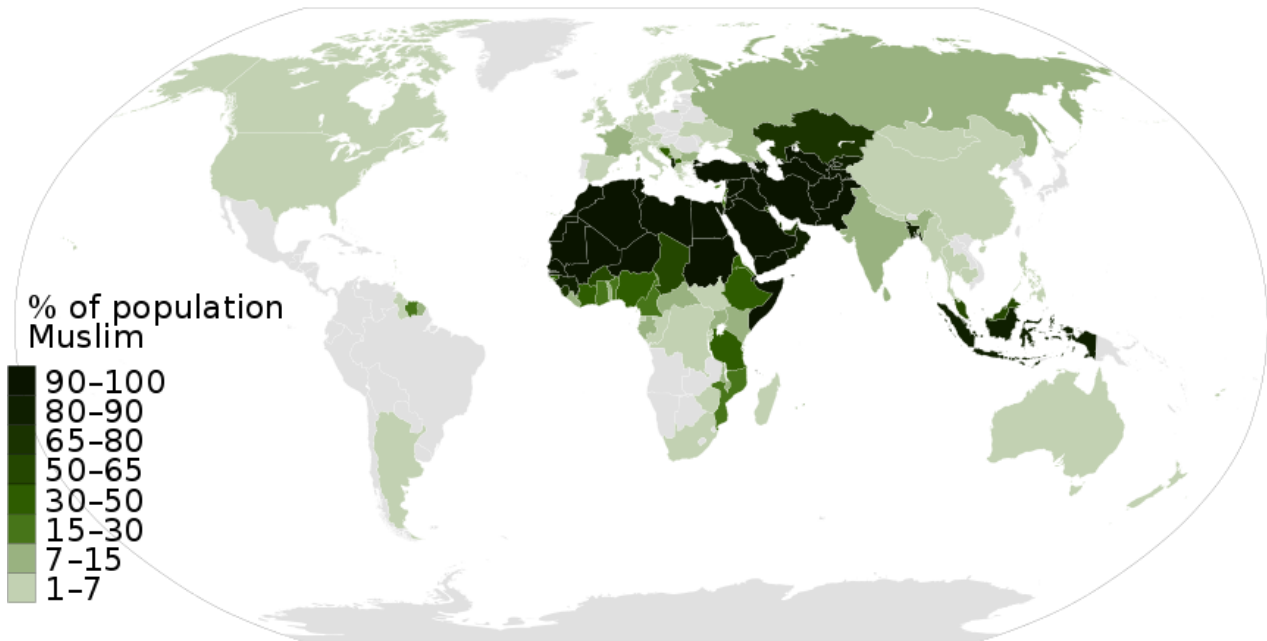
[Daniel 11:43](#) But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps.

When the angels are loosed they are freed from the area where they are bound:

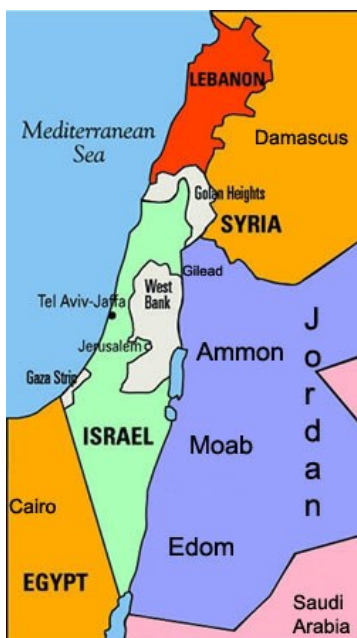
[Revelation 9:14](#) Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels **which are bound in the great river Euphrates.**

Daniel describes the conflict that takes place and refers to the King of the South in the following sequence:

Daniel 11:40 “the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and **he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.**”



1. He shall enter also into the glorious land
2. many *countries* shall be overthrown
3. these shall escape out of his hand, *even* Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.
4. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.
5. and the Libyans and the Ethiopians *shall be* at his steps.



The rapidity of the military engagement is emphasised in Daniel 11:40 when the King of the North reacts to the King of the South pushing at him:

“and the king of the north **shall come against him like a whirlwind**, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and **he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.**”

What predominantly Muslim countries in the Euphrates basin will the King of the North enter into and overflow? They will be Muslim countries that are North of the ‘glorious land’ mentioned in verse 41.

<http://www.thepropheticscroll.org/home/component/content/article/50-editions/general/271-edition-142.html>

He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape.



Recalling that the four angels bound in the Euphrates are loosed we now examine what other countries are in the Euphrates basin. Iraq and Iran are certainly candidates for the countries on which the King of the North will 'stretch his hand'. And even Egypt does not escape. The Libyans and Ethiopians are described as being at his steps. The King of the North's relationship with the Libyans and Ethiopians is one of subservience –at his steps refers to their willingness to allow the King of the North to enter their country and do his bidding.



The nations which form King of the South is certainly made clear in Daniel 11:40-43. The common characteristic that all these nations share is that they predominantly worship Allah and are Muslim.

Why at the very end of probationary time is there an uprising and a unity of Muslim nations wishing to eradicate Christ – personated by Satan and war against the political and religious powerhouse the King of the North?

In Islamic eschatology the arrival of the *Dajjāl* or an evil being that will impersonate the true messiah is predicted to appear at the end times.

The return of Jesus will occur **AFTER** the Anti-Christ (known in Islam as the Dajjal, meaning the Deceiver who claims to be God) appears and attempts to deceive people into worshipping him. Then, Jesus (the Messiah) عليه السلام will descend from Heaven, pursue and kill the Anti-Christ, and destroy the savage and unbelieving armies of Gog and Magog, and bring peace and brotherhood to the World.

http://www.discoveringislam.org/return_of_jesus.htm

When the 'strange god' appears in Daniel 11:38,39 and is honoured with gold and silver and precious things it is none other than Satan himself who has appeared masquerading as Christ. He is described as the King of 'fierce' or mighty countenance in Daniel chapter eight. It is this strange god that will be considered the 'Dajjal' by the majority of Muslims around the world. Accepted as the true Christ by the majority of the Christian world he will deceive the nations and gather them to war against the Muslim nations that dare question his authority. Satan has always desired the title: The King of the North (Isaiah 14:13). This title will certainly be his after his defeat of the King of the South.

Satan personating Christ will live up to his reputation:

Revelation 9:11 And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath *his* name Apollyon.

Satan is the angel of the bottomless pit and is described as Abaddon and Apollyon – the destroying angel. The angels loosed in the river Euphrates are in fact demonic spirits that deceive the nations of the King of the South into believing he is the 'Dajjal' or Anti-Christ. Satan inspires the King of the South to war against the 'Dajjal' and seek to destroy him as their prophetic writings have foretold. This war will destroy one third of mankind. Satan, the author of destruction pretending to be the great peace-maker relishes the devastation he causes. Satan parading as Christ guides and instructs the armies of the King of the North in their 'whirlwind' battle against the King of the South.

Revelation 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

Revelation 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen *were* two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

Satan can finally unleash the bound angels and it is his purpose to inspire them to rally Islamic forces to the greatest war mankind has ever known. The reference to their preparation for an hour, a day, a month and a year is a specific point in time not a prophetic period. At a certain point in time on a particular day, at a particular hour this war will begin. The angels have prepared the nations involved to be ready at this time to engage in a battle that the King of the North will be victorious in but a battle that will have a huge cost – because a third part of men will be slain.

The 2 hundred million strong army involved is the largest army that has ever existed. This con-

flict will impact on a world wide scale. In fact this conflict has been experiencing birth pangs in recent times. The uprising of radical Islam in the modern world particularly since the September 11, 2001 bombings on New York has led to a wave of terrorist activity or jihad that has not really ceased. It is this Jihad or 'holy war' that will reach a pinnacle at this point in the world's history.

Revelation 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Revelation 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

John's vision of the army or 'horsemen' describes them as having the following characteristics:

- the soldiers riding the horses had breastplates of fire, jacinth and brimstone;
- the horses they were riding had heads like lions and out of their mouths issued fire, smoke and brimstone.

The breastplates worn by the army appear to be like fire, jacinth and brimstone. It is important to understand what 'jacinth' and 'brimstone' are.

Jacinth is defined as:

G5191

ὑακίνθινος
huakinthinos

hoo-ak-in'-thee-nos

From **G5192**; "hyacinthine" or "jacinthine", that is, **deep blue: - jacinth.**

Total KJV occurrences: 1

Brimstone is defined as:

G2306

θειώδης
theiōdēs

thi-o'-dace

From **G2303** and **G1491**; *sulphur like*, that is, *sulphurous: - brimstone.*

Total KJV occurrences: 1

It is fascinating to notice that in this one verse in Revelation, two different Greek words are used for brimstone. The above definition refers to the brimstone in the makeup of the breastplate of the soldiers riding the horses.

The other reference to brimstone is found coming out of the mouths of the horses the soldiers are riding:

G2303

θεῖον
theion

thi'-on

Probably neuter of **G2304** (in its original sense of *flashing*); *sulphur: - brimstone.*

Total KJV occurrences: 7

The fact that a different Greek word is used for brimstone in this one verse is quite incredible. Why?

Let's bring John's vision into the present.

The breastplates that the soldiers are wearing would be called **vests**. The brimstone in the vest of the soldiers is sulphur like or sulphurous but when John sees fire, smoke and brimstone issuing out of the mouths of the horses which appear as lions the brimstone is seen as 'flashing' or igniting.

From this specific detail given by John in verse 17 we are given a picture of the tactics of war that will be used by the 'jihadi' forces of the King of the South. Muslim soldiers scattered all around the world – barely discernible from other civilians in their society will rise up against 'Dajjal' and spiritual Babylon who accept 'Dajjal' as their God.

Already in 2018 we have seen radical Islamic adherents reek devastation in societies across the world by wearing bomb laden vests as well as bomb laden modes of transport. Their entrance into events attended by vast numbers of people have helped them destroy their perceived enemy, but also create fear in the hearts of those who survive and those who hear and see the events relayed via media reports.

At the time of the end when this war takes place technology has advanced in leaps and bounds the King of the South has prepared for such a time and the miniaturisation of nuclear fission technology has enabled them to produce a stealth bomb of the most horrific magnitude – **a nuclear vest**.

We will now return to looking at why the breastplate of the soldiers is composed of jacinth. Jacinth – a deep blue colour is mentioned as part of the breastplate but is not mentioned as emanating from the horses mouths which only consists of fire, smoke and brimstone. This blue colour is evidence that the vests or breastplates are composed of nuclear material. Have a look at Cherenkov Radiation taking place in the picture below:



Cherenkov radiation can characterize the remaining radioactivity of spent fuel rods. This phenomenon is used to verify the presence of spent nuclear fuel in spent fuel pools for nuclear safeguards purposes ^[16].

Cherenkov radiation is basically caused by super charged particles moving through the water causing magnetic distortions as they pass through it. When that excess nuclear material is released it produces a blue light.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCOqZfDEIIQ>

The radioactivity of the breastplates or vests of the soldiers is signified by identifying the radiation that is emitted by the fuel source used in the vests. Cherenkov radiation can however be a precursor to nuclear fission. When nuclear fission takes place the following observation has been noted:

Neutrons released in fission may also be absorbed in the body tissue or within surrounding materials, giving rise to the capture of gamma rays. These in turn may interact to produce high energy electrons within the eye. For example, the absorption of a thermal neutron in the hydrogen of water gives rise to a maximum gamma ray of 2.23 MeV at the instant of absorption.⁽¹¹⁶⁾ **The electrons in turn give rise to the Čerenkov radiation or blue flash observed at the instant of the criticality excursion.**

http://www.pnl.gov/main/publications/external/technical_reports/PNNL-19176.pdf

A **criticality accident** is an uncontrolled nuclear fission chain reaction. It is sometimes referred to as a **critical excursion** or a **critical power excursion** or a **divergent chain reaction**.

Many criticality accidents have been observed to emit a blue flash of light.^[37]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticality_accident#cite_note-clayton-37

The triggering of the nuclear vest gives rise to a 'blue flash' and then according to scripture the release or creation of fire, brimstone and smoke take place which kill a third of the population on earth.

Does a nuclear explosion give rise to the creation of fire, brimstone and smoke?

A fraction of a second after a nuclear explosion, **the heat from the fireball causes a high-pressure wave to develop and move outward producing the blast effect**. The front of the blast wave, i.e., the shock front, travels rapidly away from the fireball, a moving wall of highly compressed air.

Approximately 35 percent of the energy from a nuclear explosion is **an intense burst of thermal radiation, i.e., heat**. Temperatures of a nuclear explosion reach those in the interior of the sun, about 100,000,000° Celsius, and produce a brilliant fireball.

Under some conditions, the many individual fires created by a nuclear explosion can coalesce into one massive fire known as a "firestorm." The combination of many smaller fires heats the air and causes winds of hurricane strength directed inward toward the fire, which in turn fan the flames.

John in vision sees FIRE as a major destructive element that destroys one third of mankind. This is certainly an immediate impact of nuclear warfare.

When a nuclear weapon is detonated on or near Earth's surface, the blast digs out a large crater. Some of the material that used to be in the crater is

deposited on the rim of the crater; **the rest is carried up into the air and returns to Earth as radioactive fallout.**

Fallout refers to the radioactive particles that fall to **earth** as a result of a nuclear explosion. It consists of weapon **debris, fission products**, and, in the case of a ground burst, radiated **soil**. Fallout particles vary in size from thousandths of a millimeter to several millimeters. **Much of this material falls directly back down close to ground zero within several minutes after the explosion**, but some travels high into the atmosphere. <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/effects2.shtml>

FALLOUT = BRIMSTONE

John in vision sees flaming particles or residue fall to the ground during a nuclear exchange. He remembers the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and the raining down of brimstone on the evil cities of the plain and all he can think of is that he is envisioning the judgment of God similar to what happened to the cities of the plain.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Genesis 19:28 And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

John also sees the fireball or cloud created by the nuclear explosions:

The color of the cloud is initially red or reddish brown, due to the presence of nitrous acid and oxides of nitrogen. As the fireball cools and condensation occurs, the color changes to white, mainly due to the water droplets (as in an ordinary cloud).

<http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/effects2.shtml>

The fireball John envisions appears as smoke rising up into the air. It is interesting to note that Joel in the Old Testament also saw similar events:

Joel 2:30 And I will shew **H5414** wonders **H4159** in the heavens **H8064** and in the earth, **H776** blood, **H1818** and fire, **H784** and **pillars H8490 of smoke. H6227**

Joel 2:31 The sun **H8121** shall be turned **H2015** into darkness, **H2822** and the moon **H3394** into blood, **H1818** before **H6440** the great **H1419** and the terrible **H3372** day **H3117** of the LORD **H3068** come. **H935**

The original meaning of the word 'pillars' is revealing. It refers to a pillar or column of smoke. The BDB definition also reveals that it is: "palm-like spreading at top". What does that description bring to mind?

H8490

Original: תמרה תימרה

Transliteration: tîymârâh timârâh

Phonetic: tee-maw-raw'

BDB Definition:

pillar, column

palm-like spreading at top

Origin: from the same as H8558

TWOT entry: 2523d

Part(s) of speech: Noun Feminine

Strong's Definition: From the same as H8558; a column, that is, cloud: - **pillar**.

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Revelation 9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

Revelation 9:18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

John sees in vision the horses and describes their heads: “the heads of the horses *were* as the heads of lions”. John is using a simile here. The heads of the horses are ‘like’ the heads of lions. What is John trying to convey about the mode of transport that the soldiers in this army are using?

Lions are often used in descriptions of war in God’s word:

1Chronicles 12:8 And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, *and* men of war *fit* for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces *were like* the faces of lions, and *were* as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

David’s men of war and men of might are described as having the ‘faces of lions’. The image of a lion’s face is used to convey the threat that a lion can be. David’s soldiers are perceived as a real threat to anyone who dare come up against them.



The horses or modes of transport used in John's vision of this 200,000,000 strong army are also fearful and destructive – out of their mouths issue the fire, smoke and brimstone which destroys one third of mankind.

When the soldier triggers the nuclear reaction built into his breastplate or vest suddenly a hyacinth blue flash takes place. His 'horse' whether it be a motorbike, a car or any other suitable resource to pack even more explosives into suddenly roars into a cascade of fire, smoke and what John identifies as brimstone or flaming pieces of what has just been obliterated in the nuclear blast. It is the blast and its repercussions in the environment that kills a third of mankind. The fire burns, the smoke suffocates and the 'brimstone' pummels its victims to death.

The following photos were taken from a video with actual footage of nuclear tests: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqyBzXYZPoM> . The images help to reveal the devastation that can take place as the result of a nuclear explosion:



The flash of the nuclear explosion lights up the night sky.



The shed is obliterated by the blast wave of the bomb.



A home beginning to burn in initial shock blast



The home erupts into what John titles 'brimstone' – the judgment of God

The devastation caused by a nuclear explosion, or in this war, multiple nuclear explosions, is the destruction that Satan or Abaddon delights in.

Daniel began life in Babylon – a captive - yet remained faithful to God despite the rise and fall of monarchs over time. God gives us reassurance through Daniel's experience. Daniel's test was to be thrown into a lion's den with hungry and ferocious lions ready to eat him for dinner!

Daniel 6:22 My God hath sent his angel, and **hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:** forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

For God's people down at the time of the end and the sixth trumpet it will be being confronted by a jihadi bent soldier ready to discharge his woeful payload. God will shut the 'lions mouths' just like he did for Daniel.

Jeremiah 4:7 The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; *and* thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.

1Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan rallies the forces of the King of the North at this time. The Christian world has accepted him as the 'true' Christ. The Islamic nations have rejected him as the 'Dajjal' or antichrist. This is Satan's opportunity to destroy and cleanse the world of any rebellious influences against himself. The destroyer of the Gentiles is truly on his way.

Christ himself was made subject to Satan's attack. David prophesied how Satan's spirit and attributes would appear in Christ's persecutors:

Psalms 22:13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion.

Psalms 22:21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

When John compares the heads of the horses to lions and their mouths are described as issuing the destructive elements of smoke, fire and brimstone he is actually making reference to the source of the destruction. The motivating power and driving force is none other than the spirit of Satan himself. He is the 'roaring lion' and identified as the 'destroyer of the Gentiles' who has come up from 'his thicket' - the bottomless pit to wreak devastation and destruction of the land, cities and their inhabitants.

Revelation 9:19 ForG1063 theirG848 powerG1849 isG1526 inG1722 theirG848 mouth,G4750 andG2532 inG1722 theirG848 tails:G3769 forG1063 theirG848 tailsG3769 were like untoG3664 serpents,G3789 and hadG2192 heads,G2776 andG2532 withG1722 themG846 they do hurt.G91

John then continues to reinforce where the destructive power of these horses with heads like lions comes from. Their power is in their 'mouth', however he then adds an extra dimension to this power. These 'horses' have heads like lions but their tails are like serpents which have heads which they use to 'do hurt'. It is interesting to see what the word 'hurt' refers to:

G91

ἀδικέω

adikeō

ad-ee-keh'-o

From G94; to be *unjust*, that is, (actively) *do wrong* (morally, socially or physically): - hurt, injure, be an offender, be unjust, (do, suffer, take) wrong.

Total KJV occurrences: 27

According to Revelation 9:18 a third of men on earth have been destroyed by the smoke, fire and brimstone that issued from the lion's mouths. Why would it be necessary to have tails like serpents?

'Their tails were like unto serpents'

John once again uses a simile – the horse's tails which would normally be long and flowing are like snakes. In what way are they like snakes? John states they 'had heads and with them they

do hurt'. How do snakes inflict 'hurt'? Have a look at a snake head ready to bite. Note the fangs ready to embed poison in their helpless victim. Serpents or snakes **POISON** their victims.



John in vision sees the tail or back end of the horses. As the horses and soldiers unleash their deadly payload – a nuclear bomb – the initial blasts kill a third of mankind erupting from the heads of the horses which are like lions. John then emphasises that not all danger is past. These horses which have tails like serpents are going to cause 'hurt' by poisoning the remaining victims. The picture John conveys of the serpent like tails is revealing to us the lasting radioactive poisonous impact this nuclear war will have on all that remain.

An Australian War correspondent at the end of WWII Melbournian Wilfred Burchett visited Hiroshima in Japan immediately after the war had ended:

What he saw there shocked him and transformed his views forever. He walked three miles to the centre of the blast and saw only piles of rubble — the only things standing were a few shells of concrete buildings. It soon became clear that tens of thousands of Hiroshima residents had been killed by the blast and heatwave of the bomb.

In these hospitals I found people who, when the bomb fell, suffered absolutely no injuries, but now are dying from the uncanny after-effect. For no apparent reason their health began to fail. They lost appetite. Their hair fell out. Bluish spots appeared on their bodies.

And the bleeding began from the ears, nose and mouth. At first the doctors told me they thought these were the symptoms of general debility. They gave their patients vitamin A injections. The results were horrible. The flesh started rotting away from the hole caused by the injection of the needle. And in every case the victim died.

Burchett spoke to Japanese doctors who said that 100 patients a day were dying of this mysterious illness, which they believed was caused by radioactivity released from the atomic bomb that had permeated into the ground, dust and water supply.



The report of his visit to Hiroshima was headlined **The Atomic Plague**.

<http://hiroshima.australiandoctor.com.au/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=nSIKfmWdJeo

“What I had seen was the end of WWII but it would be the fate of cities all over the world in the first hours of a WWII.” *Wilfred Burchett*

Surely the ‘tails’ or latter end of the sixth trumpet horses will poison with their serpent like heads all those that remain alive after the atomic conflagration. Radioactive poisoning or sickness is a shocking legacy to suffer for those not destroyed by the initial bomb blast.

Let all who would understand the meaning of these things read the eleventh chapter of Revelation. Read every verse, and learn the things that are yet to take place in the cities. Read also the scenes portrayed in the eighteenth chapter of the same book. Lt158-1906.8

Isaiah writing about the ‘destroyer of the Gentiles’ or Satan states:

Isaiah 14:16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

Isaiah 14:17 *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners?

The sixth trumpet certainly provides evidence of Satan’s destructive whims and Isaiah captures it succinctly:

Satan:

- shakes kingdoms
- makes the world as a wilderness
- and destroys the cities.

The Bible is clear about the destruction that will be wrought in the cities at the end of time. Isaiah is given specific instruction to forewarn God’s people of the destruction to come:

Isaiah 6:9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Isaiah 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isaiah 6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate,

Note that Isaiah asked the question: How long? How long should I speak to the people about

what is to come? Note the answer God gives him: **Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate.**

The instruction given to Isaiah extends right down to the very eve of the close of probation. When the sixth trumpet war takes place and cities are totally destroyed in atomic annihilation there is no longer time for the inhabitants of the world to make a decision to follow Christ, no matter what the cost.

Revelation 10:7 But **G235** in **G1722** the **G3588** days **G2250** of the **G3588** voice **G5456** of the **G3588** seventh **G1442** angel, **G32** when **G3752** he shall begin **G3195** to sound, **G4537** the **G3588** mystery **G3466** of God **G2316** should be finished, **G5055** as **G5613** he hath declared **G2097** to his **G1438** servants **G1401** the **G3588** prophets. **G4396**

The words in the KJV 'he shall begin' should actually be translated 'is about to' – see the BDB and Strongs definition below:

G3195

Original: μέλλω

Transliteration: mellō

Phonetic: mel'-lo

Thayer Definition:

to be about

to be on the point of doing or suffering something

to intend, have in mind, think to

Origin: a strengthened form of G3199 (through the idea of expectation)

TDNT entry: None

Part(s) of speech: Verb

Strong's Definition: A strengthened form of G3199 (through **the idea of expectation**); **to intend, that is, be about to be, do**, or suffer something (of persons or things, especially events; in the sense of purpose, duty, necessity, probability, possibility, or hesitation): - about, after that, be (**almost**), (that which is, things, + which was for) to come, intend, was to (be), mean, mind, be at the point, (be) ready, + return, shall (begin), (which, that) should (after, afterwards, hereafter) tarry, which was for, will, would, be yet.

When the seventh trumpet 'is about' to sound the mystery of God is finished. The opportunity to participate in the 'mystery of God' closes just before the seventh angel sounds.

Colossians 1:26 *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The events of the sixth trumpet clearly foretold by John the Revelator are taking place during the sounding of the third angel's message:

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

Revelation 14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

The second woe or sixth trumpet is the final warning to mankind that probation is about to close and Michael is about to stand up. If you don't choose to follow Christ at this time –it will be too late. Following Christ also means you obey him by choosing to keep his commandments. If you decide to 'worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,' your fate will be to: 'drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation'. This indignation or wrath takes place during the sounding of the seventh trumpet or final woe:

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and **thy wrath is come**, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Why wait till the sixth trumpet sounds to accept Jesus Christ and the free gift of salvation he won for you by shedding his blood and dying on a cruel cross? Christ's Father was willing to give his son's life for yours:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Won't you accept that marvellous gift right now? Just talk to God because he is listening. Tell him you are sorry that you have not truly committed your life to him until now. Ask him to come into your heart and mind and change you. He wants you to be a 'partaker of the divine nature':

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Read God's word – it is written especially for you. It is your guide book to heaven and eternity with the Father and the Son. DO IT NOW!

Note what John reveals the status of mankind is at the end of this great war that will take place:

Revelation 9:20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

The wicked survivors of the sixth trumpet blast '**REPENT NOT**'. They are too hardened in sin, too comfortable, preferring to worship idols who at that time consist of the 'Trinity' who Satan is manifesting by masquerading as Christ. The 'idol' Sabbath – Sunday – the first day of the week is at the heart of Satan's devilish enforcement via the 'mark of the beast' system. Sunday is Satan's day – he has elevated it above the original seventh day Sabbath instituted by God when he rested after the creation of the world. Satan has always wanted the world's inhabitants to distrust their creator – right from the beginning when Eve was deceived into believing the devil's lies. Who are you going to trust? The God who created you or the wannabe God in deceptive attire parading through the world 'bringing fire down from heaven' and healing all manner of diseases totally focussed on deceiving and destroying YOU!

Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

ONE MORE TRUMPET IS YET TO SOUND!

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Revelation 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 11:14 The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

The second woe or sixth trumpet has taken place. One third of humanity has been killed in the nuclear devastation of the sixth trumpet. The response of the King of the North as 'like a whirlwind' he swept through the Muslim nations responsible for the grievous attack also contributes to the heavy death toll of this military engagement.

This critical sign – the sixth trumpet sounding - has been the final warning to the earth's inhabitants that the time given to them to repent is almost over. The time given to the Gentiles to respond to the 'loud cry' given by God's servants is about to come to an end. Choose ye this day whom you will serve – Satan dressed in the glorious attire of heaven, parading as Christ and enforcing the mark of the beast upon the world – or will you choose to listen to, follow and obey the commands of the creator God whose seventh day Sabbath has become a question of life or death :

Revelation 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and **cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.**

Before the seventh trumpet sounds probationary time will end. It states

Revelation 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

The phrase 'when he shall begin to sound' is more properly translated 'when he is about to' sound. Meaning that before the seventh trumpet sounds the mystery of God will be finished. Christ will have penetrated all the hearts and minds possible with his spirit. Just prior to the seventh trumpet sounding the door of the ark closes for humanity. Those who have entered will be protected but those who have chosen to remain outside have no hope of redemption. Their opportunity to claim the free gift of eternal life through the merits of Jesus Christ is no longer available.

Revelation 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Before the seventh trumpet sounds the mystery of God will be finished – the law has been perfectly sealed in God's disciples (Isaiah 8:16). Probation has closed for humanity and Michael or Jesus Christ has finished his mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary. Evidence at the beginning of the seventh trumpet description confirms this fact:

Great voices are heard in heaven proclaiming: "**The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ**; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou **hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned**. (Revelation 11:15,17)

The use of the past tense in both the phrases above reveals that the kingdoms of this world have already become the possession of 'our Lord and of his Christ'. Christ has taken up his 'great power, and hast reigned'.

Another scripture reference refers to this event:

Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Daniel 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

Ellen White describes clearly what is taking place in Daniel's account of Christ receiving his dominion, glory and a kingdom:

"And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away." Daniel 7:13, 14. The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. **He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator**. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attend-

ed by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man—to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits. CIHS 116.1

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

The above verse details significant events that are taking place during the seventh trumpet. We will address each point consecutively:

THE NATIONS WERE ANGRY

Just prior to the seventh trumpet sounding the whole world has experienced the chilling destruction of a third of the world's population in the greatest war mankind has seen during the sixth trumpet. The expression 'the nations WERE angry' is a reference to that war. The word 'were' refers to the state of nations in the past as well as the continued strained international relations that continue to exist at this point in time when the seventh trumpet sounds.

Everything in this world is in an unsettled state. **The nations are angry, and preparations for war are being made.** But though there is among the nations an increasing unrest, though they are mustering their forces, they are as if held back from action by an unseen power. The angels are holding the four winds until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. **Soon strife among the nations will break out with an intensity that we do not now anticipate.** RH November 17, 1910, par. 16, 17

Ellen White identified the brewing anger of nations in 1910. Not long after she wrote the above statement the outbreak of World War One was initiated in Europe.

Another statement of interest identifies the order in which events will take place:

I saw that the anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead, were separate events, one following the other. I saw that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. **I saw that the nations are now getting angry,** but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, then He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then will the seven last plagues be poured out. 1EGWLM 140.4

The anger of the nations is certainly an 'event' which has taken place before the seventh trumpet sounds – Ellen White even in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century viewed the anger of the nations on the world stage rising. This anger will reach a crescendo when World War Three or the sixth trumpet takes place between the King of the North and the King of the South described in Daniel 11:40-43.

THY WRATH IS COME

This phrase –‘thy wrath is come’ is a pivotal sign that reveals probation for humanity has finally closed. God’s wrath or anger has been restrained during the first six trumpet warnings when all inhabitants of the world were given opportunity to recognise and worship the true creator of their world and the universe. The ‘loud cry’ has echoed around the world warning all humanity to leave fallen Babylon and not to receive the mark of the beast. God’s true witnesses who have kept his commandments and given the testimony of Jesus, even at the cost of their lives have truly been witnessing in sackcloth. This witnessing has ended and they have fled into the mountains after viewing Satan - the ‘abomination of desolation’ or idol of destruction stand in Jerusalem (the ‘holy place’) declaring:

Ezekiel 28:2 , I *am* a God, I sit *in* the seat of God, in the midst of the seas;

The close of probation for humanity has taken place – the door of the ark has been shut. Time is no longer – the ‘mystery of God’ is finished!

According to Christ, God’s wrath has come:

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

God’s angels have been restraining the ‘winds of the earth’:

Revelation 7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

Revelation 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

Once the seventh trumpet sounds the ‘winds of the earth’ are fully released. The servants of God are sealed. They have demonstrated their obedience to God by keeping the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment even under the threat of persecution and death.

As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.—Testimonies for the Church 6:14

I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus’ work was done in the sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues. CET 100.3

Daniel 11:45 And **he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain;** yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.

Daniel 12:1 **And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time:** and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that

shall be found written in the book.

When the abomination of desolation or Satan personating Christ plants his tabernacles or stands in the 'holy place' (Matthew 24:15) this is also the time that Michael stands up. When Christ our heavenly high priest ceases his ministration in the heavenly sanctuary for humanity the 'time of trouble' begins. This signifies the 'coming of' or unleashing of God's wrath. The seven plagues are about to be poured out.

AND THE TIME OF THE DEAD THAT THEY SHOULD BE JUDGED

The events John is describing are taking place in order. The 'nations were angry', 'God's wrath is come' and after God's wrath comes it is time for the dead to be judged. Further insights into when the judgment of the dead takes place are given in the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation:

Daniel 7:21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

The horn in Daniel Seven is the Papacy who makes 'war with the saints', however judgment is given to the saints of the most high. Broad brush strokes summarise from when the Ancient of days initially comes to the judgment of the righteous dead in verses 9 & 10:

Daniel 7:9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire.

Daniel 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

The very next verse reveals that this judgment is taking place before the Papacy or little horn comes to its end:

Daniel 7:11 **I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake:** I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

In verse 7 the horn speaks 'great words' and this is spoken of in more detail in verse 25:

Daniel 7:25 **And he shall speak great words against the most High,** and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his

dominion, to consume and to destroy *it* unto the end.

The judgment of the righteous dead began in 1844 at the conclusion of the 2300 day prophecy of Daniel 8 when Christ our heavenly high priest entered into the antitypical Day of Atonement by moving from the holy place into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. Christ has appeared to plead the cases of all those who have believed in the wonderful gift the ancient of days – our heavenly Father gave – the gift of his only begotten son. This is the judgment that sits in Daniel 7 which will determine the judgment of the living righteous just prior to the close of probation.

We are told directly that the little horn speaking great words will have his dominion taken away, consumed and destroyed unto the end. This is the demise detailed in:

Daniel 7:11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame.

The beast and little horn are given to the burning flame. This is the prophesied destruction of the Papacy.

When comparing Daniel to Revelation we find that the judgment being given to the saints in verse 22 is another phase of God's judgment that takes place during the initial thousand year period after Christ's return to earth or his second coming:

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

REWARD GIVEN UNTO GOD'S SERVANTS, PROPHETS, SAINTS AND TO THEM THAT FEAR (REVERE) GOD'S NAME SMALL AND GREAT

Christ when he returns the second time has a reward to be given to all men:

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

At the end of the first phase of judgment the son of man or Jesus Christ is given dominion, glory and a kingdom. This dominion is everlasting:

Daniel 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

Daniel 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

The saints are also given rights to or possession of the kingdom:

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

God shares his kingdom with 'the people of the saints of the 'most High'. They inherit the new earth especially created for them:

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Psalms 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

Matthew 25:34 *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

Revelation 21:7 *He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The God of truth has promised this kingdom to his earthly children. The key to the kingdom is given to his saints:

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

God's saints on earth have:

- Patience
- They keep the commandments of God
- And the faith of Jesus.

The important questions we must ask ourselves are:

Are we overcomers? This means we actively obey God's commandments in our daily life:

1John 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1John 2:5 *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

1John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

John 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

The zeal of those who obey the Lord will be increased as the world and the church unite in making void the law. Every objection raised against the commandments of God will make way for the advancement of truth and enable its advocates to present its value before men. There is a beauty and force in the truth that nothing can make so apparent as opposition and persecution.—Manuscript Releases 13:71, 72 (1896).

Enoch, the witness of faith, held on his way, warning, pleading, entreating, striving to turn back the tide of guilt and to stay the bolts of vengeance. Though his warnings were disregarded by a sinful, pleasure-loving people, he had the testimony that God approved, and he continued to battle faithfully against the prevailing evil, until God removed him from a world of sin to the pure joys of heaven. PP 87.1

The men of that generation had mocked the folly of him who sought not to gather gold or silver or to build up possessions here. But Enoch's heart was upon eternal treasures. He had looked upon the celestial city. He had seen the King in His glory in the midst of Zion. **His mind, his heart, his conversation, were in heaven.** The greater the existing iniquity, the more earnest was his longing for the home of God. **While still on earth, he dwelt, by faith, in the realms of light.** PP 87.2

AND SHOULDEST DESTROY THEM WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH

This phrase describes the ultimate demise of the wicked. It is God's servants, the saints, the prophets and those that fear or revere God's name that will receive a reward but in contrast the wicked receive destruction. The wicked are recognised as those which have destroyed the earth.

G1311

διαφθείρω

diaphtheirō

dee-af-thi'-ro

From G1223 and G5351; to *rot thoroughly*, that is, (by implication) to *ruin* (passively *decay* utterly, figuratively *pervert*): - corrupt, destroy, perish.

Total KJV occurrences: 6

At this point in time the earth has been ravaged by the impacts of the six trumpets that have previously sounded. Prophets of old wrote about the state of the earth at this time:

Hosea 4:3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD *is* at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Joel 1:16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, *yea*, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

Joel 1:17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

Joel 1:18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

Joel 1:19 O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field

Joel 1:20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Zephaniah 1:14 The great day of the LORD *is* near, *it is* near, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Zephaniah 1:15 That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zephaniah 1:16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

Zephaniah 1:17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

Zephaniah 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Psalms 145:20 The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.

Proverbs 10:30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

Isaiah 1:28 And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners *shall be* together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

Isaiah 13:6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Isaiah 13:7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

Isaiah 13:8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed

one at another; their faces *shall be as flames*.

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

The atomic warfare of the sixth trumpet has devastated major cities across the world. The impact of nuclear radiation on the elements of the earth has poisoned the environment, let alone the earth's inhabitants. The earth's atmosphere has also been compromised not only by the nuclear fallout but by the upheaval of the earth itself as volcanoes erupt and earthquakes shake its foundations spewing ash high into the upper atmosphere.

The wrath of God has come and the seven plagues are being poured out. God's servants are protected from receiving the plagues, but those who have chosen not to heed the warnings given and preferred to receive the mark of the beast and follow Satan parading as Christ feel the full effects of God's wrath.

Christ's coming is imminent.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but **for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

The great tribulation or 'time of trouble' **is** going to be shortened. The days during that tribulation have been specified in Daniel 12:

Daniel 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which *was* upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

Daniel 12:8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*?

Daniel 12:11 And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Daniel 12:12 Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

The days that will be shortened are the days of the Great Tribulation:

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

The abomination of desolation is the sign which Christ specifically refers to as taking place just

prior to the Great Tribulation or when Michael stands up in Daniel 12. Satan personating Christ in the fifth trumpet plays a pivotal role in persuading the northern powers to put down the Islamic uprising from the South. Accepted as the true Christ he has an immense influence in world politics and finally after the sixth trumpet has sounded takes the stage as Christ setting up his 'palaces' in Jerusalem itself. (For more Bible evidence about the above described events you are encouraged to read the following studies found at www.prophesyagain.com.au – [Satan's Personation of Christ](#), [The King of Fierce Countenance](#) and [The Sixth Trumpet](#).)

Then shall there be 'Great Tribulation' – Matthew 24:21

Except for these days being shortened no flesh would be saved. The abomination is set up at the 1290 day point in the 'time of the end' timeline. By the time the 1335 day when a blessing from God is received by those who have earnestly been waiting for him 45 days will have elapsed during the 'Great Tribulation'. It is this 45 day time period that will be cut short because if the days were not cut short 'no flesh would be saved'.

When Christ comes

2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Peter 3:11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

God has been just and merciful. He has given explicit warnings to the inhabitants of earth through his two witnesses as they have prophesied in sackcloth (See the [Revelation 11](#) study for more detail of this time period soon to take place).

Jude 1:5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, **having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.**

Through Moses, Aaron and Joseph before them God pleaded with the Israelites and native Egyptians to recognise the God of gods – the creator of the universe - but those that believed not were destroyed, as Jude reminds us. The pharaoh and his army drowned in the Red Sea as they pursued God's people. The time of God's mercy and forgiveness has an end:

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Even Christ himself came with a message of 'vengeance':

Isaiah 61:2 **To proclaim** the acceptable year of the LORD, and **the day of vengeance of our God**; to comfort all that mourn;

And whilst with his disciples he warned them of that day:

Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

The days of vengeance Christ referred to were to take place in 70 AD but also had a future application just prior to Michael standing up in Daniel 12:

Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

David prophesied in Psalm 94 of the experience of the righteous at the end of time:

Psalms 94:1 O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself.

Psalms 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?

Psalms 94:21 They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.

Psalms 94:22 But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge.

Psalms 94:23 And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; *yea*, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

The Lord will truly cut off the wicked and exact vengeance and judgment on the 'throne of iniquity' who have placed their law above the law of God. Legislation will be passed authorising the destruction of the righteous who choose to obey God rather than man by worshipping on the seventh day of the week – Saturday rather than Sunday.

Christ's second coming is described in detail in Revelation 19:

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations:** and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and **he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**

Revelation 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, **Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;**

Revelation 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of

captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:21 And **the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse**, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The word of God symbolised by the sharp sword coming out of Christ's mouth has truly judged the wicked who remain alive when Christ returns:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Christ has discerned the thoughts and intents of the hearts of the wicked and trodden the wine-press of the wrath of God during the seven plagues. Many wicked have already died but those who are alive to see Christ come will now become food for birds. Isaiah prophesied this event thousands of years before:

Isaiah 34:1 **Come near, ye nations**, to hear; and **hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it.**

Isaiah 34:2 For **the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations**, and **his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them**, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

Isaiah 34:3 Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

Isaiah 34:4 And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree.

Isaiah 34:5 For **my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment.**

Isaiah 34:6 The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, *and* with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: **for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter**

in the land of Idumea.

Isaiah 34:7 And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.

Isaiah 34:8 **For it is the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.**

Isaiah 34:9 And **the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.**

Isaiah 34:10 It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

Isaiah 34:11 But **the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.**

Isaiah 34:12 They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none *shall be* there, and all her princes shall be nothing.

(Isaiah 34:13 And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of dragons, *and* a court for owls.

Isaiah 34:14 The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr shall cry to his fellow; **the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.**

Isaiah 34:15 There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow: **there shall the vultures also be gathered,** every one with her mate.

Isaiah 34:16 Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Isaiah 34:17 And he hath cast the lot for them, and **his hand hath divided it unto them by line: they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein.**

The armies gathered in Revelation 19:19 - And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army – are utterly destroyed (Isaiah 34:2). The land turned into burning pitch and brimstone (Isaiah 34:9) becomes the lake of fire for the false prophet and beast (Revelation 19:20). The birds shall dwell there and according to Revelation 19:17 and 21 feast on the flesh of the wicked. Cormorants, bitterns, ravens vultures and owls are all referred to by Isaiah as possessing the earth for generations.

By comparing scripture to scripture a picture of the LORD'S vengeance, *and* the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion becomes complete. The earth is at rest:

Isaiah 14:5 The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, *and* the sceptre of the rulers.

Isaiah 14:6 He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, *and* none hindereth.

Isaiah 14:7 The whole earth is at rest, *and* is quiet: they break forth into singing.

Isaiah 14:8 Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, *and* the cedars of Lebanon, *saying*, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

The day of God's wrath and vengeance has taken place:

Isaiah 63:4 For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. **(Nah 1:2)** God *is* jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and *is* furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies.

AND SHOULDEST DESTROY THEM WHICH DESTROY THE EARTH

Christ has destroyed those which have destroyed the earth. Yet scripture reveals that this is not the final end for the wicked. That is yet to take place. Let us hear the word of God reveal the final events:

Revelation chapter 20 continues the unveiling of the end of time:

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:2 And he **laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

Revelation 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that **he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:5 But **the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This *is* the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:** on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Satan the arch enemy of humanity and God is now put under lock and key. He can no longer harass any of God's creation in the universe. He has a thousand years to reflect on the sorrow and evil he has brought upon the earth. He is not sorry for what he has done but he is angry and it is his hatred of God that drives him to plan for the next phase of his attack on God's reign. He will not deceive the nations again until the thousand years of his imprisonment has ended.

We learn several important facts from considering this passage:

- Satan is imprisoned for a thousand years after the coming of Christ.
- Those resurrected at the coming of Christ (first resurrection) shall reign with the Father and his son –Jesus Christ as priests during that thousand years. This is also the time they enter into judgment.

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, **and the time of the dead, that they should be judged**, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

- The rest of the wicked dead that were destroyed at Christ's second coming and those that had already died the 'first death' and did not have their name registered in the book of life 'live again' at the end of a thousand years.

God is just and has kept a record called the book of life:

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and **at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and **a book of remembrance was written before him** for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Malachi 3:17 And **they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.**

Malachi 3:18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; **and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

Revelation 3:5 **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.**

- The 'second death' has no power over those 'jewels' who hath part in the first resurrection. Clothed in the white raiment of Christ's righteousness they are counted as 'blessed and holy'.

What a precious gift God offers to all through his son Jesus Christ –

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Is your name recorded in the 'book of life'?

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

All you have to do is OPEN THE DOOR and receive Jesus as a welcome guest into your life. Be willing to give up anything that stands between you and Christ. He has the power to miraculously transform your life and record your name in the book of life. He forgives you for any wrongs you have committed, he covers you with his righteousness and will polish you into one of his precious jewels.

Ask him right now – he is only a whisper away.

1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The remainder of Revelation chapter 20 provides more detail about the judgment taking place during the thousand years and Satan's final stand against the kingdom of God:

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Revelation 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

As stated previously in Revelation 20:5 'the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished'. The wicked dead are resurrected at the same time Satan is released from his prison (Revelation 20:7). A thousand years has been a long time for Satan and his rebellious demonic horde to let their evil machinations run wild. Immediately upon their release they pursue what they do best - they go out and deceive the nations. This is their last chance to defeat their creator and Satan rallies the wicked dead. The dead that have been raised include those from the beginning of earth's history, even before the flood, to those who died at the second coming of Christ. The dead who are alive now truly number as the sands of the sea.

The numbers within Satan's last army have no chance against the might of their creator. They surround the heavenly city and the camp of the saints but are devoured by fire and die the second death. Finally the wicked meet their end – they are totally destroyed. They are gone forever. Satan and his evil horde also receive their fate. The vengeance of eternal fire is theirs (Jude 1:7).

The wicked were destroyed at Christ's second coming. They are dead and judged during the

thousand year imprisonment of Satan. Finally after the judgment of the dead has taken place they receive their reward – destruction by eternal fire.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS OPENED

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Verse 18 has given us an overview of all the events to take place during the seventh trumpet. The seventh trumpet encompasses a vast time span and stupendous events that involve the pouring out of the wrath or vengeance of God, the coming of Christ, the deliverance of the saints and the destruction of Satan, his evil angels and the wicked.

It is interesting to note that the outpouring of God's wrath and its finality is heralded by the Father and the son in two places in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

When the final vial or seventh plague is poured out a great voice from the throne and the temple echoes the words 'It is done!'

God "delighteth in mercy." "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." Micah 7:18; Ezekiel 33:11. To Him the work of destruction and the denunciation of judgment is a "strange work." Isaiah 28:21. But it is in mercy and love that He lifts the veil from the future, and reveals to men the results of a course of sin. DA 582.3

The phrase '**It is done**' signifies the end of a course of action that God has found to be a 'strange work'. Yet God has clearly revealed to those who care to read and understand that there is a way of escape and He has made that way available to all through the gift of his only begotten son Jesus Christ.

Oh how He wants us to choose Christ and live!

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The phrase '**It is done**' is also repeated by Christ

Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, **It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

These words are a reassurance to God's people who have just witnessed the total and complete destruction of the wicked.

It is done signifies that the 'former things are passed away' – no more death, sorrow, crying or pain – the results of sin – have been eradicated.

Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The final verse in Revelation 11 reveals the temple of God opened in heaven and the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary where the ark of the testament containing the law of God is placed.

By comparing scripture to scripture we can determine what the focus on the opening of the temple means:

Revelation 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Revelation 15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

Revelation 15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

Revelation 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

The temple is opened to enable the seven angels with the seven golden vials to leave and deliver the wrath of God through the pouring out of the seven plagues of Revelation 16. The seventh trumpet has sounded and God's wrath **IS COME**.

When the temple is opened and the ark of the testament specifically mentioned in the final verse of the seventh trumpet description (verse 19) we hear and see 'lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.' This is telling us that God's throne is in his temple and particularly in the Most Holy Place at this time. It is from God's throne that lightnings, thunderings and voices proceed:

Revelation 4:5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

At the **beginning** of the trumpets similar events are seen and heard:

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were **voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake**.

At the sounding of the seventh or final trumpet we see a build up in intensity of events:

Revelation 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: **and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.**

At the outpouring of the seventh vial a further intensity of the elements is revealed:

Revelation 16:18 And **there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great....** **Revelation 16:21** And there fell upon men **a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.**

All during the time God's wrath is poured out on the earth his saints have to rely on God's promises and his ability to deliver them no matter what the circumstance:

Psalms 18:2 The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

Psalms 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Psalms 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

Psalms 18:5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

Psalms 18:6 **In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.**

Psalms 18:7 Then **the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.**

Earthquakes are a sign of God's wrath.

Job 38:22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or **hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,**

Job 38:23 **Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?**

Hail is going to be used by God in the time of trouble as a judgment on the wicked.

The seventh trumpet will sound. But you must have heeded the prior trumpets or warnings to be saved from the outpouring of God's wrath. The seventh trumpet will not impact on only 'a third' as the six trumpet warnings prior to it have done. God's mercy has come to an end by the time the seventh trumpet sounds. God's wrath will be poured out and increase in intensity till the final destruction of the wicked.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements

shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 Peter 3:11 Seeing then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

2 Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

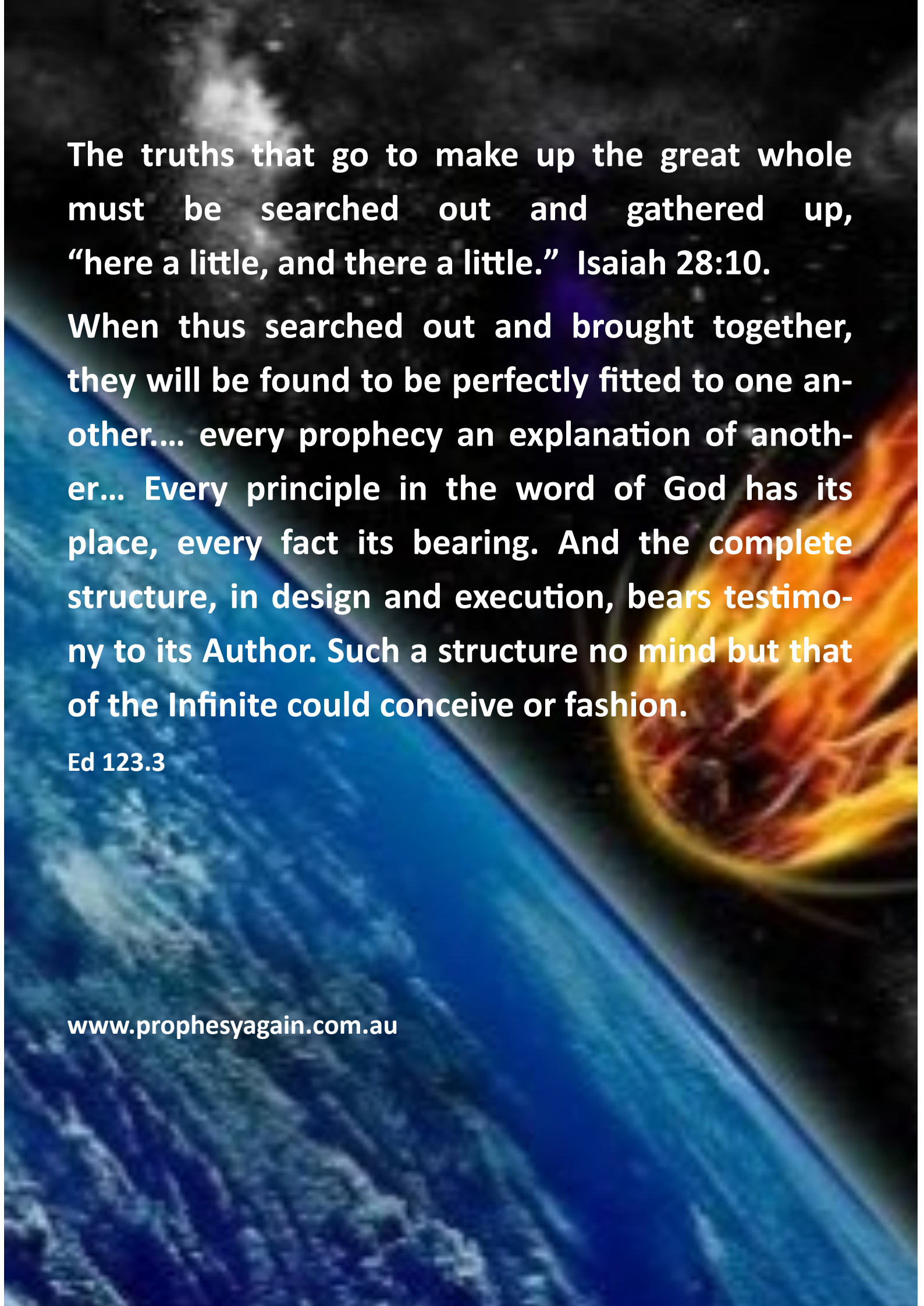
2 Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

May God truly convict you of his presence, his desire to save you and his deep and abiding love. You have been given life by the creator God. He has chosen you to be his servant. Hear what his spirit is saying to your heart. These trumpet warnings that God will sound are designed to herald the soon coming of Jesus Christ. A special prayer has ascended to God on your behalf that you will hear his voice and respond to his mercy while there is time.

For more information about God, his word and his desire to have you meet him in the clouds of heaven at his second coming please visit the website below:

www.prophesyagain.com.au

You can also get in touch via email: truevine@email.com



The truths that go to make up the great whole must be searched out and gathered up, “here a little, and there a little.” Isaiah 28:10.

When thus searched out and brought together, they will be found to be perfectly fitted to one another... every prophecy an explanation of another... Every principle in the word of God has its place, every fact its bearing. And the complete structure, in design and execution, bears testimony to its Author. Such a structure no mind but that of the Infinite could conceive or fashion.

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