

## Revelation: Lesson #102 – The Seven Trumpets

### Notes for Parents to Study With Their Children

### For Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Read Revelation 8:6 – 11:19 (a simplified explanation of the text will be supplied at the end of these notes.)

**Memory Verse:** Rev. 8:6 “So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.”

**Parents, this lesson is long, detailed and hard (after all, we are in Revelation). Please take some extra time in studying it with your children. They will need to study it longer to absorb it. I fully understand that much of it they will not get, but they can grasp some of it and that will help them understand it better in years to come.**

#### Seven Angels With Seven Trumpets

- We read last time that when Jesus opened the seventh seal, seven angels were given seven trumpets.
- Trumpets were used to call God’s people to attention. They were blown during feast days to let God’s people know that the time of worship was about to begin.
- But trumpets were often used to announce that trouble was coming. Sometimes it meant that God was about to come in judgment against people. “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand...” (Joel 2:1).
- Trumpets were used when God was about to help His people against their enemies. Do you remember the city of Jericho in Joshua 6? On the seventh day, seven priests marched seven times around Jericho blowing seven trumpets. And the walls of Jericho fell down letting God’s people win the battle.
- Now seven angels are blowing seven trumpets to show Christians that God will help them win their battle.



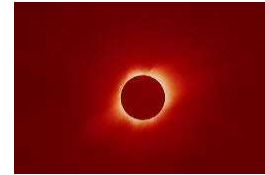
#### The First Six Trumpets

- As each trumpet blows some big disaster happens. Many of the pictures we will see are from the Old Testament showing how God had helped Israel win against its enemies. Some of these pictures will come from the plagues that came upon Egypt when God was delivering His people through Moses. Other pictures will be taken from the ways God sent devastation in the days of the Old Testament prophets.
  - Hail and fire falls down on the earth burning up 1/3 of all the trees and grass. (Like in Exodus 9:23-25).
  - A great mountain was thrown into the sea turning it to blood killing 1/3 of all the sea creatures and destroying the ships. (In Exodus 7:17-21 Moses and Aaron turned the water in Egypt into blood killing all the fish.) Since wicked people



were shedding the blood of God's people, He would make them experience a lot of bloodshed, a lot of violence and war (Rev. 16:6).

- A star called "Wormwood" falls and makes all the water bitter. Wormwood was a type of plant, an herb, that was very bitter. God said that when people rebel against Him, it is like a "root that bears gall and wormwood" (Deut. 29:18). In Numbers 5:11-31 in the Law of Moses, God punished sinful people by making them drink "bitter water": The prophet Amos said that God's judgment had a bitter taste to it like wormwood (Amos 5:7;6:12). So the point here is to see that when people sin and have to face the judgment of God, their lives will face consequences that are very bitter and unhappy.
- The sun and moon became 1/3 darker so that nothing was bright and cheerful anymore. In the Bible good and happy days are days when the sun, moon and stars are shining and not darkened (Eccl. 12:1,2). When God was going to bring destruction and unhappy times on Egypt, He said, "And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the STARS thereof DARK; I will cover the SUN with a cloud, and the MOON shall not give her light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make DARK over thee, and set DARKNESS upon thy land . . . I shall bring thy destruction . . . I shall make the land of Egypt desolate" (Ez. 32:2-15). God wasn't really turning off the light of the sun and moon. He was just saying He would bring trouble on their nation because of their sins.
- Heaven sends destruction on the earth that comes from a "bottomless pit". Smoke comes out of the pit, but the smoke turns out to be locusts. This reminds us how in Exodus 10:13-15 Moses brought a plague of locusts on Egypt. But these locusts in Revelation were even worse because they could sting like scorpions. These "locusts" in Revelation looked like horses going to war, had faces like men, they had hair like a woman and teeth like lions. In the Old Testament locusts who had teeth like a lion was really just a way of describing a nation of people that was invading (Joel 1:4-7,12).
- Thousands and thousands of warriors riding horses were released. The horses had heads like a lion and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and brimstone. Their tails were like a snake's head that could bite.
- It has probably been hard to understand all these different things that Revelation is saying, but it is clear that these are strong, scary images meant to make us think of the awful consequences of rebelling against God.
- The Lord was sending troubles on the Roman empire because they were sinning greatly and also persecuting His people. Bad things kept happening to their country. But here is the sad part: The Roman government and their people watched as terrible things kept happening to their nation, but they did not repent. They did not repent of their sins. They did not repent of worshipping idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood.



### **John Eats a Little Book**

- A large angel appears who has a little book in his hand. John is told to take it from the angel, and as John does the angel tells him, “Take this book and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but it will have a sweet taste like honey in your mouth.”
- The prophet Ezekiel was told to do this exact same thing (Ezk. 2:7 – 3:4). He was given a scroll to eat and it tasted sweet, but the scroll had bitter words of terrible things that were coming. Then Ezekiel was told to go speak the words he ate.
- Here in Revelation John is told to go speak these words to many different people. The message of Revelation is filled with many bitter judgments that God pours out on sinful people. But these words are also sweet because they mean that Christ is reigning and fighting for His people. God’s Words should always taste sweet to us even if they ask us to do hard things (Ps. 19:7-13).

### **John is Told to Measure the Temple**

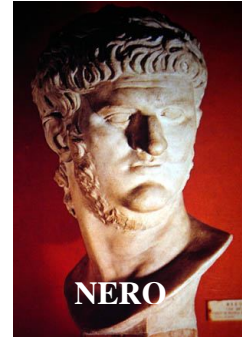
- John was given a stick and told to measure the Temple. It is hard to know if this meant the Temple in Jerusalem or the church which is called the Temple of God (I Cor. 3:16-17; Eph. 2:21; I Pet. 2:5).
- The earthly Temple and Jerusalem had been destroyed several years before Revelation. This may be to remind Christians that the Gentiles who destroyed that physical Temple would also try to trample down God’s spiritual Temple, the church. God was “measuring” the Temple, the church, to see their faithfulness.

### **The Two Witnesses**

- We know that the Jesus and the apostles taught that no matter what happens to us, we should be faithful to Him.
- Revelation tells us about two witnesses that God sent. It never says who these witnesses are or why there are two of them, but it is obvious they are very faithful to keep on speaking the Word of God. Here are some things we learn about these two:
  - The Two Witnesses are described as “the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the God of the earth”. That is pretty hard to understand. Zechariah chapter 4 talks about the exact same thing. The lampstands hold up the light of God’s Word. The olive trees provide the olive oil that was burned to fuel the lamps. These two witnesses faithfully taught what the Holy Spirit revealed in God’s Word. We should do exactly the same thing today. We should hold up the light of Jesus to the world and our fuel should come from God’s inspired Word.



- Some people would hate the two witnesses and try to hurt them. Men like Peter, John, Stephen, James, and Paul in the book of Acts remind us how they faithfully preached even though people were trying to hurt them.
- Fire would go out of the mouths of the two witnesses and destroy their enemies. That probably represents God's Word being preached backed up by the miracles they did.
- A Beast finally came that killed these two witnesses. Later in Revelation we will understand that the Beast is not an animal, but the great power of the Roman empire who will attack God's people. Before Revelation was written, the emperor Nero had become the first Roman emperor to attack and persecute Christians in the great city of Rome. Some believe that both Paul and Peter may have been put to death during this time. Nero had those who confessed that they were Christians tortured, burned on crosses, and fed to wild animals. John is being reminded of how Nero, the beast, had earlier attacked God's faithful people who had witnessed to the truth of God's Word.
- The world was glad that God's witnesses had been defeated. They celebrated because they didn't like what these witnesses preached.
- Though it looked like the Beast had won against God's people, that was not the end of the story. The two witnesses came back to life and went to heaven. God sent a great earthquake to shake the world up. Everyone was afraid.
- When Nero had Christians and their leaders killed, it looked like the world had won, but God was on the side of His people. Just a few years later Nero killed himself, and the church was not destroyed, but continued to grow.



### **The Seventh Trumpet**

- When the angel blew the seventh trumpet all of heaven could rejoice. Now it was clear that the Lord would start to fight back against His enemies. The time had come when Jesus was clearly king over His kingdom. No enemy could stop it.
- This is what Psalms 2 predicted about Jesus: “Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, “Against the LORD and against His Anointed (Christ), saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' " Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

- John looked up and could see inside the Temple in heaven. He could see the Ark of the Covenant which represented the Throne of God and crashes of lightning was starting to shoot out of it. Large hail was starting to fall. God was ready to act.

## **Simplified Explanation of the Text**

### **The Seven Angels With Seven Trumpets**

8:6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets got ready to blow them.

#### **The First Trumpet**

7 When the first angel blew his trumpet, hail and fire came were thrown down on the earth mingled with blood. A third part of the trees and all the green grass were burnt up.

#### **The Second Trumpet**

8-9 When the second angel blew his trumpet, something like a great mountain was thrown into the sea. A third part of the sea became blood and a third part of all the sea creatures died. Also a third of all the ships were destroyed.

#### **The Third Trumpet**

10-11 When the third angel blew his trumpet, a large star burning like a lamp fell from heaven onto the third part of the rivers and on the springs of waters. And the name of the star is called “Wormwood”. Many people died because the waters were made bitter.

#### **The Fourth Trumpet**

12 When the fourth angel blew his trumpet, a third of the sun, a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck and darkened. And the light of the sun by day and the moon by night was only a third as strong.

13 I looked and heard an angel flying through heaven calling out with a loud voice, “Woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth because there are three more trumpets which will be blown!”

#### **The Fifth Trumpet**

9:1 When the fifth angel blew his trumpet, I saw a “star” fall from heaven to the ground. To him was given a key to the bottomless pit.

2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke came up out of it, like smoke from a large furnace. And because of the smoke, the sun and the air was covered with darkness.

3 Out of the smoke came locusts into the earth. They were given power like a scorpion.

4 And the locusts were commanded that they should not hurt the grass of the earth or any green thing or any tree, but only those people who don’t have the seal of God on their foreheads.

5 And the locusts could not kill them, but they were allowed to torment them for five months with the kind of torment a scorpion could bring when it stings someone.

6 In those days people will seek death and not be able to find it, and long for death and death will run away from them.

7-8 And the locusts look like horses prepared for battle, and on their heads it looked like crowns of gold, and their faces looked like a men's faces, and their hair was like a woman's hair and their teeth were like lions.

9 They had breastplates like iron and the sound of their wings was like the sound of many horses running to battle.

10 Their tails were like a scorpions and could sting. For five months they were able to hurt people.

11 And they had a king over them, the angel who opened the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

12 One woe is past, and look, two more woes are coming after this.

### **The Sixth Trumpet**

13 When the sixth angel blew his trumpet, I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.

14 The voice said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Let loose the four angels that are bound in the great Euphrates River."

15 So the four angels were let loose, who were prepared for an hour, a day, a month and a year to kill a third of mankind.

16 And the number of their army of horsemen were myriads. I heard the number of them.

17 And in the vision I could see the horses and those that sat on them. They had breastplates of fire, of a dark red jacinth stone, and brimstone. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and brimstone.

18 A third of mankind was killed by the three – the fire, the smoke and the brimstone which came from their mouths.

19 For their power was in their mouth and in their tails because their tails were like a snake's head that could hurt people.

20 Now all the rest of the people who had watched as these plagues had devastated so many others, should have repented, but they did not repent. They did not repent of the work of their hands, works of worshipping devils and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood – idols which cannot see, hear or walk.

### **A Mighty Angel Announces That the Seventh Angel is Coming**

10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down out of heaven with a cloud around him like clothing and a rainbow on his head. His face was like the sun and his feet were like pillars of fire.

2 He had a little book in his hand that was opened. He put his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the earth.

3 And he cried out in a loud voice, like when a lion roars. When he had finished crying out, seven thunders spoke their voices.

4 Now when the thunders sounded their voice, I was just about to write it down, when I heard a voice from heaven telling me, "Seal up what the seven thunders said. Don't write them down!"

5-7 And the angel which I saw standing on the sea and the earth lifted up his hand to heaven and swore by Him that lives for ever and ever (the One who created heaven and

the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and all the things that are in it).

The angel swore, "There will be no more delay. But at the time when the seventh angel begins to sound his trumpet, this mystery of God will be finished, just as God said to His servants the prophets."

### **John Eats the Little Book**

8 The voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, and said, "Go take the little book that was opened that is in the hand of the angel standing on the earth and sea."

9 I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And the angel said, "Take this book and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but it will have a sweet taste like honey in your mouth."

10 And I took the little book from the angel's hand, and ate it. In my mouth it really did taste sweet as honey, but as soon as I had finished eating it my stomach felt bitter.

11 Then the angel told me, "You must prophesy again before many people, nations, languages and before their kings."

### **Measuring the Temple**

11:1 I was given a reed like a staff and was told by the angel, "Rise and measure the Temple of God, and the altar and those who worship in it."

2 Leave out the court outside the Temple which is given to the Gentiles, don't bother to measure it. The Gentiles will trample God's holy city for 42 months.

### **The Two Witnesses**

3 I will give my two witnesses who will prophesy 1,260 days. They will be clothed in sackcloth.

4 These two witnesses are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the God of the earth.

5 If anyone tries to hurt them, fire will go out of their mouth and devour those who hate them. If anyone tries to hurt them, he will be killed the same way.

6 The two witnesses have the power to shut off the rain from heaven during they days of their prophecy. And they have the power to turn water into blood and strike the earth with all kind of plagues, whenever they want to.

7 And when they have finished testifying to the truth a beast will ascend from the bottomless pit and make war against them. He will overcome them and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies will lie in the streets of the great city. This city could spiritually be called "Sodom" or it could be called "Egypt". It could also be called the city where our Lord was crucified.

9 Those from every people, tribe, language and nation will look at their dead bodies for 3½ days, but they won't allow their bodies to be buried in graves.

10 And all these people dwelling on the earth will be glad that they are dead. They will be so glad that they are dead, they will celebrate and send gifts to each other. They'll be happy because these two prophets had tormented those living on the earth with their teaching.

11 But after 3½ days the Spirit of life came back into them and they stood on their feet, and everyone that saw them was very afraid.

12 And a voice from heaven was heard that said to them, “Come up here. And they ascended to heaven in a cloud. And all their enemies saw them.”

13 That same hour an big earthquake hit and one tenth of the city fell. The earthquake killed 7,000 people, and the rest were afraid and glorified the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past. Now watch as the third woe comes quickly.

### **The Seventh Trumpet**

15 When the seventh angel blew his trumpet, loud voices in heaven said, “The kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. And He shall reign for ever and ever.”

16 And the 24 elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God.

17 The elders said, “We give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, who is and always has been, because you have taken your great power and have reigned.”

18 This made the nations very angry that the Lord’s day of wrath had come, and that the season had come that the dead would be judged. The nations were also angry that God would reward His servants, the prophets, and the saints – all who had feared His name, whether they were small or great. And the nations were also angry that God was going to destroy those that were destroying the earth.

19 And the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and inside it you could see the Ark of the Covenant. And there was lighting, thundering, earthquakes and large hail.