

Notes on the 7 Trumpets:

- A. Trumpets are instruments of war and instruments of worship. Revelation tells us that our worship is a form of weapon. We fight the spiritual battle of our lives in worship just like the Israelites used trumpets to worship
- B. The Trumpets and Bowls // each other much more than the Seals with the Trumpets and the Bowls because the Old Testament is the driving force behind it.
- C. The plagues call both the Believers and Unbelievers to repentance (think back to the 7 churches and their need to repent).
- D. These need to be read in harmony, not necessarily individually. Take what they all have to say first, then break it down.
- E. Trumpets portray judgment on unbelievers because of their hardened attitude thus demonstrating God's incomparable sovereignty and glory.
- F. The first 6 woes precede the last punishment, represented by the 7th seal and the 7th trumpet. Therefore, the trumpets do not follow the 7th seal chronologically but only literarily. The trumpets recapitulate (summarize and state again the main points) the seals.

The First Trumpet

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

Exodus 9:22-26 ²² Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven and let there be hail throughout the land of Egypt—on man and beast and every plant of the field in the land of Egypt." ²³ So Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail. Lightning struck the earth, and the Lord rained hail on the land of Egypt. ²⁴ The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation. ²⁵ Throughout the land of Egypt, the hail struck down everything in the field, both man and beast. The hail beat down every plant of the field and shattered every tree in the field. ²⁶ The only place it didn't hail was in the land of Goshen where the Israelites were

1. 1/3 = It's not complete. This is not the last judgement of God. There is more to come from God. Bottom line if you kill a third of grass/animals of sea/etc. would still cause destruction. The point is that there is more to come. Also see Ezekiel 5:2, 12 (cf. Zech 13:8-9 where Israel is divided into thirds and judged accordingly.)
2. This is universal. All people of the earth will suffer, including Christians.
3. This sounds like a famine thus reminiscing/recapitulating Seal 3.

The Second Trumpet

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

Exodus 7:20 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded; in the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, he raised the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile was turned to blood. ²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad

the Egyptians could not drink water from it. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt.

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²³ Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and didn't even take this to heart. ²⁴ All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink because they could not drink the water from the river. ²⁵ Seven days passed after the Lord struck the Nile.

1. The burning mountain connotes the judgement of an evil kingdom. This is supported by Rev. 18:21, Then a mighty angel picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw it into the sea, saying: in this way, Babylon the great city will be thrown down violently and never be found again.
2. See Jeremiah 51:25 – refers to Babylon's judgment thus: "I am against you, o destroying mountain . . . and I will make you a burned out mountain."
3. The great city of Revelation 11-18 is Babylon, the great city.
4. Water to blood is also a sign of famine. But a limited one (1/3).

The Third Trumpet

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

Exodus 7:20 Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord had commanded; in the sight of Pharaoh and his officials, he raised the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile was turned to blood. ²¹ The fish in the Nile died, and the river smelled so bad the Egyptians could not drink water from it. There was blood throughout the land of Egypt.

²² But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. ²³ Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and didn't even take this to heart. ²⁴ All the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink because they could not drink the water from the river. ²⁵ Seven days passed after the Lord struck the Nile.

1. Following the lead of the first two trumpets, star falling can be a sign of famine.
2. A falling star can also be a reference to a fallen Angel.
3. This evil angel represents earthly people and kingdoms judgment.
4. The star is probably a reference to the star of Babylon's representative angel alluding to Isa 14:12-15
 - a. **12** "How you have fallen from heaven,
O star of the morning, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the earth,
You who have weakened the nations!
 - b. **13** "But you said in your heart,
'I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God,
And I will sit on the mount of assembly
In the recesses of the north.
 - c. **14** 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High.'

- d. [15](#)“Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol,
To the recesses of the pit.
5. Wormwood comes from Jeremiah 9:15 Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to feed this people wormwood and give them poisonous water to drink and 23:15 Therefore, this is what the LORD of Hosts says concerning the prophets: I am about to feed them wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink, for from the prophets of Jerusalem ungodliness has spread throughout the land.
- a. Wormwood is a bitter herb, and water contaminated by it can be poisonous if drunk over a long period of time. The occurrences of the word in Jeremiah are metaphors for the bitterness of suffering resulting from judgement. It is metaphorical. Because prophets figuratively polluted Israel with idolatry, so God is pictured as polluting them with bad water, that is, with the bitterness of suffering.
 - b. This disaster is the reverse of the incident the Israelites faced at Marah after leaving Egypt. In that case, bitter water was made sweet and fresh as a sign of God's power and mercy when a piece of wood was thrown into the water.
6. The third trumpet does not unleash a woe in which water becomes literally poisoned, rather, bitter tone is one of judgment that brings bitter suffering, including death, not only on outsiders to the covenant but also on purported members of the community of faith.

The Fourth Trumpet

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

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

Exodus 10:21 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, and there will be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness that can be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness throughout the land of Egypt for three days. ²³ One person could not see another, and for three days they did not move from where they were. Yet all the Israelites had light where they lived.

1. This continues the theme of the first three but is not a sign of famine.
2. Seems to //Seal 6 some but here it is partial.
3. Darkness is an ironic judgment. The Jews believed that the darkness of the plague on Egypt represented the reversal of their lordship over Israel. Now, they were slaves of a fierce darkness and the Israelites were free in the light. Of course there is also the allusion to Light vs. Darkness.
4. The Eagle was an omen for Romans. It was intrinsic into the story of Rome. The Eagle cries out Woe, Woe, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth. This eagle could be one of the flying creature from 4:7. In Ex. 19:4 God compares himself as the protector of his people to an Eagle. "You saw what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to myself."

*The fourth trumpet is the logical climax and emphasis of the first four trumpets and an emblem of the hardened unbeliever's spiritual separation from God. The darkness is figurative and refers to all those divinely ordained events intended to remind the church's idolatrous persecutors, and those within the church who have aligned themselves with the idolatrous culture, that their idolatry is vain, The fourth expresses the underlying thought of the first three.

**The last three trumpets are marked off from the first four by the introductory vision formula in vs. 13 "Then I looked and I heard". Together with an eagle's proclamation of a threefold "woe" to come on the ungodly through the remaining three trumpet blasts. The purpose is for the reader to pause and to reflect on what has come and how bad that is and then to be warned that it's only going to get worse. But thankfully, the true believers are spared from these last three.

The Fifth Trumpet

9 The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him. ²He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft. ³Then locusts came out of the smoke on to the earth, and power was given to them like the power that scorpions have on the earth. ⁴They were told not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green plant, or any tree, but only people who do not have God's seal on their foreheads. ⁵They were not permitted to kill them but were to torment them for five months; their torment is like the torment caused by a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶In those days people will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

⁷ The appearance of the locusts was like horses equipped for battle. Something like gold crowns was on their heads; their faces were like men's faces; ⁸ they had hair like women's hair; their teeth were like lions' teeth; ⁹ they had chests like iron breastplates; the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses rushing into battle; ¹⁰ and they had tails with stingers like scorpions, so that with their tails they had the power to harm people for five months. ¹¹ They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon. ¹² The first woe has passed. There are still two more woes to come after this.

Exodus 10:12-15 ¹² The Lord then said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt and the locusts will come up over it and eat every plant in the land, everything that the hail left." ¹³ So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the Lord sent an east wind over the land all that day and through the night. By morning the east wind had brought in the locusts. ¹⁴ The locusts went up over the entire land of Egypt and settled on the whole territory of Egypt. Never before had there been such a large number of locusts, and there never will be again. ¹⁵ They covered the surface of the whole land so that the land was black, and they consumed all the plants on the ground and all the fruit on the trees that the hail had left. Nothing green was left on the trees or the plants in the field throughout the land of Egypt.

1. The fifth trumpet may be demons commissioned to torment hardened unbelievers by further impoverishing their souls reminding them of their hopeless spiritual plight.
2. The angel represents sinful humanity, and his role is to inflict woe on humanity because Christ has begun to judge him.
3. Locust used in OT Ex. 10:1-20, Deut. 28:30-32, Psalm 78:48, Psalm 105:43, Amos 4:9, Amos 7:1, 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (bring repentance),
4. Figurative Judges 6:5, 7:12, **Joel 1:2-7, Read Joel 2:1-11**
 - a. **2**Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors?
 - b. **3**Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.
 - c. **4**What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.
 - d. **5**Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.
 - e. **6**A nation has invaded my land, a mighty army without number; it has the teeth of a lion, the fangs of a lioness.
 - f. **7**It has laid waste my vines and ruined my fig trees. It has stripped off their bark and thrown it away, leaving their branches white.
5. **Why Locust?**
 - a. Locusts are emphasized as overwhelming
 - b. They are agents of God's judgment against people in OT both Pagans and his own people.
 - c. The magnitude of the effect is complete and wide stretching.
 - d. Attached to God's desire for his people to repent.
 - e. Evil under the control of God.
6. These locusts are able to inflict spiritual harm on those unbelievers who have not been sealed. See chapter 7.
7. It is possible that he is attributing to these locusts, also descriptions of Parthians, the lone empire Rome feared and tried to beat but never could.
8. The Greek name Abaddon comes from the Hebrew which means destruction. Apollyon is the Greek for destroyer.

The Sixth Trumpet

¹³The sixth angel blew his trumpet. From the four horns of the gold altar that is before God, I heard a voice ¹⁴say to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels bound at the great river Euphrates." ¹⁵So the four angels who were prepared for the hour, day, month, and year were released to kill a third of the human race. ¹⁶The number of mounted troops was 200 million; I heard their number. ¹⁷This is how I saw the horses in my vision: The horsemen had breastplates that were fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and from their mouths came fire, smoke, and sulfur. ¹⁸A third of the human race was killed by these three plagues—by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came from their mouths. ¹⁹For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails, which resemble snakes, have heads, and they inflict injury with them.

²⁰The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshiping demons and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood,

which are not able to see, hear, or walk. ²¹ And they did not repent of their murders, their sorceries, their sexual immorality, or their thefts.

1. Could be reminiscent of the 10th plague when the angel of death came and took the first born of all the homes that didn't have the seal of the slain lamb above their door. (Ex. 11-12) The 10th plague is also the last before Pharaoh is broken. The 6th plague is the last before God comes.
2. Show map of ANE. East of Euphrates is the Parthian Empire. They were the enemy that Rome could never conquer. They were known for riding on horse back. They were known for long flowing hair and painting their faces. If they retreated they would turn on their horses, face backward, and shoot while they were retreating. There was a belief that when Nero died that maybe he had gone to be with the Parthians and was going to come and conquer Rome with the Parthian Empire. Rome would be scared of the Euphrates drying up because of Parthians (see Rev. 16). They could not be conquered. It is the only empire Rome could not conquer.
3. The number of 200 million troops. This is not what the text actually says. It says "twice ten thousand times ten thousands." Myriads and Myriads. This comes from Daniel 7. Dismuriades muriadon.
4. These four angels could be the four horseman. Could be an allusion to 1 En. 66:1, "angels of punishment . . . prepared to come and . . . to bring judgment and destruction.
5. They are bringing hell to earth.
6. Vs. 20-21 are the whole reason he has been building the trumpets. "The rest of the people, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands to stop worshipping (list of 7.) Now we have an interlude.

The Seventh Trumpet

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

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of His Messiah,
and He will reign forever and ever!

¹⁶ The 24 elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

We thank You, Lord God, the Almighty,
who is and who was,
because You have taken Your great power
and have begun to reign.

¹⁸ The nations were angry,
but Your wrath has come.
The time has come
for the dead to be judged
and to give the reward
to Your servants the prophets,
to the saints, and to those who fear Your name,
both small and great,

and the time has come to destroy
those who destroy the earth.

¹⁹ God's sanctuary in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared in His sanctuary. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom
of our Lord and of His Messiah,
and He will reign forever and ever**

Worship over God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven. God wins.

- The ark of the covenant. General Pompeii sees nothing in the Holy of holies.

Interlude

- The mighty angel looks like Jesus in vs. 1-4. **10** Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, surrounded by a cloud, with a rainbow over his head (see 4:3). His face was like the sun (see 1:16), his legs were like fiery pillars, **2** and he had a little scroll opened in his hand. He put his right foot on the sea, his left on the land, **3** and he cried out with a loud voice like a roaring lion (see 5:5). When he cried out, the seven thunders spoke with their voices. **4** And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write. Then I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders said, and do not write it down!"
- Little Scroll could be the same scroll as chapter 5 or it could be a different scroll. Either way, it is the scroll that reveals God's plan. The Bible Project does believe that it is the same scroll as in Chapter 5. The distinction of small, though could make it a distinction from the other scroll. There is a burden about sharing the message of God because you have to bare the assault of your loved ones.
- The sea and land could be foreshadowing of chapter 13 and what comes out of them, showing he has control over them.
- Ezekiel 2:8-3:3, 14 and Jeremiah 15:16-17 are told to eat the scroll and both of them have to give a difficult. Why eat it? God's words are sweet (Ps. 199:103). It depends on which side of the message you are on as to whether it is sweet or sour. It integrates the messenger with the message. John 3:16 (loving good verse). John 3:17 but for those who don't believe . . . It's the fearsome side of the message of the gospel. It's what makes our stomachs churn when we think about those who reject the truth. Truth is inconvenient but it is also inevitable.
 - o Jesus is Lord and Savior. We stress the later and don't like the former. Saviors we love, Lords we despise. Saviors we admire Lords we fear. The Savior is my friend but the Lord makes me do what I don't want to do (initially). Ideally and in doctrine, he is both. But we live as if he is savior and not lord.
- Measuring the Temple
 - o Measuring in the OT
 - Ownership
 - Protection (sealed)

- Sovereignty (He has authority of that which he owns) – 2 Samuel 24
David counts the people and God punishes him.
 - This is odd because there is no Temple in existence right now.
 - Here two different positions diverge on Revelation. Some say this means it was the temple of Herod and Revelation was written before AD 70. Others say that this is referring to a temple that will be rebuilt in the future before the end. Both those ideas are ridiculous. – The temple refers to the place where God and people meet. Here we see John measuring the people of God who are worshiping him.
 - Measuring reveals ownership.
 - Ezekiel 40:41:13; Zechariah 2 – Ezekiel is to measure the temple, there is no temple in Ezekiel 40. It is picturing the temple that will come.
 - He is measuring God’s people because he is told not to measure the gentile court. The temple is the overlap of heaven and earth. We are the temple of God because the Spirit lives inside of us. (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
- 1260 days = 42 months = Time 1, times 2, half a time .5 = 7x.5 = 3.5 years.
- Good city = evil. Holy city = good. Holy city = church. The church will be handed over for a period of time and will be trampled underfoot. This means that you are not physically secure even though you are spiritually secure. This sounds like the 5th seal.
- Mourning in sackcloth = cries for repentance for the Divine to act and wake up and move.
- 2 olive trees and lampstands = Zachariah 4: the prophet sees these two things and there the angel says it stands for the two-anointed people who represent God’s people. (King and Priest). What is Jesus represented as? King and Priest. There must be 2 witnesses according to Deut. 17.
 - The description of the two witnesses look like Elijah and Moses.
 - Elijah = ⁵If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. ⁶These men have the power to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy.
 - Moses = They also have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every plague whenever they want
 - These two represent “The Law and the Prophets”]
 - They have all this power and yet they do not use it against the beast.
 - 3.5 days the breath of life enter them. They resurrect in the manner Jesus did.
 - They go up in a cloud. They go to heaven in the same manner Jesus did.
 - 7000 people = the complete number of people were killed.
 - This is the only time we see repentance of evil people.

***When the Gospel is lived out by the ultimate means of the martyr’s end, that is when the people will see the power of God. The interlude is all about this. The seals tell you that you are spiritually secure so let death come because in your death the gospel of God’s love wins and the people of the earth can know righteousness.

** What do you think the churches of Revelation are saying in response to this message?