

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Part 3 (c. 95–96)

Revelation 8:2–13:18

The Seven Trumpets and the Golden Censer—God Answers the Prayers of the Saints

8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 And another angel who had a golden censer came and stood at the altar, and a large amount of incense was given to him, in order that he could offer the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that *is* before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense went up before God with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel.

5 And the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire from the altar and threw *it* to the earth, and there were thunders and sounds and lightnings and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves in order to blow them.

The First Trumpet—Hail and Fire Mixed With Blood

7 And the first blew the trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was thrown to the earth, and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The Second Trumpet—A Mountain of Fire

8 And the second angel blew the trumpet, and *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood,

9 and a third of the creatures in the sea—the ones which had life—died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The Third Trumpet—The Star Called Wormwood

10 And the third angel blew the trumpet, and a great star burning like a torch fell from heaven, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

11 And the name of the star was called Wormwood, and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the waters because they were made bitter.

The Fourth Trumpet—The Heavens Darkened

12 And the fourth angel blew the trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened, and the day did not shine *with respect to* a third of it, and the night likewise.

13 And I looked, and I heard one eagle flying directly overhead, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who live on the earth, from the remaining sounds of the trumpets of the three angels who are about to blow the trumpet!”

The Fifth Trumpet (First Woe)—Locusts from the Abyss

9:1 And the fifth angel blew the trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to the earth, and the key of the shaft of the abyss was given to him.

2 And he opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke went up from the shaft like smoke from a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

3 And out of the smoke locusts came to the earth, and power was given to them like the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 And it was told to them that they should not damage the grass of the earth or any green *plant* or any tree, except those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

5 And it was granted to them that they should not kill them, but that they would be tormented five months, and their torment *is* like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a person.

6 And in those days people will seek death and will never find it, and they will long to die, and death will flee from them.

7 And the appearance of the locusts *was* like horses prepared for battle, and on their heads *were something* like crowns similar in appearance to gold, and their faces *were* like men’s faces,

8 and they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like *the teeth* of lions,

9 and they had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings *was* like the sound of many horse-drawn chariots running into battle.

10 And they have tails similar in appearance to scorpions, and stings, and their power to injure people *for* five months *is* in their tails.

11 They have *as* king over them the angel of the abyss, whose name in Hebrew *is* Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

12 The first woe has passed. Behold, two woes are still coming after these *things*.

The Sixth Trumpet (Second Woe)—The Four Angels Set Free / The Army of Two Hundred Million

13 And the sixth angel blew the trumpet, and I heard one voice from the horns of the golden altar *that is* before God

14 saying to the sixth angel, the one who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who have been bound at the great river Euphrates!”

15 And the four angels who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year were released, in order that they should kill a third of humanity.

16 And the number of the troops of the cavalry *was* two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

17 And in this way I saw the horses in the vision, and those seated on them, who had fiery *red* and hyacinth-colored and sulphurous *yellow* breastplates, and the heads of the horses *were* like the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire and smoke and sulphur.

18 By these three plagues a third of humanity was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the sulphur that came out of their mouths.

19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails *are* similar in appearance to snakes, having heads, and with them they cause injury.

20 And the rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues did not repent of the works of their hands, in order not to worship the demons and the gold and silver and bronze and stone and wooden idols, which are able neither to see nor to hear nor to walk,

21 and they did not repent of their murders or of their magic spells or of their sexual immorality or of their thefts.

Second Interlude (Part 1): The Mighty Angel With the Little Scroll

10:1 And I saw another powerful angel descending from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, and a rainbow over his head, and his face *was* like the sun, and his feet *were* like pillars of fire,

2 and holding in his hand a little scroll that was opened. And he put his right foot on the sea and his left on the land.

3 And he cried out with a loud voice like a lion roars, and when he cried out, the seven thunders sounded their own voices.

4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write, and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up *the things* which the seven thunders spoke, and do not write them!”

5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven

6 and swore by the one who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the *things* in it, and the earth and the *things* in it, and the sea and the *things* in it, “There will be no more delay!

7 But in the days of the sound of the seventh angel, whenever he is about to blow the trumpet, then the mystery of God is completed, as he announced to his own slaves the prophets.”

8 And the voice that I had heard from heaven *was* speaking with me again and saying, “Go, take the opened scroll in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”

9 And I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll, and he said to me, “Take and eat it up, and it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.”

10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it up, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth, and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

11 And they said to me, “It is necessary for you to prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

Second Interlude (Part 2): The Two Witnesses

11:1 And a measuring rod similar in appearance to a staff was given to me, saying, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship in it.

2 And leave out the courtyard outside of the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city *for* forty two months.

3 And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy *for* one thousand two hundred sixty days, dressed in sackcloth.”

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, in this way he must be killed.

6 These have the authority to shut the sky, so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters, to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague as often as they wish.

7 And when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war with them and will conquer them and will kill them.

8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which is called symbolically Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

9 And *those* from peoples and tribes and languages and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be placed in a tomb.

10 And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them, and will celebrate and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

11 And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here,” and they went up into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

13 And at that hour a great earthquake took place, and a tenth of the city collapsed, and seven thousand people were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe has passed. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly!

The Seventh Trumpet (Third Woe)—Voices in Heaven

15 And the seventh angel blew the trumpet, and there was a loud voice in heaven saying,

“The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord
and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.”

16 And the twenty-four elders *who are* seated on their thrones before God fell down on their faces and worshiped God,
17 saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God All-Powerful,
the one who is and the one who was,
because you have taken your great power
and have begun to reign.

18 And the nations were angry,
and your wrath has come,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets
and to the saints and to the ones who fear your name,
the small and the great,
and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

19 And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple, and there were lightnings and sounds and thunders and an earthquake and large hail.

Two Great Signs—A Woman (Israel) and a Great Red Dragon (Satan)

12:1 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun and *with* the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars,

2 and who was pregnant and was crying out *because she* was having birth pains, and was in torment to give birth.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven, and behold, a great fiery red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads *were* seven royal headbands.

4 And his tail swept away a third of the stars from heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, in order that whenever she gave birth to her child he could devour *it*.

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male *child*, who is going to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod, and her child was snatched away to God and to his throne.

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had a place prepared there by God, so that they could feed her there *for one* thousand two hundred sixty days.

War in Heaven—Satan is Cast Down to Earth

7 And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

8 And they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them *any* longer in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world. He was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,

“Now the salvation and the power
and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ have come,
because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

11 And they conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
and they did not love their lives until death.

12 Because of this, rejoice, you heavens,
and those who live in them!
Woe *to* the earth and *to* the sea,
because the devil has come down to you,
having great anger,

because he knows that he has little time!”

Satan Attempts to Destroy Israel

13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male *child*.

14 And the two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she could fly into the wilderness, to her place where she is fed there *for* a time, and times, and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

15 And from his mouth the serpent spouted water like a river after the woman, in order that he could make her swept away by a river.

16 And the earth came to the aid of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the river that the dragon had spouted out of his mouth.

Unable to Destroy Israel, Satan Makes War on the Saints

17 And the dragon was angry at the woman, and went away to fight against the rest of her children, those who keep the commandments of God and who hold to the testimony about Jesus.

18 And he stood on the sand of the sea.

Satan Gives Authority to the Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns (see Rev 17:7–14)

13:1 And I saw coming up out of the sea a beast that had ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns ten royal headbands, and on its heads a blasphemous name.

2 And the beast that I saw was similar to a leopard, and its feet *were* like a bear's, and its mouth *was* like the mouth of a lion, and the dragon gave it his power and his throne and great authority.

3 And one of its heads *appeared* as though slaughtered to death, and its fatal wound had been healed. And the whole earth was astonished *and followed* after the beast.

4 And they worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who *is* like the beast, and who is able to make war with him?”

5 And a mouth was given to him speaking great *things* and blasphemies, and authority to act was given to him *for* forty-two months.

6 And he opened his mouth for blasphemies toward God, to blaspheme his name and his dwelling, those who live in heaven.

7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given to him over every tribe and people and language and nation.

8 And all those who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name is not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slaughtered.

9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear!

10 If anyone *is going* into captivity, into captivity he goes.

If anyone *is* to be killed by the sword, by the sword he *is* to be killed.

Here is the patient endurance and the faith of the saints.

The Second Beast—The False Prophet

11 And I saw another beast coming up from the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb, and he was speaking like a dragon.

12 And he exercises all the authority of the first beast on behalf of him, and he causes the earth and those who live in it to worship the first beast whose fatal wound had been healed.

13 And he performs great signs, so that he even causes fire from heaven to come down to the earth before people.

14 And he deceives those who live on the earth because of the signs that it has been granted to him to perform on behalf of the beast, telling those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who has the wound of the sword and *yet* lived.

15 And it was given to him to put breath into the image of the beast, in order that the image of the beast both spoke and caused that all those, unless they worshiped the image of the beast, should be killed.

16 And he causes all *people*, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the slave, that they give them a mark on their right hand or on their forehead,

17 and that no one was able to buy or to sell except the one who had the mark—the name of the beast or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom: the one who has understanding, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number, and his number *is* six hundred sixty-six.