

## 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 Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

3 Another angel holding a golden censer came and was stationed at the altar. A large amount of incense was given to him to offer up, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar that is before the throne.

4 The smoke coming from the incense, along with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it on the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, roaring, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

6 Now the seven angels holding the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.

### **The First Trumpet—Hail and Fire Mixed With Blood**

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there was hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was thrown at the earth so that a third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

### **The Second Trumpet—A Mountain of Fire**

8 Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain of burning fire was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea became blood,

9 and a third of the creatures living in the sea died, and a third of the ships were completely destroyed.

### **The Third Trumpet—The Star Called Wormwood**

10 Then the third angel blew his trumpet, and a huge star burning like a torch fell from the sky; it landed on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

11 (Now the name of the star is Wormwood.) So a third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from these waters because they were poisoned.

### **The Fourth Trumpet—The Heavens Darkened**

12 Then the fourth angel blew his 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 there was no light for a third of the day and for a third of the night likewise.

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying directly overhead, proclaiming with a loud voice, "Woe! Woe! Woe to those who live on the earth because of the remaining sounds of the trumpets of the three angels who are about to blow them!"

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

9:1 Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the abyss.

2 He opened the shaft of the abyss and smoke rose out of it like smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and the air were darkened with smoke from the shaft.

3 Then out of the smoke came locusts onto the earth, and they were given power like that of the scorpions of the earth.

4 They were told not to damage the grass of the earth, or any green plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their forehead.

5 The locusts were not given permission to kill them, but only to torture them for five months, and their torture was like that of a scorpion when it stings a person.

6 In those days people will seek death, but will not be able to find it; they will long to die, but death will flee from them.

7 Now the locusts looked like horses equipped for battle. On their heads were something like crowns similar to gold, and their faces looked like men's faces.

8 They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

9 They had breastplates like iron breastplates, and the sound of their wings was like the noise of many horse-drawn chariots charging into battle.

10 They have tails and stingers like scorpions, and their ability 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, Apollyon.

12 The first woe has passed, but 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 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a single voice coming from the horns on the golden altar that is before God, 14 saying to the sixth angel, the one holding the trumpet, "Set free the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates!"

15 Then the four angels who had been prepared for this hour, day, month, and year were set free to kill a third of humanity.

16 The number of soldiers on horseback was two hundred million; I heard their number.

17 Now this is what the horses and their riders looked like in my vision: The riders had breastplates that were fiery red, dark blue,

and sulfurous yellow in color. The heads of the horses looked like lions' heads, and fire, smoke, and sulfur came out of their mouths.  
18 A third of humanity was killed by these three plagues, that is, by the fire, the smoke, and the sulfur that came out of their mouths.

19 For the power of the horses resides in their mouths and in their tails, because their tails are like snakes, having heads that inflict injuries.

20 The rest of humanity, who had not been killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so that they did not stop worshiping demons and idols made of gold, silver, bronze, stone, and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk about.

21 Furthermore, they did not repent of their murders, of their magic spells, of their sexual immorality, or of their stealing.

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

10:1 Then I saw another powerful angel descending from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun and his legs were like pillars of fire.

2 He held in his hand a little scroll that was open, and he put his right foot on the sea and his left on the land.

3 Then he shouted in a loud voice like a lion roaring, and when he shouted, the seven thunders sounded their voices.

4 When the seven thunders spoke, I was preparing to write, but just then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders spoke and do not write it down."

5 Then the angel 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 what is in it, and the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, "There will be no more delay!

7 But in the days when the seventh angel is about to blow his trumpet, the mystery of God is completed, just as he has proclaimed to his servants the prophets."

8 Then the voice I had heard from heaven began to speak to me again, "Go and take the open scroll in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."

9 So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take the scroll and eat it. It will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

10 So I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it, and it did taste as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

11 Then they told me: "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

### **Second Interlude (Part 2): The Two Witnesses**

11:1 Then a measuring rod like a staff was given to me, and I was told, "Get up and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and the ones who worship there.

2 But do not measure the outer courtyard of the temple; leave it out, because it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample on the holy city for forty-two months.

3 And I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.

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

5 If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and completely consumes their enemies. If anyone wants to harm them, they must be killed this way.

6 These two have the power to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the time they are prophesying. They have power to turn the waters to blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague whenever they want.

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

8 Their corpses will lie in the street of the great city that is symbolically called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was also crucified.

9 For three and a half days those from every people, tribe, nation, and language will look at their corpses, because they will not permit them to be placed in a tomb.

10 And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate, even sending gifts to each other, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

11 But after three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and tremendous fear seized those who were watching them.

12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them: "Come up here!" So the two prophets went up to heaven in a cloud while their enemies stared at them.

13 Just then a major earthquake took place and a tenth of the city collapsed; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe has come and gone; the third is coming quickly.

### **The Seventh Trumpet (Third Woe)—Voices in Heaven**

15 Then 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 Christ,  
and he will reign for ever and ever.”

16 Then the twenty-four elders who are seated on their thrones before God threw themselves down with their faces to the ground and worshiped God

17 with these words:

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

18 The nations were enraged,  
but your wrath has come,  
and the time has come for the dead to be judged,  
and the time has come to give to your servants,  
the prophets, their reward,  
as well as to the saints  
and to those who revere your name, both small and great,  
and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened and the ark of his covenant was visible within his temple. And there were flashes of lightning, roaring, crashes of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

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

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

2 She was pregnant and was screaming in labor pains, struggling to give birth.

3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: a huge red dragon that had seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadem crowns.

4 Now the dragon’s tail swept away a third of the stars in heaven and hurled them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born.

5 So the woman gave birth to a son, a male child, who is going to rule over all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was suddenly caught up to God and to his throne,

6 and she fled into the wilderness where a place had been prepared for her by God, so she could be taken care of for 1,260 days.

#### **War in Heaven—Satan is Cast Down to Earth**

7 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back.

8 But the dragon was not strong enough to prevail, so there was no longer any place left in heaven for him and his angels.

9 So that huge dragon—the ancient serpent, the one called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world—was thrown down to the earth, and his angels along with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying,

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

11 But they overcame him  
by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
and they did not love their lives so much that they were afraid to die.

12 Therefore you heavens rejoice, and all who reside in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea  
because the devil has come down to you!  
He is filled with terrible anger,

for he knows that he only has a little time!”

### **Satan Attempts to Destroy Israel**

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

14 But the woman was given the two wings of a giant eagle so that she could fly out into the wilderness, to the place God prepared for her, where she is taken care of—away from the presence of the serpent—for a time, times, and half a time.

15 Then the serpent spouted water like a river out of his mouth after the woman in an attempt to sweep her away by a flood, but the earth came to her rescue; the ground opened up and swallowed the river that the dragon had spewed from his mouth.

### **Unable to Destroy Israel, Satan Makes War on the Saints**

17 So the dragon became enraged at the woman and went away to make war on the rest of her children, those who keep God’s commandments and hold to the testimony about Jesus.

18 And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore.

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

13:1 Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, and on its horns were ten diadem crowns, and on its heads a blasphemous name.

2 Now the beast that I saw was like a leopard, but its feet were like a bear’s, and its mouth was like a lion’s mouth. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority to rule.

3 One of the beast’s heads appeared to have been killed, but the lethal wound had been healed. And the whole world followed the beast in amazement;

4 they worshiped the dragon because he had given ruling authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast too, saying: “Who is like the beast?” and “Who is able to make war against him?”

5 The beast was given a mouth speaking proud words and blasphemies, and he was permitted to exercise ruling authority for forty-two months.

6 So the beast opened his mouth to blaspheme against God—to blaspheme both his name and his dwelling place, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

7 The beast was permitted to go to war against the saints and conquer them. He was given ruling authority over every tribe, people, language, and nation,

8 and all those who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was killed.

9 If anyone has an ear, he had better listen!

10 If anyone is meant for captivity,  
into captivity he will go.  
If anyone is to be killed by the sword,  
then by the sword he must be killed.

This requires steadfast endurance and faith from the saints.

### **The Second Beast—The False Prophet**

11 Then I saw another beast coming up from the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but was speaking like a dragon.

12 He exercised all the ruling authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and those who inhabit it worship the first beast, the one whose lethal wound had been healed.

13 He performed momentous signs, even making fire come down from heaven in front of people

14 and, by the signs he was permitted to perform on behalf of the beast, he deceived those who live on the earth. He told those who live on the earth to make an image to the beast who had been wounded by the sword, but still lived.

15 The second beast was empowered to give life to the image of the first beast so that it could speak, and could cause all those who did not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

16 He also caused everyone (small and great, rich and poor, free and slave) to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead.

17 Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he bore the mark of the beast—that is, his name or his number.

18 This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast’s number, for it is man’s number, and his number is 666.

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