

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapters 8–9

The Seventh Seal and the Six Trumpets

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Chapter 8 — The Seventh Seal and the First Four Trumpets

Chap. 8:1-5 — The Seventh Seal Opened

Silence in heaven follows, a lull before the greater storm of judgments about to fall. Christ is seen as the Angel-Priest in intercession at the golden altar for his saints on the earth at that time. The fire comes from the brazen altar, but incense is burned on the golden altar. The brazen altar becomes the source of judgment to the earth. God's answer to man's side of the cross.

Chap. 8:6 — The Seven Trumpets Introduced

These give loud indication of God's intervention (Ex. 19:16).

Chap. 8:7 — The First Trumpet

God's sweeping consuming judgments follow. Those in high positions (trees) in the Roman Empire (western Europe) are the objects of this judgment and general prosperity (all green grass) is destroyed in that area.

Chap. 8:8-9 — The Second Trumpet

A great earthly power (Jer. 51:25) under the judgment of God also becomes the means of judgment to others. A destruction of commerce takes place.

Chap. 8:10-11 — The Third Trumpet

A great person in high earthly position falls from his place and becomes an evil influence among men. Sources of refreshment and intercourse become poisoned. Apostasy (death) sets in. Physical death is not in view.

Chap. 8:12 — The Fourth Trumpet

Judicial darkness strikes those placed in authority and positions of guidance to others. There is no perception of God's will and the way is thus open for strong delusion by Satan to make men believe a lie instead of God's truth (2 Thess. 2:9-12).

Chapter 9 — The Fifth and Sixth Trumpets (First and Second Woes)

Chap. 9:1-12 — The Fifth Trumpet (First Woe)

A great subordinate power falls from his proper place. Darkening, Satanic influence blinds men. Torment (mental anguish) afflicts men for a determinate, limited period.

Chap. 9:13-21 — The Sixth Trumpet (Second Woe)

An affliction from the eastern boundary of the Roman world falls upon the Empire (western Europe). The very power of hell and Satan is seen in this judgment.