

## **The End Times and The Last Days – What to Expect and How to Prepare**

### **Lesson 27 “Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowls”**

Revelation highlights three series of devastating, intensifying judgments: Seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls.

The six seals of judgment will be opened during the first half of the Tribulation – Rev. 6

The seventh seal contains a second series of seven more judgments – the seven trumpets which sound during the second half of the Tribulation – Rev. 8:1-2.

The seven trumpets are followed by seven bowls of wrath poured out in rapid succession near the end of the Great Tribulation.

The seals, trumpets and bowls are not parallel with one another as some beliefs maintain. They are unleashed in sequence spanning the entire seven-year Tribulation.

#### **Five Reasons in favor of the succession view**

1. The content in the judgments is not identical or similar, as one would expect if they were contemporaneous or parallel.
2. The seventh seal introduces the seven trumpets, which indicates that the seven trumpets follow the first six seals.
3. There is an interlude between the sixth and seventh seal and then again between the sixth and seventh trumpet. Speaking of successive action.
4. The bowls are called the seven last plagues – Rev. 15:1, this fits the successive unfolding of the judgments.
5. The seventh bowl is introduced with the words “it is finished,” which indicate it is the last in a series – Rev. 16:7

#### **Seven Trumpets of Doom:**

John watched as the seventh seal was opened and seven angels were given seven trumpets – Rev. 8:1-2

Each trumpet represents a specific catastrophe, many of which destroy large portions of the earth – Rev. 8-11.

Great disturbances of nature climate changes – literal and not symbolic.

These are not due to man’s activity, global warming, or nuclear war; they are supernatural judgments of God.

The first four trumpets bring natural catastrophes.

One third of the earth will be consumed by fire – a direct act of God.

One third of the sea will become as blood, and one third of sea life will be destroyed.

At the sounding of the fifth trumpet, demonic forces from the abyss will swarm the earth like locusts.

The forces of hell will be unleashed across the earth to torment people with the pain like the sting of a scorpion – Rev 9:1-12.

These beings are supernatural demonic soldiers of the kingdom of darkness limited to five months of activity.

The sixth trumpet signals the advance of the great army numbering 200 million that will kill one third of mankind – Rev. 9:15-16

Many speculate this will be an invasion from China to Israel:

**Points of this belief:**

1. The army of 200 million is viewed as parallel with the kings from the east of Rev. 16:12 who come from the east into Israel, crossing the dried up Euphrates River.
2. The modern nation of China could amass an army of this magnitude.
3. The weapons used by this army seem similar to tanks, helicopters, artillery, rocket launchers, and missiles – Rev. 9:17-19
4. Some believe this invasion is not human but another massive wave of demonic forces invading and attacking the earth. It is not clear at this time who this massive force will be. It will have the ability to wreak havoc on the earth.

**Seven Trumpet Judgments**

1<sup>st</sup> trumpet Rev. 8:7, bloody hail and fire; 1/3 of vegetation is destroyed.

2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet Rev. 8:8-9, fireball from heaven; 1/3 of the oceans polluted.

3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet Rev 8:10-11, falling star; 1/3 of fresh water is polluted

4<sup>th</sup> trumpet Rev 8:12, darkness; 1/3 of Sun, Moon, and stars darkened.

5<sup>th</sup> trumpet Rev 9:1-12, demonic invasion; possession and torment.

6<sup>th</sup> trumpet Rev 9:13-21, demonic army of 200 million; 1/3 of mankind killed.

7<sup>th</sup> trumpet Rev 11:15-19, the Kingdom; the announcement of Christ's Reign.

**Timing the Trumpets**

Most prophetic teachers agree on the time of the seven seals being opened in the first half of the Tribulation and the seven bowls poured out near the end of the Tribulation.

The timing of the trumpet being blown is what is in question for most prophetic scholars:

- During the 1st or 2nd half of the Tribulation?

The main issue revolves around the severity of the trumpet judgments:

- 1/3 of the earth's population perishes in the sixth trumpet judgment.

- ¼ of the population dies earlier in the fourth seal judgment – Rev 6:7-8, so that half of the world's population dying during the first half of the Tribulation if the trumpets happen here.
- Putting the trumpets in the first half of the Tribulation makes the first half worse than the second half, which is not what scripture indicates.

Matt 24:21, Jesus indicates the final ½ of the Tribulation will be the worst time in all of human history.

### **Seven Super Bowls of Wrath:**

At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the second coming of Christ is announced: Rev. 11:15-17.

The seventh trumpet stretches all the way to Christ's return and includes the seven bowls in Rev. 16.

Chronologically, the 7th trumpet both introduces and includes the final period of God's wrath symbolized by the seven bowls in Rev.

The bowls of wrath clearly represent God's direct judgment as these are successively poured out with great catastrophes afflicting earth; the bodies of people will be covered with sores and afflicted with terrible pain; all life in the sea will die; the rivers and fountains of water will become as blood; unnatural heat will scorch the earth as the heavens are disturbed in their normal course.

The trumpets and bowls of judgment have striking parallels to the plagues of Egypt:

- Water is turned into blood.
- Men and women will be afflicted with sores.
- Darkness will envelop the globe
- Great hail will pound the earth
- This time it won't be for just one nation; the entire world will experience His wrath.

God will demonstrate that He alone is the One True God who controls all things.

The sad part is that instead of being horrified, people will be hardened, despite knowing this devastation comes from God.

Instead of repenting, they will rebel – Rev. 16:11 "They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds."

What a sobering testimony to the depravity and darkness of the human heart apart from Christ.

As the course of the seven seals and trumpets progress, there is an interlude occurring after the sixth judgment – but the seven bowls happen without interruption.

They are relentless and rapid in their outpouring. The sixth bowl will dry up the Euphrates River and further prepare the way for the great army invading Israel from the East.

The seventh and final bowl occur during the final War of Armageddon, as the armies of the earth converge on the Middle East for the last, desperate campaign.

The entire earth will literally shake, its great cities will be destroyed, and the contour of the earth will be changed. Islands will disappear; mountains will be leveled.

### **Seven Bowl Judgments**

1. First bowl Rev 16:2 upon the earth; sores on the worshippers of the Anti-Christ.
2. Second bowl Rev 16:3 upon the seas; turned to blood.
3. Third bowl Rev 16:4-7 upon the fresh water; turn to blood.
4. Fourth blow Rev 16:8-9 upon the Sun; intense, scorching heat
5. Fifth bowl Rev 16:10-11 upon the Anti-Christ's kingdom; darkness and pain.
6. Sixth bowl Rev 16:12-16 upon the River Euphrates; Armageddon
7. Seventh bowl Rev 16:17-21 upon the air; earthquakes and hail.

This will be the final hour of divine judgment on a world that refuses to let Christ reign over it.

This war and this series of bowl plagues will leave a wake of unbelievable destruction of human life and property.

It will exactly that Jesus predicted – a time of trouble so great that if it did not end with His coming to the earth, no human life would survive.

This time of trouble will only be the backdrop for God's final dealings with humanity.

It will set the stage for the judgment that will come when Jesus returns.

But there is another piece of business the Lord must take care of before the end comes –  
NEXT WEEK!