

## **Revelation 8-11 The Story of the Seven Trumpets**



### Notes about Revelation

The Name of the Book is actually Revelation (Apocalypse in Greek), not Revelations

It is short for "The Revelation of Jesus Christ to John"

### **The Prophetic/Sanctified Imagination.**

How do you tell a story that Goes beyond words?

Well, you use images.

You use special effects.

You tell the story about the cosmic struggle between good and evil.

It requires images - imagination.

We have entire franchises built on the battle between good and evil.

They are actually related to Revelation in their method and purpose.

We just don;t make that connection.





Are any of these characters real?

Are the events literal?

And yet their feelings, their motivations are absolutely true.

These myths, these stories contain within them very real elements.

And they are not just about Lucy or Harry or Luke or Clark or Frodo.

These stories are ultimately about us.

What sets Revelation Apart is that it is the ancient story.

No special effects.

Written almost 2000 years ago for God's people who are struggling to survive.

They are persecuted, killed in arenas, despised, hunted.

They are afraid, tempted and tired.

It's the Empire Strikes back.

It's the Fall of Hogwarts and the Death of Dumbledore.

It's when things are most bleak.

The church in North America is often asleep because

there is no hardship that call forth true faith.

We are not facing orcs.

But make no mistake, we face demons of a more insidious sort.

The divisions and power struggles in the Church.

The complacency and comfort in light of a dying world.

Our fear is to be excluded, misunderstood, dismissed.

But the reality is that we have everything to offer the world.

A gospel for those who are suffering or lost or disillusioned.

But they are not easy answers.

And thus we come to the trumpets.

## Trumpets of Revelation



What are trumpets used for?

In our day, it's about big band and jazz.

But in ancient times, there was no Satchmo or Miles Davis.

Back in the day there were very specific uses for Trumpets.

Trumpets were used announce a warning.

So for example, if you are in an ancient town or village and the trumpets sound,

It indicates an attack

Armies, might sound trumpets to announce their approach,

to strike fear into the hearts of thier enemies.

Joshua and the Israelites sounded their trumpets as they marched around Jericho.

Trumpets also announce the coming of Judgment

but are not judgment in themselves.

Revelation has 7 seals, 7 trumpets and 7 bowls.



## Introduction

8:1 When he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

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

3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all God's people, on the golden altar in front of the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God's people, went up before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

*6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.*

### **First Trumpet**

*7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*



Sounds like wild fires!

The Land is laid bare.

### **The Second Trumpet**

*8 The second angel sounded his trumpet, and something like a huge mountain, all ablaze, was thrown into the sea. A third of the sea turned into blood, 9 a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

Is it a hurricane like Irma?



Is it our pollution of the sea?



150-200 species of plants and animals go extinct every day.

200,000 are in the highly endangered list.

The Sea is emptied.

### **The Third Trumpet**

*10 The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water— 11 the name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters turned bitter, and many people died from the waters that had become bitter.*



#### Poisoned Water

- Every day, 2 million tons of sewage and industrial and agricultural waste are discharged into the world's water (UN WWAP 2003), the equivalent of the weight of the entire human population of 6.8 billion people.
- The UN estimates that the amount of wastewater produced annually is about 1,500 km<sup>3</sup>, six times more water than exists in all the rivers of the world. (UN WWAP 2003)
- Worldwide, infectious diseases such as waterborne diseases are the number one killer of children under five years old and more people die from unsafe water annually than from all forms of violence, including war. (WHO 2002)
- Unsafe water causes 4 billion cases of diarrhea each year, and results in 2.2 million deaths, mostly of children under five. This means that 15% of child deaths each year are attributable to diarrhea – a child dying every 15 seconds. In India alone, the single largest cause of ill health and death among children is diarrhea, which kills nearly half a million children each year. (WHO and UNICEF 2000)
- 70% of industrial wastes in developing countries are disposed of untreated into waters where they contaminate existing water supplies. (UN-Water 2009)

[ref-[http://pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/water\\_quality\\_facts\\_and\\_stats3.pdf](http://pacinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/water_quality_facts_and_stats3.pdf)]

### **The Fourth Trumpet**

*12 The fourth angel sounded 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.*

A Black hole?

This is all conjecture.



*The celestial heavens - beyond human reach.*

*13 As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!"*

### **The Fifth Trumpet**

*9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. 2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. 3 And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes. 6 During those days people will seek death but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.*

*7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10 They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. 11 They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek is Apollyon (that is, Destroyer).*

Demon Locusts from the Abyss led by The Destroyer



Looks like locust to me.  
They ain't shootin' candy.

But the implication of the passage is not merely human war machines.  
There is a real demonic presence and reign.  
One of the things I teach in regard to spirituality, angelology and demonology  
is that evil spirit cannot touch those who are under God's protection.  
The Holy Spirit is the seal on those who follow Christ.  
This of course begs question what it means to be under God's seal.  
I'll just say - the one who asks and allies themselves with God is sealed.  
All true followers of Jesus.  
It's open season spiritually for all others.

### **The Sixth Trumpet**

*12 The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.*

*13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the four horns of the golden altar that is before God. 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand. I heard their number.*

*17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur. 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths. 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury.*



The Euphrates runs through Iraq, Syria and Turkey today.

This is one of the most war torn regions of the world today.

But it has always been a place of conflict through almost every century since ancient times.

It is the cradle of human civilization.

The fertile crescent.

The place of empires.

The crossroads of continents.

The centre of human endeavour.

And where does it lead?



### **The Message of the Six Trumpets**

Now it's easy to get all revelation crazy and say, hey this is today!

But frankly, this has been our history for thousands of years.

Mounted knights and Saracens in the Crusades.

The First world war, the Second world War.

Industrialization and the pollution it brings.

All these are warnings through out the ages.

Have things gotten better?

Thankfully, there is a limit to the destruction, 1/3. Not half, not 2/3 not the whole.

This is not judgment.

The is consequence.

The 1/3 is symbolic - not literal.

You see, 1/3rd is bad. Really bad.

If you lose 1/3 of your stocks or bank account, that really is bad.

If your business takes a 33% drop, that is really devastating.

But it isn't total destruction.

It's a wake-up call.

Something is dreadfully wrong and we need to sit up and see what it is.

Judgment is around the corner and the final battle will come.

The seven Trumpets are a warning for those who would hear to change their ways.

Human endeavour is a dead end - literally.

You have destabilized and destroyed the earth.

You have unleashed hell literally.

Return to What you were created for!



### Response to the Six Trumpets

*20 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. 21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.*

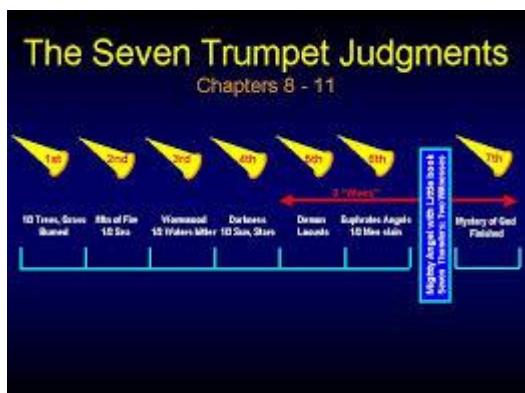
The Trumpets are a grace and mercy.

It is a warning and invitation to escape madness and destruction.

But the predicted response is that of mockery.

"The fool says in their heart, 'There is no God.'"

An so humanity will persist in it's own way.



### The Little Scroll - God's Response

What are God's people meant to do in the meantime?

Does he tell us to bring a mighty smack down and condemnation on all people?

## A. Messengers

*10:8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open 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 it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but 'in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.'" 10 I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. 11 Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."*



We are messengers into a place of devastation and darkness.

We choose to go to these places to be intimately acquainted with the lost.

But we go not as those who are lost, but as those who have been found.

We tell others of a hope and a rescue, a kingdom, a gospel.

That they are loved and invited into a relationship with their creator.

We do not go as "better-than-thous" but as fellow humans.

We know the bitterness of our times but we also know the sweetness of God.

The Christian life is bittersweet.

[Ref-<http://www.veloaficionado.com/blog/lewis-wickes-hine-bicycle-messenger-portraits>]

Revelation 11 tells of how two witnesses will testify before all people in ashes and sackcloth, the sign of mourning and grief.

They will do this for 3 and a half years.

After which the beast from the Abyss will overpower and kill them.

Their bodies will be displayed for all to see in the square of Jerusalem.

And no one will bury them - instead they will mock them and celebrate their death.

But three and a half days later they are raised from the dead and called into heaven by God through ascension.

There is an earthquake that shatters the city, killing many and the survivors realize and turn from their mocking.

Now, this may seem a weird and somewhat cruel story.

But how does a first century or even the early Christians hear this?

The one whose mother or brother has been torn apart by lions in the local coliseum?

The one who is living in the catacombs among the dead in order to worship Jesus feel?

They will nod and say, this is my experience.

This is my pain.

We are beaten, killed and mocked.

But we will not stop testifying for the day will come when we are called into heaven.

## EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



214 CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN PROPERTIES ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF VIOLENCE ARE COMMITTED AGAINST CHRISTIANS (SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS, RAPE, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)



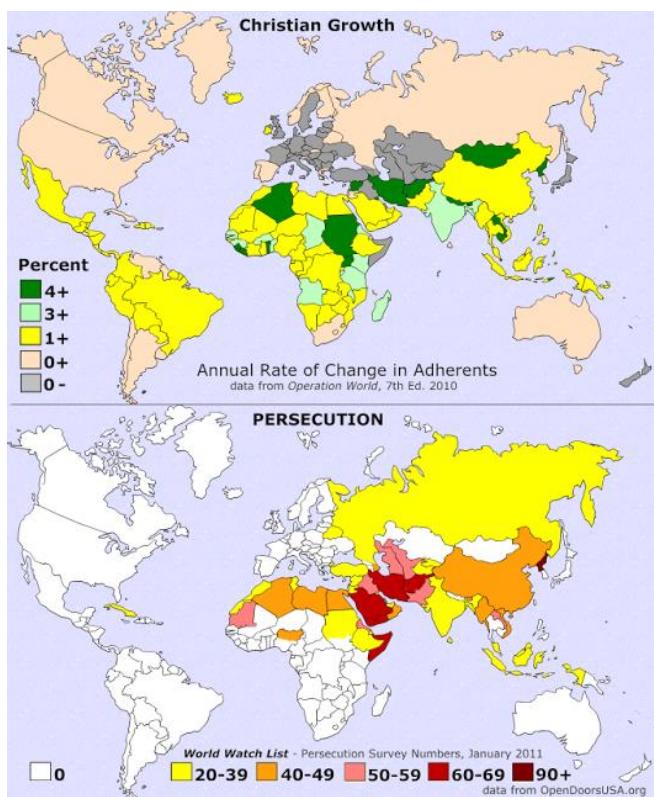
[source - <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>]

The Christian who is dying in a North Korean labour camp will understand.

The African believer who has her husband killed and daughter taken to be raped and married off by Abu Sayyef understands.

Those who suffer understand.

We testify to the goodness and love of God despite our suffering.



Wow. What could the Final Trumpet possibly be?!

## The Final Trumpet

*15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:*

*“The kingdom of the world has become*

*the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,*

*and he will reign for ever and ever.”*

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

*“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
the One who is and who was,  
because you have taken your great power  
and have begun to reign.*

*18*

*The nations were angry,  
and your wrath has come.  
The time has come for judging the dead,  
and for rewarding your servants the prophets  
and your people who revere your name,  
both great and small—  
and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”*

*19 Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.*

How is this a woe?

A Woe is also a dire warning.

But it depends on who you are.





You are part of an epic story.  
Not one of mere imagination.  
But one in which the stakes are real and they are high.  
Things are not to be approach simplistically and haphazardly.  
The pain is real.  
It will require all the courage and all the commitment you can muster.  
But the victory will be sweeter than the bitterness of the struggle.