

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



Chapter 11

Outline of the Trumpets

I. THE TRUMPETS (CHAPTERS 8:2—11:19)

- A. The prayers of the saints symbolized in a burning censor thrown to the earth
- B. 1st Trumpet — hail, fire, blood destroying trees and grass
- C. 2nd Trumpet — burning mountain thrown into the sea, killing sea life
- D. 3rd Trumpet — star falls from heaven on fresh waters, poisoning them
- E. 4th Trumpet — sun and stars are darkened
- F. An angels announcing the three woes of the remaining trumpets (“Woe, woe, woe!”)
 - 1. 5th Trumpet (also 1st woe) — bottomless pit opened, freeing (probably) demons to torment men, overseen by the angel of the Abyss, Abaddon or Apollyon (destruction) — (chapter 9)
 - 2. 6th Trumpet (also the 2nd woe) — a vast army kills much of mankind by the fire, smoke, and brimstone from their mouths to prompt repentance
 - a) Strong angel with the little book, (chapter 10)
 - (1) Cries out with a loud voice, answered by 7 thunders (to be sealed)
 - (2) Swears that at the voice of the 7th angel the mystery of God is finished
 - (3) John commanded to eat the book, which is sweet to the taste but bitter to the stomach
 - b) Measuring the “Temple of God”,
 - (1) leaving out the court (of gentiles?);
 - (2) the nations tread underfoot the holy city for 3 ½ years
 - c) The two witnesses (chapter 11)
 - (1) prophesy for 3 ½ years (1260 days)
 - (2) The Beast kills them, bodies unburied for 3 ½ days
 - (3) Raised to life, the world fears
 - (4) The 2nd woe is past
 - 3. 7th trumpet (angel) sounds (the third woe)
 - a) Loud voices say, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever.”
 - b) time for the dead to be judged and reward Your servants
 - c) the Temple in Heaven is opened

PREFACE TO CHAPTERS 10 AND 11

As we approach chapters 10 and 11, we need to remember a few details from as far back as Rev. 8:13.

Four trumpets were blown with their accompanying judgments on unbelieving mankind, and then we saw an eagle in mid-heaven saying “Woe, woe, woe...” regarding the three remaining trumpets, which become three “woes”. The fifth trumpet is the first woe (see Rev. 9:12); the sixth trumpet is the second woe, which continues until 11:14 announces, “The second woe is past...” The announcement of the second woe being past “bookends” the contents of the sixth trumpet, which would include the visions of the strong angel, the seven thunders’, the eating of the little book, the measuring of the temple and the two witnesses.

Revelation II

¹ Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it." ² "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

³ "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed 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 flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. ⁶ These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth

MEASURING THE TEMPLE

- To measure something, especially in the prophets, signifies setting or recognizing the limits of something.
 - Zechariah 2:1-4
 - Numbers 35:5
- What is the NT temple? (Eph. 2:20-22 / 1 Cor. 3:16,17 / 2 Cor. 6:16)
 - So, what does it mean that the temple, its altar, and its worshippers should be measured?
 - What was not to be measured in this passage? Why?
 - Who are "the nations" in this passage?
 - What does it mean to tread something underfoot?
 - How long (in years) is 42 months? Significance?

THE TWO WITNESSES

- Where else and for what purpose do you see two witnesses in the Bible?
 - What are they be doing?
 - For how long?
 - Who are they?
- What is the significance of the lampstands? Where have we seen lampstands already at this point?
 - Zechariah 4:2-6 tells us
 - his lampstand is "the _____ of the Lord..." Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit."
 - olive trees were providing the _____ for the lampstands (4:11-12)
- What happens to those who want to harm the two witnesses? (physically or spiritually?)

with every plague, as often as they desire.

⁷ When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. ¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

¹¹ But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. ¹³ And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

- Both the witnesses have powers that remind us of who?
- Are these literal or figurative powers? (think about v. 10)
- What will happen to the two witnesses in time?
 - Who does this? (And who is he? see Rev. 13:1, 7)
 - Where does it happen? Is this literal or figurative?
 - Who will look at their dead bodies?
 - For how long?
 - Why will they rejoice?
 - How do you think the witnesses tormented them?
- After 3 ½ days what happens?
 - Who does it? (see Rom. 8:11)
 - What seems to be going on here?
 - What is the reaction of the previously rejoicing world to this resurrection of the two witnesses?
- Does reference to an earthquake tell us anything?
 - What is the result of the earthquake?
 - Is this terror and giving glory to God repentance?

¹⁴ The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; 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 forever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

¹⁹ And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

THE 7TH TRUMPET SOUNDS

- What had the strong angel sworn would happen at the sounding of the 7th trumpet?
- What are the loud voices of the angelic hosts calling out?
 - What does it mean that "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ"?
 - What is the implied message of describing God as "Who are and Who were..." — leaving out "and Who is to come"?
 - Compare Psalm 2:1-9 to Rev. 11:18
 - What time is it?
 - the dead to be _____
 - to _____ Your bond-servants the prophets and saints and those who fear Your name
 - to _____ those who _____ the earth
 - What is meant by...
 - the temple of God in heaven being opened
 - the ark of His covenant appearing in His temple
 - What is the point of finishing this section with flashes of lightning, sounds of thunder, earthquake, and a great hailstorm?