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## The Seven Trumpets

Lesson Fifty-Six

### 1. What is the signification of the number seven in the book of Revelation?

It signifies the whole of that of which it speaks, either in its different manifestations, or in its divisions.

### 2. What do trumpets appropriately symbolize?

“A day of the trumpet and \_\_\_\_\_ against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.” Zephaniah 1:16.

“And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow \_\_\_\_\_ with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.” Numbers 10:9.

Note: “The trumpets denote great political commotions to take place among the nations in this age.” James White, *An Exposition of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation Eight and Nine*, p. 4.

“The trumpet, is the call to war; and the history of the trumpets is one long story of war and bloodshed, but in order that men might learn that the hand of God is overruling in every army, and that He guides in every war, the story of the trumpets is left on record.” Stephen N. Haskell, *The Story of the Seer of Patmos*, p. 145.

### 3. What period is covered by the seven trumpets of Revelation?

“The sounding of the seven trumpets extends to the close of the eleventh chapter of Revelation, the seventh trumpet carrying history into eternity, like the seventh church and the seventh seal.” Stephen H. Haskell, *The Story of the Seer of Patmos*, p. 149.

### 4. How was the language concerning the first trumpet fulfilled?

“The first angel sounded, and there followed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_\_\_ and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.” Revelation 8:7.

Note: “The first trumpet represents hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon the earth. It was fulfilled by the invasion of the Roman Empire by the Goths under Alaric, commencing A. D. 395. This invasion is represented by hail from the fact that the invaders came from the frozen regions of the North. It is further described as fire mingled with blood because the course of the invaders was marked by slaughter and conflagration.” *Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines*, p. 260.

### **5. Of what are these trumpets the counterpart?**

“These trumpets are the counterpart of the prophecy of the second chapter of Daniel. That prophecy brings to view the dividing of the Roman kingdom into ten parts as represented by the ten toes of the great image; and the first four of the seven trumpets introduce the events by which this division was effected.” Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures of the Principal Doctrines, p. 260.

### **6. What scene does the second trumpet bring to view?**

“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ was cast into the sea: and the third part of the \_\_\_\_\_; And the third part of the \_\_\_\_\_ which were \_\_\_\_\_, and had life, \_\_\_\_\_; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.” Revelation 8:8, 9.

Note: “The second trumpet brings us to a new location and another event. A great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea. The next great invasion of the Roman Empire which shook it to its foundation and conducted to its fall, was that of the Vandals under Genseric. The base of his operations was at Carthage in Africa. The date of his career is marked by the years 428 to 468. His warfare was carried on by sea, well symbolized by a great mountain burning with fire cast into the sea. He ravaged and devastated all those provinces of the Roman Empire which lie upon the Mediterranean.”

“The frequent reference to the third part, noticed in the trumpets, has allusion to the tripartite division of the Roman Empire. Twice it was divided into three parts before its permanent division into Eastern and Western Rome; and when the third part is spoken of in this prophecy, it refers to that division in which the events of the trumpet under consideration were taking place.” Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines, pp. 260, 261.

### **7. What was the prophecy concerning the third trumpet?**

“And the third angel sounded, and there fell a \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called \_\_\_\_\_: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.” Revelation 8:10, 11.

Note: “The third trumpet brings to view another invading chieftain, who, like a comet or a blazing star, flamed over the Roman Empire. It was Attila at the head of his warlike Huns. The name of this star is called Wormwood as describing the bitter consequences of this invasion and the terrors and miseries wrought by this war-like chief.”

“This star fell upon the third part of the rivers and fountains of waters. The scene of Attila’s operations was in the northern part of Italy, the regions in which so many streams and rivers have their source. Attila styled himself ‘The scourge of God,’ and made his boast that the grass never grew where his horse had trod.” Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines, pp. 261, 262.

### **8. What is symbolized by the sun, moon, and stars under the fourth trumpet?**

“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the \_\_\_\_\_ was smitten, and the third part of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the third part of the \_\_\_\_\_; so as the third part of them was

\_\_\_\_\_, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.” Revelation 8:12.

Note: “The fourth trumpet brings to view the blotting out of the third part of the sun, moon, and stars. These are undoubtedly here used as symbols representing the three highest sources of authority in the Roman Empire; namely, emperors, consuls and senators; and we naturally infer from the phraseology of the text that it denotes their overthrow. We have now come to the time when the Western Empire of Rome was extinguished. The date, as given by Gibbon, is 476 or 479. It was accomplished by Odoacer who was succeeded by Theodoric the Ostrogoth; and the events of the trumpet were finally accomplished by Justinian. The Imperial office, the sun, was extinguished by Odoacer. Justinian abolished the Consulship, the moon, and Narses, the general of Justinian extinguished the Senate, the stars. Thus in the third part of the Roman Empire, the sun, moon and stars were smitten, here represented as a third part of these luminaries.” Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines, p. 262.

### **9. What did John see between the sounding of the fourth and fifth trumpet?**

“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound.” Revelation 8:13.

### **10. What, then, are the last three trumpets?**

“The last three trumpets are each attended with a woe to the inhabitants of the earth. The fifth trumpet is the first woe; the sixth trumpet the second woe; the seventh and last trumpet the third woe.” James White, An Exposition of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation Eight and Nine. p. 54.

### **11. What is the meaning of the term “bottomless pit”?**

“And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a \_\_\_\_\_ out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.” Revelation 9:2.

Note: “The meaning of this term may be learned from the Greek *abussos*, which is defined, ‘Deep, bottomless, profound,’ and may refer to any waste, desolate, and uncultivated place. It is applied to the earth in its original state of chaos. Genesis 1:2. In this instance it may appropriately refer to the unknown wastes of the Arabian desert, from the borders of which issued the hordes of Saracens, like swarms of locusts. And the fall of Chosroes, the Persian king, may well be represented as the opening of the bottomless pit, inasmuch as it prepared the way for the followers of Mohammed to issue from their obscure country, and propagate their delusive doctrines with fire and sword, till they had spread their darkness over all the Eastern empire.” Uriah Smith, Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation, p. 483.

### **12. What was fulfilled in the fifth trumpet?**

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.” Revelation 9:1.

Note: "A star is first seen falling from heaven unto earth. This star was Chosroes, the king of Persia. He was overthrown by Heraclius, the emperor of the Eastern Empire. His fall was the key by which the bottomless pit was opened. For Rome in overthrowing Persia, utterly exhausted herself; and thus the only two powers which were capable of meeting and crushing Mohammedanism, namely, Persia and Eastern Rome, were virtually taken out of the way by this revolution. The bottomless pit symbolizes the wastes of the Arabian desert from which issued a great smoke or the dark and delusive doctrines propagated by Mohammed and his fanatical followers. Chosroes, after his loss of empire was murdered in the 628; and the year 629 is marked by the conquest of Arabia and the first war of the Mohammedans against the Roman Empire." Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines, p. 263.

### **13. To what do the locusts refer?**

"And there came out of the smoke \_\_\_\_\_ upon the earth; and unto them was given power, as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth have power." Revelation 9:3.

Note: To the swarms of Saracens that issued from the wilderness of Arabia at the call of Mohammed, literally growing up, of issuing from the false doctrine of Mohammed, represented by this smoke. Their power as scorpions is strikingly seen in their vigorous and speedy attacks upon, and overthrow of, their enemies.

### **14. How was the command "that they should not hurt grass of the earth," fulfilled?**

"And it was commanded them that they should not \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Revelation 9:4.

Note: When Mohammed died, Abubeker succeeded to the head of the Mohammedans, and about the first act of his authority was to issue a circular letter to all the tribes of Arabia, containing the following: "When you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood of women and children. Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit-trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat." Thus was the prophecy literally fulfilled, that they should not hurt any green thing.

### **15. How are verses 6-9 shown to be fulfilled, when applied to the Saracens, or Arabs?**

"And in those days shall men \_\_\_\_\_, and shall \_\_\_\_\_; and shall \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the \_\_\_\_\_, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_." Revelation 9:6-9.

Note: The attacks of the Saracens were so severe that death itself would have been sweet to their enemies as compared with their distress; and the locusts, shaped "like unto horses prepared unto battle," and with faces "as the faces of men," are symbol of the Arabian horses and horsemen. The Arabian horse takes the lead of the world, and skill in horsemanship is the leading art of Arabia. In these prophetic scenes the horseman of

Arabia were the chief actors, as the Saracens fought almost altogether on horseback, and so verse 9 says, "The sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle." As indicated in verse 8, the Arabs gloried in long hair, the same as women. To the truth of this assertion, Pliny and others testify.

#### **16. How long was this power to hurt men?**

"And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented \_\_\_\_\_: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man." "And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men \_\_\_\_\_." Revelation 9:5, 10.

Note: "Their mission was to torment men five months, but not to kill them. This period is doubtless prophetic, denoting 150 years." Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines. p. 263.

#### **17. When would this period of five months begin?**

"And they had a \_\_\_\_\_, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon." Revelation 9:11.

Note: "They had a king over them whose name is given both in Hebrew and Greek as the destroyer. The conclusion naturally follows that the five months of torment must have taken place under this Ottoman power after its consolidation into a kingly government. Previous to the time of Othman, the Mohammedan power was composed of separate and distinct tribes. Under the policy of this man they were consolidated into one government with himself as king. His government was founded near the close of the thirteenth century and has ever since been known, from the name of its founder, as the Ottoman Empire." Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines, p. 264.

"The sultan, or king, of the Mohammedans is also their high priest, and in this twofold capacity is the protector and chief propagator of their religion, and is thus pre-eminently the angel, or messenger, of the "bottomless pit," from whence this religion arose. His name, as given in both Hebrew and Greek, means the destroyer: and true to his name, Gibbon says of him, "The blood of 130,000 Christians was a grateful sacrifice to the Arabian prophet." Milan's Gibbon's Rome, Chapter 57.

#### **18. When did Othman make his first assault on the Greek third of the empire?**

"The first assault of Othman upon the eastern Empire took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1299, commencing the five months' torment from this event, they would end 150 years later, in 1449. As we inquire for the events which mark the termination of that period, we are brought to the sounding of the next trumpet." Biblical Institute a Synopsis of Lectures of the Principal Doctrines, p. 264.

#### **19. What was heard when the sixth angel sounded?**

"\_\_\_\_\_; and, behold, there come \_\_\_\_\_ more \_\_\_\_\_. And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God," Revelation 9:12, 13.

**20. What is said of the four angels?**

“Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, \_\_\_\_\_ the four angels which are \_\_\_\_\_ in the great river Euphrates.” Revelation 9:14.

Note: “These were the four principal sultanies of which the Ottoman Empire was composed, located in the country watered by the great river Euphrates. These sultanies were situated at Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus, and Bagdad. Previously they had been restrained; but God commanded, and they were loosed.” Uriah Smith, Daniel and the Revelation, p. 576.

**21. How were these angels, or propagators of the Mohammedan religion, loosed?**

They had been held by Constantinople, the throne of the eastern emperors of Rome; but in the year 1449, John Palaeologus, the Eastern emperor, died, leaving no children to take the throne, and his brother, Constantine XIII, “a heroic scion of a degenerate race, accepted the crown, after much hesitation, knowing his total inability to withstand the Turks, and even then took the precaution of obtaining the sultan’s consent before he exercised the imperial authority.” Thus in the very year marked by the prophecy, these angels were loosed. The power that had held them voluntarily submitted, and thus acknowledged that its ability to hold them was gone.

**22. What is said of the army that the loosing of these angels would bring forth?**

“And the number of the army of the horsemen were \_\_\_\_\_ thousand: and I heard the number of them.” Revelation 9:16.

**23. What is said of the appearance of these horsemen, and of the deadly effect of their new mode of warfare?**

“And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire, and smoke, and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails; for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.” Revelation 9:17-19.

Note: “Fire,” as a color, stands for red, “jacinth” for blue, and “brimstone” for yellow. And doubtless the “fire,” “jacinth,” and “brimstone” are a description of the Turkish uniform which was largely composed of red, blue, and yellow. The horses heads appearing as “lions,” denote the strength, courage, and fierceness of the Turkish cavalry; and the brimstone issuing from the mouths of the horses would well represent their fire-arms, a new mode of warfare just then introduced; and as the Turk would fire his short musket on horseback, it would appear to the distant beholder as though the “fire,” “smoke,” and “brimstone” came out of the horses’ mouths. Gibbon, in his graphic description of the overthrow of the eastern empire of Rome, very fittingly attributes the destruction of this nation, that had withstood the hostile attacks of ages, to the use of gunpowder by the Ottoman army. The horse’s tail is a well-known Turkish standard; and as the prophet beheld the Turks rallying around this peculiar ensign of power, he would at

once be impressed with the thought that the power of this army was in some way connected with the horses' tails.

#### **24. How long was the Mohammedan supremacy to continue?**

“And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_, for to slay the third part of men.” Revelation 9:15.

Note: “The angels were loosed for an hour, a day a month, and a year. This reduced from prophetic to literal time gives us the following period: A year 360 days, 360 years. A month, 30 days, 30 years, a day, one year, an hour, a twenty-fourth part of a prophetic day, fifteen literal days, making in all 391 years and 15 days. This added to the point in 1449 where 150 years ended, brings us to August 11, 1840.” Biblical Institute A Synopsis of Lectures on the Principal Doctrines. p. 265.

Commencing July 27, 1449, which, as already shown, was the date when this woe trumpet began, the time specified would bring us to August 11, 1840. To this definite date the prophet limited the independent reign of the Turkish, or Mohammedan, power. Elder Josiah Litch reached his conclusion, and made this application prior to 1840, announcing to the world when the time was to expire. The event was watched with interest by many who knew of his calculations; and when the year 1840 came, the sultan found himself wasted beyond the hope of recovery in a war with Mehemet Ali, pasha of Egypt, and on August 11, 1840, he actually submitted to the dictation of the four great powers of Europe, -- England, Russia, Austria, and Prussia. Since that time the Turkish Empire has existed only by their sufferance. This forever seals the interpretation of this prophecy.

#### **25. What does the prophet place between the sixth and seventh trumpets?**

The events of the tenth chapter, and the first thirteen verses of the eleventh.

#### **26. What important events are predicted under the seventh trumpet?**

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshiped God, saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the \_\_\_\_\_, that they \_\_\_\_\_, and that thou shouldest \_\_\_\_\_ unto thy \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” Revelation 11:15-19.

Note: “The seventh angel, or third woe-trumpet began to sound in 1844...In 1844 Christ changed His position in the heavenly sanctuary, preparatory to its cleansing, and predicted, Daniel 8:14, at the ending of the 2300 days.”

“The foregoing we think plainly refers to the work which takes place at the commencement of the sounding of the seventh trumpet, when Christ changed His position in the heavenly temple, and consequently assumed different relations to mankind

at large. We think these jubilant tones above, at the inaugural of the Lamb of God when He receives the throne of His father David, will be felt and responded to by the hopeful and expectant people of God on earth, who are then looking for that blessed hope, and for Him to come and commence His reign 'whose right it is.'" James White, An Exposition of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation Eight and Nine, pp. 95, 96.

**27. In connection with what other event do these lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and the earthquake, and great hail occur?**

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, \_\_\_\_\_. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." Revelation 16:17, 18.

Note: It will be noticed that the seventh angel of the last quotation is not the same as the seventh angel of the trumpet series. In the last verse quoted, reference is made to the seventh angel of those who are sent to pour out the seven last plagues. We find some of the events that are said to transpire under the seventh, or last, trumpet angel, also occurring under the pouring out of the seventh, or last, plague, which shows that the seventh last plagues will be poured out under the third woe, or seventh trumpet angel. Yet between the close of the second woe, August 11, 1840, and the beginning of the third woe, or the sounding of the seventh angel in 1844, there was to be a little time called "quickly" (Revelation 11:14), in which would go forth a world-wide proclamation, "Time shall be no longer," or, "The hour of his judgment is come."

**28. Is there anything in movements of the nations to indicate that we are about to see the fulfillment of Revelation 11:18, the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ?**

"And the \_\_\_\_\_, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Revelation 11:18.

Note: Having passed six of the trumpets, our own generations brought face to face with the rapidly fulfilling events of the last link in this chain of prophecy. How important, then that we give earnest heed to the word of God, and prepare for the scenes before us!