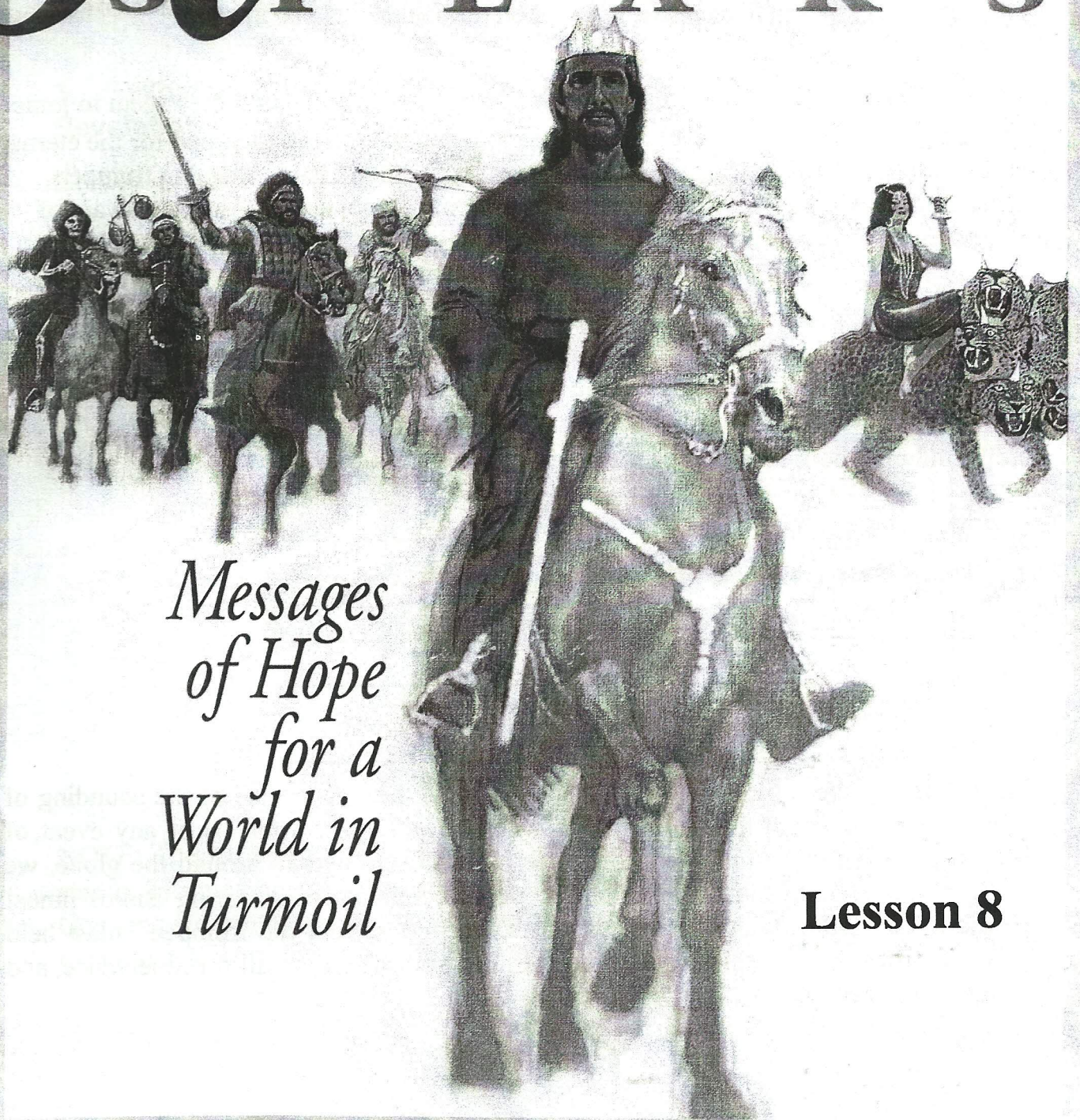


Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 8

The Seven Trumpets Part 1

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 8]

The warnings of the seven trumpets are so severe and graphic that they seem to jump out at the one who reads Revelation, chapters 8 and 9. God is concerned for the eternal well-being of His children on earth. Judgment is coming! As the warning trumpets blast their alarm, are His children on earth sleeping? Apparently! Are they aware of their danger? Apparently not!

We will discover that six of the seven trumpet warnings are concerned with all three of the great religions: Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, as well as the Eastern Orthodox Church and later on, the Roman Church. The seven trumpets involve all mankind! These trumpets demonstrate how the entire world has moved and is moving toward judgment.

Let's find out about these seven earth-shaking trumpets.

READ: Revelation 8:2-13-First four of the trumpets.

1. **How were trumpets often used in the Bible? Jeremiah 4:5, 6, 19, 20.**

NOTE: It may be a little difficult for us to realize the importance of the sounding of the trumpets in Bible times. In an age when news reporters tell us of any event of worldwide interest within twenty minutes of its occurrence all around the globe, we begin to understand the very limited scope of communication during Bible times! Without TV, radio, telephone, newspapers, telegrams, ect., the trumpets' blast held great significance: the call to arms, the warning of disasters, a call for repentance, and a solemn assembly.

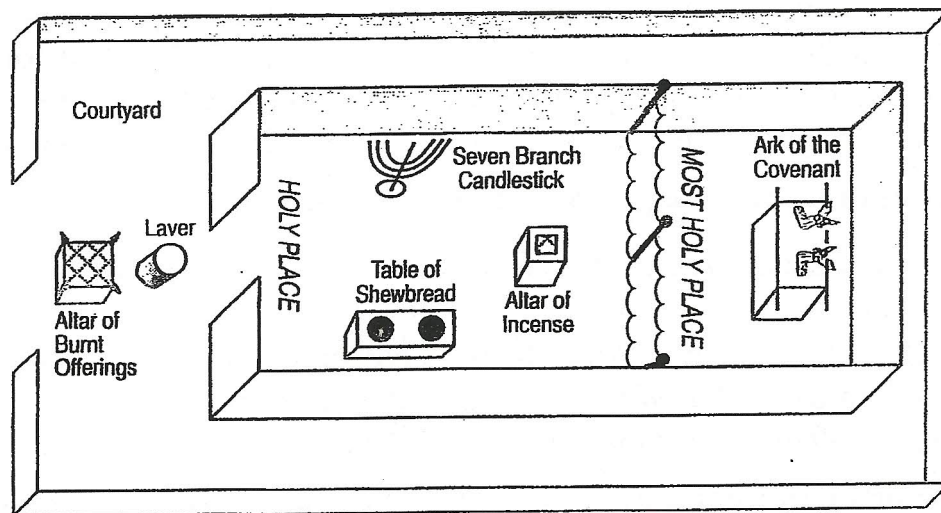
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2. How do we know that these trumpets warn of war, devastation, and judgment? List the words in the following verses that deal with bloodshed, death and war:

- a. Revelation. 8:7 _____ with _____
- b. Revelation 8:8 _____ became _____
- c. Revelation 8:11 "Many men _____ waters."
- d. Revelation 9:9 "Many horses _____ to _____"

3. What was given to the seven angels who stood before God?
Revelation 8:2.

4. "In what part of the heavenly sanctuary does the angel with the
"golden censer minister? Revelation 8:3.



NOTE: The message of the seven churches came from the candlesticks, or lamp stands. The message of the seven seals pictures Christ standing before the throne of God, and the message of the seven trumpets pictures an angel offering incense at the golden altar of incense. You will notice that the message of the seven trumpets

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of warning, like the churches and the seals, starts in the Holy Place of the sanctuary and ends in the Most Holy Place, with the judgment and the coming of Jesus. Just as Jesus started His ministry in the Holy Place in John's day, so the churches, seals, and trumpets start there. And just as Jesus finishes His work in the Most Holy Place, so the churches, seals and trumpets finish there with His coming. The angel with the censer is no doubt the same angel mentioned in Revelation 14:18. Jesus probably was the one who provided the incense.

5. What happened when the first angel blew his trumpet? Revelation 8:5-7.

NOTE: Usually "hail, fire, and blood" taken together characterize warfare.

6. What two things were burned by the hail and fire mingled with blood? Revelation 8:7

- a. _____
- b. _____

NOTE: As we turn the pages of Revelation, we read: "And it was commanded of them that they should not hurt the grass 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). Evidently the grass, green thing, and trees represent people, for they were commanded to hurt only "those men which have not the seal of God."

7. What great empire persecuted the early Christian church? Revelation 1:9.

NOTE: "I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation . . . was on the island called Patmos for the Word of God . . ." Patmos was a Roman Empire prison. John, like many other Christians, was persecuted for the "Word of God."

These first four trumpets are God's judgments on pagan Rome. From the time of John's death, the tranquillity and peace of the Roman Empire began to fall apart.

Finally the unthinkable happened. Alaric, once a Roman officer, led the Germanic peoples in the first successful invasion of the city of Rome. The symbols of ice and fire mingled with blood find meaning in this brutal invasion from the north, breaking the backbone of the Roman Empire.

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8. What was thrown into the sea when the second angel blew his trumpet? Revelation 8:8, 9.

NOTE: The second attack on the Roman Empire was by sea. The amphibious armies of the Vandals, under the leadership of Genseric, left destruction all the way from Gibraltar to the mouth of the Nile. His attacks were almost all from the sea. In one night he destroyed half of the ships belonging to Rome, destroying 1,113 ships and killing more than 100,000 men in the Battle of Carthage! So much havoc and devastation was caused by this man that until this day we refer to malicious damage as vandalism!

9. When the third angel sounded, what fell from heaven, burning like a lamp? Revelation 8:10, 11.

10. How did Jesus describe Satan when he was thrown out of heaven? Luke 10:18.

11. Who all were thrown out of heaven with Satan? Revelation 12:7-9.

NOTE: Angels are called "stars." Wormwood is a poisonous and bitter plant, a fitting symbol of the fallen angel Lucifer. When Attila the Hun struck Rome, it seemed like the Devil himself had fallen on the empire. None of the invasions were pleasant, but this third one was the ugliest of all. This third and most bitter attack came by way of the rivers where Attila often made his headquarters. Called "the scourge of God," Atilla and his barbarians raped, murdered, and turned into smoldering ruins city after city without mercy or compassion. What Atilla did to Rome, the Devil is in the process of doing to the world.

12. What happened when the fourth angel blew his trumpet? Revelation 8:12.

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NOTE: When Oadacer, one of Attila's generals and leader of the German Heruli attacked Rome, he removed the emperor and crowned himself as ruler. Before long the famous Roman Senate and the consuls ceased to function. On the ruins of old pagan Rome grew a new religious Rome. Much of Christianity had become like the world, loving money, power, and prestige. With the demise of pagan Rome and the rise of papal Rome, there settled on Europe a time period called the "Dark Ages."

"God's law and Christ's priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary . . ., or continued intercession, were surely obscured by an all-too-earthly system of laws and priests and sacrifices." -*God Cares*, Vol. 2, p. 242.

It may be well to remember that the real enemy of Rome was Rome herself! It was the immorality and corruption that opened the way for the attack of these barbarian tribes. The medieval church misinterpreted the Scriptures and Christ. Under its administration, the light of heaven was dimmed. The fourth trumpet was fulfilled: "I will put out your light."

God's warning trumpets call us to become loving and obedient Christians, letting His light shine through our lives to others. We cannot afford to sleep through the trumpets.

My Response

☐ I choose to follow the truth as it shines from Jesus.

☐ I want my life to shine brightly with the unselfish love of Jesus.

☐ I don't want to be asleep during the final trumpet warnings.