

## BLOWING SIX OF SEVEN TRUMPETS

Revelation 8 & 9  
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Seven Churches, 2:1-3:22 = The Judgment Audience  
Seven Seals, 6:1-8:5 = The Judgment Bill of Divorce  
**Seven Trumpets, 8:1-11:19 = The Judgment Blows against Judah**  
Seven Bowls, 16:1-21 = The Judgment Finale against Jerusalem

The theme in chapters 8-11 is that the judgement of God blows against Judah.

**8:1-2**, The seventh seal and silence before seeing the seven war trumpeters ready to blow.

**8:3-5**, final preparation sounds.

Judgment began with the declaration in Rev. 6:8 (1/4 of the land); increased with Rev. 8:7 (1/3 of the land) and then final judgment and full execution of judgment in Rev. 16:17 when the voice says "It is done."

**Summary of 8:6-11:19**, God announces his wrath on apostate Israel through seven trumpets—war trumpets that blow against Judah. The war was 3 ½ years (April AD 67 to August AD 70).

8:1-13, Blowing the first four trumpets

9:1-12, Blowing the fifth trumpet and loss of peace in Israel

9:13-21, The sixth trumpet & armies approach Jerusalem

10:1-11:14, Interlude and witnesses

11:15-19, Blowing the seventh trumpet

**8:6-13**, The first four trumpets.

- According to Josephus, 1/3 of the land was literally burned (*Wars*, 3.4.1, 3.7.1, 3.7.8, 5.6.2, 5.12.4, 6.1.1, 6.5.1, 6.6.2, 7.5.5).

**9:1-5**, The fifth trumpet gives the key to the bottomless pit.

- The **"fallen star" is Satan** (Isa.14:12; Luke10:18).
- Pit even demons did not want to go (Luke 8:31).
- Satan's army used by God (2Pet.2:4; Jude 6)

**9:5-12**, A five-month torment by the devil and his demons. These five months were likely the last five months of the destruction of Jerusalem before the Roman soldiers came over the wall to conquer the Jews.

- *Rev. 11:2, 3* reveals the war lasted 42 months or 3 ½ years or 1260 days (3 ½ years counting each month as 30 days x 42 months,).
- Torment inside the city
- Men seek death (Matt.24:21)
- Satan is the king over the demons (9:11)

**9:13-21**, The sixth trumpet and second woe.

- A picture of what's happening outside the city.
- Armies are being directed to advance toward Jerusalem.
- 200 million strong is metaphorical language for dreadful.
- Mankind does not repent. Is it too much from God to ask for a faithful spouse?

#### **Applications:**

1. **The When & Now:** When do these 6 of 7 trumpets get blown? The **Futurists** and **Spiritualists** speculate on calamities, but only the **Preterists'** view fits the AD70 context, disasters inflicted by the Romans and wrath coming down upon his national church. The Asia churches are blessed and encouraged with God's faithfulness to reward repentance and provide escape for his own from his wrath poured out upon sinners.
2. **Heed God's trumpet call to repentance.** Let the kindness of God lead us to repentance (Rom.2:4). What kind of things would the 7 Asia churches be repenting of after hearing this text?
3. **God doesn't abandon the world but** rules for the victory of his people. God reigns over all and brings judgment on those who forsake him and his ways. Let us beg his mercy while there is time.
4. **Christ's judgment.** The war of the Jews is not mere historical reality, it is trumpets of God ringing in our ears to stand before God and give account of our faithfulness to him (**Heb.9:27**).
5. **Church Building.** To the seven churches who first got this message, God was destroying the unrepentant national church but building his new church upon the foundation of the apostles, like their pastor John. The gates of hell do not prevail against Christ or his church (**Matt.16:18**).
6. **Prayer.** Chapters 8 and 9 address the need for the prayers of the saints (8:3,4), the need to acknowledge our idols and the need to repent—to turn from our sins when and before calamity comes (9:20,21).