

# Book of Revelation – The Seven Trumpets –First Four (Revelation 8:7-13)

Series REV-13

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We have finally come to that part of Revelation that has been most challenging to understand. It has also probably been the most divergent amongst Bible students. Yet, by the grace of God will attempt to understand these trumpets in the next two chapters. We will be using Bible principles to do so, for only correct biblical interpretation can provide proper understanding.

Before we explore these first four trumpets, we need to do a little review. As we saw looking at the lesson last week—The Prelude to the Seven Trumpets, Lesson 12—we once again saw that the “judgment of the living” in the form of seals is when Jesus Christ checks out His remnant people/church. The Church is ready. The faithful have been shaken, purified and sealed. They are *now prepared to sound the messages* to the world in the form of “trumpets” being blown to warn the world and call out those from “every kindred, tongue, people and nation that will be saved.

As with most if not all of the New Testament, every book opens (with the exception of the Gospels) with the word “*grace*” being mentioned in the early verses in the form of a blessing greeting the reader. The Revelation is no exception. But John first pronounces a blessing (1:3). While “Blessing is the Divine empowering to fulfill intrinsic functions”, John uses the word “grace” (1:4) to convey the idea of the “Divine empowering to fulfill extrinsic functions.” In other words, “Grace empowers the sinner to attain ideals outside himself, but held up as within his reach with God’s help. Blessing, on the other hand, empowers the creature to attain to those potentials and talents that he does have within himself naturally.” {*The Lamb—God’s Greatest Gift* p. 12,13 by Leslie Hardinge}.

To help us further with the understanding here, a simple illustration will suffice: “A canary and a crow. You invite the canary and the crow to sing. The canary needs blessing and the crow needs grace. This is the simplest way to remember the difference in the meaning of these words (blessing and grace). The canary has intrinsic, built-in capabilities. She can become a prima donna simply with a blessing. But a crow needs a miracle. He does not have the intrinsic, built-in ability to make beautiful sounds. He needs some power outside of himself to enable him to have a beautiful song.” {*ibid* p.13}

What’s the point in bringing out these two words now and their differences? And what does it have to do with our study on the trumpets, you may be asking? Well, I trust you will see as we explore these trumpets, but in essence, “the blessing of God empowers persons to fulfill what they can do by using the gifts they have.” Each of the churches were unique in that they had members who were comprised with gifts and talents to be used for the glory of the God and adapted to maintain righteousness “in the earth” during the period they lived. And this goes for us today, as well.

“The grace of God empowers one to fulfill what Christ holds up as ideals that his natural limitations prevent him from carrying out. (The experience of the Apostle Paul in II Corinthians 12:9,10 reveals this)” *ibid p.13*. Only grace can bring His people to the place where Christ can seal them preparing them to “blow trumpets to the world” which if heeded will save others from ruin.

As God’s people cooperate in reading, hearing and keeping those things written therein (Rev 1:3) and by the grace of God, “fulfilling” the words of Christ, which He “holds up as ideals”, the result to them will be happiness. This truly comes by “exercising God’s gifts” which all seven churches will do for they all will, “come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” {Eph. 4:13}

Now we turn our attention to these first four trumpets.

### THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS (Rev 8:7-13)

Just as with the seals so with the trumpets, you will notice a pattern sequence here as well—a four-three pattern. {We will unpack this in our study Monday night.}

Based on the truth in 1 Cor 2:10 that God reveals to us the ‘deep things of God’ by His Spirit and according to the principle found in 1 Cor 15:46, that He reveals “first the natural and afterward that which is spiritual” do we first then look at the historical context of the trumpets.

1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet - Ostrogoths – Alaric 396 -410 AD sacked Rome

2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet - Vandals – 455 AD Pillaged Rome

3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet - Huns – Attila 451 AD

4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet - Heruli – 476 AD End of Pagan Rome

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5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet - (1<sup>st</sup> Woe) Saracens – July 27, 1299 - July 21, 1449

6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet - (2<sup>nd</sup> Woe) Turks – Byzantine Empire – July 27, 1299 – Aug 11, 1840

7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet - (3<sup>rd</sup> Woe) Christ – 1844 to Second Coming

These were the time periods historically when these “7 Trumpets” were fulfilled. As we study, at least briefly what happened in the past, we can better see how they will be fulfilled in a contemporary application in our day.

Rev 8:2 & 6 indicates that the seven angels are now made up, sealed, empowered (vs.5) and are now “prepared to sound.”

Read the verses of the first four trumpets (vss.7-13) and using the following outline discover what each trumpet initiates. It is during the blowing of the trumpets that most of the information, with few exceptions, found in Rev 8:6-14:14, and chapter 17 takes place. Some of the exceptions will be noted in a future lesson. Remember in the contemporary scene that when one trumpet is blown, they are all blown at the same time. This principle is the same as noted in the 7 seals. The trumpets are being blown by the faithful members of the church that have remained while the shaking and sealing continues.

Using as few words as possible outline each trumpet. This exercise will be helpful in looking at specific details and developing future truths from this important book of Revelation.

**OUTLINE:** (See “**Example**” below for the first trumpet).

1. Trumpet number.
2. Signify the color of the rainbow starting from the top to bottom associated with the trumpet.
3. List the Church from Rev 2 & 3 with the same number.
4. List briefly the problem this church has.
5. The trumpet message the church will give. (Refer to the 3 angels’ messages and their seven parts. Use them in order as they are given in Revelation 14:6-13). This message also indicates that a part of the Church has accepted the counsel Jesus gave them and the faithful who have remained after the shaking are giving this specific message.
6. List the events that follow the sound of the trumpet.
7. List the results of what follows the events listed in #6.

State your findings with brevity, be specific. \*Refer to previous lessons if need be.

**EXAMPLE: FOR THE FIRST TRUMPET:**

1. Trumpet #1
2. Color—Red/Sacrifice
3. Ephesus.
4. Lost first love of soul wining,
5. Gospel to all the world. Rev.14:6. First part of the first angel’s message.
6. Events following message: Hail and fire mingled with blood cast upon earth.
7. Result of above events: 1/3 part of the trees burnt up, and all green grass.

You can take this information and plug it into the table below. Then if you are up to it, do the next three trumpets. We will discuss in class. Your comprehension and confidence will grow with each trumpet. So I encourage you to do it, the Lord will bless you in your efforts.

# TRUMPETS OF REVELATION

<u>SOUND/MESSAGE</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>BOW/CHARACTER</u> (144,000 Demonstrate)	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>RESULTS OF EVENTS</u>
#1				
#2				
#3				
#4				