

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

After John completed writing the Lord's message to the seven churches, he is shown the throne of heaven through an open door.

REVELATION

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Chapters four and five present the sovereignty of God who is on his throne and whose righteous rule is vindicated by the work of Christ.

REVELATION

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Though it may some-times appear that the wicked rule, all things are actually controlled by God & He will hold the wicked accountable!

REVELATION

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Revelation 8:7–13 (NKJV)

⁷ The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. 8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9 And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. ¹⁰ Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

Revelation 8:7-13 (NKJV)

11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. 12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. 13 And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

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- The imagery and symbols in Revelation are necessary in comprehending the BIG PICTURE but if we focus too much on the imagery and symbols we can easily MISS the BIG PICTURE.
- The BIG PICTURE in chapters 8:2-11:19 is clearly **GOD WILL BRING CALAMITY** upon those who persecute His people.

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- A series of three "7's" 7 seals (6:1-8:5); 7 trumpets (8:6-9:21); and 7 bowls of wrath (15:1-16:21).
- These run parallel to each other in a recapitulation pattern with God's judgments being increased in intensity.
 - John describes them one after the other by revealing from different viewpoints the judging and restraining action of God.



7 SEALS - Rev. 6-8: I God's Judgment Is Coming

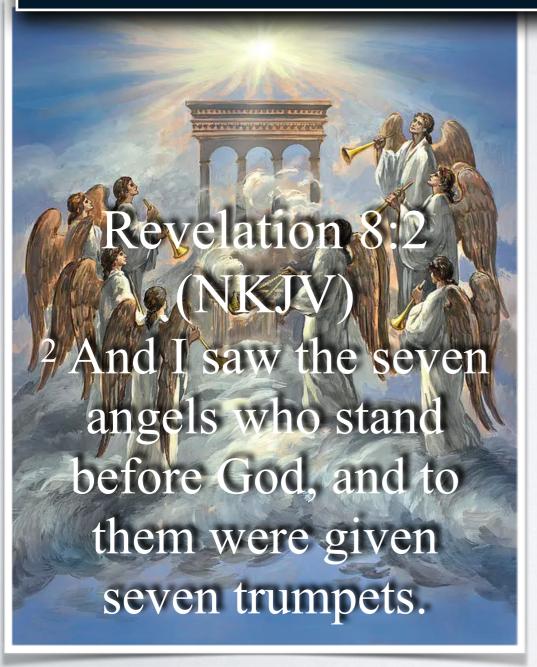
7 BOWLS - Rev. 16 God's Wrath Is Full



All three series of sevens are simultaneous, although the trumpets and the bowls of wrath are more limited in time as they deal only with the "things which must shortly come to pass" (1:1).

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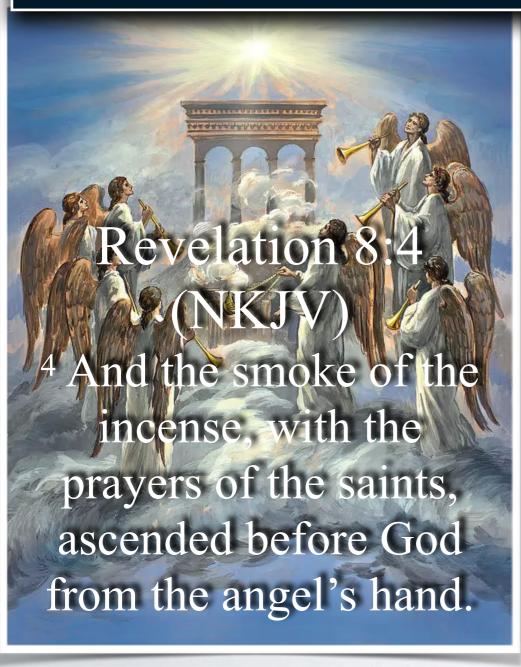
"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)



7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)

- In the O.T., 3 passages speak of 7 trumpeters who formed a ceremonial procession 2 mention the Ark (Josh. 6; 1 Chron. 15:24; Neh. 12:41).
- Trumpets also proclaimed accession of a king (1 Kings. 1:34, 39; 2 Kings. 9:13), the reign of God (Psa. 47:5; 98:6; Num. 23:21; Zech. 9:14; cf. 11:15), alarm of divine judgment, calling for repentance (cf. Jer. 4:5; 6:1, 17 Ezek. 33:3ff.; Isa. 8:1; Joel 2:1, 15).

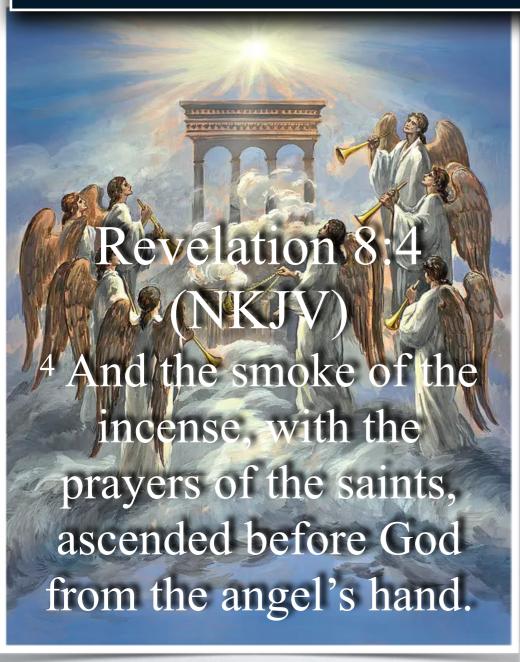
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- **7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)**
 - The urgent pleas and prayers of the saints have not gone unheard (cf. 6:10).
 - This vision is letting those who prayed so intensely for help in their distress know that God was indeed listening it would be their prayers that initiate divine judgment.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)



7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS (8:2-6)

- The Trumpet Plagues are seen as directed against a world that is adamant in its hostility toward God.
- The intensity of the judgments increase as evil men refuse to repent (cf. also 9:20-21; 16:9, 11, 21).
- The obvious association of these Trumpet Judgments with the Ten Plagues in Egypt is important and must not be missed by the reader.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

Revelation 8 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire lowed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

THE FIRST ANGEL SOUNDS (8:7)

- These first four trumpets affect nature: earth, sea, fresh water, and heavenly bodies.
- Each destroys a third part of the earth it affects, i.e., judgment is only partial, signifying that they are warning calls to repentance.
- God extends every opportunity for men to return to God.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

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THE FIRST ANGEL SOUNDS (8:7)

- This judgment centers upon the land. This echoes some aspects of the seventh plague of Egypt (Exodus 9:13-34).
- The trumpet sounding initiated a storm with hail and fire (lightning), causing death (Ex. 9:23; Is. 28:2; Ezek. 38:22; Joel 2:30).
- May suggest God's retribution for the blood of His martyrs.

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THE FIRST ANGEL SOUNDS (8:7)

- The fraction alluded to in this instance indicates that although God is bringing punishment on the earth, it is not yet complete or final.
- The judgment is to serve as a "wake up call" in order to move men toward repentance.
- Men need reminding that God will punish the wicked, and the wrath of God will attend the Final Judgment.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

Revelation 8:8–9 8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

- THE SECOND ANGEL SOUNDS (8:8,9)
 - This judgment centers upon the sea, reminding us of the plague of water turning to blood in Egypt, the first of the Ten Plagues (Exodus 7:20-21).
 - Volcanic activity was well recognized in this area of the world.
 - Less than 20 years prior, Mt. Vesuvius (August 24, AD 79), erupted destroying Pompeii and Herculaneum killing app. 12,000-15,000 people.

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- THE SECOND ANGEL SOUNDS (8:8,9)
 - The devastation that occurred in its wake seems to be illustrative and perhaps even suggestive of God's judgment of the Romans for their many evils.
 - Thus terrible calamities affecting the sea are now added to help paint the picture of God's warning that man actually stands helpless before the omnipotent One.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

Revelation 8:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. If The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

- THE THIRD ANGEL SOUNDS (8:10,11)
 - A huge star (or meteorite) blazing like a torch fell into the earth's fresh waters.
 - Wormwood is a bitter herb (cf. Jer. 9:15; 23:15; Prov. 5:3-4)
 - The result of foul, undrinkable water is implicit: Privation, wretchedness, despondency and starvation are the natural repercussions of such a situation.

Cycle Two: The Trumpet Sequence (8:2-11:19)

"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

Revelation 8:12 (NKJV) ²Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

THE FOURTH ANGEL SOUNDS (8:12)

- when the fourth angel sounds, the sun, moon, and stars were affected so that the light of the day and night were darkened for a third part of the time.
- This reminds us of the 9th plague of darkness sent upon the Egyptians in the days of Moses (Exod. 10:21ff).

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THE FOURTH ANGEL SOUNDS (8:12)

- The imagery of heavenly bodies being darkened was familiar to first century Christians who understood its use in prophecy as a warning for those who do not serve the Lord (Jo. 2:10; 3:15; Am. 5:8, 20; Mic. 3:6).
- Just as the first three trumpets dealt with a third of the earth, so the fourth trumpet dealt with a third of the heavens.

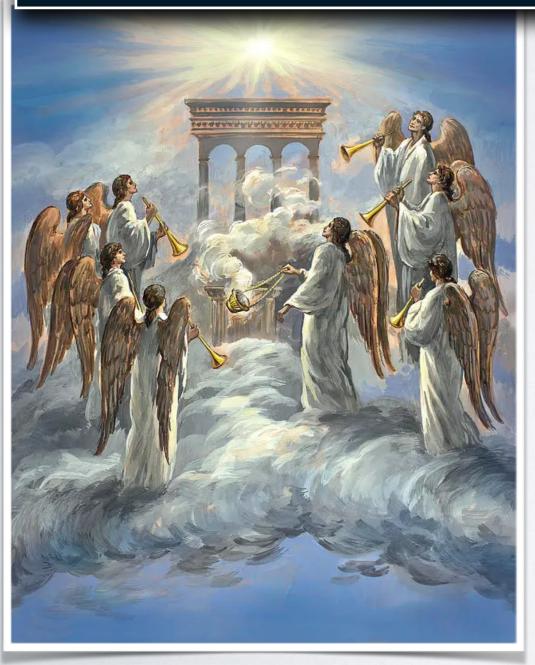
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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

Revelation 8.13 (NKJV) ¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe. woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

- THE EAGLE CRIES OUT (8:12)
 - The first 4 trumpets have sounded and the elements are devastated.
 - Most translations, as do the oldest and best manuscripts, render it as "eagle" which is an often used sign of disaster (Hos. 8:1; Hab.1:8; Matt. 24:28).
 - The solemn triple woe announced shows that the three trumpets yet to sound are to bring worse plagues than those already delivered.

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- HOW GOD WILL ULTIMATELY
 BRING AN END TO ROME'S POWER
 - Crisis of the 3rd Cent. AD (235–284).
 - Civil wars at least 26 claimants to the title of emperor.
 - Natural disasters Antonine & Cyprian Plagues, (165-180; AD 249 to AD 262); extreme weather events, agricultural instability; famine; volcanos, economic collapse
 - Barbarian immigrants / and numerous invasions.

This world has repeatedly brought suffering to the people of God, but the day will come when God will avenge His saints, and glorify His people.

REVELATION

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Calamities and natural disasters may, or may not be directly caused by God, but they should be viewed as a warning to repent!

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Mercy is still greater than judgment since a longsuffering God extends every opportunity for men to return to God. (2 Peter 3:9)

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2 Peter 3:5–13 (NKJV)

⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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"THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS SOUND" (8:7-13)

HEAVENS DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED FOR YOU - WILL YOU ENTER?

Believe — John 3:16;

Repent — Acts 17:30;

Confess — Romans 10:9,10;

Be baptized — Acts 2:38;

Endure by faith — I Corinthians 15:58

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"7th SEAL, 7 ANGELS & 7 TRUMPETS" (8:1-6)

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Joshua 6:1-6 (NKJV)

¹ Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. ² And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. ³ You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.