

- THE BEGINNING OF THE 7-YEAR GREAT TRIBULATION -

----- The Seventh Seal Will Bring in the Seven Trumpets -----

-The Seventh Seal (Silence in Heaven)

After the 144,000 Jews are sealed and the great multitude has been raptured, it will be time for God's wrath to be poured upon the Earth and on those who do not have His seal on their foreheads. But we had just seen that there was so much joy in Heaven, because of the great multitude that had just suddenly appeared.

We now see a dramatic shift in Heaven, from everyone rejoicing to sudden and complete silence: Rev. 8:1 And when He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in Heaven for about half an hour. Silence in Heaven after so much joy and celebration? The cause for silence is the fact that God's wrath is about to be poured out upon the Earth. What a sad moment that didn't have to be this way. If everyone had just accepted the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ, but the pride of men's hearts would not allow them to humble themselves before God. And so, His judgments are about to unfold.

When Jesus opened the sixth seal, we recall that He showed the souls under the altar how severe His judgment would come upon the inhabitants of the Earth. And when He opens the seventh seal, God's judgment is about to begin, so everyone in Heaven becomes silent for about half an hour, knowing that God's wrath will start with the seven angels who were given the seven trumpets.

Our God does not rejoice in sending wrath upon those whom He created Ezk 33:11 As I live, says the Lord Jehovah, I have no delight in the death of the wicked, except in the turning of the wicked from his way, and so to live. He is saddened that people would choose to reject Him, and He stated His wishes, 1Ti 2:4: Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. God wants everyone to be saved and to know the truth, yet He is a just God. He warned everyone that this day would come, yet many people have ignored Him. So we will see silence in Heaven before the people on Earth undergo the 7-year Great Tribulation.

2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,

THE SEVENTH SEAL:

BRINGS IN SILENCE FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR
REVEALS THE 7 ANGELS WITH THE 7 TRUMPETS

Let me explain what has happened up to this point in my own words; the great multitude has been raptured, they are in Heaven along with the souls that had received their white robes. (Everyone is rejoicing). Jesus had already shown us His judgment upon the Earth when He opened the **Sixth seal**, and since we had seen how severe God's wrath was going to be, we are silent when our Lord Jesus Christ opens the **Seventh seal**, since it will initiate the 7-year great tribulation.

-The Seven-Year Great Tribulation

In the book of Daniel, we are told that there will be a 7-year peace deal that will be led by the antichrist between Israel, Europe and many nations. This will occur before he declares himself to be God. Dn 9:27 *And he shall confirm a covenant with **many** for one week. And in the **midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease, and on a corner of the altar desolating abominations, even until the end. And that which was decreed shall be poured on the desolator.* Most people understand that this one week represents seven years. The antichrist will propose a 7-year peace deal that will be accepted by Israel, the Palestinians, and "**many**" other nations. But at 1,260 days, he will break it and 30 days later he will go to Israel to perform an abomination. Jesus talked about this event in: Mt 24:15: *Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place... Jesus goes on to say, Mt 24:21: for then shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be.* Notice that He didn't say, "For then shall be the beginning of great tribulation." Instead, He said, "*For then shall be great tribulation*" telling us that at the time of the abomination of desolation, there shall already be great tribulation, which was already happening, since we know that the abomination of desolation happens at the first 1,290 days of the 7-year great tribulation.

The abomination of desolation will happen in the midst of the 7-year Great Tribulation. The first half will not be as bad as the second half. But make no mistake about it; because it will be part of the 7-year Great Tribulation *it will be bad*. That is, unless you think one-third of the sea turning into blood and one-third of men on Earth being killed is no big deal Rev 9:18.

There are two verses where the phrase "great tribulation" is used to reference the 7-year tribulation: Mt 24:21 *for then shall be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world to*

this time; no, nor ever shall be. Rev 7:14 And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation. When Jesus uses that phrase, He is referring to the whole 7-year tribulation, saying there “shall be” present tense “**great tribulation**” yet later, He says: Mt 24:29 And immediately after the tribulation of those days. He refers to that period as both a “**great tribulation**” and “**tribulation**” proving that it is the same thing, and in the book of Revelation chapter 7, the great multitude of saints are raptured right after the 144,000 Jews are sealed for their protection before God’s wrath is poured out on Earth. Therefore, the great multitude is raptured at the very beginning of the 7-year great tribulation. So we can clearly conclude that the phrase “Great Tribulation” is used for the complete 7-year great tribulation.

Now we need to understand that when the antichrist appears, he will seem as a peaceful man with great ideas, and when he signs this 7-year peace deal, he will not yet be claiming to be god. He will claim to be god after he is killed and comes back to life and goes to Israel at the 1,290 days to perform this act of abomination in Israel.

This 7-year period will have the judgments of the seven trumpets in the first half and the seven bowls in the second half.

THE 7 YEAR GREAT TRIBULATION INCLUDES:

THE FIRST HALF – (7 TRUMPETS & THE 2 WITNESSES)

THE SECOND HALF – (7 BOWLS & THE ANTICHRIST)

Let me explain the abomination of desolation more specifically, the devil knows that Jesus will reign from the Holy land of Israel, so he will tell the antichrist to go to Israel in the middle of the 7-year great tribulation, and proclaim himself as god, this will be an abomination unto our Holy God. And he will also cause the sacrifices to stop, which means that he will go to Israel and cause some sacrificial abomination. In conclusion, Jesus will be offended by this abomination since He will be our God who will reign for 1,000 years from the land of Israel, and not the antichrist. These verses speak of the abomination of desolation: Mt 24:15, Mar 13:14, Dn 9:27, and Dn 11:36

Since the antichrist defiles the Holy land by calling himself god, there will need to be a cleansing in Israel after the antichrist and his armies are destroyed and Jesus sets up his Millennial Kingdom.

Ezk 43:9 Now let them put away their fornication, and the dead bodies of their kings from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

Put away the dead bodies of the 10 kings of the antichrist!

-The Angel with the Censer

An angel initiates the judgments of the 7-year great tribulation:

Rev. 8:3-4 And another angel came and stood at **the altar**, having a golden censer. And many incenses were given to him, so that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints on the golden altar before the throne. And the smoke of the incense which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God from the angel's hand. An angel bearing a golden vessel for holding incense offered the saints' prayers and the smoke from the incense ascends up before God. And after God received the prayers of the saints: Rev 8:5 And the angel took the censer and filled it **with fire from the altar**, and cast it into the earth. And voices and thunderings and lightnings and an earthquake occurred. This event happens to show us that God's wrath on Earth was about to begin. This angel begins the process by casting the censer, now filled with fire from the altar, into the Earth, which results in an earthquake. And now the seven angels prepare to sound their seven trumpets.

THE ANGEL WITH THE CENSER:

WILL INITIATE THE 7 YEAR JUDGMENT OF GOD

THIS WILL RESULT IN AN EARTHQUAKE



THE ANGEL CASTS HIS CENSER TO EARTH

There are so many people today who say that God is not capable of sending such great wrath upon the Earth. They say that a God of love will not do the things written in the book of Revelation.

We know the Bible tells us that **God is love**. 1Jn 4:8 ...For God is love. But He is also a just God who judged the Earth with the flood because of their sins. Gen 6:5 And Jehovah saw that the **wickedness of man was great in the earth**, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **And He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sins.** Gen 13:13 But the men of Sodom were **wicked and sinners** before Jehovah, exceedingly so. God is not an unjust judge. He shows us that He brought judgment to men because of their sins, and He tells us throughout the book of Revelation that He

will send His judgments because of men's sins. We read this in, Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Righteous is the Lord, who is, and was, and who will be, because You have judged these things., Rev 16:6 Since they have poured out the blood of the saints and prophets; and You gave them blood to drink, for they were **deserving**. Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar saying, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments. We first read that "the angel of the waters" says that our Lord is "Righteous" in His judgment, "**since they have poured out the blood of the saints and prophets.**" So we are told that God judged those living on Earth because of their sins, and it is echoed by the souls under the altar confirming that His judgments are "**true and righteous.**" So God will judge the Earth as severely as we read in the book of Revelation, but He is just in doing so. "Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments"

-The Seven Angels with the Seven Trumpets

Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stood before God, and seven trumpets were given to them. Pay attention to the fact that God uses His angels to send His judgment upon the Earth. Is this because our God cannot do it Himself? Of course not; God can certainly do it Himself, but He shows us that He allows His children – whether angels or humans – to participate in everything that He does. This speaks very highly to the character of our mighty God, who is willing to share His power with His servants. This also tells us that for all eternity, we will be allowed to participate in many decisions that our Holy God will make. He is a great God!

-The First Four Trumpets

Please realize that there are several things happening simultaneously while the first four trumpets are sounded. The four angels on the four corners of the Earth will also be involved in these judgments Rev 7:1, as will be the two witnesses who will be on Earth for the first 1,260 days Rev 11:3.

Before the trumpets are sounded, these two witnesses will prophesy about what will occur before it does. Rev 11:3 And I will give power to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy a thousand, two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. Rev 11:5-7 And if anyone will hurt them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone will hurt them, so it is right for him to be killed. These have authority to shut up the heaven, that it may not rain in the days of their prophecy (**Elijah**). And they have authority over

waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague (Moses), as often as they desire. And when they complete their testimony, the beast coming up out of the abyss will make war against them and will overcome them and kill them. These two witnesses will torment those left on Earth by prophesying God's judgments sent through the first 4 angels with the trumpets. They will also send many other judgments, such as stopping the rain.

Let's imagine what will happen: the two witnesses will prophecy a judgment, and the news will report it on TV for everyone to hear about it. Then the respective angel will sound his trumpet, the judgment will be sent to Earth by the 4 angels on the corners of the Earth, people will suffer greatly, and they will get mad at the two witnesses, asking how they can cause such devastating events. They will hate the two witnesses and want them killed, but anyone who tries to kill them will be killed. That is, until their time is up and they are killed by the antichrist.

But the two witnesses will be revived after 3 1/2 days and will be taken up to Heaven in front of everyone.

THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS:

INVOLVES THE 4 ANGELS HOLDING BACK THE WINDS

INVOLVES THE 2 WITNESSES

-The First Trumpet

Rev. 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were cast on the earth. And the third part of trees was burned up, and all green grass was burned up. Once again, I want to remind you that the four angels we saw holding back the winds from the four corners of the Earth will be involved in the first three trumpets, since they have the power to harm the **Earth**, the **sea**, and the **trees** Rev 7:1-3. This judgment will be prophesied by Elijah because he had made fire come down from Heaven when Ahab was king 1Ki 18:25. (I will later discuss in more detail the clues given to the possible identities of the two witnesses.)

One-third of the trees on Earth is a lot of land to burn up, but we must realize that Jesus Christ will later rule from this Earth, so He will create more trees if He has to. Jesus Christ is a big-time environmentalist; in fact, He made the environment. Rev 11:18 And the nations were full of wrath, and Your wrath came, and the time of the judging of the dead, ... and to destroy those destroying the earth.

-The Second Trumpet

Rev. 8:8-9 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a **great mountain** burning with fire was **cast** into the sea. And the third part of the sea became blood. And the third part of the creatures in the sea, those having souls, **died**; and the third part of the **ships** was destroyed. And once again, remember those four angels with the power to harm the **Earth**, the **sea**, and the **trees** – they must be involved in the devastation of the **sea**. But how horrific to see one-third of the sea creatures dead! Not to mention the fact that one-third of the ships will also be destroyed! *Notice: a mountain **was cast** into the sea!*

If **Moses** is one of the two witnesses, he will probably be the one to announce this judgment since he turned the water into blood when he was before Pharaoh in Egypt. Exo 7:20-21 And Moses and Aaron did so, as Jehovah commanded. And he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters in the river were turned **to blood**. And the fish in the river **died**; and the river **stank**, and the Egyptians could not **drink** of the water of the river. And there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. Imagine all the waters in the river turning into blood, and the dead fish causing the river to stink.

If anyone says this prophecy in Revelation cannot be literal, I would like to ask them if they believe that Moses did literally turn the water into blood? If the answer is yes, then why would this not be literal? I hope there are no Christians who doubt the power of God. He can turn waters into blood and then heal them as we read: Ez 47:8 These waters go into the sea, and the waters shall be healed.

I want to mention a possibility in which **Moses** and **Elijah** could be involved in this plague by doing something that Jesus had spoken of: Mt 21:21 Jesus answered and said to them, Truly I say to you, If you have faith and do not doubt, you shall not only do this miracle of the fig tree, but also; if you shall say **to this mountain, Be moved and be thrown** into the sea; it shall be done. The two witnesses, who will have enough faith, might just make a mountain move and be thrown into the sea. Notice that the scripture says “a great mountain burning with fire was **cast** into the sea,” it doesn’t say that a mountain fell from heaven; rather a mountain was **cast** into the sea.

So we see that Jesus said that it could happen, and it will actually occur. Jesus said: “if you shall say to this mountain, **Be moved and be thrown into the sea; it shall be done.**”

-The Third Trumpet

Rev. 8:10-11 And the third angel sounded, and a great star burning like a lamp fell from the heaven, and it fell on the third part of the rivers and on the fountains of waters. And the name of the star is called Wormwood, and a third part of the waters became wormwood. And **many men died** from the waters, because they were made bitter. This judgment is upon the fresh waters. One-third of the waters will be poisoned, and many people who drink this water will die. Notice that it does not say that the water turned into blood because no one would drink it if it did. People will drink this water because they won't know it is poisonous. This judgment will probably be prophesied by both witnesses (Moses & Elijah) because it involves both water and fire. Notice that "**many men died**" from drinking the poisonous water.

-The Fourth Trumpet

Rev. 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was stricken, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars, so that the third part of them was darkened, and the day did not appear for a third part of it, and the night also. This is very interesting because this judgment affects the sun during the day and the moon and stars at night. One-third of the sky will be covered with darkness, even at night.

We read that Moses was involved in the plague of **darkness**:
Exo 10:22-23 And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven. And there was a **thick darkness** in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another, nor did any **rise** from his place, for three days. But all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.

When Moses stretched his hand toward heaven, "**there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt.**" There was not just darkness but "thick darkness", causing the Egyptians to not be able to see one another, nor did they rise for three days, imagine living in this darkness where you are basically blind. Now, when the fourth trumpet sounds, a third part of the sun, moon, and stars will be affected. Because of this, Moses will probably be the one to prophesy this Judgment. This judgment will also be literal.

The last 3 trumpets (3 woes) will **not** be prophesied by the 2 witnesses:
Since the **5th trumpet** is caused by a fallen angel Rev 9:2 and
The **6th trumpet** is caused by the 4 angels that are loosed Rev 9:15 and the
7th trumpet happens after the 2 witnesses are taken to Heaven Rev 11:11-15

THE 2 WITNESSES AND THE FIRST 4 TRUMPETS:

1ST TRUMPET (prophesied by Elijah) *fire*

2ND TRUMPET (prophesied by Moses and Elijah) *fire & blood*

3RD TRUMPET (prophesied by Moses and Elijah) *fire & water*

4TH TRUMPET (prophesied by Moses) *darkness*

THE 4 ANGELS (Rev 7:1) AND THE FIRST 3 TRUMPETS:

1ST TRUMPET (The 4 Angels Will Hurt the Trees)

2ND TRUMPET (The 4 Angels Will Hurt the Sea)

3RD TRUMPET (The 4 Angels Will Hurt the Fresh Waters on Earth)

4TH TRUMPET (Darkness on 1/3 of the day on Earth)

5TH TRUMPET (The Locust sting men)

6TH TRUMPET (World War 3)

7TH TRUMPET (The kingdoms have become of our Lord & of Christ)

Notice that **the voices**, and **thunderings**, and **lightnings**, and an **earthquake** happen 3 times in the book of Revelation to indicate the beginning, the middle, and the end of the 7-year Great Tribulation:

(1) THE BEGINNING OF THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION:

Rev 8:5 *And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.* Rev 8:7 *hail*

(2) THE MIDDLE OF THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION:

Rev 11:19 *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.*

(3) THE END OF THE 7 YEAR TRIBULATION:

Rev 16:18 *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.* Rev 16:21 *great hail*

The 7-year great tribulation will affect the Earth and it is indicated by these 3 earthquakes.

Notice that each event is followed by hail.

THE 70 WEEKS DECREED FOR ISRAEL Dn 9:24:

69 weeks to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah, and then the last week for Israel after the time of the gentiles is fulfilled Rom 11:25.

GOD GAVE ISRAEL 70 WEEKS OR 490 YEARS:

Dn 9:24 **Seventy weeks** are decreed as to your people and as to your holy city, **to finish the transgression and to make an end of sins, and to make atonement for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.**

Seventy weeks are decreed as to **your people** and as to your **holy city**:

1 To finish the **transgression** and

2 To make an **end of sins**

3 To make **atonement for iniquity**

4 To bring in **everlasting righteousness**

5 To seal up the **vision** (Zec 13:1-4)

6 To seal up the **prophecy** (Zec 13:1-4)

7 To **anoint the Most Holy** Lk 4:18 **He has anointed Me** Act 4:27, 10:38 Heb 1:9

Dn 9:25 **Know therefore and understand, that from the going out of the command to restore and to build Jerusalem, to Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks.** 69 WEEKS.

Dn 9:27 **And he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week.**

1 WEEK PLUS 69 WEEKS EQUAL: 70 WEEKS FOR ISRAEL

69 weeks from the decree until the Messiah Neh 2, Dn 9:25

One week is left for Israel: The 7-year great tribulation Dn 9:27



THE TWO WITNESSES