

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 8: The Seven Trumpets

I. Prelude to Seven Trumpets

“And when he opened the seventh seal, there followed a silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. ² And I saw the seven angels that stand before God; and there were given unto them seven trumpets. ³ And another angel came and stood over [on] the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should add it unto the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. . . (**Revelation 8:1-3**).

- 7th Seal should be the end of Revelation 7.
- Here the 7th Seal serves as a prelude to the 7 Trumpets.
- Altar gives us a clue that will help us later on.

II. Obvious Sanctuary Language

A. Altar #1 - Courtyard

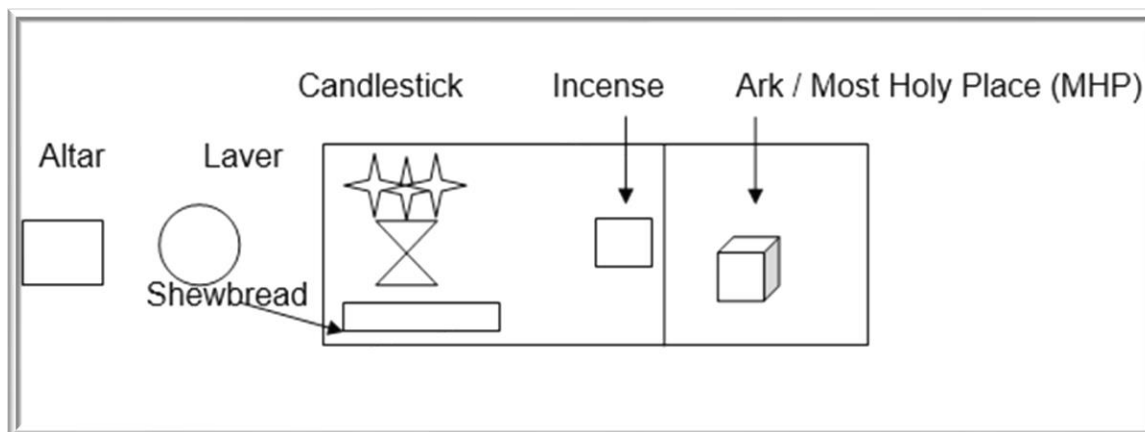
“In the ancient Jewish temple practice, the priest(s) selected to offer the incense on the golden altar took the censer with the incense and coals from the altar of burnt sacrifice and brought it into the temple to offer it on the altar of incense.” In Rev 8:3, it seems that it was at the altar of sacrifice that the angel was seen as standing, and from there he took the censer with incense to offer in the holy place of the heavenly temple” (Stefanovic, p. 84)

B. Altar#2 - MHP

(Ranko Stefanovic, *Andrews University Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 1, 79-94).

“In the earthly temple, the altar of burnt offering stood in the court before the entrance to the sanctuary (Exod 40:29), while the altar of incense was situated inside the sanctuary in front of the curtain separating the holy from the most holy place, ‘near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over the ark of the testimony’ (Exod 30:6-7; cf. Lev 4:18). Since its function was closely connected with the most holy place, the altar of incense was considered to belong to the most holy place (cf. 1 Kgs 6:22; Heb 9:3-4) and was often referred to as ‘the altar which is before the Lord’ (Lev 4:7, 18; 16:18; 1 Kgs 9:25; Rev 9:13).

III. Where are we in the Sanctuary?



- Revelation continues to unfold in the Most Holy Place.
- The altar is before the throne. In Solomon's temple it is behind the veil. In this vision it appears the angel goes from being before God to throwing something down at the Earth =Outer courtyard.
- Vision begins with Daily and Ends with Judgment. Daily (*Tamid*) has been linked to Christ's intercessory ministry after he ascended to heaven (see Hebrews). This Judgment language has been linked to Jesus coming with an iron scepter and judging the nations.
- Therefore, it appears this part of the vision must be referring to a time period from **the time of Christ onward**. This is preliminary data that will be helpful to remember later.

IV. Seven Trumpets

. . . ⁴ And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵ And the angel taketh the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it upon the earth: and there followed thunders, and voices, and lightnings, and an earthquake. ⁶ And the seven angels that had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound" (**Rev 8:1-6** ASV).

- Trumpets were used for battle / worship & (Joshua 6; Numbers 10:8-10; Exodus 40:24-26). First use→

"And Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, ² Make thee two trumpets of silver; of beaten work shalt thou make them: and thou shalt use them for the calling of the congregation, and for the journeying of the camps. ³ And when they shall blow them, all the congregation shall gather themselves unto thee at the door of the tent of meeting. ⁴ And if they blow but one, then the princes, the heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. ⁵ And when ye blow an alarm, the camps that lie on the east side shall take their journey. ⁶ And when ye blow an alarm the second time, the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys. ⁷ But when the assembly is to be gathered together, ye shall blow, but ye shall not sound an alarm. ⁸ And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and they shall be to you for a statute for ever throughout your generations. ⁹ "And when ye go to war in your land against the adversary that oppresseth you, then ye shall sound an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before Jehovah your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies. ¹⁰ Also in the day of your gladness, and in your set feasts, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow the trumpets over your burnt-offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace-offerings; and they shall be to you for a memorial before your God: I am Jehovah your God" (**Num 10:1-10** ASV).

- Call worshippers to the tent of meeting (people and leaders): Feast / Day of Atonement, etc.
- Call the Israelites to prepare for a journey in an orderly fashion.
- Call to prepare for War.
- One points out the main focus here: worship & war→
- More Significance

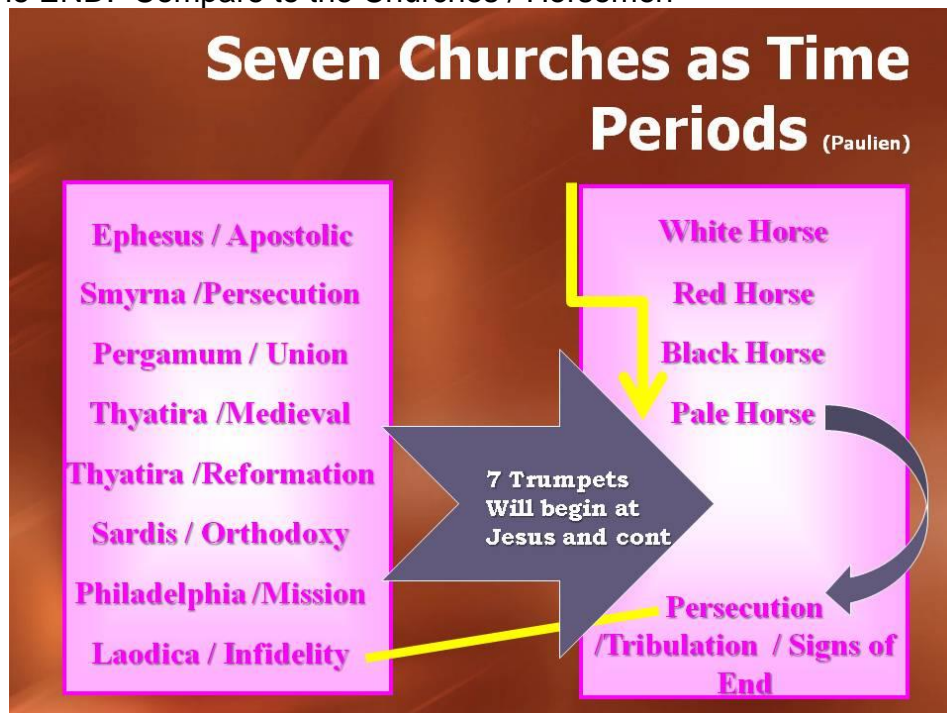
"In light of what they [Jewish audience] knew, they would have read the scene under consideration in the following way: the angel first comes to the altar of burnt offering-under which the blood of the slain saints, which had been poured out, was crying for vindication-where he fills the golden censer with incense and takes coals of fire from the altar (Lev 16:12). Incense in the Bible is associated with the prayers of the faithful (cf.

Ps 141:2; Rev 5:23). David prayed: "May my prayer be counted as incense before You" (Ps 141:2). . . It also brings to mind the scene of Zachariah ministering the incense offering, while the people were in prayer in the court of the temple (Luke 1:9-10). According to Rev 5:8, incense represents the prayers of the saints. The incense offered on the altar in Rev 8:3 is associated with the prayers for justice and judgment of the slain saints under the altar of burnt offering in the scene of the fifth seal (6:9-11). . . The angel takes the incense and the coals into the holy place of the temple in heaven and administers the incense on the golden altar before the throne' (cf. Lev 16:12b). . . The scene remarkably resembles the scene portrayed in the Mishnah, stating that during the tamid ritual, when the priests officiating in the holy place reached the place between the porch and the altar of incense, one of them took the shovel and threw it down. . . The noise of the shovel was so loud that no one in Jerusalem could hear the voice of his neighbor.'" According to the same tractate, the sound of the shovel could be heard as far as Jericho is a further indication that the entire scene in 8:3-5 mirrors the Second Temple **tamid services**" (Ranko Stefanovic, *Andrews University Studies*, Vol. 44, No.1,79-94).

- **He goes on to see a link to this and Ezekiel 10 & Exodus 7:11. Both Judgment scenes against the enemies of Israel! BUT WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?**

V. *Tamid*: Daily Service

- Involved death of lambs, offerings, etc.
- Priest ministered in the Courtyard and Holy Place.
- People made confession of sins and by faith were saved by blood.
- This "daily" ministry reached its climax in a judgment event: the Day of Atonement.
- Points to the Sacrifice of Jesus – the Lamb of God (**John 1:29**).
- WHEN: Trumpets begin at the time of Jesus and continue to a time of Judgment & the END. Compare to the Churches / Horsemen

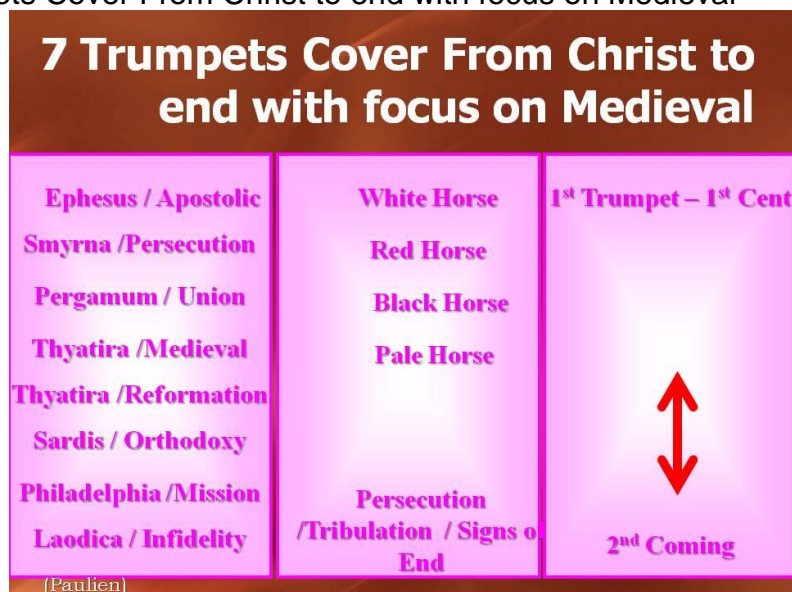


VI. Parallel Prophecies

- 7 Churches / Trumpets and Seals cover the same time periods.
- See Seven Churches as Time Periods (Paulien).
- Parallelism is important because it is linked to Hebrew thought. Hebrew thought has repetition and enlargement. It also builds up to a mountain top and then covers the same ground again (remember Chiasm).
- If we do not take this into consideration, then there is confusion.
- It is obvious there are parallels to the Plagues too. So we will use this parallelism later to understand Revelation 16→

<h1>Trumpets & Plagues</h1>	
Trumpets (Revelation 8:2-9:21/11:15-19)	7 Last Plagues (Revelation 16)
Trumpet 1: Hail and fire mixed with blood = 1/3 of trees and grass burned up.	Plague 1: Sores on those who receive the Mark of the Beast
Trumpet 2: Great mountain cast into sea and 1/3 of sea becomes blood. 1/3 of creatures and ships perish.	Plague 2: Sea becomes as blood and every living thing dies in it.
Trumpet 3: Star from heaven on third part of rivers and fountains of waters. 1/3 of waters become bitter.	Plague 3: Rivers and fountains become blood – God reassured of justice.
Trumpet 4: Sun, moon and stars darken	Plague 4: Sun scorches with fire
Trumpet 5: Star falls & darkness / locusts emerge. Cannot fully hurt til seal is given.	Plague 5: Darkness /pain from cold
Trumpet 6: 4 angels let go and kill 1/3 of mankind. Those not killed have plagues for worshipping gold, silver, bronze, wood & stone (link to Fall of Babylon)	Plague 6: Euphrates River dried up for Kings of the East.
Trumpet 7: Lightning, thunder, earthquake and great hail.	Plague 7: Earthquake, thunders, lightning, islands flee and great hail.

- 7 Trumpets Cover From Christ to end with focus on Medieval



VII. First Trumpet

. . . ⁷ And the first sounded, and there followed hail and fire, mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and the third part of the trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up” (**Rev 8:7** ASV).

- Third = not complete or final judgment.
- Hail, fire, blood – Possibly two sources: **Exodus 9:22-26** (Judgment on Egypt) and **Ezekiel 38:22-23** (Gog) →

VIII. Israel in Rebellion

“Woe to the rebellious children, saith Jehovah, that take counsel, but not of me; and that make a league, but not of my Spirit, that they may add sin to sin, ² that set out to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to take refuge in the shadow of Egypt! ³ Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the refuge in the shadow of Egypt your confusion” (**Isa 30:1-3** ASV).

- Speaking of Israel it continues→

²⁵ And there shall be upon every lofty mountain, and upon every high hill, brooks and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶ Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that Jehovah bindeth up the hurt of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound. ²⁷ Behold, the name of Jehovah cometh from far, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke. . .his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue is as a devouring fire; ²⁸ and his breath is as an overflowing stream, that reacheth even unto the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction: and a bridle that causeth to err shall be in the jaws of the peoples. ²⁹ Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy feast is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come unto the mountain of Jehovah, to the Rock of Israel. . . ³⁰ And Jehovah will cause his glorious voice to be heard [trumpet in Ex. 19], and will show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and the flame of a devouring fire, with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones. ³¹ For through the voice of Jehovah shall the Assyrian be dismayed; with his rod will he smite him. ³² And every stroke of the appointed staff, which Jehovah shall lay upon him, shall be with the sound of tabrets and harps; and in battles with the brandishing of his arm will he fight with them. . . ³³ For a Topheth is prepared of old; yea, for the king it is made ready; he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of Jehovah, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it. (**Isa 30:25-33** ASV)

- Israel's is in rebellion because it does not trust in God /accept the message of His prophets.
- ALL of its allies will not be able to keep it from falling: Egypt or Assyria (which is destroyed by fire, hailstones and brimstone from the Lord).
- Fall of Jerusalem could be alluded to here:

“And Jesus went out from the temple, and was going on his way; and his disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple. But he answered and said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (**Matthew 24:1-2**).

- How Jesus Felt

“But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep. ‘How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation” (Luke 19:41-44, NIV).

- Jesus’ warning

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray” (Matthew 24:4-5).

- Happened in 70 A.D. and also under the Bar Kochba Rebellion. More warnings:

“ . . . then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains. . . But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a sabbath[ramparts]: for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:1-5, 16-21).

- **First Trumpet: Using Bible to help us in our interpretation, we find it starts when Israel FALLs in spite of its Allies!**

VIEWS ON THE TRUMPETS

Trumpet	U. Smith	E. Thiele	R. Naden	C. M. Maxwell	W. Shea	J. Paulien/ H. LaRondelle/ R. Stefanovic	A. Treiyer
First	Attack of Visigoths against Rome under Alaric.	God's judgment on Jerusalem.	God's judgment on Jerusalem.	God's judgment on Jerusalem.	Pagan Rome persecutes Christians.	God's judgment on Jerusalem.	Attack of Visigoths against Rome under Alaric.

IX. 2nd Trumpet

⁸ 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; ⁹ and there died the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, even they that had life; and the third part of the ships was destroyed. (Rev 8:8-9 ASV).

- Notice key words and then the shift to a human element: ships.
- Any allusions here? Let’s look at a possibility→
- Jeremiah 51 (Babylon)

“Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set the watchmen, prepare the ambushes; for Jehovah hath both purposed and done that which he spake concerning the inhabitants of Babylon. O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, the measure of thy covetousness. And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith Jehovah. Behold, I am against thee, O destroying

mountain, saith Jehovah, which destroyest all the earth; and I will stretch out my hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain” (Jer. 51:12-13, 24-25).

- Medes would come like “sea”

“The sea is come up upon Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof. Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall destroyers come unto her, saith Jehovah” (Jer. 51:42, 53).

- Mount up to heaven – ascend: mountain in the sky. Battle languages for beginning to surround a city.
- Mountain burned: Siege language

“Thus saith Jehovah of hosts: The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly overthrown, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the peoples shall labor for vanity, and the nations for the fire; and they shall be weary. And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates: and thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise again because of the evil that I will bring upon her; and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah” (Jer. 51:58, 63-64).

- **1 Peter 5:13** – Peter refers to Rome as Babylon the Great Mountain.
- Who were the “enemies of God” that attacked His people? Imperial Rome.
- After Fall of Jerusalem what group of people claimed to be the “people of God”?
- Where was their center of worship located? ROME.

Trumpet	U. Smith	E. Thiele	R. Naden	C. M. Maxwell	W. Shea	J. Paulien/ H. LaRondelle/ R. Stefanovic	A. Treiyer
First	Attack of Visigoths against Rome under Alaric.	God’s judgment on Jerusalem.	God’s judgment on Jerusalem.	God’s judgment on Jerusalem.	Pagan Rome persecutes Christians.	God’s judgment on Jerusalem.	Attack of Visigoths against Rome under Alaric.
Second	Attack of the Vandals against Rome.	God’s judgment on pagan Rome.	God’s judgment on pagan Rome.	God’s judgment on pagan Rome.	Fall of pagan Rome.	Fall of the Roman Empire.	Attack of the Vandals against Rome.

X. 3rd Trumpet: Bitter Mixture

“And the third angel sounded, and there fell from heaven a great star, burning as a torch, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of the waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter” (Rev. 8:10-11).

- Rome gives way to the Medieval Church. The Church mixes Scripture and Tradition; faith and works; Christian and pagan practices.

Third	Attack of the Huns against Rome.	God's judgment against professed Christian church.	God's judgment against professed Christian church.	God's judgment against professed Christian church.	Apostasy of the Christian church.	Apostasy of the Christian church.	Attack of the Huns against Rome.
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XI. 4th Trumpet

“And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; that the third part of them should be darkened, and the day should not shine for the third part of it, and the night in like manner. And I saw, and I heard an eagle, flying in mid heaven, saying with a great voice, Woe, woe, woe, for them that dwell on the earth, by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, who are yet to sound” (Rev. 8:12-13).

- Much Darkness: Medieval Church period (Middle Ages) where the Bible / Truth was cast to the ground.
- Third part – partial judgments to hold this power in check.

Fourth	Fall of Western Rome.	Darkness of the Middle Ages.	Darkness of the Middle Ages.	Darkness of the Middle Ages.	Darkness of the Middle Ages.	Rise of secular-atheism (Rev. 11:7).	Collapse of Western Rome and its system of worship.
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XI. 5th Trumpet

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven fallen unto the earth: and there was given to him the key of the pit of the abyss. And he opened the pit of the abyss; and there went up a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. . . And it was said unto them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only such men as have not the seal of God on their foreheads. And it was given them that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when it striketh a man. . .

And in those days men shall seek death, and shall in no wise find it; and they shall desire to die, and death fleeth from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared for war; and upon their heads as it were crowns like unto gold, and their faces were as men's faces. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as *the teeth of lions*. . . And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to war. And they have tails like unto scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men five months. They have over them as king the angel of the abyss: his name

in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek *tongue he hath the name Apollyon*. The first Woe is past: behold, there come yet two Woes hereafter” (**Revelation 9:1-11**).

A. 7 Trumpets Cover from Christ to end with focus on Medieval

- 5 Months
- Day for a year = 150 years.
- “As”, “like” = these beings are like locusts. Emphasis on **Warfare**.
- What group did God use to hold back the persecution during the Medieval times? What power went against the Medieval Church?
- Islam.
- We will find later that He will do so again at the end of time.

B. Other Possible Interpretations:

Fifth	Rise of Islam. (5 months period; 1299 + 150 = 1449.)	Rise and progress of Islam. (5 months period; 1299 + 150 = 1449.)	Satan’s attack on the Reformation by the Counter-Reformation. (5 months = 150 years; 1535–1685.)	Rise and progress of Islam. (5 months = 150 years; first Muslim attack on Constantinople in 674 to the last in 823 [only 149 years].)	Crusades during the Middle Ages. (5 months = 150 years; 1099–1249; from the capture of Jerusalem to the beginning of the last crusade.)	Reign of secular-atheism. (5 months = God’s judgments are comprehensive but limited; cf. Gen. 7:24; 8:3.)	Rise of Islam against apostate Christianity. (5 months = 150 years; 632–782; first Islamic expansionist wave.)
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XII. 6th Trumpet

“And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the horns of the golden altar which is before God, one saying to the sixth angel that had one trumpet, Loose the four angels that are bound at the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, that had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, that they should kill the third part of men. . . And the number of the armies of the horsemen was twice ten thousand times ten thousand: I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates *as of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone: and the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and brimstone*. . . By these three plagues was the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths. For the power of the horses is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails are like unto serpents, and have heads; and with them they hurt. And the rest of mankind, who were not killed with these plagues, repented not of the works of their hands, that they . . . should not worship demons, and the idols of gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood; which can neither see, nor hear, nor walk: and they repented not of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (**Rev. 9:13-21**).

A. Allusions

1. “plagues” – alludes to plagues in Egypt or 7 Last Plagues in Revelation.

2. “gold, and of silver, and of brass, and of stone, and of wood”. This is a direct quotation from **Daniel 5**: the Fall of Babylon. We will have to spend a whole subject on this one but for now realize: it happens right before Jesus comes & involves worship!

B. Interpretation: Rise of End time Babylon. Though other possibilities have been proposed:

Sixth	Ottoman Empire. (1 day, 1 month, 1 year = 391 years; 1449–1840.)	Ottoman Empire. (391 years; 1449–1840.)	Time of final crisis; from 18th century to close of probation.	Ottoman Empire. (391 years; 1453, fall of Byzantine Empire to 1844.)	Ottoman Empire. (391 years; 1453–1844, when the edict of toleration was issued.)	Rise of end-time Babylon. The final crisis described in 7:1–3 and Rev. 13–16. (1 hour, 1 day, 1 month, refers to a divine appointed moment of time.)	Ottoman Empire. (391 years; 1453–1844, when the edict of toleration was issued.)
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XIII. 7th Trumpet

“but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then is finished the mystery of God, according to the good tidings which he declared to his servants the prophets” (**Rev. 10:7**).

- Mystery of God – Paul it is the Gospel (1 Cor. 2:7)
- To Jesus, the Gospel going to the world brings about the END (Matt. 24).
- Good tidings = good news.
- The 7th Trumpet sounds AFTER the good news has gone to the whole world and EVERYONE has had the opportunity to choose.
- We will find that this is where we are at in the Trumpets today: The 7th is about to Sound!

7 Trumpets Cover From Christ to end with focus on Medieval		
Ephesus / Apostolic	White Horse	1 st Trumpet – 1 st Cent
Smyrna / Persecution	Red Horse	2 nd Trumpet – Rome
Pergamum / Union	Black Horse	3 rd – Papal Rome
Thyatira / Medieval	Pale Horse	4 th – Papal Rome
Thyatira / Reformation		5 th – Islam
Sardis / Orthodoxy		6 th – Babylon Judged
Philadelphia / Mission	Persecution	7 th - 2 nd Coming
Laodica / Infidelity	/Tribulation / Signs of End	
(Paulien)		

XIV. Conclusion

- 7 Trumpets Cover from the time of Christ to the end with a focus on Medieval Times.
- Jesus is calling us back to worship Him!
- He is also warning the nations of coming judgments.
- While telling His Church it is TIME to engage in spiritual battle!
- Will we be ready?

ⁱ Angel Manuel Rodriguez, *Ministry International Journal For Pastors* (January, 2012).