

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 34

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

PROPHETIC REVIEW, PART 1 STUDY GUIDE

THE FIRST & SECOND TRUMPET

The trumpets are often regarded as the most difficult part of Revelation to understand. This is mainly due to a lack of consistency of using sound interpretational principles. If we are consistent in our principles, we will not get off track, and will find that the trumpets make good sense.

As we have studied, the seven churches cover the various historic seasons in the church from the time of Christ to the New Earth. Using the principle of “repeat and enlarge,” we discovered that the seven seals covered and added more detail to that same ground.

If we apply the same concept, we will discover that the seven trumpets again go back to the time of Christ and extend to the end of time. They will introduce some new content, as well.

The book of Revelation is built on four cycles of seven. There are the seven churches, seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven vials, which deal with God’s final judgments on the world.

As we discovered earlier, the seven churches and seven seals each begin with a focus on one aspect of the plan of salvation. For example, Christ is pictured among the churches, which represent His incarnation among us. In the seals, Christ is pictured as a Lamb slain, which represents His death on the cross. In the trumpets, Christ is represented as mingling His righteous incense with the prayers of the saints, which represents His work of mediation. His incarnation, death, and mediation are all depicted in the first three prophetic cycles of Revelation. This book is all about Jesus: the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Each depiction is of Christ in the holy place:

among the candlesticks, table of showbread, and the golden altar. This confirms that these prophetic cycles began when Jesus ascended to heaven and began His work in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary (Hebrews 8:1, 2; 9:12).

First Trumpet—Fall of Jerusalem

We know that if we stick to our principles of interpretation, we can go back to the time of Christ for the beginning of the seven trumpets.



“And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.” **REVELATION 8:5**

We also know from previous studies that trees signify leaders of peoples, and that grass signifies populations in general. In the Old Testament, hail and fire fell as a judgment on Egypt, who refused to humble themselves before the Lord. As the Jewish leaders refused to accept the Messiah, judgment fell on them. Under Titus, the Romans came and destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

The prophecy of Jesus concerning Jerusalem in Matthew 24, came true and the leaders and many people were killed. That was the first trumpet. Now the second trumpet:

Revelation 8:8—“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.”

Second Trumpet—Paganism/Pagan Rome

Let’s follow the same outline with this second trumpet that we did with the first. We will identify the symbols and then summarize the message:

Mountain = Kingdom

“...and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:35).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 8:2 JESUS MINISTER OF TRUE TABERNACLE

Genesis 9:6 CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Hebrews 9:12 CHRIST’S BLOOD REDEEMS US

Daniel 2:29 JESUS REVEALS SECRETS

Burning Mountain = Judgment on a Government/Kingdom

“Behold, I *am* against thee, **O destroying mountain**, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a **burnt mountain**” (Jeremiah 51:25).

Fire = Judgment (see previous definition)

Sea = Peoples, Nations, Multitudes and Tongues

“And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues” (Revelation 17:15).

So, the sea represents the peoples, nations, and tongues of Europe.

Pagan Rome Divided up into Europe = Daniel 7:24

Blood = Death

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man” (Genesis 9:6).

“And the LORD shall return his blood upon his own head...” (1 Kings 2:32).

“And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy” (Ezekiel 16:38).

Here is an interesting verse where Jesus identifies a tree and a mountain, representing the difficulties that the early church would face. Both the fig tree and the mountain, as symbols of the Jewish nation and the nation of imperial Rome, were

indeed the two formidable powers facing the early church. Both were overcome as symbolized.

Summary verse:

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the **fig tree** [symbol of Jewish nation], but also if ye shall say unto **this mountain** [symbol of Pagan Rome], Be thou removed, and be thou **cast into the sea**; it shall be done” (Matthew 21:21). The Jews and the Romans were the two powers persecuting God’s people when Jesus spoke these words.

SYMBOLS IDENTIFIED:

- Mountain = Kingdom
- Great = Long, Old, Violent, Strong, Against God
- Burning with fire = Consume
- Cast = Scatter, Throw
- Sea = Peoples, Nations
- Third part = Deceived
- Blood = Death

Summary—Pagan Rome (great mountain) died (blood) not by being conquered by another single power or nation, but was destroyed (burned with fire) by being swallowed up by (cast into seas) the various peoples, nations, tongues, and multitudes of Europe. ★