

The 7 Retributive Judgment Trumpets of Revelation, III

Review

1. The blowing of the 1st trumpet brought about the fall of the Jewish nation in 70 AD in the hands of the Roman armies;
2. The blowing of the 2nd trumpet brought about the dissolution of the Roman empire in the west in 476 AD as a result of the Barbarian invasions;
3. The blowing of the 3rd brought about the rise of the Papal authority in the church; parallel with the timeframe of the church of Pergamos and the 3rd seal (rider of a black horse with pair of balances in his hand)
4. The 4th trumpet ushered in the Dark Ages; parallel with the church of Thyatira and the 4th seal (rider of a pale horse having the name of Death)
5. The 5th and the 6th trumpets deal with the punitive judgments poured upon the Christianized Roman empire in the east in the hands of the Mohammedans;
 - a. **The 5th trumpet**—Constantinople is besieged by the Moslem Turks, but not conquered, for 5 prophetic months (150 years)
 - b. **The 6th trumpet**—Eastern Rome subjugated by Moslems for a prophetic hour, day, month and year (391 years and 15 days) after Constantinople falls
6. **Rev 8:13**—the 5th, 6th and 7th trumpets are identified by an angel flying in the midst of heaven as woe trumpets to plague exclusively only “the inhabitants of the earth”
 - a. In the 5th trumpet, God’s true church (the trees and the grass) is not affected by the plague of locusts

The Fifth Trumpet--Collapse of the Roman Empire in the East

7. **Rev 9:1-12**-The Mohammedan Turks who have risen to power in the Seventh century--- whose armies are depicted as locusts with tails like scorpions and whose shape are like horses; these are used by God to inflict damage on the corrupt Roman empire and church in the east, based in Constantinople;
 - a. **Locust invasion**—invading armies (**Nahum 3:15-17; Judg 7:12**)

- b. **Abaddon**—a king over them named Abbadon in Hebrew and Apollyon in the Greek, meaning Destroyer; a reference to Othman’s whose name meant “bone breaker”, founder of the Turkish Caliphate or the Ottoman empire;
- c. **Grass and trees**—symbol of God’s people (**Isa 44:4; Isa 61:3; Isa 65:22**)
- d. **Seal of God**—The Sabbath **Ezek 20:12, 20**
- a. **Five months**—or 150 literal years; the battle for Constantinople began July 27, 1299 when the Mohammedans attacked Nicomedia; after the death of John Paleologus, ruler of the Graeco-Roman empire in the East in Oct 31, 1448, two of the deceased king’s brothers, Demetrius and Constantine XI became rival contenders for the throne; To secure the powerful support of Turkey, an embassy was sent to the Sultan, Murad II; with his consent, the crown was placed on the head of Constantine XI in Jan 6, 1449; Constantine XI was to be the last ruler of the dying Roman empire of the east, meeting his death in 1453 when the Moslems conquered Constantinople; the independence of the empire had been virtually surrendered to the Moslems when the sultan was approached for this support for placing Constantine XI upon the imperial throne in 1449; from 1299 to 1449 is exactly 150 years

“The fifth trumpet presents the rise of Mohammedans with its cloud of errors, but especially the period of ‘five months or one hundred fifty literal years from the time they had a king over them. July 27, 1299, Othman, the founder of the Ottoman empire, invaded the territory of Nicomedia. From that time, the Ottomans harassed and tormented the Eastern empire of Rome till 1449, the one hundred fifty years of the sounding of the fifth trumpet.” –**J. N. Loughborough, The Great Second Advent Movement, p. 128.**

The Sixth Trumpet—Subjugation of Eastern Rome in the East for 391 Years

- 8. **Rev 9:13-20—A voice from the 4 horns of the golden altar commands that the 4 angels bound by the river Euphrates be loosed for an hour, a day, a month and a year (391 years and 15 literal days)**
 - a. **Loose the four angels**---The four principal sultanates of the Moslem empire (*Ottoman Empire*) were located in countries watered by the Euphrates River. These Sultanates were at **Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus, and Baghdad.**
 - b. **“an hour, a day, a month and a year”**--Previously God had restrained them (for 5 prophetic months), but now God gives the command to loose them! The year 1449 ended the first woe trumpet and now the second woe trumpet begins. God gave the Ottoman Empire 391 years to kill or subdue a third of the apostate Christian world; this period ended on **August 11, 1840** when the Ottoman Empire in Constantinople signed an agreement giving up their right of control to the Christian countries of Europe and placing itself under the protection of the 4 reigning European powers at that time: Russia, Prussia, Germany and England
- 9. Josiah Litch, a Millerite preacher, predicted in 1840, that the Ottoman empire would fall at the end of the “hour, day, month, year” prophetic timeline; his predictions, given just a few days before its actual occurrence, gave great impetus to the preaching of the second advent message by the Millerites;

In the year 1840 another remarkable fulfillment of prophecy excited widespread interest. Two years before, Josiah Litch, one of the leading ministers preaching the second advent, published an exposition of Revelation 9, predicting the fall of the Ottoman Empire. According to his calculations, this power was to be overthrown “in A.D. 1840, sometime in the month of August;” and only a few days previous to its accomplishment he wrote: “Allowing the first period, 150 years, to have been exactly fulfilled before Deacozes ascended the throne by permission of the Turks, and that the 391 years, fifteen days, commenced at the close of the first period, **it will end on the 11th of August, 1840, when the Ottoman power in Constantinople may be expected to be broken. And this, I believe, will be found to be the case.**”—Josiah Litch, in Signs of the Times, and Expositor of Prophecy, August 1, 1840.

At the very time specified, Turkey, through her ambassadors, accepted the protection of the allied powers of Europe, and thus placed herself under the control of Christian nations. The event exactly fulfilled the prediction. (See Appendix.) When it became known, multitudes were convinced of the correctness of the principles of prophetic interpretation adopted by Miller and his associates, and a wonderful impetus was given to the advent movement. Men of learning and position united with Miller, both in preaching and in publishing his views, and from 1840 to 1844 the work rapidly extended. **GC 334-335.**

10. How Josiah Litch arrived at the August 11, 1840 date:

- **July 27, 1299**—the date of the Battle of Bapheum¹; the beginning of the 5 prophetic months of torment of the Graeco-Roman Empire based in Constantinople by the Moslem Turks;
- **July 27, 1449**—adding 150 years from that date brought Litch to July 27, 1449; this was the year Constantine XI was crowned emperor in the East, with permission from the Turkish sultan;
- **July 27, 1840**—further adding 391 literal years, (prophetic “day, month and year”) brought him to July 27, 1840;
- **August 11, 1840**— adding 15 days (prophetic hour) to July 27, 1840 brought Litch to August 11, 1840; The Ottoman Empire concedes to the European powers and signs an agreement to end wars and persecution of Christians;

11. At the end of the blowing of the 6th trumpet, an angel announces that two woes are past, the third one (the 7th trumpet) cometh quickly;

12. **Question:** Why did Daniel not prophesy about the rise of Islam when it occupies great prominence in the 7 trumpets of Revelation? Why did Daniel not include Turkey in his list of empires that will come in the global stage of action (Egypt, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome)?

- a. No mention of Islamic Turkish empire in the prophetic delineation of kingdoms that will arise in **Daniel 2**;

¹ Bapheus was the first major victory for the Ottoman Turks, and of major significance for its future expansion: the Byzantines effectively lost control of the countryside of Bithynia, withdrawing to their forts, which, isolated, fell one by one. The Byzantine defeat also sparked a mass exodus of the Christian population from the area into the European parts of the empire, further altering the region’s demographic balance. Coupled with the defeat at Magnesia, which allowed the Turks to reach and establish themselves on the coasts of the Aegean Sea, Bapheus thus heralded the final loss of Asia Minor for Byzantium.

- b. No mention of Islamic Turkish empire in the prophetic delineation of kingdoms that will arise in **Daniel 7**;
 - c. No mention of Islamic Turkish empire in the prophetic delineation of kingdoms that will arise in **Daniel 8-9**;
 - d. No mention of Islamic Turkish empire in the prophetic delineation of kingdoms that will arise in **Daniel 11**;
13. The answer lies in the fact that the kingdoms that Daniel are included in his list are only those world-class empires that would directly scatter the power of the holy people (Israel); the Moslem power was an agency used by God to punish the enemies of God's people; in fact, the Moslem surge in the east kept the Papacy in the west occupied with the crusades that Protestantism grew unhampered;
- a. **Rev 8:13**—the woe trumpets only target the “**inhibitors of the earth**”(or “dwellers of the earth”)—an expression used consistently in the Bible to identify the wicked
 - b. The dwellers of the earth
 - i. Worship the beast whose names are not in the book of life (**Rev 13:8**)
 - ii. Worship the beast whose deadly wound was healed (**Rev 13:12**)
 - iii. Are deceived by the means of the those miracles which he had power in the sight of beast to do (**Rev 13:14**)
 - iv. Shall wonder after the beast whose names are not written in the book life (**Rev 17:8**)
 - c. **Rev 9:4**—speaking of the 4th trumpet. . .And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
 - i. **The trees and the grass**—symbol used for God's people “who have seal of God in their foreheads”, i.e. commandment keepers, Sabbathkeepers
14. This prohibition reflects the policy of the Arab conquerors not to destroy property wantonly or to kill Christians and Jews so long as they pay tribute; concerning another class, Abu-bakr, Mohammed's successor, is recorded to have said to his soldiers:

“you will find another sort of people who belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls and give them no quarter, till they either turn Mohametans or pay tribute”—**The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, J. B. Bury, vol 5., p. 416.**

The Seventh Trumpet: Collapse of All Worldly Kingdoms

15. Rev 11:15—the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ;

16. Remember: the seventh trumpet is not blown until **Rev 11:15**; the 7th trumpet does not commence blowing in **Rev 10:7** as many believe; the 7th trumpet is “about” to blow in **Rev 10:7**, but does not actually start blowing until **Rev 11:15!**²

²² See Study **MDS-44 “The 7 Retributive Judgment Trumpets of Revelation I”** for the arguments supporting this view.

17. When the 7th Trumpet blows, 7 events are noted to take place when human probation is already closed:

- a. **The kingdoms of this world become Christ's (Rev 11:15)**— the kingdoms of this world that are brought to view in the blowing of the 7th trumpet are the kingdoms that unite under the papacy after its wound has healed to persecute God's commandment keeping people (**Rev 17:12-14**); at this time, all opposition to the kingdom of Christ are crushed; **Dan 7:14**—Jesus goes to the Ancient of Days to receive a kingdom; this kingdom He does not receive until the end of His work as Mediator

Not now "upon the throne of His glory;" the kingdom of glory has not yet been ushered in. **Not until His work as a mediator shall be ended will God "give unto Him the throne of His father David," a kingdom of which "there shall be no end."** Luke 1:32, 33. **GC 416**

"And, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away." Daniel 7:13, 14. The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory **and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. GC 479-480**

- b. **Work of mediation finished (Rev 11:16-17)**-- the 24 elders are no longer described as having censers full of odours which are the prayers of the saints; the prayer of the 24 elders in Rev 5:8 is realized or fulfilled in the blowing of the 7th trumpet---"Thou hast taken unto thee great power and **hast reigned**"
- c. **The nations are angry (Rev 11:18)**--General time of trouble among nations when restraint is finally removed (**Dan 12:1**);
- d. **Thy wrath is come (Rev 11:18)**---Descriptive of the 7 last plagues which are poured out after the close of human probation (**Rev 15:1, 7**);
- e. **Time of the dead that they should be judged (Rev 11:18)**---a reference to the general judgment at the second coming of Jesus (**John 5:28-29**)
- f. **Thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants (Rev 11:18)**—saints receive their rewards at the second coming of Jesus (**Rev 22:12; Matt 25:31-40**)
- g. **Thou Shouldest destroy them that "destroy" (or "corrupt", same root word in the Greek) the earth (Rev 11:18)**—general slaughter of the wicked at the second coming of Jesus (**Rev 19:2**);

"... Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the most holy place until every case was decided either for salvation or destruction, and that the wrath of God could not come until Jesus had finished His work in the most holy place, laid off His priestly attire, and clothed Himself with the garments of vengeance. Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silence no longer, but

pour out His wrath on those who have rejected His truth. **I saw that the anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead were separate and distinct, one following the other, also that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. The nations are now getting angry, but when our High Priest has finished His work in the sanctuary, He will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the seven last plagues will be poured out. EW 36.**

1. Notice how Ellen White associates the “anger of the nations, the wrath of God and the time to judge the dead” of **Rev 11:18** with the close of human probation and the time of trouble

Did the 7th Trumpet Begin Blowing in Rev 10:7?

18. Why do many of us date the beginning of the sounding of the 7th trumpet in 1844?

“Seventh-day Adventists date its beginning in 1844.”—**The SDA Bible Commentary, Vol 7, p. 804.**

“John sees the temple in heaven and very particularly “the ark of his testament. This indicates that the second and last division of Christ’s heavenly ministry answering to the typical Day of Atonement has opened. Other Scriptures reveal that this final phase of Christ’s work began in 1844. Accordingly, Seventh-day Adventist place the beginning of the Seventh- trumpet in that year.” **SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 806.**

19. Understanding that **Rev 10:7** is speaking of the beginning of the sounding of the 7th trumpet, and further noting that **Rev 11:19** is a reference to the change of ministration of Jesus in 1844, many conclude that the 7th trumpet began sounding in the year 1844;
20. Looking at the Greek of **Rev 10:7** however, shows that the 7th trumpet does not begin sounding in **Rev 10:7**, but rather, notes the time when that trumpet is **about** to sound:
 - a. “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel when he shall **begin** (*mello*) to sound” vs about to sound which is more faithful translation of the Greek “*mello*”
 - b. **Rev 10:4**—I was about (*mello*) to write. . .
 - c. **Rev 8:13**—by reason of the other voices of the trumpets of the three angels, which are about (*mello*) to sound
 - d. **Rev 3:16**—I am about (*mello*) to spew you out of my mouth
21. John is clearly making a distinction between the time of the actual sounding of the 7th trumpet (in **Rev 11:15**) and the time when it is about to be sounded (**Rev 10:7**):
 - a. The events to transpire when the 7th trumpet is about to be sounded are not close of probation events, but rather events that will occur just before Jesus leaves the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary and probation closes:
 - i. The finishing of the mystery of God (**Rev 10:7**)—the final gathering in of the Gentiles
 - ii. The must prophecy again (**Rev 10:11**)—the final proclamation
 - iii. The measuring of the temple, the altar and the worshippers (**Rev 11:1**)—the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary and the blotting out of sin

22. It is extremely important for God's people today to understand the meaning and timing of these events because these events pertain to their eternal destiny and because these events are being fulfilled at this very time. . .