

END TIMES & THE RETURN OF CHRIST (PART 3)

Sunday, March 24, 2019

Trumpet Judgments

- Trumpet 1: Hail mixed with fire and blood – One-third of surface vegetation burned up (Rev. 8:7)
- Trumpet 2: Something “like a huge mountain, all ablaze” – One-third of oceans contaminated (Rev. 8:8-9)
- Trumpet 3: Star blazing “like a torch ...Wormwood” – One-third of fresh water contaminated (Rev. 8:10-11)
- Trumpet 4: One-third of celestial lights obscured by darkness (Rev. 8:12)
- Trumpet 5—Demonic torment like a scorpion sting for 5 months – The First Woe (Rev. 9:1-12)
- Trumpet 6—200,000,000 mounted troops (battle machines?); one-third of earth’s population is killed – The Second Woe (Rev. 9:13-21; see Dan. 11:40; 12:1)

Scene in Heaven Prior to 7th Trumpet – The Little Scroll (Rev. 10)

Snapshot: The Two Witnesses (Rev. 11:1-13)

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” (Rev. 11:1-3)

Their ministry of 42 months or 1260 days (11:2-3), or 3½ years, corresponds with the last half of the week (Rev. 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7).

- Enoch & Elijah (Gen. 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11; Jude vv. 14-15)
- Moses & Elijah (Matt. 17:3; see mystery of Moses’s death: Deut. 34:6, Jude v. 9).

The 70th Seven: The Second Half

1. Antichrist (1 John 2:18)—the ruler who will come (Dan. 9:26), also known as the man of lawlessness (2 Thess. 2:3) —will set himself up as God in the temple (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; cf. Dan. 11:31).

¹⁵“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— ¹⁶then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.¹⁷ Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. ¹⁸Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁹How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ²⁰Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. ²²If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.” (Matt. 24:15-22).

2. Satan is cast out of the heavenly places and restricted to earth (Rev. 12:9).
3. An angel proclaims the gospel to every nation, tribe, language, and people in the world (Rev. 14:6-7)
4. A Beast will arise — a world superpower with Antichrist as the head (Rev. 13) —who will speak blasphemies against God and war against God’s people for 42 months (3½ years) (Rev. 13:5). A second leader (known in Rev. 19:20 as the *False Prophet*) will perform miraculous signs on his behalf (Rev. 13:13). He will cause everyone to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads without which no one can buy or sell (Rev. 13:17). An angel proclaims to the world that anyone who receives this mark will be condemned for all eternity (Rev. 14:9-10).
5. The beast and the false prophet will overthrow Babylon the Great (Rev. 14:8; Rev. 17:16-17), an apostate religious system that exists during the first half of the tribulation (Rev. 17-18).

Allegorical Character Studies: Israel, Satan, Christ

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. ⁴Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.⁶ The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. (Rev. 12:1-6)

Allegorical Character Studies: The Beast

Daniel's Vision of the Beast

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

²Daniel said: “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. ³Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

⁴“The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it. ⁵“And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, ‘Get up and eat your fill of flesh!’ ⁶“After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

⁷“After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

⁸“While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

⁹“As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

¹⁰A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

¹¹“Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. ¹²(The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

¹³“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language

worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Dan. 7:1-14).

The Vision Interpreted

1. The four beasts are four kings (i.e., kingdoms) (Dan. 7:17).

A lion with the wings of an eagle...

Babylon

A bear...

Medo-Persian

A leopard with four wings and four heads...

Greece

A beast with iron teeth (Dan. 7:23ff.)

Rome, different than the other kingdoms, will devour the whole earth.

2. The ten horns are ten kings which will arise from the fourth kingdom (Dan. 7:24).

²⁴The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.

3. After the ten kings, another will arise which will be different than the others, and in his bid for power he will subdue three kings (Dan. 7:24).

²⁴After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. ²⁵He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.

²⁶“But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. ²⁷Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.” (Dan. 7:25-27).

John's Vision of the Beast

¹The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. ²The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority. ³One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast. ⁴People worshiped the

dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

⁵The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. ⁶It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. ⁷It was given power to wage war against God’s holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. ⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. (Rev. 13:1-8).

The Vision Interpreted

1. The ten horns are ten kings (or kingdoms) which do not have authority at the time of John's vision, but will share authority with the beast in a future time (Rev. 13:1; 17:12).
2. The seven heads are seven successive kingdoms; five of these had already ended at the time of the vision (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece), one was still in existence (Rome), and one was yet to come (the Antichrist’s kingdom, Rev. 13:1; 17:10).
3. The beast is a kingdom that exists, then does not, then does again (17:8). This beast is identified not only as a kingdom, but as an eighth ruler (17:11), who appears to arise after one of the rulers receives a fatal wound (13:3).
4. The beast and the ten kingdoms will destroy the harlot halfway into seventieth week (17:16), at the same point the beast is worshipped (13:4) and has achieved worldwide power (13:7).

Antichrist

The term Antichrist appears only in John's epistles (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3 and 2 John 7). A more accurate name for the future world ruler is the Beast (Rev. 13:1; 19:20).

The primary Scriptures discussing the Beast are Ezekiel 28:1-10; Daniel 7:7-8, 2026; 8:23-25; 9:26-27; 11:36-45; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; Revelation 13:1-10; 17:8-14.

The following briefly summarizes his person and his work.

1. The Beast will not appear until the Day of the Lord—the coming Tribulation—has begun (2 Thess. 2:2).
2. He is a Gentile, since he arises from the sea (Rev. 13:1), and the sea represents the Gentile nations (Rev. 17:15).
3. He arises from the Roman empire as its head, since he is ruler over those who destroyed Jerusalem (Dan. 9:26). His rise comes through his program of peace (Dan. 8:25), and he makes a covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27) which initiates the final seven years before Christ's return.
4. Half way through the Tribulation—three and a half years later—he breaks the covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27), and becomes utterly controlled and empowered by Satan (Ezek. 28:9-12; Rev. 13:4).
5. He is the world ruler at this point (Rev. 13:8), having eliminated three other rulers in his rise to power (Dan. 7:8, 24) and made alliances with other nations (Dan. 8:24; Rev. 17:12).
6. There will come an alliance against him which will contest his authority (Ezek. 28:7; Dan. 11:40, 42). After this conflict he will gain control over Palestine (Dan. 11:42) and will make his headquarters in Jerusalem.
7. He introduces an idolatrous worship (Dan. 9:27) in which he sets himself up as god (Dan. 11:36-37; Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:5).
8. With the help of the false prophet, he forces everyone to take a mark which controls their ability to buy and sell (Rev. 13:16-18). Those who receive the mark are doomed (14:9-10).
9. During the Tribulation he is the adversary of Christ and His followers who are still on the earth (Dan. 8:24-25; Rev. 13:7).
10. His rule is finally terminated by the decree of God (Ezek. 28:6; Dan. 7:22, 26; 8:25; 9:27; 11:45; Rev. 19:19-20) as part of a military campaign in Palestine (Ezek. 28:8-9; Rev. 19:19) and he will be cast into the Lake of Fire for all eternity (Rev. 19:20).

