## Christ & His Bride

Lesson #14

Trumpets & Woes

May 7, 2025

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus the Savior on earth. Much of the rest of the New Testament teaches how to live in this age in light of Jesus' work on our behalf. The prophecies of the Bible, particularly in Daniel and Revelation but also elsewhere, show what Jesus as Savior is saving us to [His Eternal Paradise] and what He is saving us from [eternal damnation in hell].

One of the strongest pieces of evidence of the divinely inspired Word of God is <u>Fulfilled Prophecy</u>. Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible.

About 2,000 have already been fulfilled to the letter—no errors.

109 prophecies about Christ were fulfilled during His first coming: Jesus being born as a human, living a perfect life, and dying on the cross for the sins of humanity, offering salvation. A large number, 224, are yet to be fulfilled, primarily associated with His Second Coming:

a future event where Jesus will return as the exalted King of the universe, establish His kingdom, bring about final judgment and reward the righteous.

- 36 of the 46 OT prophets, prophesy about Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
- NT frequently mentions His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Jesus refers to it over 50 times.
- The New Testament specifically mentions His return in 7 out of every 10 chapters, emphasizing the importance of this event.

<u>Rev. 3:10</u> The 7-year tribulation period will affect the whole world. This period is God's wrath & the wrath of the Lamb on the earth dwellers and the nation of Israel.

<u>Rev. 8:1-6</u> The 7<sup>th</sup> seal introduces the Seven Trumpet Judgments.

Prepare for an even worse period called the "Day of His Wrath."

<u>Seal #7 Rev. 8:1</u> And when he had opened the <u>seventh seal</u>, there was <u>silence in heaven</u> about the space of half an hour. [It's as if all of heaven is holding its breath before the pouring out of another series of terrible judgments.]

> The judgments that lead up to the close of the tribulation are now visible in the scroll and are so severe that a solemn silence falls upon all of heaven.

In the Jewish temple, musical instruments and singing resounded during the whole time of the offering of the sacrifices, which formed the first part of the service.

> But at the offering of incense, solemn silence was kept.

Scripture reveals a pattern of silence associated with the recognition of God's holiness and righteous judgment [Ps. 76:8-9; Hab. 2:20; Zec. 2:13].

Zephaniah revealed that silence would attend the Day of the Lord in response to

> the solemn occasion where He will prepare a sacrifice and invite His guests <u>Zeph. 1:2-7</u> "I will destroy everything from the face of the earth," says the Lord. <sup>3</sup> "I will destroy people and animala: I will destroy the binds in the slow and the fish in the slow and the slow and the slow and the fish in the slow and the fish in the slow and the fish in the slow and the slow and the slow and the fish in the slow and the slow and

 $^{3}$  "I will destroy people and animals; I will destroy the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea.

The idolatrous images of these creatures will be destroyed along with evil people.

I will remove humanity from the face of the earth," says the Lord.

<sup>4</sup> "I will attack Judah and all who live in Jerusalem. I will remove from this place every trace of

Baal worship, as well as the very memory of the pagan priests.
<sup>5</sup> I will remove those who worship the stars in the sky from their rooftops, those who swear allegiance to the Lord while taking oaths in the name of their 'king,'
<sup>6</sup> and those who turn their backs on the Lord and do not want the Lord's help or guidance."
<sup>7</sup> <u>Be silent before the Sovereign Lord</u>, for the Lord's Day of judgment is almost here. The Lord has prepared a sacrificial meal; he has ritually purified his guests.

Zeph. 1:14-18 The Lord's great day of judgment is almost here; it is approaching very rapidly! There will be a bitter sound on the Lord's Day of Judgment; at that time warriors will cry out in battle. <sup>15</sup> That day will be a day of God's anger, a day of distress and hardship, a day of devastation and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dark skies, <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet blasts and battle cries. Judgment will fall on the fortified cities and the high corner towers. <sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on the people and they will stumble like blind men, for they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dirt; their flesh will be scattered like manure. <sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's angry judgment. The whole earth will be consumed by his fiery wrath. Indeed, He will bring terrifying destruction <u>on all who live on the earth</u>.

Zeph. 1:7 Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the Lord's Day of judgment is almost here.

The Lord has prepared a sacrificial meal; he has ritually purified his guests. The sacrifice will consist of the men who oppose God.

The guests are the birds of heaven who will feast upon them.

<u>Rev. 19:17-18</u> Then I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he shouted in a loud voice to all the birds flying high in the sky: "Come, gather around for the great banquet of God, <sup>18</sup> to eat your fill of the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of powerful people, the flesh of horses and those who ride them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, and small and great!"

<u>Seal #7 Rev. 8:1</u> And when he had opened the <u>seventh seal</u>, there was <u>silence in heaven</u> about the space of half an hour. It is the silence of foreboding, of intense expectation, of awe at what God is about to do.

Like the "lull before the storm" > God's intensified judgments are about to be hurled to the earth. Expectation and suspense can be so intense that one dares not breathe.

<u>Rev. 8:2</u> And I saw the 7 angels which stood before God; and to them were given 7 trumpets. <u>Rev. 8:3-4</u> Another angel stands before the heavenly altar and holds a golden censer.

More incense is added representing the additional prayers of the Tribulation saints.

<u>Rev. 8:5-6</u> 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. And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

<u>Side Note</u>: The trumpet judgments are divided into two groups: Trumpets 1-4 affect the natural systems [Rev. 8:7-12+].Trumpets 5-7 affect men [Rev. 9:1+, 13+; 11:15+]. The order of these first four trumpet-judgments is the same as that of the bowls of wrath in Rev 16. (1) Earth (2) Sea (3) Rivers and fountains of waters; (4) The Sun.

<u>Trumpet #1 Rev. 8:7</u> The 1<sup>st</sup> trumpet judgment results in one-third of the earth, one-third of all trees and <u>all the green grass</u> being burned up by <u>hail, fire, and blood</u> cast upon the earth. <u>Desolation of Earth</u>: 1/3 of the earth is burned up [Compare to 7<sup>th</sup> plague against Egypt.] In the seventh plague which God sent upon the Egyptians on behalf of Israel, God sent "hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation."

<u>Ex. 9:22-25</u> And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth thine hand toward heaven, that there may be <u>hail in all the land of Egypt</u>, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. <sup>23</sup> And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent <u>thunder and hail</u>, and the fire ran along upon the ground: and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup> So there was <u>hail</u>, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

<sup>25</sup> And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field and brake every tree of the field.

Hail sent by God in judgment is often of a great size inflicting severe damage. [Eze. 13:11; Hag. 2:17 <u>Joshua 10:11</u> And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Job 38:22-23 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?

or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,

<sup>23</sup>Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? Under the Law of Moses, the penalty for blasphemy and idolatry was stoning [Lev. 24:14-16; Deu. 13:6-10; 17:2-5]. During the Tribulation period, the earth dwellers continue in blasphemy and idolatry. Perhaps this explains why God stones them with large hailstone. In the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment [Rev. 16:21+], the hail weighs one talent - ranging between 75 to 88 pounds. The hail is drawn from God's "treasury of hail . . . reserved for the day of battle and war"

<u>All Green Grass:</u> Joel spoke of the locust-induced famine of his day.

He also speaks of the eschatological [future; endtime] Day of the Lord: Joel 1:15-20 How awful that day will be! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come as destruction from the Divine Destroyer. <sup>16</sup> Our food has been cut off right before our eyes!

There is no longer any joy or gladness in the temple of our God.

<sup>17</sup> The grains of seed have shriveled beneath their shovels. Storehouses have been decimated, and granaries have been torn down, because the grain has dried up.

<sup>18</sup> Listen to the cattle groan! The herds of livestock wander around in confusion because they have no pasture. Even the flocks of sheep are suffering. To you, O Lord, I call out for help for fire has burned up the pastures of the wilderness, flames have razed all the trees in the fields. <sup>20</sup> Even the wild animals cry out to you, for the riverbeds have dried up; fire has destroyed the pastures of the wilderness.

"Today protecting the environment has become far more than a concern for health and safety. It has become an issue of idolatry, as men worship "Mother Nature" by trying to protect and perpetuate the earth. Fallen mankind has failed to recognize and honor God as Creator, choosing instead to make a god out of the earth. But the environmental, evolutionary pantheism that devalues man, elevates animals and plants, and ignores the Creator will be severely judged. "Earth Day" that year will be a gloomy and dismal affair.

In a scorched and ravaged world there will be little of the environment left to celebrate."

<u>Trumpet #2 Rev. 8:8-9</u> And the <u>second angel</u> sounded, and <u>as it were</u> a <u>great mountain burning</u> <u>with fire</u> was cast into the sea [<u>Desolation in Seas</u>]: and the third part of the sea <u>became blood</u>;

<sup>9</sup> And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died;

and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Note: Ecological and economic disaster of unprecedented proportion

The first plague God brought upon Egypt: [Ex. 7:19; Ps. 78:44]

Aaron stretched forth his rod and all the waters of Egypt became blood. <u>Key:</u> A literal judgment is in view because the result affected living creatures and ships. <u>Ps. 105:29</u> He turned the Egyptians' water into blood and killed their fish. During the second bowl, all of the sea will become "blood as of a dead man" [Rev. 16:3+]. Like Moses, God's two witnesses will also have the power to turn water into blood [Rev. 11:6+]. In the third bowl judgment, the remainder of the rivers and springs of water which were not poisoned in the judgments of the third trumpet also become blood [Rev. 16:4+].

The price of sin will include the pangs of hunger, for not only will God ensure that the world's food supply is depleted, but He will also ensure that its meager reserves will not be bolstered, and then ensure that man's alternate food source, the sea, will be drastically depleted. God created the sea to be a blessing to mankind, to provide food, oxygen (much of Earth's oxygen comes from the phytoplankton and algae in the world's oceans), and water from the rainstorms on the land that is originally gathered up by evaporation from the oceans. But people have repaid God's gracious provision with ingratitude and idolatry, revering the sea as the supposed source of their remotest evolutionary ancestors.

As He had devastated the land environment, the true God judges the sea.

The destruction of the sea will cause tremendous upheaval to the food chain which supports all life on the planet. God's divine hand is systematically removing every means by which man can continue to imagine himself as independent of the one true God.

When Isaiah prophesied of this time, he mentioned that ships would be among those things which God destroyed as He brought down man's pride [Isa. 2:16].

<u>Matt. 3:12</u> His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear out His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat (believers) into His barn (kingdom), but He will burn up the chaff (the unrepentant) with unquenchable fire.

The earth dwellers get their first taste of God's judging fire which ultimately culminates in the Lake of Fire [Rev. 19:20+; 20:14-15+].

<u>Trumpet #3 Rev. 8:10-11</u> And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the <u>fountains of</u> <u>waters</u>; <sup>11</sup> And the name of the star is called <u>Wormwood</u>: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The emphasis is on water as a life-giving source. When men must exist without food or drink, it is lack of water which first leads to death. There is an intentional contrast between the experience of the earth dwellers who are dependent upon these water supplies and those in the previous chapter coming out of the Great Tribulation who are led by the Lamb to living fountains [pēgas] of waters. Though it is God who made these springs of water to maintain physical life [Rev. 14:7+], He now destroys them to demonstrate the dependence of all life upon Him. God is systematically setting about to remove all the props which allow the earth dwellers to imagine there is no God.

God describes idolatry as "a root bearing bitterness of wormwood." La'anah refers to a plant that produces an intensely bitter oil. The OT uses la'anah metaphorically for:

• idolatry [Deut. 29:18] an adulteress [Prov. 5:4] divine chastisement [Jer. 9:15].

<u>Deut. 29:18</u> Beware so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the [false] gods of these nations; so that there will not be among you a root [of idolatry] bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood [bitterness]. [Amplified]

The imagery of "a root that beareth gall and wormwood" is significant in understanding the consequences of turning away from God. The presence of such bitterness in the root implies that the consequences of turning away from God will be bitter and destructive.

Idolatry is a prevalent sin of the <u>earth dwellers</u> during this time of judgment. [Rev. 9:20+; Rev. 13:15-16+]. God judges their bitterness of *wormwood* by giving them *wormwood* to drink. This is the same judgment God gave Israel when she rejected Him and pursued false gods.

• Jer. 8:14; 9:14-16; 23:15

While Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, the Israelites, led by Aaron, made a golden calf and began worshipping it. This was a direct violation of the commandment against making idols. Upon seeing the calf, Moses was filled with anger. He broke the tablets containing the Ten Commandments, had the calf burned, ground into dust, and mixed with water and made the people drink it. Result: 3000 men died that day.

The act of making the Israelites drink the water mixed with the calf's ashes symbolizes the consequences of their sin and the need for repentance.

This is a powerful warning against idolatry and the dangers of turning away from God.

At the bitter waters of Marah, Moses cast a *tree* into the waters and made them sweet [Ex. 15:25). This pictured Messiah's work on the cross which provided living water [John 7:38-39]. In Revelation, worm*wood* turns the <u>earth dwellers'</u> water bitter. Since they would not avail themselves of the cross of Christ to obtain the living waters of Jesus [John 4:10], God gives them *wormwood* instead and poisonous waters which bring death rather than life. The psalmist sings, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" [119:103]. God crafted us in His image for the honey of His Word, not the wormwood of lies. Open your lips to taste how sweet his salvation and mercy are!

<u>Trumpet #4 Rev. 8:12</u> <u>Desolation in the Heavens</u>: 1/3 of the light of the sun, moon and stars is blocked out. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. Trumpets 1-3 affected 1/3 of land and waters. This trumpet judgment affects the entire world. Why? The sun is the very source of the earth's life and energy.

With 1/3 less sunlight on the earth, there will be much less energy available to support the life systems of man and nature.

Think of the vast changes in temperatures and how that will affect man and food growth. Isaiah prophesied the darkening of all three of these sources of light during the Day of the LORD: <u>Isa. 13:9-10</u> Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the <u>stars</u> of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the <u>sun</u> will be darkened in its going forth, and the <u>moon</u> will not cause its light to shine.

THEN, a remarkable messenger will appear in the sky, proclaiming 3 woes to the earth's inhabitants.

<u>Rev. 8:13</u> And I beheld and heard an eagle flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the <u>inhabiters of the earth</u> by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound! Hell is unleashed on earth.

Woe is an intense, painful exclamatory term of despair and resignation that speaks of no hope of survival. Woe means "grief, anguish, affliction." The three woes are judgments God pronounces on the evil inhabitants of the earth to spur them to repentance. [Rev. 9:20] The three woes are a time of great anguish and affliction for those who have pledged their allegiance to the <u>Antichrist</u> during the <u>end times</u>.

The 5th, 6th, and 7th trumpets are called the three woes. Three series of woes to follow:<br/>Rev. 9:1-12Rev. 9:13-19Rev. 11:15These judgments will have people, not objects of nature, as their direct objects. Even in<br/>the face of "hell on earth," the <u>earth dwellers</u> continue in their ways and refuse to repent.

<u>Job 38:17</u> God once said to Job: Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

There are worlds of being and of darkness upon which man has never looked. It is a dark and horrible prison, in which many, many strange and evil things are shut up. Satan knows of that world. He would love to bring forth its malignant inhabitants into the earth if he only dared. At last, his evil desire becomes a reality. The fifth trumpet is the result.

<u>Rev. 9</u> describes 2 frightening armies that are liberated at the appointed time and permitted to judge mankind. Army from the Pit & Army from the East

<u>Rev. 9:1</u> And the <u>fifth angel</u> [Trumpet #5; Woe #1] sounded, and I saw a star <u>fall from heaven</u> unto the earth: and to him <u>was given the key of the bottomless pit.</u>

<u>Rev. 9:2</u> And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose 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. <sup>3</sup> And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. <sup>4</sup> And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but <u>only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.</u>

> The lost will not be protected from these demonic locusts.

<sup>5</sup> And to them it was given 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 he strikes a man.
<sup>6</sup> And in those days shall men seek death and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. [Jer. 8:3]

<sup>7</sup> And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

<sup>8</sup> And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

<sup>9</sup> 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 running to battle. <sup>10</sup> And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

<sup>11</sup> And <u>they had a king over them</u>, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

<u>Prov. 30:27a</u> The locusts [real locusts] have no king. Real locusts are pervasive destroyers, but this army only tortures those who do not belong to the Lord.

The abyss occurs 9x in Scripture: 6x as bottomless pit; 2x as abyss; 1x as pit. If the shaft to the abyss was previously locked, then how did this compartment come to have occupants? How did they get in? The abyss appears to be a prison of sorts for demons, as evidenced by the request of the demons which Jesus cast out of Legion. They "begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss" [Luke 8:30-31]. "These demons preferred to be incarnate in swine, so deep was their horror and dread of the abyss to which some of their fellows were already confined." It appears that the demonic forces which are about to be released from the abyss were supernaturally transported there by God—reserved for the day of judgment when they will *serve God's purposes*.

The locking away of these demons is described by Jude: Jude 1:6-7

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode,

He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to <u>sexual immorality</u> and <u>gone after strange flesh</u>, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

The angels themselves will not be judged at this time, but are "reserved for the judgment." They will be used by God to torment the earth dwellers. Similar to the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah, these angels had given themselves over to sexual immorality and "gone after strange flesh." Strange flesh is [sarkos heteras], another [different] kind of flesh. This seems to point to the event prior to the flood when certain angels went after flesh of a different kind: Genesis 6:1-2, 4a

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, <sup>2</sup> That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. <sup>4</sup>There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them.

Certain angels acted improperly, going outside the bounds prescribed by God. The bounds which they exceeded involved their interaction with strange flesh—mingling with the daughters of men. Because of this grievous sin, they are "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness." <u>Rev. 9:12</u> One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Trumpet #6: Woe #2 brings the release of a demonic army the likes of which the earth has never seen [Rev. 9:13-19+, 11:14+]

<u>The 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet is blown. Woe #2</u>: <u>Rev. 9:13-14</u> And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the <u>four horns of the golden altar</u> which is before God, <sup>14</sup> Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

- The Euphrates is linked with the most important events in ancient history.
- On its banks stood the city of Babylon.

- It was near the Euphrates that sin began, the first lie was told,
- the first murder was committed, and the tower of Babel (the origin of an entire complex of false religions that spread across the world) was built.

This is where the vast system of Babylonian idolatry, with its trinity of evil—"father, mother and son" originated, to deceive the whole world by the Satanic fable of "the queen of heaven." Jeremiah [7:18, 44:17-19, 25] specifically mentions this practice, where the Israelite women are described as actively involved in preparing and offering sacrifices, including cakes, to the queen of heaven. The Bible views this as a form of idolatry, as the Israelites were supposed to worship only the God of Israel.

The region near the Euphrates was the central location of three world powers that oppressed Israel: Assyria, Babylon, and Medo-Persia. Israel endured 70 long, bitter, wearisome years of captivity on the banks of the Euphrates. [Ps. 137:1-4]. The enemies of God will cross the Euphrates to engage in the battle of Armageddon [Rev. 16:12-16+]

<u>Rev. 9:15-16</u> And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. <sup>16</sup> And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

- Apparently wicked angels.
- Each angel is in charge of part of the vast army that follows them at their liberation.
- An army of 200 million from the east is let loose at a precise time to <u>kill 1/3</u> of the world's population. > Revelation's 2<sup>nd</sup> Depopulation Prediction
- This terrible scourge proceeds to kill 1/3 of those left alive after the seal judgments. This means that  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the world's population will die by the time the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgment is completed. [Currently 7.8 billion = ~ 3 billion 900 million]
- Fire, smoke and brimstone issue from their mouths.
- Their tails are like biting serpents.

One-third of the population of the earth would be killed by these four angels and the army which they lead [Rev. 9:16-18+]. Death will come by three means: fire, smoke, and brimstone.

<u>Rev. 6:4</u>	When the 2 <sup>nd</sup> seal is opened	, peace is taken from the earth and people kill one another
<u>Rev. 6:5-6</u>	When the 3 <sup>rd</sup> seal is opened,	, there is great famine and presumably additional deaths occur.
<u>Rev. 6:8+</u>	When the 4 <sup>th</sup> seal is opened,	, Death & Hades kill $\frac{1}{4}$ of the earth.
<u>Rev. 8:7 +</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> Trumpet Judgment a	third of the trees were burned up.
<u>Rev. 8:8-9+</u>	2nd Trumpet Judgment a	third of the sea became blood,
	a third of the creatures in	the sea perish, & a <i>third</i> of the ships were destroyed.
<u>Rev. 8:10-11</u>	<u>+</u> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Trumpet Judgment a t	third of the rivers and springs are poisoned
<u>Rev. 8:12+</u>		third of the sun, moon, and stars were struck as to be darkened

<u>Rev. 9</u>  $5^{\text{th}} \& 6^{\text{th}}$  Trumpets

all men without the seal of God are tormented,. Then a *third* of them are killed.

After the first six seal and six trumpet judgments, the population of the earth has been reduced by more than half. If the first seal were loosed today using the current world population of over 8 billion, more than 4 billion would have died by the end of the sixth trumpet in the judgments from God.

No wonder Jesus said in <u>Matt. 24:21-22</u> "For then there shall be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

The terrible slaughter will completely disrupt human society. The problem of disposing of the dead bodies alone will be inconceivable. The sickly stench of decaying corpses will permeate the world, and it will take an enormous effort on the part of the survivors to bury them in mass graves or burn them."

Revelation 9 ends on a sad note.

<u>Rev. 9:20-21</u>And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

- Man persists in committing these sins even while God is judging them.
- It will be an age of lawlessness with "every man doing that which is right in his own eyes."

It is unimaginable that after years of suffering and death under the terrifying judgments from God, coupled with the powerful preaching of the gospel by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists [Rev. 7:1-8+], the two witnesses [Rev. 11:1-14+], an angel in the sky [Rev. 14:6-7+], and other believers [Mat. 24:14], the survivors will still refuse to repent.

<u>Revelation 10</u>: The chronological action stops. It seems the action builds, terror mounts and gets worse. Then, it comes to a screaming halt and the 2<sup>nd</sup> parenthetical passage is inserted between the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet judgments. It is a heavenly vision in which a special angel pronounces that more wrath is coming and the end is near.