

REVELATION – THE FINAL VICTORY

(Lesson 4)

Intro: What's the purpose of providing various "snapshots" of what will happen before Christ's return?

- The Third Vision: The Seven Trumpets

1. The Seventh Seal: The Seven Angels with the Seven Trumpets (8:1-5)

- What's the purpose of a deliberately long pause?
- What does the incense signify which makes the prayers of the saints acceptable to God?
- How can the same incense cause harm to the earth?

2. The First Four Trumpets (8:6-13)

- Do you notice any similarities to the plagues of Egypt?
- What predictions of Jesus were not covered by the seven seals? (compare Matthew 24:4-14 & Revelation 6:1-17)
- What interpretation should we give to the trumpets? Which of the following better fits the danger these trumpets announce?
 - Symbolic foreshadows of physical calamities
 - Symbols of various false religions or heresies
- Is there any significance of the effect on the one-third?

3. The Fifth Trumpet: The Locusts out of Hell (9:1-11)

- Who is the star that was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss? (see also verse 11)
- What are the locusts sent to do? How does this support the interpretation of the trumpets? (cf. Matthew 24:24)

- Identify the details given about the locusts themselves:
 - Like horses prepared for battle:
 - Wore something like crowns:
 - Resembled human faces, women's hair, lion's teeth:
 - Breastplate of iron, thundering horses, rushing chariots:
 - Tails and stings like scorpions:

4. The Sixth Trumpet: The Army from the Euphrates (9:12-21)

- What did the sixth angel announce with his trumpet?
- Why is the Euphrates river used as the boundary for the four angels? (O.T. history)
- What are some of the heresies that these evil forces proclaim?
- Why are there so many troops (two hundred million)?
- What does the reference to fire, smoke and sulfur remind us?
- Compare how these forces destroy with what took place in the Garden of Eden.
- What is God's purpose in sending out these destructive forces?
- How do unbelievers indicate that they have rejected God?
- When one's relationship with God is not right what inevitably happens?

Conclusion: How effective is the devil through the "plagues" he sends against God's people?