

The Tribulation and the Seven Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8:1-9:21)

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Two Key Passages about the Devil (Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:13-19)
2. The Seventy Weeks Prophecy and the Church Age (Daniel 9:20-27)
3. The Seven Trumpet Judgments (Revelation 8:1-13 and Revelation 9:1-21)
4. The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-6)
5. The Final Two Vial Judgments (Revelation 16:12-17)
6. The Final Days of the Antichrist and the Great Tribulation (Revelation 19:11-21 and Revelation 20:1-10)

Question: Why do Bible scholars say that Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:13-19 are about the devil? What do Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19 say about the devil?

B. According to Dr. Geoffrey W. Grogan, Isaiah 14:12-17 either points directly to Satan or to the king of Babylon, who was satanic in his nature.

1. Isaiah wrote that he was fallen from heaven.
 - a. Jesus supported that remark.
 - b. Luke 10:18 says, "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."
2. He was given the name Lucifer and called son of the morning.
3. In the beginning, he was light. But he was cut down.
4. He tried to exalt his throne above God.
5. He wanted to be like the most High.
6. He will be brought down to the wicked side of sheol.

C. Ezekiel 28:13-19, the king of Tyre also possessed the same satanic qualities.

1. According to Dr. Ralph H. Alexander, the reference to Eden is almost clearly to Satan since the king of Tyre was not there in the beginning.
2. He was the anointed cherub (angelic being).
 - a. Because Satan was an angelic being, God created him.
 - b. He is a fallen angel.
 - c. Some people believe that God and Satan represent two equal but opposing forces. Some people do not believe in the literal existence of either. **But these are not the biblical teaching.**
3. He was without blemish until iniquity was found in him.
4. He was cast to the ground (see Luke 10:18).

D. Satan was a beautiful created angel

1. He tried to overthrow the Lord, and he was expelled from heaven.
2. He showed up in the Garden of Eden and deceived Eve.

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3. Genesis 3:4-5 says, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."
- E. Everything is right on schedule.
 1. Genesis 3:15 says, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."
 2. The events in Revelation present the final events of this life, when Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and when Israel will finally recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

Question: In Daniel 9:20-27, how do theologians explain the seventy weeks prophecy in conjunction with the church age?

II. Daniel 9:20-27 talks about Daniel's seventy weeks prophecy.

- A. Verse 24 mentions seventy weeks.
 1. The real meaning is seventy weeks where each day represents one year.
 2. Using one week to indicate seven years rather than seven days is not unusual in Bible literature.
 3. Genesis 29:27 says, "Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years."
 4. The entire prophecy covers 490 years.
- B. Six things are supposed to be accomplished by the end of the prophecy.
 1. There will be an end to transgression.
 2. There will be an end to sin, suggesting a new better society.
 3. There will be atonement for wickedness.
 4. There will be everlasting righteousness.
 5. God's Plan for humanity will be complete.
 6. The most holy will be anointed.
- C. Sixty-nine of the weeks or 483 years has already passed.
- D. The seventieth week will be the seven-year Tribulation.

Question: What happened with the seventh seal judgment? What happens during the seven trumpet judgments?

III. The Seventh Seal Judgment and the Seven Trumpet Judgments

- A. The seventh seal judgment will start the seven trumpet judgments.
 1. The seal, trumpet, and vial judgments are consecutive for the whole seven year period.
 2. They are not concurrent.

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3. Revelation 8:1-2 says, "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."
- B. The seven trumpet judgments.
 1. Revelation 8:7 says, "The first angel sounded, and there followed ***hail and fire mingled with blood***, and they were cast upon the earth: and ***the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.***
 - a. One-third of the trees were burnt up.
 - b. One-third of the grass was killed.
 2. Revelation 8:8-9 says, "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***; 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."
 - a. One-third of the sea was turned to blood.
 - b. One-third of the ships will be destroyed (including oil tankers).
 3. Revelation 8:10-11 says, "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 fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and ***many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.***
 - a. The lakes and rivers were contaminated.
 - b. There will be a severe water shortage.
 4. Revelation 8:12 says, "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and ***the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.***
 - a. One-third of the stars, moon, and sun were turned dark.
 - b. These celestial beings were created on the fourth day of Creation.
 5. Revelation 9:1-2 says, "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 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."
 - a. Locusts will torture the inhabitants of the earth for five months.
 - b. At this point, many shortages will exist throughout the earth.
 6. Revelation 9:13-15 says, "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. 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."

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- a. An army of 200,000,000 soldiers was released to slay one-third of humanity.
 - b. No one repented despite the troubles that occurred.
7. The seventh trumpet sounded and released the final seven judgments (vial).

Question: Who are the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-6, and what do we know about them?

- IV. The two witnesses are probably from among Moses, Elijah, and Enoch.
- A. Revelation 11:6 says, "These have *power to shut heaven*, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have *power over waters* to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."
 - B. Genesis 5:24 says, "And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."
 - C. Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"
 1. Enoch did not experience death.
 2. Elijah did not experience death.
 - D. The two witnesses will be killed.
 - E. Revelation 11:7 says, "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."
 - F. They were not killed until they had finished their work.

Question: How does Jesus overthrow the Antichrist? What happens after the Antichrist is overthrown? How long will Satan be bound? What is the second death?

- V. The Antichrist will be overthrown quickly and easily.
- A. Revelation 17:14 says, "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."
 - B. II Thessalonians 2:8 says, "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"

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Next week's lesson: "The Tribulation and the Seven Vial Judgments" (Revelation 16:1-21))

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Jeremiah 30:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37
Tuesday:	I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Wednesday:	II Thessalonians 2:1-12, Isaiah 14:12-17, and Ezekiel 28:11-19
Thursday:	Revelation 15:1-8
Friday:	Revelation 16:1-21

Study questions:

1. When did the Jews start returning to Israel?
2. What words in Jeremiah 30:1-9 suggest that the church will not go through the Great Tribulation?
3. What did Jesus tell His disciples concerning the end times? Why did He not give them a specific date for when the events would occur?
4. What words in I Thessalonians 1:1-10 suggest that the church will not go through the Great Tribulation?
5. How did Paul describe the Antichrist in II Thessalonians 2:1-12? How do his words compare to Isaiah 14:12-17 and Ezekiel 28:11-19?
6. What happened when the seven vial judgments were poured out?
7. What is the duty of the church during these last days?