

Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes
First Quarter 2019: *The Book of Revelation*
Lesson 7 The Seven Trumpets

Read for this week's study

Revelation 8:1–13; Numbers 10:8–10; Ezekiel 10:2; Revelation 10:1–11; Daniel 12:6, 7;
Revelation 11:1–13; Leviticus 16.

Memory Text

“But in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets” (Revelation 10:7, NKJV).

Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. The Prayers of the Saints
- III. The Meaning of the Trumpets
- IV. The Angel With an Open Book
- V. Eating the Scroll
- VI. The Two Witnesses
- VII. Further Study

Questions and Notes for Consideration

Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Compare Revelation 6:9-10 with Revelation 8:3-4. What connections do you see between these two passages and what implications do those connections have for an understanding of the seven trumpets? (Sabbath afternoon)
2. Read Revelation 8:3-5. What part(s) of the sanctuary service is being described here? What does the recollection of the sanctuary in this introductory passage imply about the seven trumpets as a whole? Compare Revelation 8:5 with Ezekiel 10:2. What is the source of the fire that is thrown upon the enemies of God's people in Ezekiel? How does Ezekiel's vision help explain the nature of the trumpets in Revelation? (Sunday's lesson)
3. Read Revelation 8:3-5 again. What is the spiritual meaning of trumpets in Revelation? In the Old Testament? Elsewhere in the New Testament? Does Numbers 10:8-10 help to clarify the meaning of trumpets in the Book of Revelation? (Sunday's lesson)

4. Read Revelation 8:13 and 9:4, 20-21. Who are the objects of the judgments in the seven trumpets? How does that conclusion relate to Revelation 6:9-10? What are the theological implications of understanding the trumpets in this way? Where would you place the first six trumpets in terms of Christian history? (Monday's lesson)
5. Read Revelation 10:1-4. Be prepared to describe this passage in your own words. Read verses 5-7 as well. Compare this passage with Daniel 12:6-7. How many major words do these two passages have in common? What does that tell us about John's intention when writing down this part of the vision? What do you think John understood by the angel's phrase "time will be no more?" (Tuesday's lesson)
6. Read Revelation 10:8-11. What does eating a book represent in Scripture (compare with Ezekiel 2:8-3:11 and Jeremiah 15:16)? What historical experience do Adventists believe this vision is referring to? Read Revelation 11:1-2. What is John ordered to do and what significance does that have for us today? (Wednesday's lesson)
7. Read Revelation 11:3-6. What or who do you think the two witnesses represent? Read Zechariah 4:2-3, 11-14. What light does that shed on the two witnesses of Revelation 11? Read Revelation 11:7-13. In your own words, describe what happened to the two witnesses at the end of the prophetic 1260 days? What evidence is there in the Bible for seeing prophetic days as representing years of actual time? (Thursday's lesson)
8. Compare Revelation 11:18 with Revelation 12:17; 15:1, 19:1-2, 20:11-15 and 22:11-12. What are the implications of these parallels for the structure of Revelation? (Friday's lesson)
9. What problems do you see with drafting detailed prophetic charts of the final events of earth's history? How can one safeguard against such pitfalls? (Friday's lesson)

Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

In fact much more important than working out this number is the total description. In fact our safety lies in taking the total description all the way while we work on the details. I have so many friends and acquaintances who must lay awake nights working out all these little details and making charts out of them. I have great respect for them and the time they spend, but I think often they miss the overall view, the overall picture, which comes through very clearly: There are two sides in this war and one side is described in chapters 12 and 13, and God's side is described in 14. Those who prefer Satan's side are clearly identified in chapter 13. They prefer the adversary's way of doing things. They prefer his way of exercising authority. They prefer a leader who will bring fire down from heaven and all that kind of thing. Isn't that prevalent in the world today? People look to this for authority rather than the still small voice of truth; God's way of doing things. But then we come to chapter 14, and here are the three angels' messages. God's last invitation and warning to the world. {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the

audio series, The Picture of God in all 66 – Revelation, recorded August, 1982, Riverside, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct links:*

<http://pkp.cc/79MMPOGIA66> (Part 1) <http://pkp.cc/80MMPOGIA66> (Part 2)

Further Study with Ellen White

In the whole Satanic force there is not power to overcome one soul who in simple trust casts himself on Christ. {COL 157.3}

Not one cloud has fallen upon the church that God has not prepared for; not one opposing force has risen to counterwork the work of God but He has foreseen. All has taken place as He has predicted through His prophets. He has not left His church in darkness, forsaken, but has traced in prophetic declarations what would occur, and through His providence, acting in its appointed place in the world's history, He has brought about that which His Holy Spirit inspired the prophets to foretell. All His purposes will be fulfilled and established. His law is linked with His throne, and satanic agencies combined with human agencies cannot destroy it. Truth is inspired and guarded by God; it will live, and will succeed, although it may appear at times to be overshadowed. The gospel of Christ is the law exemplified in character. The deceptions practiced against it, every device for vindicating falsehood, every error forged by satanic agencies, will eventually be eternally broken, and the triumph of truth will be like the appearing of the sun at noonday. The Sun of Righteousness shall shine forth with healing in His wings, and the whole earth shall be filled with His glory. {2SM 108.2}

But if the erring one persistently refuses to heed the voice that calls him with pitying, tender love, he will at last be left in darkness. The heart that has long slighted God's mercy, becomes hardened in sin, and is no longer susceptible to the influence of the grace of God. Fearful will be the doom of that soul of whom the pleading Saviour shall finally declare, he "is joined to idols: let him alone." Hosea 4:17. {PP 165.2}

But when men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. {GC 36.1}

We are not to regard God as waiting to punish the sinner for his sin. The sinner brings the punishment upon himself. His own actions start a train of circumstances that bring the sure result. Every act of transgression reacts upon the sinner, works in him a change of character, and makes it more easy for him to transgress again. By choosing to sin, men separate themselves from God, cut themselves off from the channel of blessing, and the sure result is ruin and death. {1SM 235.2}

From the opening of the great controversy it has been Satan's purpose to misrepresent God's character and to excite rebellion against His law, and this work appears to be crowned with success. The multitudes give ear to Satan's deceptions and set themselves against God. But amid the working of evil, God's purposes move steadily forward to their accomplishment; to all created intelligences He is making manifest His justice and benevolence. Through Satan's temptations the whole human race have become transgressors of God's law, but by the sacrifice of His Son a way is opened whereby they may return to God. Through the grace of Christ they may be enabled to render obedience to the Father's law. Thus in every age, from the midst of apostasy and rebellion, God gathers out a people that are true to Him—a people "in whose heart is His law." Isaiah 51:7. {PP 338.2}

It was by deception that Satan seduced angels; thus he has in all ages carried forward his work among men, and he will continue this policy to the last. Should he openly profess to be warring against God and His law, men would beware; but he disguises himself, and mixes truth with error. The most dangerous falsehoods are those that are mingled with truth. It is thus that errors are received that captivate and ruin the soul. By this means Satan carries the world with him. But a day is coming when his triumph will be forever ended. {PP 338.3}

God's dealings with rebellion will result in fully unmasking the work that has so long been carried on under cover. The results of Satan's rule, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, will be laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The law of God will stand fully vindicated. It will be seen that all the dealings of God have been conducted with reference to the eternal good of His people, and the good of all the worlds that He has created. Satan himself, in the presence of the witnessing universe, will confess the justice of God's government and the righteousness of His law. {PP 338.4}

Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world. {DA 21.3}

But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. {DA 764.3}

Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour's cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out, "It is finished." {DA 764.4}

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Through the plan of salvation, a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficence of the divine government would be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated. {ST, December 22, 1914 par. 4}

It is the love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the golden oil of love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God. {COL 418.5}

The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means taking away our sins, and filling the vacuum with the graces of the Holy Spirit. It means divine illumination, rejoicing in God. It means a heart emptied of self, and blessed with the abiding presence of Christ. When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin. The glory, the fullness, the completeness of the gospel plan is fulfilled in the life. The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance. The beauty and fragrance of the character of Christ revealed in the life testifies that God has indeed sent His Son into the world to be its Saviour. {COL 419.6}