

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 June	1John 1
2) 14 June	1John 2
3) 21 June	1John 3
4) 28 June	1John 4
5) 05 July	1John 5
6) 12 July	2 nd John & 3 rd John
7) 19 July	Rev 1
8) 26 July	Rev 2-3
9) 02 August	Rev 4-6
10) 09 August	Rev 7-13
11) 16 August	Rev 14-17
12) 23 August	Rev 18
13) 30 August	Rev 19-22

INTRODUCTION

- In these chapters, we will be introduced to the 144,000 and the greatest revivals of all time; the 7th Seal releases the 7 Trumpets of judgment; the 2 Witnesses; the Woman and the Dragon; and the 2 Beasts – The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet
- Scholars differ over the structure & chronology of these chapters. Some see the events unfolding sequentially. Others see the events covering the same ground but from different perspectives.
- **Let's Set the Stage.** Chapters 7-13 depict the beginning of "Hell on earth." The Rapture of the Saints has occurred and the 7-year tribulation is in progress. Recall that the 1st 3.5 years the Anti-Christ establishes a peace covenant with Israel ([Dan 8](#)), and the last 3.5 years is when "all Hell breaks loose."
 - ♦ BUT that doesn't mean the 1st 3.5 years of the tribulation were all nice & quiet, even for Israel. The world was probably in a turbulent state prior to the Tribulation with wars and rumors of wars and earthquakes in divers places ([Mat 24:7](#)); The Antichrist came on the scene with a peace solution that was too good to pass up, which started the 7-year countdown ([Dan 8](#)) – not the Rapture
- **Literal vs Allegorical Interpretation.** A **literal interpretation** seems to be the simplest and most straightforward way to look at most of these events with the fewest number of theological problems. From a **metaphorical interpretation** there is no right or wrong way to look at things. Everything is speculative & subjective.
 - ♦ For example, the 1,260 days that is equal to the "time, times, and half a time" or 42 months or 3.5 years ([12:14](#)), and which represents the length of time the 2 witnesses prophesy ([11:3](#)) and the time the holy city is trampled by the Gentiles ([11:2](#)) and the time the beast has authority ([13:5](#)) could be anything from meaning a short duration of time to the length of time between Christ's 1st century ascension to His last century return to earth
 - ♦ But from a **literal perspective**, those 1,260 days or 42 months or 3.5 years or "time, times, & half a time" equate to the 1st half of the 7-year Tribulation or the last half, depending on the context

Passage	Comments
Revelation 7:1-17	<p>The Ministry of the 144,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 144,000 are Jewish Messianic missionaries who take the Gospel to the world possibly during the entire 7 year Tribulation, but definitely in the last 3.5 years • The result of their ministry will be the greatest revivals ever as we see countless souls from every country who come to Christ during the Tribulation and when "countless" will be martyred for their faith • NOTE. It looks like we retain our racial identifications and national heritage in Heaven since distinct people groups are seen before God's throne • 14:1-5. The 144,000 apparently come out of the Tribulation alive and they greet Jesus on His return

The Seven Trumpets

Revelation 8:6—9:19; 11:15–19



1



Hail, fire and blood hurl down on earth; one-third of earth is burned



2



A burning mountain bloodies and destroys one-third of the sea, its creatures and its ships



3



A star called Wormwood turns one-third of the fresh water bitter; many people die



4



One-third of the sun, moon and stars become dark



5



A star falls to earth and opens the Abyss, releasing locusts like scorpions who torture the unsaved for five months



6



A brutal army led by four angels kills one-third of mankind



7



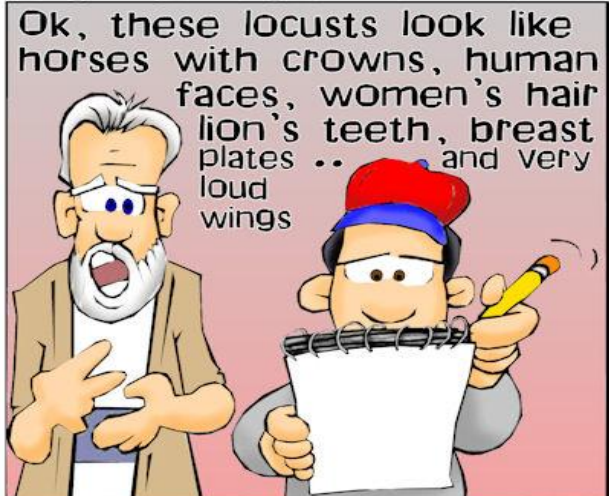
The kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of heaven; God's temple opens and reveals the ark of the covenant

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

Passage	Comments
Revelation 8:1-13	<p>Shock and Awe in Heaven</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Something unheard of happens in Heaven, a place of constant commotion, of loud noises (4:5) and of continuous praise (4:8), to the point there is complete and utter silence “for about half an hour” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those in Heaven are dumb-struck at the turmoil the earth will soon endure – BUT why the silence? Consider this. What happens when someone receives horrible and terrifying news such as all family members were killed in a car accident? One is bewildered, can't think straight, and is most often left speechless for a time till things can be mentally thought through and comprehended And consider this. The Angels and Saints in Heaven know of God's dying love and long patience for His highest creation, mankind, and even though they know final judgment must come, they are left speechless when they see people reject God's final offer of salvation for nothing more than sin for a season– What Senseless Stupidity – What Fools <p>What will it take to convince some people of the truth of the Gospel and of their dire need for a Savior?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✠ Calvinists say they won't and they can't because God did not give them the ability to get saved. If so why judge them? ✠ BUT the Bible is clear that God draws & entices everyone to consider, 1st through His goodness and, as we see here, through His Wrath – BUT they willfully refuse to repent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv7-12. The silence is broken when the 1st of 7 Angels lets his trumpet rip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trumpet #1. Almost all green vegetation is burnt (1/3 of the earth). Since the earth is ~70% water, this sort of conveys most non-arid landmass went up in smoke. What was the cause? <input type="checkbox"/> Nuclear war? <input type="checkbox"/> Asteroids/Meteors? <input type="checkbox"/> Volcanic activity? <input type="checkbox"/> ALL Trumpet #2. The sea suffers great loss Trumpet #3. The fresh waters are ruined – and many die, not from fires or the loss of sea life, but of the loss of fresh drinking water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE. I was talking with a Chinese national several years ago and I asked him if he foresaw China ever getting drawn into a global war. He replied, if China does get involved in a global war, it won't be over oil, land, or food, but over WATER Trumpet #4. Now the atmosphere is impacted. Instead of ~12 hours of daylight, the earth will only get about 8 hours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE. Notice how these disasters seem to match those of the Exodus, but on a global scale v13. An “eagle” speaks: Three more woes are coming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This eagle is probably one of the 4 living angelic creatures seen previously (4:7); Another Angel will also be heard in the sky proclaiming the Gospel one last time (14:6) – the very last appeal
	<p>Trumpets Never Lead in Singing, and They are Never Blown Quietly – They Pronounce Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 trumpets of rams horns at the battle of Jericho ... Josh 6-7 300 trumpets led Gideon into battle Judges 7:22 120 trumpets at Solomon's Temple 2Chron 5:12 7 trumpets in Revelations Rev 8:2-9:14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1) 1/3 of earth burns up; #2) 1/3 of sea turns to blood #3) Polluted water; #4&5) Smoke darkens sun & moon #6) Locusts and war; #7) Earthquake, thunder & hail One Last Trump to raise the dead 1Th 4:16; 1Co 15:52
Purpose of Trumpets	

Passage	Comments
Revelation 9:1-21	<p>Two out of Three More Woes</p> <p>Trumpet #5. Out of the Abyss (Hell/Hades/Sheol) come locusts, led by Abaddon (Satan), to torment for 5 months everyone but the marked-144,000 (7:3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literal perspective: The locusts are demons who had permission from on High to either take on material form or possess individual locusts (Precedence of demons possessing animals: Satan in a snake in Gen 3; demons in pigs in Mat 8:31-32) Non-literal: The locusts are possible weapons of post-modern warfare (Hell-icopters), flown by a nation under the influence of Satan and his demons to wreak havoc on the world (germ warfare?) But why only 5 months? But locusts only live ~5 months <p>Trumpet #6. Four Angels are given permission to kill a third of mankind, possibly with warfare and/or volcanic/meteor activity (fire, smoke, and brimstone)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall in 6:8 other angelic creatures killed a fourth of mankind. That equates to HALF the world being slaughtered by this time. Do the Math (B=billion): 6B people – 1/4th (1.5B) = 4.5B – 1/3rd (1.5B) = 3B ... If the world's population increases to 8 billion... 8B – 1/4th (2B) = 6B – 1/3rd (2B) = 4B An army of 200M. Only China can field an army of 200M since they have a population of 1.3B. Their current active military is a mere 2.3M. The U.S. has 1.4M in uniform. India has 1.3M. Russia has 800K. So, it is speculation where these 200M come from. <p>Trumpet #7. We will see the 7th trumpet in Chapter 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv20-21. Still no repentance. Wow! Half the world gets slaughtered and the other half still want to be wicked. It's not that they don't get it or they can't repent; it is that they don't want to come to God on His terms – unconditional and willful surrender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What more can God do? God, being a just and fair God (Ps 98:9), must give every possible chance for people to repent God, being a just and fair God, must even give Satan every possible opportunity to defeat Him

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



Fearing his words would not capture the indescribable visions found in Rev 9:7, John hires a sketch artist.

Passage	Comments
<p>Revelation 10:1-11</p>	<p>Seal Up Those Things and Write Them Not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Why would God tease us by withholding some critical information? Or was it critical? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God did the same in Daniel 12:4, "...close up & seal the words of the scroll until the end times." Only the last generation will witness the pieces of the puzzle finally making sense – and it will make more sense to someone living in Israel where the action is than to others living in America or other distant lands. ♦ Yet, an angel told John in 22:10 "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book" ♦ We have to realize that John revealed to us what was meant to be revealed, and withheld certain things, as directed, until the right time ♦ Can you imagine what the world would be like if God allowed those secretive sayings of the seven thunders to be given to us. Would it be better off? ♦ To be honest, having a few more doctrines would probably give us many more church splits and a few more denominations. Some things are better left unopened until the right time. <hr/> <p>Recall Deuteronomy 29:29 <i>The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us & to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Another reason is to possibly foil Satan's plots, which could theoretically foil God's plan for the ages ♦ For example, if Satan could have deciphered the OT better he might have foreseen the Cross and tried to better thwart God's plan for mankind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5-7. Once again, God is depicted as He "who created the heavens and all that is in them (including angels), the earth and all that is in it (humans and animal life), and the sea and all that is in it." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why would God want to destroy His creation? Couldn't the skeptics say that God wasn't powerful enough to control His own creation, therefore He is not omnipotent and omniscient? ♦ Consider this. God did not make angels or humans to be robots without wills or as pawns in a celestial chess game. Our free will allows us to corrupt and destroy any perfect thing that God happened to create for us. Therefore, since God created and owns everything, He is in His full legal right to do with His creation as He pleases. <hr/> <p>A note on God's Sovereignty. God is so omnipotent, so omniscience, and so sovereign, He is able to work through every conceivable circumstance and situation, be it someone born out of wedlock that should not have been born (e.g., Solomon), to the earth rotating and traveling through the universe just in time to experience the meteoric, volcanic, and earthquakes in diverse places as prophesied</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv8-11. Eat a Book and Get Sick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ezekiel also had to eat a book (Ezek 3:1-2) ♦ Jeremiah ate God's word with joy (Jer 15:16) ♦ Jesus tells us that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood shall have life (John 6:53-55) ♦ The concept here is symbolic of one consuming God's word and taking delight in the fact that all believers have an eternally blessed life, but the flipside is disheartening knowing that all others will be brutally and mercilessly judged (James 2:13)

Passage	Comments
<p>Revelation 11:1-19</p>	<p>The Two Witnesses – Born to Die & to Rise</p> <p>This chapter flows from measuring the temple, counting the worshippers (though we are not given the count), reading that the temple will be "trampled" on by Gentiles for 3.5 years, getting introduced to the 2 witnesses, and finally hearing the 7th trumpet sound</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-12. Who are these 2 unnamed witnesses? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ David Jeremiah and many others speculate the 2 witnesses will be Moses and Elijah based on passages such as a futuristic prophecy of cleansing (Mal 3:1-3) and their appearance at the Lord's Transfiguration (Mat 17:3); and the most compelling, vs 4, which states these 2 men are the 2 olive trees and 2 lampstands who currently stand before the Lord of the earth. <hr/> <p>But Consider this. True, God resurrected many to carry on with certain aspects of their former lives (e.g., Lazarus), but God always seemed to use new people to fill new shoes. He never reincarnated anyone for another time period. As the rich man who asked Abraham to send poor man Lazarus back to earth to witness to his brothers, Abraham said it doesn't work that way. If people don't listen to Moses and the prophets, such as Elijah, Abraham said they won't listen to someone even if they were sent from Heaven.....Luke 16:20-31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Even John the Baptist, who was prophesied to be the Elijah of Jesus' day (Mal 3:1-3; Mat 11:10,14) was not Elijah-reincarnated, but he came in the spirit of Elijah. IOW, like Elijah, he pointed people to God, yet John did not work 1 miracle, though, Elijah did many ♦ Notice that the 2 witnesses receive power directly from God to perform miraculous events similar to those Elijah performed during his life time (drought) and by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt ♦ The Jews in particular, would recognize their wonders as being connected to Moses and Elijah, especially their assumption into Heaven (vv11-12), so this would be a wake-up call for them to heed or die <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv13-19. The 7th Trumpet is sandwiched between two major earthquakes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv13-14. Actually, the 6th Trumpet culminates with a major earthquake, and survivors finally recognize the hand of God and they give glory to Him. This is the 3rd earthquake of 5 recorded in Revelations ♦ v19. The 4th earthquake comes with thunder and hail-stones, so a great volcanic upheaval occurs. And the biggest earthquake of all time doesn't occur until chapter 16. ♦ At least there will be a few people who recognize God at work. Is God working through weather and other phenomena today? Or is it coincidental?



"Well, kids, now you know why I always tell you to wear clean underwear when you go out anywhere. You never know what's gonna happen."

Passage	Comments
<p>Revelation 12:1-17</p>	<p>The Woman and the Dragon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-6. This 7th sign should clearly be taken metaphorically. Since we know who the characters in this vision represent we can see the meaning rather well with few exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The woman represents Israel (some say the Church) ♦ The baby represents Jesus ♦ The dragon with 7 heads & crowns represents Satan ♦ The desert place is somewhat speculative. Some scholars believe it alludes to Petra in southern Jordan. But, like the Exodus, it could easily be a desert wandering for the remnant of Israel, who, for the last 3.5 years of the tribulation, try to stay ahead of the Antichrist who is out to slay them • vv7-9. We are given a glimpse of when Satan was casted out of Heaven. Recall that Satan or Lucifer, was an archangel, like Michael, who was in charge of leading the heavenly choir in singing praises to God. This is the sole passage that reveals to us that Satan was the "ancient serpent" who tempted Eve. (Some say Satan fell from Heaven's choir to the church choir) • v14. "The woman was given 2 wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some think this passage alludes to America. America has rescued Israel many times over the years, but a similar rendering of eagle's wings is depicted in Exodus 19:4 where God was the wings. • vv15-16. The reference to Satan trying to destroy Israel with a torrent of water, which gets swallowed up by the earth, is very speculative. Only the last generation will appreciate this passage when it comes to fulfillment • v17. Satan will persecute the woman's offspring. Those of us living before this event can only imagine the terror of living during the final 3.5 years of the tribulation. Half of the world will be slaughtered, and those who come to Christ during this time, Jews and non-Jews, will undergo unimaginable horror. • Where is our faith? Are we willing to live for Christ in boldness or in timidity? Would we compromise our faith and take the mark of the beast if it meant survival? • What steps can we take to stand tall for Christ now? What can we start saying? Thinking? Doing?
<p>How will Jesus rule with a "rod of iron"?</p>	<p>12:5. "(He) will rule the nations with a rod of iron"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the Millennial reign of Christ people who are born during this time will still have a choice of whether or not to accept Christ as Savior • Jesus, ruling as King of Kings will not let the world get out of control as we see things today • True loving justice will be rendered. Not the ISIS-type of justice, where one is beheaded for petty crimes; BUT in all probabilities those who want to start bars, porn sites, brothels, abortion centers and a host of other such endeavors will not be granted a business license. • Satan will have one final opportunity at the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ to gather all the non-repentant and to give it one more shot to defeat his Creator, but Jesus will not tolerate it for one second. We will see this in chapter 20. • Remember – God is so just and fair, even Satan will not be able to say, 'Hey, God, you cheated and didn't give me a chance to fight you fair and square"

Passage	Comments
<p>Revelation 13:1-18</p>	<p>The Unholy Trinity (Satan, Antichrist, False Prophet)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-11. The dragon (Satan) gave the Antichrist, the beast out of the sea, "his power and his throne and his great authority" – and his power reach globally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember, the best power Satan has is nothing more than "lying wonders" (2Thes 2:9). He has no creative powers. He can only work his powers to deceive and manipulate for the purpose to destroy ♦ vv5-8. "...all inhabitants" will worship him – WOW! ♦ v10b. The Lord's Saints are called to endure brutal hardships with patience • vv12-18. The 2nd beast (or False Prophet) also could work signs and wonders, even to be instrumental in healing the Antichrist of his mortal head wound <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Watch out for so-called signs & wonders, healings & miracles you hear today. They are doing nothing more than conditioning people for the end times when they will be deceived by such events • Test everything according to the Scriptures. In the Gospels and Acts we see that Jesus and His Apostles healed anybody and everybody of anything and everything, any time and every time, anywhere and everywhere they went. No exceptions, no failures. • Modern day faith healers don't even come close. When was the last time you saw a missing leg restored? • After Acts, Paul could not even heal Timothy of a simple stomach problem – BUT that is another lesson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ For more on this, see "Where are the Miracles"

CONCLUSION/ APPLICATIONS:

- So, if the non-repentant have no intentions to repent, why witness to them? Why become martyrs for them? Because in the midst of all the wicked are those who will reconsider their ways and acknowledge the truth of the Gospel. And some of those could be our loved ones. Jesus thought everyone is worth dying for.
- God didn't write the Bible to be totally subjective or speculative. He wrote it to be understood by those who have ears to hear. For others, He gave them sufficient wiggle room not to believe. God doesn't want anyone in Heaven who doesn't want to be there.
- I think we can see how God will wipe away all tears. One day in Heaven we will fully realize that many of our loved ones will end up in Hell not because we did a bad job witnessing to them, but because they do not want to spend one moment with their God.

NEXT WEEK: Revelation 14-17. The final wipe-out begins. The 144,000 are seen standing on Mt Zion just outside of Jerusalem;

Seven angels are ready to release the 7 plagues, and another 7 angels are ready to release 7 bowls of judgment on the earth; and finally we are introduced to the Woman in Red sitting on a dragon.

