

Trumpets 1-4

Revelation: How It All Ends

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Bible Text: Revelation 8:7-13

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8:7

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. 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. 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. Remember we're told in chapter 7 that the earth, the sea and the trees cannot be hurt until the 144,000 of the first half of chapter seven were sealed. Then we see in the first two trumpets that the sea, the earth and the trees are hurt. So, it seems like that the trumpets have to happen after the 144,000 are sealed. That we can find in chronology. The angels who bring the trumpets are not allowed to hurt the trees or the earth or the sea until after the 144,000 are sealed.

Why do I believe this occurs in the great tribulation period?

*Revelation 6:9. And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And **white robes were given unto every one of them;** and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*

Alright, so we have these souls that were killed for their testimony in Jesus Christ, we have them being killed and we have them all now given these white robes and they're told this, "You guys just be patient with these white robes until your fellowservants are killed." So, when does this happen?

*Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, **clothed with white robes.***

So we have these people with white robes. The people in the fifth seal are clothed in white robes after a certain time and some people are joining them with white robes in answer to the promise that was given them in chapter 6:11, "Hey, you have more people

joining you. Here are some white robes.” All of a sudden in chapter 7, we see people with white robes joining them. And where are they joining them from?

Revelation 7:14 I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which come out of Great tribulation.

So they came out of here. This is well-reflected in the ESV and in the NASB as “they are coming out of great tribulation.” It’s a present continual tense. They are coming out great tribulation so this crowd is dying for their faith and they have white robes and they are currently coming out of great tribulation by the time John sees the vision. So, it makes sense that the fifth seal is somewhere around the middle of the week and, therefore, pushes the trumpets into the Great Tribulation or the last 3.5 years.

8:10

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.

8:11

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.

8:12

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.

It’s possible, based on the last phrase, that either a third of the magnitude of the light that shines in the day or a third in the night, one of the possibilities here is that it’s less visible at night, less visible at day. That’s one of the possibilities but based on the last phrase of the verse, it seems like it throws the world into such chaos that they’re not even sure how long a day is anymore. So, that is how it’s possible for us to have a determined time of seven years and for Jesus to still be correct when he says you won’t know the day of my coming because the days are almost where you can’t tell when one starts and the other ends because of the calamity that happens here with the sun, the moon and the stars.

The fact that there are still stars and a moon and a sun to shine, it seems like we can place trumpets 1-4 between seals five and six.

8:13

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe. “Anguish, anguish, anguish to the inhabitants of the earth.” He’s giving a forecast here of the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpet which are to be hideous for those who dwell either on the earth or in the land.

There are some variant readings between the translations on whether it should read “angel” or “eagle.” We don’t find an eagle speaking from the heavens before this or after

this in the book of Revelation but we do have one more case of an angel speaking from the heavens in chapter 14 where he preaches what's called the Everlasting Gospel. So, based on that evidence alone, I am going to go with the reading of "angel."