Session 7 The Trumpet Judgments (Rev. 8-9)

1. the seventh seal and the releasing of the Trumpet judgments (8:1-6)

*I do not know when the Lord is returning. I do not know if it is in this generation, the next generation, or maybe after that. I do not have a revelation. I can see the biblical signs of the times, and I see many of them are escalating for the first time together on a global level. That tells us we are approaching that day. That day could stretch out a little bit or it could speed up a little bit. We do not know.*

*I know it is not too early to begin to understand the biblical plan for what is going to happen. If it does not happen in your lifetime, then prepare your children and your grandchildren. It is not too early to get ready with understanding. The preparation for those hours and those years leading up to the Lord’s return is spiritual preparation. Some people get prepared physically. They store water, guns, food, etc. That is their business, but that is not what we are focused on. We are focused on preparing spiritually so that we have boldness and confidence and we are not fearful. We are not seduced by the lies of the enemy. We are not offended at the Lord’s leadership. We are filled with love, and we have understanding to what the Lord is doing.*

*Revelation 8-9 is about the seven trumpets, and again it may not happen in your day. You want to train your children and your grandchildren. It might happen in your day. Nobody knows. I know one thing; things are escalating rapidly. With the Lord that could stretch out for a while, and with the Lord it might speed up. You just do not know. We want to understand what He said about that hour and prepare people spiritually so that they are not afraid, they are not confused, they are not drawing back, but actually have confidence and are filled with faith in that day and in that hour.*

* + 1. The seventh seal includes the release of fiery trumpet judgments on the Antichrist’s empire in conjunction with the prayers of all the saints (8:1-6). The fifth seal (6:9-11) focuses on the prayer of the martyrs in heaven, and the seventh seal points to heavenly help that the prayer movement on earth receives in partnering with Jesus in the release of the trumpet judgments.

1When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. 5Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. 6So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Rev. 8:1-6)

*In our last session we looked at the first six seals. Now we are looking at the seventh seal. The seventh seal includes the release of the trumpet judgments. The seventh seal is dynamically connected to the release of the trumpet judgments. These trumpet judgments are judgments on the Antichrist Empire. These trumpet judgments are in conjunction with the prayers of all the saints. That is what Revelation 8 emphasizes. The judgments that come on the Antichrist kingdom are in conjunction with the prayers of the saints.*

*This deep desire for partnership that Jesus has with His people is remarkable to me. Whether it is the great harvest, whether it is confronting injustice and oppression, whether it is Satan being thrown into the lake of fire, concerning all of these things the Lord wants His people talking with Him, partnering with Him, as a part of the process under His grand and dynamic, senior, premier leadership in all the events. Of course it is His leadership and of course it is His premier action, but He wants us involved with Him.*

*When you read the trumpet judgments, understand they are judgments on the Antichrist, not judgments on the saints. They are judgments on the Antichrist. You will read these from a very different posture than if you think they are judgments against the church.*

*The fifth seal focuses on the prayers of the martyrs in heaven. There is a prayer dynamic going on in heaven that affects things in the end times. We do not know exactly how. We know one of the acts of judgment, the fifth seal judgment, is related to the heightened prayer ministry in heaven. Then the seventh seal, the one we are looking at now that releases the trumpet judgments, points to heavenly help for the prayer movement that is on the earth. In this seventh seal there is help from heaven, supernatural help, on the earthly prayer movement. So there is a dynamic relationship between the fifth seal and the seventh seal that we need to spend time meditating on it and asking the Holy Spirit to teach us more about it.*

*Revelation 8:1, “Now He”—that is Jesus—“He opened the seventh seal. When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven.” This silence was in anticipation of these glorious and terrifying judgments. The reason I say glorious is because these judgments stop injustice. That is why it is glorious. It is terrifying because they are judgments on a global level. There is silence in heaven. Incidentally, there is silence on the earth too as these things unfold.*

*Verse 2, “I saw seven angels.” These are the seven particular angels called “the angels who stand before God.” This is a special class of angels being designated here. They stand before the Lord. For example, Gabriel is described as Gabriel who stands in the presence of the Lord (Luke 1:19). I do not know if he is one of the seven. I do not know if that is what that means. These seven angels were given seven trumpets.*

*Verse 3, “Now another angel”—this is an eighth angel—“had a golden censer.” A censer is like a bowl. He has this golden bowl, this prayer censer. “He stood at the altar,” meaning the altar of incense. That is the prayer altar of heaven. He had a golden prayer censer that he was given. We do not know who gave it to him, but it is obviously from the authority of the Father. He was given much incense. The point is that he would take this heavenly incense, mix it in with all the prayers of the saints on the earth, the prayers of the saints through history. This is unique and mysterious in the sense that we do not fully understand this combination of heavenly incense given by an angel mixed up with the prayers of the saints through history and the saints at the end of the age.*

*Verse 4, in this combination there is this combustion if you will. The smoke of the prayer incense together with the prayer of all the saints across the nations came together and ascended, then explode in the presence of God. I add the word, explode, but it has this glorious combustion of explosion in the presence of God. I do not know if that is the right terminology, but you have this idea that it is something dynamic happening.*

*Verse 5, after the combination of the prayers on the earth and this heavenly, added dimension to it that we do not exactly know what it is, here is what happens. The angel takes that prayer censer, that bowl of prayer, and he fills it with fire. It was filled with incense. Now he fills it with fire. Then he throws the censer on the earth. “On the earth there are noises, thunder, lightening, and an earthquake.” I assume there are these noises in heaven, but you cannot have an earthquake in heaven. There is no such thing as a “heavenquake.” An earthquake by nature is on the earth. So there is thunder and lightening. This storm, these noises. I am just so interested in this noise. What is it? Is it music? Undoubtedly there is music dimension to it, but that is for another day. This eighth angel took this bowl of prayer, filled with incense and the saints’ prayers. Somehow they mix together. He takes it, fills it with fire, and pours it out on the earth.*

*In verse 6 we see the seven angels who were prepared for that day are now prepared to sound. Those end-time trumpet judgments begin. What an intense scene around the seventh seal!*

* + 1. ***Silence in heaven***: There will be a dreadful yet glorious silence in heaven for half an hour in anticipation of God’s judgments as the seven angels prepare to release them (8:1). It is estimated that it took a priest about a half an hour to offer incense in the temple (Lev. 16:13; Lk. 1:10, 21). There will also be silence on the earth in light of God’s end-time judgments (Ps. 46:10; Hab. 2:20; Zeph. 1:7; Zech. 2:13).

*There will be a dreadful but glorious silence in heaven for about a half hour. This judgment is in anticipation of God’s judgments as the seven angels prepare to release them. There is this anticipation in heaven, silence in heaven for half an hour. One thing this tells you is that time is measured in heaven. Some people say, “In heaven where there is no more time.” There are a number of indications in the book of Revelation of lengths of time in the eternal realm. The fact they pray night and day and never cease in heaven is what they are talking about.*

* + 1. An angel will be given much “heavenly” incense to offer with the prayers of the saints. This will provide a supernatural strengthening of the end-time prayer movement that results in releasing fire on earth with cosmic disturbances and an earthquake (8:3-5). The prayers of the saints are imperfect because of human weakness (Rom. 8:26). The only thing needed to be “added” to our prayers is the perfect intercession (incense) of Jesus, which may be what is given to the angel.

26…the Spirit helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for… (Rom. 8:26)

34Christ...at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)

*An angel is given much heavenly incense. We do not fully know all that is involved in that heavenly incense, but he offers it in a prayer censer with the prayers of the saints. This heavenly incense and this prayer incense from the church, the prayers of the saints, come together. It provides a supernatural strengthening of the end-time prayer movement. The idea is that it is the prayers of the saints on the earth. We know the martyrs are still praying in heaven. The other saints are still praying up there as well. There is this whole crescendo of prayer through the ages that is coming to fullness as the bowls of prayer are filling up.*

*The prayers of the saints are imperfect because of our human weakness. Paul made that point in Rom. 8. He said, “The Spirit helps our weakness because we do not know how to pray.” It is not that we just do not know the subject. We do not know how to engage in prayer in the deepest levels of the anointing because of our weakness. It takes the Holy Spirit’s help for our prayers to come to fullness. There is human weakness, but the only thing that needs to be added to our prayers is this heavenly incense. I do not know what it is. I know one thing, that there is one perfect intercessor in heaven, and His name is Jesus. He makes intercession at the throne of God for us. We find in the poetic language of Song of Solomon 3 that He is perfumed with myrrh, and He is also perfumed with frankincense that speaks of the prayer ministry. He has that incense-ministry dimension of His role before the throne of the Father. He intercedes.*

* + 1. ***Prayer of all the saints***: The prayers of *all* the saints are both accumulated from history as well as accelerated in the generation in which the Lord returns. The end-time prayer movement will be the most powerful force on earth as it functions under the leadership of Jesus.

*When it talks about the prayers of all the saints, it is talking about the prayers of all the saints that are accumulated from history. Therefore the bowls are getting more full as the generations unfold. It also is the prayers that are accelerated in the generation the Lord returns. Some people imagine the bowl of prayer becomes full only from the end-time church. True, there is* ***an******acceleration of prayer*** *in the end-time church. It will be the greatest prayer movement in history because there will be one or two billion believers engaged in prayer. The numbers are beyond any time of history. There is also* ***an accumulation of the prayers*** *through the generations where all the believers from the beginning are all involved in the purpose together.*

*The end-time prayer movement will be the most powerful force on the earth. Why? Because it is under Jesus’ leadership releasing His supernatural power, that is why.*

* + 1. God’s trumpet and bowl judgments are not released on the saints, but on the Antichrist’s empire. They will destroy the resources of the Antichrist’s armies. The trumpet and bowl judgments parallel the ten plagues of Egypt against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12). The walls of Jericho fell after Joshua blew seven trumpets (Josh. 6) as a prophetic picture of the fall of the Antichrist kingdom.

*At this point there are two sets of judgment left, the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments. The bowl judgments come next. We are in the seven trumpet judgments now. We just finished the seven seals. Now we are at the seven trumpets. Later after that comes the seven bowls. They are not released on the saints. Rather they are released on the Antichrist Empire. The reason this is critical is because it determines your view and your perspective of the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation is not a book that is mostly about the persecution of the saints. It is the defeat and destruction of the great oppressor, the Antichrist. That is what the book of Revelation is about—the defeat on a global level of the Antichrist, the greatest oppressor throughout human history.*

*These judgments will destroy the resources of the Antichrist’s armies. These judgments—the bowl and the trumpet—parallel the ten plagues of Egypt. If you read the book of Exodus, chapter 7-12, where you read the ten plagues of Egypt that Moses prayed and released upon the Pharaoh because of his oppression of the people of God, you find that the bowl and the trumpet judgments are parallel to the ten plagues of Egypt. They are meant to be. That is not some kind of secret little truth. It is meant to be the Moses story retold again on a global level on a grander scope. Instead of Moses, by prayer, releasing judgments on Pharaoh, it is the end-time church under the greater Moses, Jesus, releasing judgments on the end-time Pharaoh called the Antichrist. The great oppressor is the one who is toppled, and he is brought to full defeat.*

*When we talk about the seven trumpets, another very important prophetic picture is Joshua when they first entered the Promised Land. What is the first thing he does when he enters the Promised Land? He goes to Jericho, and he blows the seven trumpets, and he defeats Jericho. It is the grand first victory in the Promised Land through the blowing of the seven trumpets; the stronghold of the enemy is destroyed supernaturally, demolished and dismantled. The idea is that the seven trumpets at the end of the age are sounded before the people of God enter into the eschatological Promised Land, the full promises of that millennial earth. The stronghold of the evil one will be dismantled by the seven trumpet judgments. That is the prophetic picture we are intended to understand.*

* + 1. As Moses released the plagues on Egypt through prayer, and as the first apostles released God’s power through prayer in the book of Acts, so the praying Church will be involved with Jesus as He releases His judgment on the Antichrist. The miracles of Exodus and Acts will be combined and multiplied on a global level. The Old Testament prophets prophesied that miracles like those seen in Egypt in Moses’ generation would occur in the end times (Mic. 7:15; cf. Isa. 10:22-25; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jer. 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezek. 38:22; Joel 2:30).

15As in the days when you came out of…Egypt, I will show them wonders. (Mic. 7:15)

12The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do… (Jn. 14:12)

*Just as Moses released plagues on Egypt through prayer, the early apostles released the power of God through prayer in the book of Acts, in the very same relationship. Moses released the plagues through prayer; the apostles released the power of God, signs and wonders, healing, miracles through prayer. Even so, the praying church at the end of the age will release the power of God. The church will bring what happened in Acts and what happened in Exodus to its fullest dimension. The miracles of Exodus through Moses and the miracles in the book of Acts through the apostles will be combined and multiplied on a global level in one hour of history, meaning one generation. I do not know if it is over several decades; it is hard to know. We know it really escalates those final three and a half years.*

*Imagine the miracles of Exodus and the miracles of the book of Acts combined and multiplied on a global level. The Old Testament prophets prophesied a number of times that there would be outstanding miracles even like Moses performed. This is in essence what they are saying. Micah 7:15, “As in the days when you came out of Egypt,” talking about the end of the age, “In the same way when you came out of Egypt with Moses, I will show them miracles again in that day.” Micah 7 is about the end of the age. There is going to be the release of miracles just like when they came out of Egypt, which were the ten plagues. If you want to know what those miracles will be, they are the seven trumpets and bowls. Those are the miracles that are quite parallel to what happened in the ten plagues.*

*Jesus said, “You will do greater works than these.” Theologians for 2000 years have tried to figure out a way where we are doing greater works right now, somehow. I have read it. Some say it is through television we do greater works than Jesus.*

*I say, “I do not think so.” I think it really means greater works. I think it means the miracles of Moses. Jesus did not do miracles like that. He did a different category of miracles. Revelation 8-9, the miracles of Moses are going to happen again. That is while the church is still on the earth.*

* + 1. I see the book of Revelation as being like an end-time book of Acts so that the saints worldwide may have a unified prayer focus in knowing the sequence of God’s judgments on the Antichrist. It is like a *“canonized prayer manual”* that will equip the Church to partner with Jesus in prayer. Imagine hundreds of millions of saints unified with Jesus and one another. The end-time prayer movement will need the unified prayers of the entire body of Christ worldwide to release this measure of power against the Antichrist who will be the greatest oppressor in human history.

*I see the book of Revelation like an end-time book of Acts. But here the story told in advance. So here is the church across the earth, a billion believers in prayer. Can you imagine after the third trumpet, they are looking at the book of Revelation and saying, “After the third trumpet, what comes next? The fourth trumpet. What comes after the fourth trumpet? The fifth trumpet.” Everybody—all the saints in Asia, in Latin America, Africa, the islands—everybody knows what comes after three. Four. We are all reading the same prayer manual, all the believers around the earth. It will bring a unified prayer focus of the saints all across the earth because it is focused on stopping the injustice and the oppression of the Antichrist. It is Luke 18, crying for justice in the generation where the Lord returns. Will He find faith on the earth? Will He find people believing Him for justice through prayer and intercession? The answer is yes.*

*The saints will be unified using the book of Revelation. Of course by the Holy Spirit and other ways as well, but through the book of Revelation, we will see—and what I mean by we, I may not be here. I am talking about the body of Christ—the body of Christ will see the unfolding of the sequence of events one by one. The third seal follows the second. The fourth seal comes after the third. It is clear what is happening.*

*I speak of it like a canonized prayer manual. What I mean by canonized—it is an inspired, biblical prayer manual already in the Bible ahead of time, 2000 years ahead of time. This book is not just a symbolic fairy tale that is to be relegated to poetry. This is a true prayer manual, the book of Revelation. That is why I believe it is not too early to get familiar with it. Not only because we have to understand it, because you might be involved in it, and you might not. It may be the generation after you. It might be time after that, but it tells us what Jesus is like. He has thought everything through. This is the kind of leader He is, that He has put all of this stuff in the Word ahead of time because He wants His church partnering with Him.*

* + 1. A primary theme in Revelation is God’s judgment against the Antichrist’s empire. A secondary theme is the Antichrist’s persecution of the saints (12:12; 13:4, 8). In the Tribulation, the Church need not fear that they will be powerless victims. Rather, they will be operating in power under Jesus’ leadership. Only 12 of the 403 verses (3%) in the book of Revelation refer to persecution.

*One of the primary themes of Revelation is God’s judgment against the Antichrist. A secondary theme is the Antichrist’s persecution against the saints. Beloved, the Antichrist’s persecution is a secondary theme, not a primary theme. For years I have heard believers say, “Oh, the book of Revelation, I am glad we are not going to be here.”*

*I answer, “No, number one you will be here. Number two, you will be glad that you are here if you are alive at that time.” Moses did not want to go through forty years of training in the wilderness, get up to the time to go to Egypt, and then see Pharaoh’s oppression and say, “I do not want to stop Pharaoh. I want Pharaoh to wipe everyone out. I just want to be raptured right now.” No, Moses wanted to go into the land of Egypt and release the judgment of God and liberate the people of God. That is what Moses wanted to do.*

*The body of Christ will want to participate when they understand it is the greatest hour for the church in history. It is a dynamic hour! The primary theme is the judgment against the great oppressor. The secondary theme is persecution. The body of Christ is not going to be filled with fear as a powerless victim of a glorified Antichrist. Beloved, he is a defeated foe. It is not a glorified Antichrist and a defeated church. It is a victorious church and defeated Antichrist. Honestly it is. It is true. Only twelve verses out of 400 are about persecution. Only twelve verses. Three percent of the book of Revelation is about persecution. Three percent. This is a book of Exodus. This is an end-time book of Exodus, an end-time book-of-Acts type thing as a comparison.*

* + 1. ***Principle of judgment***: God’s end-time judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. The Lord will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone’s free will.

*I cannot say this too many times. God’s end time judgments are released to remove all that hinders love. The principle behind His judgment is to remove all that hinders love.* ***The Lord will use the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level of love without violating anyone’s freewill.*** *This is a concept that I think is critical to get hold of. He is going to use the* ***least severe*** *means. When you read these seven trumpets, you may question, “This is the least? One-third of the population of the earth?”*

*The Lord would say, “Yes, this is the least severe to reach the most people at the deepest level of love without violating anybody’s freewill.” It is quite a task the Lord has in His wisdom to bring forth the great harvest and the church pure and spotless in victorious love without violating anyone’s freewill. He knows how to do it. He has perfect wisdom, and He is resolved. It is going to happen.*

* + 1. Christianity is more about *relating to and partnering with Jesus* to see God’s glory and kingdom released on the earth and to drive evil off the planet than it is about escaping hell. The Lord wants to release His purposes on earth in context to deep partnership with His beloved people.
    2. The Lord told Moses to divide the sea rather than waiting for God to do it (Ex. 14:15-16), and He told Moses to speak to the rock to release God’s provision of water from it (Num. 20:7-8).

15The LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me?.. 16But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it…” (Ex. 14:15-16)

7The LORD spoke to Moses, 8“...speak to the rock…it will yield its water.” (Num. 20:7-8)

1. the release of The trumpet judgments (8:6)
   * 1. The trumpet judgments have a 3-fold purpose. First, to *hinder* the Antichrist empire’s spread of evil and persecution by destroying their natural resources. Second, to *warn* unbelievers of increased judgment by God and rage from Satan, thus creating an optimum environment for people to get saved. Third, to *rally* the saints to pray with unity as they see the trumpets unfold.

6So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. (Rev. 8:6)

*The trumpet judgments have a three-fold purpose at the very least, possibly several more. One, the trumpet judgments hinder the spread of Antichrist evil and persecution. I am not putting them in order of significance. One of the purposes is to hinder the spread of Antichrist evil and persecution by destroying the natural resources of the Antichrist Empire. He is hindered. He is thwarted in the process. He is frustrated. It is a stumbling block to him. It hinders him.*

*Two, the trumpets warn unbelievers. That is what a trumpet does. It warns that trouble is coming. As the church is proclaiming the seven trumpets one after the other to the unbelievers, and they happen exactly like the church is prophesying, these unbelievers will say, “What is this about?”*

*We will say, “If you think the second trumpet is bad, wait until the third.” The church will be saying clearly what the third one is, and the fourth one, and the fifth one. Unbelievers will be warned by the trumpets. That is one thing the trumpets do. They warn about impending trouble and disaster.*

*Three, trumpets rally towards something. Trumpets in the Old Testament rallied the nation of Israel to war. Here, there is a rallying of the saints to pray in unity. As the trumpets unfold, there will be greater intensity of prayer. That is why the first six verses of chapter 8 are about the prayer movement coming to this new level of effectiveness with this heavenly dimension added to it so that it releases in fullness the power of God released on the earth in terms of the judgment of the Antichrist.*

* + 1. The seven trumpets are *literal* (not symbolic), *future* (their fulfillment is still in the future),   
       *progressive* (increasing in intensity), and *numbered* (released in a sequential order).

*The seven trumpets are literal. They are not symbolic. The seven trumpets are future. They have not been fulfilled in history symbolically like some theologians teach. As I have said over the years, I honor the many men and women of God who teach the complete opposite of this. I honor their relationship with the Lord, and I honor their revelation of the Word, but when it comes to this, they just have it wrong. Meaning it is real storyline. It is not a figurative, symbolic something that has happened already in the past that has nothing to do with the coming of the Lord. It really, really does matter. Again, though I honor their relationship with God and their understanding on many subjects, and I receive and learn from them and fellowship with many guys who think this is all figurative and symbolic, I will not budge on the fact that this is literal and real and future.*

*It is progressive. The trumpet judgments become more intense. The third one is more intense than the second one. They are numbered. They are in sequential or chronological order so that the church actually knows what is going on. Again, it is informing the prayer movement, and it warning the unbelievers. That forerunner spirit will be on the whole end-time church. It will be on a billion people, not a few; it will be on the whole church. They will be warning unbelievers of what is happening.*

* + 1. They are *supernatural* acts of God released against the Antichrist’s empire through nature (first four trumpets) and demons (fifth and sixth trumpets). I do not believe they are to be understood as merely *natural* acts portrayed in symbolic language.

*The trumpets are supernatural acts of God through nature and through demons. They are supernatural, but are acts through nature like the sun being darkened. It is the sun, a part of the order of nature, but it is a supernatural intervention. It is not just a natural process.*

*There is a supernatural dimension, not just through nature like the first four trumpets. The fifth and six trumpets include the demonic. Demons are released out of the pit onto the earth. It will be the most horrific thing for the people who are following the Antichrist. I do not believe that these are understood as purely natural acts. It is not just that the sun has a little eclipse. There is a supernatural intervention making these things happen.*

* + 1. The trumpet judgments are “limited” to one-third as highlighted twelve times (8:7-12). In other words, they are warnings of more to come in the seven bowls (16:1-21). The limitation of the trumpets to a partial judgment warns and gives opportunities to repent.

*The trumpet judgments are limited to one-third. This is highlighted twelve times. Over and over it says it is one-third. The reason that it is important to know it only one-third is affected is because they are warnings of more to come. That is the idea. There is more to come, and there is yet time for unbelievers to respond.*

* + 1. The *first four trumpets* punish the Antichrist’s empire by destroying their natural resources that support life (yet without directly touching people). The *fifth and sixth trumpets* will directly afflict humans by demonic torment and then killing one-third of the human race.

*The first four trumpets punish the Antichrist Empire by destroying their natural resources. It destroys the food supply. It destroys transportation systems. It destroys economy. It destroys the natural resources of the Antichrist army. It is like the Lord is going to war, hindering their resource base. It is not directly touching the people. The first four trumpets affect the people by affecting the sun, the food, and all that, but it is not touching them directly. The fifth and sixth trumpet touch the people directly in a very, very intense way with demonic torment and then with physical death.*

* + 1. In the *first four seals*, God lifts restraints off humans so that they destroy one another’s resources. In the *first four trumpets*, God will destroy the resources of Antichrist’s empire.
    2. In the *fifth and sixth seals*, the heavens will be opened to release supernatural activity (6:9-11).   
       In the *fifth and sixth trumpets*, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm (9:1-21).

*Just giving you some comparisons to get your mind around understanding the different trumpets and how they work together with the seals, just to see a few comparisons.*

* + 1. The first five trumpets (8:7-12) parallel the plagues of Egypt. The first (8:7) parallels the seventh plague of hail with fire and blood (Ex. 9:22-26). The second and third (8:8-11) parallel the first plague of the Nile turning to blood (Ex. 7:19-25). The fourth (8:12) parallels the ninth plague of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23) and the fifth (9:1-11), the eighth plague of locusts (Ex. 10:12-20).

*The first five trumpets parallel the plagues of Egypt. The first five particularly parallel the plagues of Egypt that we already emphasized.*

1. the First Four Trumpets: destruction of Natural Resources (8:7-12)
   * 1. The first four trumpets will destroy the resources of the Antichrist’s empire (8:6-12), affecting the *environment* (trees, grass, sea, rivers, sky), *food supplies* (vegetation, meat, fish), *sea trade*, *water supplies*, and both *light and heat* (sun, moon, stars). Their purpose is to destroy, not kill.

*The first four trumpets destroy the resources of the Antichrist Empire. I know I am repeating that, but I want to make it clear. I have taught this over the years, and people right afterwards will be afraid of the trumpets. I say, “No, no, they destroy the resources of the Antichrist. They do not destroy the church. The church is praying, and Jesus is releasing them, but in conjunction with the praying church. They are not on the saints. They are on the oppressor. This is the prayer, “Lord, release justice.” It is justice against the oppressor.”*

*They say, “Oh, okay.” A little time goes by, and they are afraid again.*

*I say, “No, no, no. The Jews in Egypt did not need to be afraid that Moses was coming into town. They were rejoicing that Moses was coming into town to destroy the oppressor.”*

*The first four trumpets destroy the environment, the food supply, the sea trade, water supplies, and both light and heat. The purpose of these first four trumpets is to destroy resources, not to kill people. Number five and number six torment people and kill people. The first four, it is to destroy resources.*

* + 1. ***First trumpet***: It will destroy food supplies by burning one-third of the earth’s vegetation (8:7).   
       A supernatural event, like a meteor storm, with hail and fire will burn the earth’s trees and grass.

7The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. A third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. (Rev. 8:7)

*We will look at every one of them very, very briefly. The first trumpet will destroy food supplies—one third of the earth’s vegetation. What happens here in verse 7 is that hail with fire falls down to the earth. It does not just fall; it is thrown to the earth from God or the angels—however it works up there—by the angels under God’s leadership. Hail is thrown to the earth, but it is hail mingled with fire and blood. That is interesting. It burns the trees and all the grass. A third of the trees and all the grass. There is this supernatural meteor storm coming down with fire mixed with it and blood, and it is burning up all the trees. That is pretty intense. You tell your neighbors that the week before it happens, and it happens, your neighbors will be saying, “What is going to happen next?”*

*You may not be here when this happens, but again, we want to know the storyline because you might be. Or maybe it is your children or their children. We want to know the storyline because right now so much of the body of Christ just ignores the book of Revelation as though it is just kind of a little figurative poem or parable that does not really matter. I feel so much energy about the value and the glory of this book and how it reveals Jesus.*

* + 1. ***Second trumpet***:It will destroy food supplies and sea trade (8:8-9). A huge burning object like a mountain will fall from heaven turning one-third of the sea into blood and destroying one-third of the sea and ships. Some see this as referring *only* to the Mediterranean Sea (18:18; Isa. 2:12-16). The second trumpet corresponds to the first plague of Egypt where the rivers became as blood, causing the fish to die and polluting the land (Ex. 7:14-25; Ps. 105:2 9; 78:43-44).

8The second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. 9And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. (Rev. 8:8-9)

*The second trumpet destroys the food supplies and the sea trade, which impacts the economy. At the sounding of this trumpet, verse 8, there is a mountain that is thrown into the sea. The first trumpet is hail. Now it is a mountain. It is getting more intense. It is thrown into the sea now, instead of into the forests. The other one was thrown into the forest where all the trees were. This is thrown into the sea. A third of the sea becomes blood. That does not mean necessarily it is thick, fully coagulated blood. It might just be particles of blood, portions of blood. There will be a blood element in the sea. How intense? Nobody knows. It is probably more intense in some places and less intense in others. A third of the living creatures died. It really messes up the sea trade, the food supply, and a whole bunch of other things. The ships were destroyed because the blood is getting into the ships and the engines. It is messing everything up.*

*There is this huge, burning object like a mountain falling from heaven, turning a third of the sea into blood,\ and destroying the ships.*

* + 1. ***Third trumpet***:It will poison one-third of the earth’s fresh water supply (8:10-11). A great burning star or meteoric mass will fall from heaven poisoning fresh water (rivers and springs). The saints will be protected as they were during the Egyptian plague on the Nile (Ex. 7:14-25).

10The third angel sounded: And a great star fell…burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. 11The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. (Rev. 8:10-11)

*We go the third trumpet. Hail was the first one. Then a falling mountain was a second one. This one is a great star; a great star now falls to the earth. These things keep falling from heaven—from the sky—heaven means the sky. It is being mandated and commissioned from the prayer room at the throne of God where the incense is being mingled with the prayers of the saints. Now it is a great star falling like a torch. It does not fall on the oceans, but it falls on the rivers and on the fresh waters, which become biter. The fresh water becomes poisoned. It falls on the fresh water supply and will poison one-third of the earth’s fresh water supply.*

* + 1. ***Fourth trumpet***:It will destroy light and heat by darkening one-third of the sun, moon and stars (8:12). This supernatural work of God will affect heat, health, agriculture, navigation, etc. Our lack of understanding of how this will occur is not a sufficient reason to see this as symbolic. This trumpet corresponds to the ninth Egyptian plague from which Israel was spared (Ex. 10:23).

12The fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. (Rev. 8:12)

21The LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, which may even be felt.” 22…there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days… 23But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.(Ex. 10:21-23)

*The fourth trumpet does not involve something falling from the sky, but it affects the sky. The first three fall from the sky—the hail, the great mountain, and the great star. Now this one affects the atmosphere. It affects the sun, the moon, and the stars. They are struck somehow. We do not know how they are struck, but they are struck. It is a supernatural act. What does struck mean? That sounds like serious to me. What strikes the sun and lives to tell? The sun is struck, and a third of the moon, a third of the stars, and they are darkened. A third of the day did not shine and likewise there was a third of the night where the light of the stars is gone as well. This supernatural work will affect heat and light. It will affect agriculture. It will affect navigation. It will affect so many things. It will affect crime, security, all kinds of things that light and heat affect.*

*Our lack of understanding of how this will occur is not a sufficient reason to write this off as just symbolic. I have read commentators. They say, “This is so crazy. It has to be symbolic.” I say, “Come on, you cannot just write it off because we do not get it. That is not a sufficient reason to reduce it to poetry and symbolism.”*

*We know one thing—that this sort of thing happened in Egypt. Look at the ninth plague of Egypt. Remember the ten plagues of Egypt. This is very interesting. The Lord said, “Stretch out your hand.” Moses is engaging in prayer, using New Testament concepts. “Darkness will be over the land. The darkness was felt.” Moses stretched forth his rod and his hand. For three days darkness was on the land. The darkness is felt. There is this weightiness, this heaviness about the darkness. I do not even fully get what that means. It will last for three days. Verse 23, “The children of Israel had light.” How is the darkness in the sky over in that subdivision but not in the other subdivision? How does that work?*

*By the way, the subdivision that the Jewish slaves lived in was Goshen. It was not a very nice subdivision. It was slave quarters. It is interesting, in the palaces and in the rich of Egypt, there was no light and the darkness could be felt, but in the slave camp, in Goshen there was light. That really threw some people off. Like, “How does the light work?” I do not know. It happened once in Egypt and I think it is going to happen again on a global level. I think there will be light in the camp of the saints.*

1. Understanding the fifth and sixth trumpets (Rev. 9)
   * 1. The fifth and sixth trumpet judgments will release two demonic armies on the earth. In one sense, the demons come in response to the worship of their loyal demonized followers (13:8). In the fifth and sixth trumpets, God lifts His restraints off the demonic realm so that their hatred for humans is manifest. The demonic realm beneath the earth is opened, releasing them (9:1-21).

*Next are the fifth and sixth trumpet judgments. We have seen the four that affect nature. Now we are looking at number five and number six. They will release two demonic armies. Two hoards of demons will be released from the pit to bring torment to the people who are actually worshiping the demons. The demons will torment the very people who worship demons. It is like the Lord is saying, “I will show you the true nature of the one you are worshiping. You think you have liberty and power worshiping him. I will let you see the truth about him.” The Lord draws back restraint, and the demons hate the very people who loyally serve them. They hate them with perfect passion. They kill and torment their own loyal worshipers.*

* + 1. Demons hate the people who worship them as much as they hate Christians—they hate *all people* because they were made in God’s image. Satan is a murderer from the beginning (Jn. 8:44). He never changes. His hatred will not be openly seen on earth until the fifth and sixth trumpets. Many will be deluded in thinking that Satan will give them favor for their loyal service to him.

*Demons hate the very people who worship them. Just as much as they hate Christians, they hate the non-Christians. They hate the people who love them. Because the demons are filled with rage, that is why they hate all people. Many will be deluded in that hour thinking Satan will give them favor for their loyal service. What Satan will give somebody for loyal service is torment and death. That is what he gives them for loyal service.*

* + 1. People will be turned over to Satan to experience the terrors of his hatred in order to give them opportunity to repent before progressing in evil by taking the mark of the Beast, which will be blasphemy. God wants unbelievers to see the truth about Satan, but He will honor the choice of the wicked by turning them over to the sin they love (Rom. 1:24-28).

19Some…whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme. (1 Tim. 1:19)

5Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (1 Cor. 5:5)

24Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies...26For this reason God gave them up to vile passions...exchanging the natural use for what is against nature...28God gave them over to a debased mind… (Rom. 1:24-28).

*In these trumpet judgments, people are being turned over to Satan. They are given a taste of the true nature of Satan in order to wake them up to give them opportunity to repent. This concept is seen in some very important verses. Paul said, “I delivered these two guys over to Satan so that Satan could torment them so that they would wake up and repent and stop blaspheming.” That is “They were turned over to Satan to teach them not to blaspheme” was the idea.*

*So they would wake up and realize, “This is not what I want to do.”*

*The same thing happened in 1 Corinthians 5. Paul is talking about a believer, “We turn them over to demonic torment so they would wake up and their spirit would be saved.”*

*Meaning the guy would repent and say, “I do not want to live in darkness, if this is the true nature of darkness.” A lot of folks live in darkness because they love the lust of sin and darkness. They do not know the nature and the truth of what darkness is about. They are playing with immorality. They are playing with drunkenness and all the different evil ways beyond that. Murder, sorcery, and demonic kingdom. They think it is fun, exciting, fascinating, powerful, and tantalizing to their flesh, but they do not know what the very center of darkness is. God gives them a taste on a global level of what is at the core of what they are touching.*

*Romans 1:24-28 is such a telling passage. It says the phrase three times, “God gave them up.” He is talking about people more than 2000 years ago. This principle has operated throughout history. It is going to operate on a global level in those final years before the Lord returns. God gave up people to uncleanness. When they live in uncleanness, He gives them up in their lust. Then they get fixated with lust and addicted to lust. When they get addicted to it, verse 26, God gives them up to the next level, to vile passions. They exchange the natural use for that which is against nature. They get involved in all kinds of perverse sexual things, beyond what they had been involved in. They stay with that, and then God gives them over more to a debased mind.*

*So there are these three levels of giving up that is going on here. This is going to happen on a global level through the fifth and sixth trumpet to give people a chance to see how deep and devastating and depraved that darkness really, really is. Some will wake up and say, “I do not want anything to do with this. I had no idea this is where it is going.” God is going to give up multitudes more and more to depravity as they become Satan worshipers, etc.*

1. Fifth trumpet: torment by demonic locusts (9:1-11)
   * 1. The fifth trumpet will release an army of demonic locusts who will inflict pain on people (9:4).

1The fifth angel sounded: I saw a star fallen [descended] from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2He opened the bottomless pit…3out of the smoke locusts came on the earth. To them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth…but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months…like the torment of a scorpion…6In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. (Rev. 9:1-6)

*The fifth trumpet will release an army of demonic locusts. They will inflict pain upon the people. This is remarkable. The fifth angel sounded, verse 1, “And I saw a star fallen from heaven.” For the word, fallen, some translators will use the word, descended, from heaven. This is a positive thing. It is a good angel descending from heaven, not an evil angel falling from heaven. “To this angel was given the key to the bottomless pit.” The bottomless pit is down in the center of the earth. Or down in the earth somewhere down there. We do not know where, but it is way, way, way down there. In verse 2, this angel unlocks and opens this great shaft going deep to the recesses of the earth where demons are and where the damned are in a temporary prison before they are thrown into the lake of fire at the end of the Millennium. This good angel, I believe, opens this bottomless pit. He has the authority of God to unlock it.*

*Out of this shaft, literally coming up from the earth, from down in the region beneath where demons really, really are down there—the demons that are in prison. Other demons are in the atmosphere, powers and principalities. They are in the mid-heavens. Demons in prison are down in the earth in the bottomless pit or the abyss. They are unlocked, and they are released to come on the earth. Verse 3, “Out of the smoke that is coming out of this pit from the inter recesses of the earth, these demonic locusts came on the earth. To these demonic locusts was given power as a scorpion of the earth has power.”*

*Verse 4, they are commanded, “Do not harm the grass.” I guess these locusts want to eat the grass or something. “Leave the grass alone. Only harm the men who do not have the seal of God on them.” The saints will have the seal of God on them; these are the saints are on the earth. The saints are not harmed by these locusts because it is a judgment of God against the Antichrist Empire. Verse 5, they were not given authority to kill people but to torment them for five months. Their torment is like the sting of a scorpion. The men of the earth will be so in anguish that they will try to die, but they will not be able to die. I do not know what that will look like. How is it that people in so much pain try to die but cannot die? God has authority over death, and He somehow will not let their spirit be released from their body. I do not get how that works, but death will flee from them, and they will not have the ability to kill themselves.*

* + 1. ***Star fallen***: The word for *fallen* here can be translated as *descended.* I see this as a good angel descending or coming down from heaven with the key to open the bottomless pit to judge the wicked. The activity of this angel parallels the actions of a good angel with the key to the bottomless pit to bind Satan (20:1). Jesus has all authority in the spiritual realm (1:18; 3:7).
    2. ***Opened the pit***: Some demons are bound by chains (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6) being kept or reserved to be instruments of God’s end-time judgment to inflict torment on those who worship the Beast. The bottomless pit or the abyss (Greek) is a temporary prison for fallen angels who will be released in the end times. This passage implies a “huge shaft” extending from the earth’s surface to the depths of the earth where demons are imprisoned. This “shaft” is currently sealed.

4For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment… (2 Pet. 2:4)

* + 1. ***Seal***: the saints receive a seal resulting in them being protected from God’s judgments (9:4).

3…to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4They were commanded not to harm the grass…but only those men who do not have the seal of God… (Rev. 9:3-4)

19I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy [physical and spiritual], and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Lk. 10:19)

*The saints receive the seal resulting in being protected from God’s judgments. The saints are protected from God’s judgments at this time. In Luke 10, Jesus said, “I will give you authority to trample on scorpions and serpents.” Certainly that is an active promise for 2000 years, but it is going to have an ultimate fulfillment in that hour of history, because these scorpion stings cannot touch the saints.*

* + 1. ***Men will seek death***: The anguish of a scorpion sting will drive people to such despair that they will seek suicide. This compares to the eighth plague—though it was without inflicting pain (Ex. 10:12).
    2. John described this demonic locust army (9:7-11) by comparing them to horses prepared for battle wearing golden crowns with human faces. These locusts are supernatural, demonic beings, not natural locusts. They can distinguish between unbelievers and believers (who have God’s seal). The details here include the names, rank, description, and torment of demons. I believe we are to interpret these details at face value. Satan’s hierarchy includes a demonic king named *Abaddon* (Hebrew) or *Apollyon* (Greek) or *destroyer* (English).

7The shape of the locusts was like horses…on their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men…11They had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Rev. 9:7, 11)

*John described this demonic army by comparing them to horses prepared for battle, wearing golden crowns with human faces. These locusts are supernatural demonic beings. They are not natural locusts. They are not figurative. They are real demonic beings. The details are included. They have name and rank. It describes them. The type of torment they do. These demons can distinguish between believers and unbelievers. They know who has the seal of God, and they know who does not have the seal of God. That this is real is the idea.*

1. Sixth Trumpet: Death by Demonic Horsemen (9:12-21)
   * 1. In the sixth trumpet, four demons will be released to lead a demonic cavalry to kill one-third of the human race. In the fifth trumpet, people will seek to die (9:6). Their prayer will then be answered as the demons they worship kill them. This parallels the tenth plague (Ex. 12:29-32).

13The sixth angel sounded: I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels [fallen demonic beings] who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. 16Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million…17I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them…out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. 18By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed… (Rev. 9:13-18)

*With the sounding of the sixth trumpet, four demonic beings will be released. They will lead a demonic cavalry of 200 million demons to kill one-third of the human race. Remember in the fifth trumpet men wanted to die and cannot. Now in the sixth trumpet they get killed. “Please, I want to die.” The demons now kill them. These are the demons they are worshipping who are killing and tormenting them. I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar. Again, associated with the prayer ministry in heaven, the voice of God tells this sixth angel, “Release the four demonic beings that are bound at the Euphrates River.” You say, “Are there four demonic beings bound there?” Yes, they are.*

*Verse 15 tells us that they have been prepared for a particular hour of history to kill a third of the earth. There are 200 million of them. Back in the seventies and the eighties, some Bible teachers said, “It is 200 million soldiers coming from Asia.” No, it is 200 million demons. These are not human soldiers. These are demons coming out of the pit who are going to kill one-third of the human race.*

* + 1. The sixth trumpet will be commissioned by the angel who serves at the golden altar of prayer to release the four angels of death in answer to the end-time prayer movement (8:3-5; 9:13). The horns of the altar was a place of asylum to cry for mercy. Good angels are not bound, only evil angels (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) until the end times to be released as instruments of judgment.

*The sixth trumpet will be commissioned by an angel who serves at the golden altar of prayer. The sixth angel is related to the golden altar in heaven, the prayer altar of heaven. This is connected to the prayer ministry in heaven and the prayer ministry on the earth.*

* + 1. God will commission them to kill one-third of the human race. They are demons *prepared* for a specific work of judgment in the end times. The four angels give leadership over part of the demonic army of 200 million horsemen. Possibly each commands 50 million demonic horsemen.
    2. The four primary demonic strongholds in society will be murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft (9:21). There will be more demonized people on earth than any time in history.

20The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent…21They did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or thefts. (Rev. 9:20-21)

*Notice what it says in verse 20 and verse 21, “The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues, they did not repent.” This is the sixth trumpet. The seventh trumpet is the rapture of the church. We are at the very final moment. The people who are touched by these demons are so angry. They are actually angry with God, even though it is the demons that are tormenting them, but they cannot connect the dots because they are so deceived.*

*Verse 21 is very important. They do not repent of four things—murder, sorcery, immorality, and theft. These are the four primary demonic strongholds in society in the generation the Lord returns. The four areas of wickedness that will explode and escalate across the nations, amongst the ungodly, will be murder, sorcery or witchcraft, immorality, and theft. We can already see the rise of those four in the nations growing rapidly. That is even a sign of the times in these early days. There will be more demonized people on the earth at that time than any other time of history. There will be people filled with the spirit of murder, worshiping demons, filled with immorality, demonized with immorality, with perversion demons, and being committed to theft.*

* + 1. Sin will reach its greatest heights in history. The Antichrist’s empire will be like a “corporate Pharaoh” with hardened hearts. Sin will become ripe (14:18; 17:4; 18:5). The wheat and the tares, or the righteous and the wicked, will mature together at the end of the age (Mt. 13:29-30). People will love sin and the Antichrist and will deeply hate Jesus, the truth, and the saints.

23In the latter time…when the transgressors have reached their fullness… (Dan. 8:23)

*Daniel said that in the last days or in the latter time—the latter time in Daniel means the last days, meaning the final hours of human history—that sin will reach its fullness. There is one time in history when—it says transgression, but you could put the word sin—there is one hour of history where sin will come to fullness.*

* + 1. Many in the nations will become very “spiritual” following right after a season of being very secular. Perversion will escalate, being dynamically connected to the spirit realm. Immorality will be more than sexual hedonism; rather it will express demon worship with a dark spiritually.

*I just want to leave you with this thought. Then we will respond to the Lord as people who are saying, “Lord, I want to be true to what is in Your heart and to who You are. I want to study You. I want to see You in this, and not see it as just a plan. I want to see the Man behind the plan. I want to prepare my understanding so I can prepare those who are yet in the days to come, that I can teach them the things that are on Your heart.”*

*Many in the nations will end up more spiritual than they are secular. Right now the trend is that the nations are becoming more secular. They are getting more and more secular and more and more amoral—having no morals. Something dynamic is going to happen. There is going to be this new dimension. It is more secular, more secure, more committed to sin, and something is going to shift. They are going to go from secular and they will be dynamically spiritual. Meaning, it will not be “Jesus spiritual,” but there will be a demonic spiritual element and their immorality will be connected to their worship of demons. It will be intrinsically spiritual.*

*I believe what Adolf Hitler did with the Jews was not merely racial hatred. It was spiritual. I believe it was an interaction with Satan himself in the murder of the Jewish people. I believe there was something so spiritual and sinister, so far beyond racial prejudice. It was so much more insidious than that. Immorality is going to become more than sexual heathenism. It will end up becoming an expression of demonic worship with a dark spirituality filling the earth. Not a secular spirit, but a dark spirituality.*

*The nations are moving further into the secular, but it is going to go far into another realm as God gives the nations over to their own depravity. At the same time the church will be exploding in the nations and the multitude of the harvest. The church will come to the greatest numbers and the deepest commitment of righteousness and be doing the works of the kingdom. The dark will be getting darker, and the light will be getting lighter all in the same time frame. That is the optimum environment to bring forth the harvest and the victorious church. Amen and amen.*