

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Vision 2: The Seven Trumpets of Judgment Unit 16: The Little Scroll and the Two Witnesses Revelation 10:1 - 11:14 December 31, 2023

THE SIXTH TRUMPET: THE RELEASE OF FOUR ANGELS (9:13-21)

13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the **golden altar** before God, **14** saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are **bound** at the great river **Euphrates.**" **15** So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number. **17** And this is how I saw the **horses** in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. **18** By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the **fire and smoke and sulfur** coming out of their mouths. **19** For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound. **20** The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, **21** nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

THE SECOND INTERLUDE: JOHN EATS THE "LITTLE SCROLL" (10:1-11)

1 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of fire. **2** He had a **little scroll** open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, **3** and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. **4** And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven **6** and **swore** by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, **7** but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets. **8** Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." **9** So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "*Take and eat it*; it will make your **stomach bitter**, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." **10** And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it

YOUR CUES TO UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

THE RELEASE OF THE FOUR ANGELS (9:13-21)

(13) *golden altar* - Altar of Incense (prayers intensify judgment on religious delusion)

(14) *bound* - God's wrath "bound" until now

(14) *Euphrates* - Eastern boundary of Greater Israel where evil powers lurk (Syria, Assyria, Babylon)

(17) *horses* - Horses to the killing - not the riders

(18) *fire, smoke, sulphur* - Symbols of judgment and wrath

SECOND INTERLUDE: EAT THE SCROLL (10:1-11)

(2) *little scroll* - This scroll is OPEN for all to read

(6) *swore* - No more delay in unleashing judgment
[See 2 Peter 3:9]

(9) *take and eat it* - INTERNALIZE the Word
[See Ezekiel 2:8-3:3]

(9) *stomach bitter* - Our feeling when someone we love Rejects the Gospel - damnation lurks.

my stomach was made bitter. **11** And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

THE MEASURING OF THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD (11:1-2)

1 Then I was given a **measuring rod** like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and **measure the temple** of God and the altar and those who worship there, **2** but do not measure the **court outside** the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for **forty-two months**."

THE TWO WITNESSES OF THE LORD (11:3-14)

3 And I will grant authority to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." **4** These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** that stand before the Lord of the earth. **5** And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.

6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. **7** And when they have finished their testimony, **the beast** that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, **8** and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.

9 For **three and a half days** some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, **10** and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. **11** But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they **stood up on their feet**, and great fear fell on those who saw them. **12** Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went **up to heaven in a cloud**, and their enemies watched them. **13** And at that hour there was a **great earthquake**, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. **14** The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

THE MEASURING OF THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD (11:1-2)

(1) *measuring rod* - The Saving Word of God

(1) *measure the temple* - Determine who actually is IN the Church - and those who only THINK they are in church.

(2) *court outside* - Court of the Gentiles

(2) *forty-two months* - From Jesus' Ascension into Heaven To his Second Coming at the Last Day

THE TWO WITNESSES OF THE LORD (11:3-14)

(3) *two witnesses* - required to verify information facts [See Deuteronomy 27:7]

(4) *two olive trees* - Reference to the Holy Spirit

(5) *two lampstands* - Spirit-Filled PROPHECY and PROCLAMATION [The Two Witnesses]

(7) *beast from bottomless pit* - Total ANTI-CHRISTIAN POWER in the world

(8) *three and a half days* - Brief, divinely limited "season of triumph (Jesus in the Tomb).

(9) *stood up on their feet* - Prophecy and Proclamation experience resurrection

(12) *up to heaven in a cloud* - Saving Word is withdrawn forever from the fallen world

(13) *great earthquake* - God is through with the fallen world for good.

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