

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 33

THE FIRST TRUMPET STUDY GUIDE

JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM

Revelation 8:7

The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.”

This first trumpet covers the historic time of the early church, after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The history

reveals how this prophecy was fulfilled. Jesus Himself gave the answer when He sat on the mountain with His disciples one evening, and said that all of the city, even the temple, would be destroyed. Christ’s words were fulfilled in A.D. 70, when Titus and his Roman army destroyed it all.

“Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.’” Matthew 24:1-2.

Revelation 8 is highly symbolic language, but it is easy to understand once we know the meaning of the symbols. So we’ll begin with the symbols and summarize at the end.

First Trumpet—Judaism, Jerusalem

Hail = Battle, War, Destruction

“Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?” Job 38:22-23.

“Behold, the Lord has a mighty and strong one, like a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, like a flood of mighty waters overflowing, who will bring them down to the earth with His hand.” Isaiah 28:2.

Fire = Judgment

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” Matthew 7:19. (Note connection to trees.)

“Each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is” 1 Corinthians 3:13.



“The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth.”

REVELATION 8:2

Blood = Death

“And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children’” Matthew 27:25.

“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man” Genesis 9:6.

“So the LORD will return his blood on his head” 1 Kings 2:32.

“And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy.” Ezekiel 16:38 (connection to judgment).

“That it may raise up fury and take vengeance, I have set her blood on top of a rock, that it may not be covered” Ezekiel 24:8.

“And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone” Ezekiel 38:22 (note the connection to hail and fire).

Third Part = 1) Deceived by Satan, or 2) limited judgment

KEY SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9:15 A FALSE PROPHET TELLS LIES

1 Cor. 3:13 JUDGMENT FIRE TESTS EACH PERSON’S WORK

Mat. 24:1-2 JESUS’ PROPHECY 40 YEARS LATER

Job 38:22-23 GREAT HAILSTONES RESERVED TILL JUDGMENT

“His tail drew a **third of the stars of heaven** and threw them to the earth.” Revelation 12:4.

“The elder and honorable, he is the head; the prophet who **teaches lies**, he is the **tail**.” Isaiah 9:15.

Trees = Leaders, Nations

“For if they do these things in a **green tree**, what shall be done in the **dry** [tree]?” Luke 23:31.

“For if you were cut out of the **olive tree** [Gentile nations] which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated **olive tree** [Jewish nation], how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own **olive tree** [Jewish nation]?” Romans 11:24.

“And even now the ax is laid to the **root of the trees**. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” Luke 3:9.

“The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens... **It is you, O king**, [Babylon] who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth.” Daniel 4:20, 22.

Burnt Up = Destroyed

“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; **but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire**.” Matthew 3:12.

“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and **bind them in bundles to burn them**, but gather the wheat into my barn.” Matthew 13:30.

Green Grass = People, Wicked

“The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; **surely the people are grass**” Isaiah 40:7-8. (See also 1 Peter 1:24).

“When the wicked spring up like grass, and when all the workers of iniquity flourish, it is that they may be destroyed forever.” Psalm 92:7 (Those not sealed Revelation 9:4; Ephesians 1:13).

SYMBOLS IDENTIFIED:

- Hail = Battle, War
- Fire mingled = Test, Judgment
- Blood = Death
- Third part = Deceived by lies
- Tree = Leaders, Nations
- Burnt up = Destroyed
- Green grass = People, Wicked

Summary (Judgment on Judaism)—About 40 years (one generation) after crucifying Jesus and then rejecting the gospel proclamation manifested by the marked outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans. The Jewish leaders (trees) and all people (grass) who had been deceived were destroyed (not one Christian was lost). Justice and judgment (hail, fire, and blood) are visited upon Jerusalem and it was plowed like a field and any remaining Jews were taken captive and later killed or dispersed among the nations as slaves.

“In prophetic scripture, the sounding of trumpets is always used to denote the downfall of some empire, nation, or place, or some dreadful battle, which may decide the fate of empires, nations, or places... Therefore we may reasonably conclude that a trumpet is the harbinger of destructive wars, and the dissolution of empires, states, or the earth, as the case may be. The seven trumpets mentioned in Revelation, the last three of which are mentioned in our text, indicate the final overthrow of the powers spoken of in the prophecy. The first four had their accomplishment in the destruction of the Jews and their dispersion, in the fall of imperial Rome, in the overthrow of the Asiatic kingdom, and in the taking away of Pagan rites and ceremonies.” (Miller’s Works, Vol. 2, p. 115, 1842). ★