

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 36, 37

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

THE FOURTH TRUMPET STUDY GUIDE

THE FOURTH TRUMPET

Revelation 8:12, 13

As we did in our previous lesson, we will start with an analysis of the various verbal illustrations found in our text.

One third – We have examined this before, but one third represents apostasy and also an effect that is not fully complete (Revelation 12:4; Jude 6). When a judgment falls and one third are affected, it can be viewed as a judgment without full and final force; that gives room for repentance as it is not a final judgment.

Sun – The sun is a symbol of the righteousness of Jesus Christ: “But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.” Malachi 4:2. An obscuring and diminishing of salvation by grace through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Christ’s righteousness), is being depicted by the symbols in this verse.

Moon – The Moon is a body that God made not only for the keeping of time, but for “signs and seasons” (Genesis 1:16). The Moon has no light of its own, reflecting the light of the sun (2 Corinthians 4:3-6). Just so, the Bible reflects the light of God to this world. The obscuring of the Word of God is also symbolized in this verse.

Stars – Stars are an allusion to Heavenly beings when used in a general sense. Satan drew a third of the stars away from Heaven, leaving the un-fallen two thirds. They also represent God’s people (Daniel 12:3).

Day – Day is the part of the 24-hour cycle where light is present: illumination from the sun. It represents the brightness of truth that would be obscured by this religious system (1 John 1:5, 7).

Night – Night is that part of the day where the sun and its brightness are not visible, yet we are not left in total darkness. The Moon was made as a source of light at night. The moon represents Bible prophecy and warnings that God sends to guide our steps in darkness (2 Peter 1:19; Daniel 7:1, 2, 13; Matthew 2:12, 13).

We can now examine verse twelve to understand its meaning. Sun, Moon, and stars are mentioned together. Where can we

find meaning to of all three found in one place? Let us turn to Genesis 37:9, 10 for an answer: “Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, ‘Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.’ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, ‘What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?’”

Joseph and his eleven brothers, father, and mother, were the building blocks for the nation of Israel. We have a beautiful picture of the people of God

here, but we must combine it with the term “one third.” We have a picture of the professed people of God in a condition of apostasy.

A third of the day and night did not shine. This image, again of the “Dark Ages” church, shows that the sun of righteousness, Jesus, and His work in the Heavenly Sanctuary, are in darkness. But even at night, God’s people are not left without



“Then the fourth angel sounded:
And a third of the sun was
struck...” **REVELATION 8:12**

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 8:12 THIRD OF SUN SMITTEN

Revelation 8:12 THIRD OF MOON SMITTEN

Revelation 8:13 ANGEL SAYING WOE, WOE, WOE

2 Peter 1:19 PROPHETIC WORD SHINES IN DARK PLACE

help! Even when the light of the Bible was being withheld, God provided us a way to follow Him. “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” 2 Peter 1:19.

God gives prophecy to guide His faithful followers in times of darkness. Satan knows this, so in past times of extreme darkness, such as the Dark Ages, he sought to obscure prophetic light by tampering with prophecy. Prophecy identified the Dark Ages church’s apostasy, so satanic influences sought

to distort the truth. As we discussed in a previous lesson, the schools of Futurism and Preterism were eventually invented for this purpose.

The second verse in today’s scripture describes another angel preparing to sound three woes, which are the next three trumpets. What do these mean? Let’s study on to find out! ★

