

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Programs 39, 40

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

THE SIXTH TRUMPET STUDY GUIDE

As we remember from our last study on the fifth trumpet, the Bible predicts that a “locust” power would come “out of the smoke of the bottomless pit” (Revelation 9:2, 3). This power brought judgment on a church that was oppressing God’s faithful and leading all into idolatry. We identified the locust power as Islam, eventually forming the Ottoman Empire as they joined together under one leader. However, they were commanded not to hurt the true followers of Christ. Now we pick up in verse 13.

Revelation 9:13-21

Four horns of the golden altar—As we remember from our first studies, the golden altar is one of three pieces of furniture in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary. This location indicates the specific time period. Historically, Jesus moved from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place at the end of the 2,300 day prophecy of Daniel 8:14, which concluded in 1844. We will talk about this in more detail later. We can know that the events taking place under the sixth trumpet must be before 1844. This helps keep us on track as far as when these events take place.

Great River Euphrates—Why do we find this reference to the great river Euphrates? To help us understand these words, we should consider Jeremiah 51:60, 63: “So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that would come upon Babylon, all these words that are written against Babylon... Now it shall be, when you have finished reading this book, that you shall tie a stone to it and throw it out into the Euphrates.”

Revelation is again borrowing from the Bible. This reference directs us to understand that God had given a specific time period of 70 years during which His people would be captive

to Babylon and then Babylon would be judged (Daniel 9:2). Just so, God designated a specific time period of judgment to Islam. The reason the great river Euphrates is mentioned in Revelation 9 is to remind us that God is about to do the same thing He did with apostate Israel. He brought Babylon against them to chasten them for 70 years.

Just so, he brought Islam against apostate Christianity to chasten them for 150 years followed by 391 years.

Let’s take a closer look at the 391 years:

Hour, day, month, year—Again, the Bible is key. Ezekiel 4:6 and Numbers 14:34 lay out “a day for a year” in Bible prophecy. Under the fifth trumpet (first woe), the five-month prophecy was fulfilled in 150 literal years. (1 month=30 days; 30 days x 5 months=150 days; 150 prophetic days=150 literal years).

So now under the 6th trumpet (second woe), we find this time identified as an “hour, day, month,” and “year.”

Here is what it looks like prophetically:

1 prophetic hour = 1/24 of a year or 15 literal days

1 prophetic day = 1 literal year

1 prophetic month = 30 literal years

1 prophetic year = 360 literal years

Our total is 391 years and 15 days exactly. Now that is a tight time prophecy, one of the most precise in the Bible.

Four angels—The description of the four angels here is often employed to depict angels standing at the four corners of the Earth, meaning the points of the compass (north, south, east, west). They are holding back calamity until the command of God to let loose. “After these things I saw four angels standing



“Then the sixth angel sounded:
And I heard a voice from the four
horns of the golden altar which
is before God...” **REVELATION 9:13**

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 9:13 SIXTH ANGEL SOUNDED

Ezekiel 4:6 A DAY FOR A YEAR

Numbers 14:34 A DAY FOR A YEAR

Revelation 7:1 FOUR ANGELS HOLDING FOUR WINDS

at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree" (Revelation 7:1). The angels here are holding destruction in place for a time specified by God, to see whether the apostate church would turn from idolatry.

One third of mankind—Again, we know that one third indicates apostasy and measured—not complete—judgment. This is referring to the apostate church that suffered great loss at the hand of Islam, a judgment of God to lead to repentance.

Army of horsemen—History tells us that the invading Islamic army was very keen on the use of horses, used in a greater capacity than other armies of the time.

Two Hundred Thousand Thousand—Since we have understood that Revelation is highly symbolic, this number is symbolic of what John saw in vision: hundreds of thousands. This represents a number that appeared as an ocean to him of numberless invaders. It is the same group that was earlier seen as the locust arm, without number, and clearly applies to the numbers of Islamic armies during this time period.

Fearsome horses—When John wrote this on Patmos, he wrote from his own perspective of what he knew in his day, and described from the perspective that he was shown. The horses, as we have seen earlier, were heavily armored and had shining breastplates, headgear, etc. John could only describe them as "lion like." The fire and brimstone would well represent the smoke coming from the charging army, which was the first to use gunpowder and firearms in battle, particularly cannon.

Failure to repent—God is merciful and desires all men to come to Him and repent. This power under siege during the time of the fifth and sixth seals, did not repent of their use

of idols in worship and continued their persecution of those who would not accept their false doctrines.

Unfolding the time prophecy found under the fifth and sixth trumpets, history indicates that Muslims began to harass the eastern Roman Empire beginning on July 27, 1299. They would make irritating raids into the church-controlled territory, then withdraw. They did this for five months (150 years) Then on July 27, 1449, (150 years later) the Roman representative, Constantine the XI, was granted power by the Islamic states. Constantine, by this permission, ascended to power in Constantinople and the raiding ended, only to be shortly followed by the overthrow of the Eastern Roman empire by the Ottoman Empire.

From that time, the 391 *hour-day-month-year* prophecy began. Using the day-for-a-year principle, that total equals 391 years and 15 days. From the ending date of July 27, 1449 (the end of the 150 years), plus 391 years and 15 days, we arrive at exactly August 11, 1840 (pre-1844). Sure enough, ON THAT EXACT DAY, the Ottoman empire, under dire threat from Egypt, received a letter promising the protection of the Western powers of Europe. The letter arrived to Egypt by steamer on August 11, 1840 and represented acquiescence by the Ottoman empire to European power, reversing what had happened at the end of the 150 years.

We know from these events that the Creator God, the God of the Bible, is not only in control of world events, but that this historical interpretation of prophecy is accurate and correct! ★