

PROBABLE

SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF THE

TRUMPETS AND BOWLS(VIALS)

IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bible references and their contextual meanings for some of the symbols contained within the Trumpets and Vials passages. (Each symbol may have other biblical meanings but the list is limited to those relevant to our texts)

SUN- A symbol for God and belief in His existence especially his power, holiness and grace.

Ps.84:11; Isa.60:20; Mal.4:2; Matt.17:2; Rev.1:16; 10:1 Lk.1:78

Scorching is His anger at their unbelief. The scorching effect of the sun's rays is used as a metaphor for the curse to which nature is subject since the fall of mankind into sin.

Ps.121:6; Song.1:6; Isa.49:10; James 1:11; Rev.7:16; 8:12; 16:8

Darkening or setting is His good influence being withdrawn and therefore impending judgements and natural evils coming in upon individuals governments and powers of this world. God created light but not darkness.

Isa.13:10; 24:23; Jer.15:9; Ezek.32:7; Joel 2:10,31; 3:15; Amos 8:9; Mk.13:24; Lk.21:25; 23:45; Acts 2:20; Rev.6:12; 9:2

SMOKE- A symbol for the holiness and wrath of God against sin.

Ex.19:18; 20:18; 2Sam.22:9; Ps.18:8; 104:32; 144:5; Isa.6:4; 9:18; 14:31; 34:10; Joel 2:30; Acts 2:10; Rev.14:11; 15:8; 18:9,18; 19:3

(Smoke from pit- Clouding deceit, lies and temptations of demonic scope of influence allowed by God)

EARTH- A metaphor for earthly- carnally- materialistically minded people. (not truly spiritual- that is why the false religion of the second beast comes from the earth)

Ps.10:18; Jn.3:31; 1 Cor.15:47; Phil.3:19; James 3:15; Rev.13:11

STARS- 1). A symbol for God's people, i.e for leaders or pastors, or a simile for the numerous characters of God's people.

Gen.22:17; 26:4; 37:9; Ex.32:13 Deut.1:10; 10:22; Neh.9:23; Jer.33:22; Dan.12:3; Phil.2:15+; Heb.11:12; Rev.1:16,20; 2:1; 3:1; 12:1,4

2). A symbol for angels.

Judg.5:20; Job 38:7; Isa.14:13

STAR- A metaphor for Satan.

Isa.14:12; (Lucifer=Day Star)

Rev.8:10,11; 9:1

SEAL- A symbol for someone or something being confirmed as genuine or true; a sign or ownership. Often used of the indwelling Holy Spirit whose presence confirms the genuineness of a believer as one belonging to God.

Ex.28:11-36; 39:6-30;(signet) Song.8:6; Dan.9:24; John.6:27; Rom.4:11; 1Cor.9:2; 2Cor.1:22; Eph.1:13; 2Tim.2:19; Rev.7:3-8; 9:4

MARK OF BEAST- Represents Man in outright rebellion against God. Man in his purely natural, earthly state and condition attempting to live without God in every way.

Gen.1:26-31; Dan.3:1; Rev.13:18

AIR- Providences - the workings of angels (the ministering of events large and small) and allowances of demonic activity Eph 2.2. (smoke in air- lying misdirection, manipulation and temptations).

HORSES- Providential events.

Zech.1:7-11

RIVERS- 1). The God given means of giving grace and spiritual life and truth (flowing from God to His people) through the Holy Spirit's word of God by the prophets- the scriptures.

Ps.36:8; 46:4; 78:16; 105:41; Isa.30:25; 32:2; 33:21; 41:18; 43:19,20; 48:18; 66:12; Jer.17:8; Ezek.47:5,9; Jn.7:38; Rev.22:1,2

WATERS - A symbol for the Holy Spirit bringing refreshment, strength, blessings and grace (either common or special).

Num.20:8,10,11; Deut.8:15; Job 29:19; Ps.1:3; 42:1; 78:20; 105:41; 114:8; Song.4:15; 5:12; Isa.1:30; 12:3; 27:3; 30:25; 32:2; 33:16; 35:6; 41:17,18; 43:20; 48:21; 49:10; Jer.2:13; 17:8,13; 31:9; Ezek.16:4,9; 17:5,7,8; 32:2; 34:18; 36:25; 47:1-12; Hos.6:3; Joel 3:18; Nah.2:8; Zech.14:8; Jn.4:10-15; 7:38; 1Cor.3:7,8; Eph.5:26; Heb.9:19; 10:22; 2 Pet.2:17; Rev.7:17; 21:6; 22:1,17

STREAM- A metaphor for one's source of strength, prosperity and courage. Ultimately this is from God - His common grace for all mankind, but His special grace, or saving grace, for believers only, i.e. the indwelling Holy Spirit. See also under 'River', 'Flood'.

Job 6:15; Ps.46:4; Isa.30:25; 34:9; 35:; 44:3, 4+; 66:12; Amos 5:24

RIVER EUPHRATES- Grace from God. His restraint of those against the church. Spiritual life brought by the gospel preached. The phrase 'the river' is often used as a metaphor for either the Nile or the Euphrates.

Gen.31:21; 36:37; 41:1; Ex.1:22; 1 Ki.4:21; Ezra 4:10; Ps.72:8; Mic.7:12; Zech.9:10

SEA- Nations and people groups of the world in their state of rebellion against God (to die in the sea is for national politics to not cater for, or regard, the things pertaining to the souls of men).

Isa.27:1; Dan.7:2,3; Lk.21:25; Rev.13:1; 21:1

SEA OF GLASS- A reference to the crossing of the Red Sea as a picture of conversion and final entrance into glory. The fire being the purging of sin at conversion, in life and final entrance into glory through the fiery trial of death. It is a barrier to the wicked impenitent who reside on the other side or underneath in the non-spiritual realm .Or a symbol for the complete control of all things at the throne of God - utter calm results from his sovereignty.

Ex.13:11; Rev.4:6; 15:2

SCORPION'S STING- A metaphor for the pain inflicted on people by demons, such as regret and remorse.

Lk.10:19; Rev.9:3-10

TREES AND GREEN GRASS-A general figure for people whether young or old. Also symbol for believers in the Church whether young (green grass) or more mature (trees). If they are said to die it is their Faith becoming irrelevant in the estimation of earthly mindedness. True believers are also 'dead' to the 'world'.

The tree is a symbol for strength and the abundant life of one who firmly trusts in the Lord. Ps.1:3; 37:35; 52:8; 92:12; Song.4:14; 7:8; Isa.44:4; 65:22; Jer.11:19; 17:8; Ezek.47:7,12

HAIL- A symbol used to represent God's judgments on his enemies. Ex.9:18-33; 10:5-15; Josh.10:12; Ps.18:12,13; 78:47,48; 205:32; Isa.28:2,17; 30:30; Ezek.13:11,13; 38:22; Rev.8:7; 22:19; 16:21.

THUNDER- Often used as a symbol for the awesome power of God, sometimes as seen in his mighty angels also.

Ex.9:23; 20:18 1Sam.2:10; Job 26:14; 37:4; 40:9; Ps.18:13; 29:3; 77:18; 81:7; 104:7; Isa.29:6; Jn.12:29; Rev.4:5; 6:1; 8:5; 10:4; 7; Isa.29:6; Jn.12:29; Rev.4:5; 6:1; 8:5; 10:3,4; 11:19; 14:2; 16:18; 19:6;

3 FROGS- Evil ideologies and beliefs. From dragon- blatant unbelief atheism, from the beast- political ideologies, from the false prophet- false religion.

Ex.8:5

MOUNTAIN BURNING WITH FIRE- A reference to Sinai and the breaking of God's holy law.

Ex.19:18

MOUNTAINS- 1).A metaphor for a king, a government or a nation and its power.

Ps.72:3; 83:14; 114:4,6; Isa.41:15; Jer.46:18; 51:25; Ezek.36:1-6; Obad.8,21; Zech.4:7; 14:4,5; Rev.17:9

2).A metaphor for this sinful world in its lofty pride and vanity.

2 Ki.19:23; Song.4:8; Isa.37:24

WORMWOOD- A metaphor for the bitter results of sin. Falls like a burning lamp (a symbol of the holy spirit in the temple). The Holy Spirit makes the word (the word of the prophets- the bible- preached by saints) bitter in judgements upon those who read them and are convicted of sin and preached against.

Deut.29:18; Pro.5:4; Jer.9:15; 23:15; Lam.3:15,19; Amos 5:7; Rev.8:11

BITTER- A metaphor for the bitter results of sin due to God's curse on it.

Jer.31:29,30; Ezek.18:2; Rev.10:9,10

LOCUSTS- The devastation caused by these insects makes them a very apt symbol to denote the ravages caused by sin or judgment on sin and by hosts of demons.

Joel 1:4; 2:25; Rev.9:3,7

MOON- Compared to the Church

Song 6.10

SHIPS- Churches

Prov.31:14; Isa.54:11; 57:20

ISLANDS- Kingdoms in the sea (see Sea)

DARKNESS- 1).God's judgment of removing His good influence Ex.10:15,21; Deut 4:11; Ps. 105:28; Pro.20:20; Isa.5:30; Ezek.32:8; Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18; Acts 2:20; Rev. 8:12; 9:2;; 16:10

2). A metaphor for the spiritual ignorance and blindness produced by sin. Ps.69:23; 82:5; Pro.2.13; Isa.9:2; 29:15; 42:7; 60:2; Jn.1:5; 3:19; 8:12; Eph.6:12; 1 Thess.5:4; 1 Jn. 1:6

ARMAGEDDON- scene of the final battle of this age when the powers of evil in the world seek to overcome the church, and in which Christ will be victorious. The symbol probably derives its significance from the fact that many decisive battles were fought there: Judg.5:19; 2 Ki.23:29. Rev.16:16; 17:14; 19:19; 20:9

BABYLON- It is a symbol for the godless world- system which in every age entices and allures people away from Christ by offering the temporary pleasures of sin. 1Pe.5:13; Rev. 14:8; 16:19; 17:5; Is. 21:9

BEAST FROM THE SEA- A symbol of the human instruments, whether nations or governments, used by Satan to persecute God's people. Rev.13:1-10 (Dan.7); Rev.11:7; 15:2; 17:8,11,12; 19:19; 20:10

BLOOD- A symbol for the defilement of sin. Lev.20:18; Ezek.16:6-2

DRAGON- A symbol for Satan, suggesting his ferocity, power and cunning. Isa.27:1; 51:9+; Rev.12:3-7; 13:2-11; 16:13; 20:2 Deut.32:33; Ps.91:13; Jer.51:34

EARTH- A metaphor for earthly- carnally- materialistically- minded people. Ps.10:18; Jn.3:31; 1 Cor.15:47; Phil.3:19; James 3:15; Rev.13:11

EARTHQUAKE- A metaphor for a sudden and violent change in society or a person's life (e.g. governments collapsing). These are seen as expressions of God's wrath. Rev.6:12; 8:5; 11:13,19; 16:18; Hag.2:6,7; Heb.12:26,27

EGYPT(in connection with the plagues)- A symbol of the life of bondage to sin the Christian is delivered from and comes out of.

Jude 1:5

INCENSE FROM THE GOLDEN ALTAR- A symbol or smile for prayer. As incense rises when burned, so do our prayers ascend to God. As incense has a pleasing aroma, so does prayer please God when offered in the name of Christ.

However, this figure is also used for the corrupt worship of idols: the context must decide the meaning.

Ex.30:1-9; Lev.4:7; Num.7:14; Deut.33:10; 1 Sam.2:28; 1 Ki.9:25; 1 Chr.6:49; 2 Chr.13:11; Neh. 13:9; Ps.141:2; Isa.1:13; Jer.1:16; Ezek.6:4,13; Hos.2:13; Hab.1:16; Mal.1:11; Lk.1:9; Rev.5:8; 8:3,4, etc.

LAMP- 1). A symbol for the work of Christ as a divine enlightener of his people. The oil lamp a symbol of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Ez.25:31; Num.8:2; 1Ki.7:49; Ps.132:17; Heb.9:2

2). A metaphor for the scriptures. Ps. 119:105; Pro.6:23

LIVING CREATURES- A metonymy for the highest angelic beings who live in the immediate presence of God, to serve and worship and, as it were, guard His holiness.

Ezek.1:5-15; Rev.4:6-9;(beasts) 5:6, 8, 11, 14; (beasts) 6:1, 3, 5, 7; 7:11(beasts)

NAKEDNESS- A symbol used to describe the shame and degradation of sinful human nature when exposed to the light of God's omniscience and holiness.

Gen.3:7,10,11; Ex.20:26; 28:42; 1Sam.20:30; Job.26:6; Isa.47:3; Lam.1:8; Ezek.16:8,36,37; 23:10,18,29; Hos.2:3,9; Nah.3:5; 2 Cor.5:3; Heb.4:13; Rev.3:17,18; 16:15; 17:16

NIGHT- A metaphor for a period of affliction or persecution. Sometimes used for the experience of a believer when the Lord seems to be far away.

Ps.30:5; Isa.21:12; Lam.1:2; Joel.1:13; Mic3:6

RAINBOW- The symbol of God's faithfulness to His covenant, thus guaranteeing that all his promises will be fulfilled. Gen.9:13; Ezek.1:28; Rev.4:3; 10:1

TABERNACLE- Symbolic of both Christ and His people. A type of how to come to and dwell with God which begins in this life and is perfected hereafter.

Ex.25:9; Lev.8:10; Num.1:50; 2 Chr.1:5 Ps.27:5; Acts 7:44; Heb.8:2,5; 9:2-21; 13:10; Rev.15:5, etc. John 1:4 which may be literally translated 'The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.'

TRUMPETS- A symbol of warning for the calling of attention to some announcement or event (a call to repentance and worship). Often associated with God's judgments.

Ex.19:16; Isa.27:13; Ezek.33:4-6; Hos.5:8; Joel 2:1,15; Amos 2:2; Zech.9:14; Matt.24:31; 1 Cor.14:8; 15:52; 1

Thess.4:16; Heb.12:19; Rev.1:10; 4:1; 8:2-13; 9:14

WHITE LINEN- Clothed with righteousness

Ps.132:9; Isa.61:10; Rev.19:8

GOLDEN GIRDLE- Holiness

Ex.39:20; Rev.1:13

SORES- Isa.1:6

FOUR ANGELS- Like the four points of a compass a simile of a worldwide aspect.

Isa.11:12

THE PASSAGES KJV

KEY

Text - Words of Scripture

TEXT TEXT - (MEANINGS AND INTERPRETATION)

THE TRUMPETS INTRO REVELATION 8-

And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets **(WARNINGS WITH A CALL TO REPENT)**.

And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar **(RESULTING HOLY JUDGEMENTS AGAINST SIN)**, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake **(GOD SPEAKS IN POWER WITH SUDDEN ACTIONS WHICH SHAKE MANKIND)**.

And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

THE VIALS INTRO REVELATION 15-

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God (**WRATH POURED OUT UPON MANKIND BECAUSE OF SIN**).

And I saw as it were a sea of glass (**DIVISION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AND EARTH SYMBOLIC OF CONVERSION AND DEATH**) mingled with fire (**PURGING OF SIN AT CONVERSION AND FIERY TRIAL OF DEATH**): and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints (**WORSHIP**).

Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. (**CHRIST AND THE CHURCH**):

And the seven angels (**ANGELS OR, less likely, PEOPLE OF GOD**) came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen. (**RIGHTEOUSNESS**), and having their breasts girded with golden girdles (**HOLINESS**).

And one of the four beasts (**CHERUBIM- living creatures**) gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God (**WRATH**), who liveth for ever and ever.

And the temple was filled with smoke (**HOLY WRATH**) from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. (**WARNINGS AND JUDGEMENTS COME FIRST, THEY MAY BRING MEN TO REPENTANCE LATER, BUT NOT BEFORE**)

And I heard a great voice out of the temple (**CHRIST**) saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.



INTERNAL EARTHLY WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS OF SOUL - MIND/AFFECTIONS/WILL/CONSCIENCE (NATURAL REVELATION)

1. TRUMPET- The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood (JUDGEMENTS ON GOD'S ENEMIES), and they were cast upon the earth (CARNAL REALM): and the third part of trees (ADULTS) was burnt up, and all green grass (CHILDREN) was burnt up.

1. VIAL- And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth (CARNAL RELIGIOUS WORLD); and there fell a noisome and grievous sore (RESULTS OF AN EARTHLY BELIEF SYSTEM AND TROUBLED CONSCIENCE) upon the men which had the mark of the beast (THE REPROBATES), and upon them which worshipped his image (FALSE RELIGION).



EXTERNAL WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS FROM OUTSIDE A MAN (NATURAL REVELATION)

2. TRUMPET- And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire (THE LAW) was cast into the sea (NATIONAL REALM): and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died (GOD'S PEOPLE); and the third part of the ships (CHURCHES) were destroyed.

2.VIAL- And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea (**OF NATIONS**); and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. (**TO THE POLITICAL RULERS AND LAWMAKERS, THE TRUE CHURCH IS A DEAD THING**)



WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS FROM THE WORD OF SCRIPTURE (SPECIAL REVELATION)

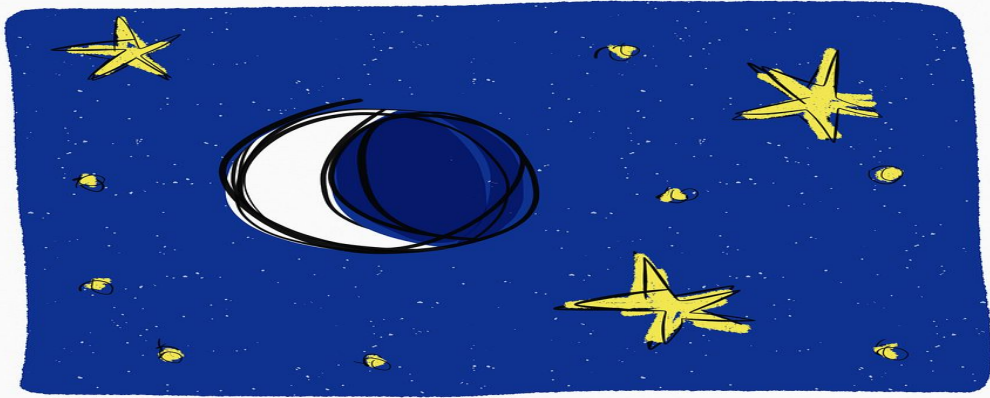
3. TRUMPET- And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp (**HOLY SPIRIT IN CONVICTION**), and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters (**GRACE**); And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. (**CONVICTION OF SIN**)

3. VIAL- And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters (**GOD'S LIFE GIVING GRACE**); and they became blood.

And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets (**PENMEN OF SCRIPTURE**), and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. (**PEOPLE PERISH BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS**)

And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (**GOD IS JUST IN WHOM HE CHOOSES TO SAVE AND NOT TO SAVE**)



WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS FROM THE CHURCH

4. TRUMPET- And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun (**UNDERSTANDING OF THE GODHEAD**) was smitten, and the third part of the moon (**UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**), and the third part of the stars (**UNDERSTANDING OF THE ANGELS AND/OR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**); so as the third part of them was darkened (**GOOD INFLUENCE WITHDRAWN**), and the day (**GOOD TIMES**) shone not for a third part of it, and the night (**BAD TIMES**) likewise.

And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

4. VIAL- And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun (**GOD AND BELIEF IN HIM**); and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. (**THE RESULTS OF UNBELIEF IN THE FACE OF GOD'S EXISTENCE BEING PLAIN TO MAN**)

And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. (**REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD**)



WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS FROM PERSONAL AFFLICTION

5. TRUMPET- And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth (**SATAN**): and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit (**HATRED, DECEIT, LIES AND TEMPTATIONS**), as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. (**SATAN'S MISDIRECTION AND DECEIVING, MANIPULATING TEMPTATIONS TO DISBELIEVE GOD**)

And there came out of the smoke locusts (**DEMONS**) upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree (**BELIEVER'S YOUNG OR OLD**); but only those men which have not the seal of God (**MARK OF A CHRISTIAN**) in their foreheads.

And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man (**MENTAL ANGUISH, TORMENT AND TROUBLED CONSCIENCE**).

And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them (**SUICIDAL DESIRE**).

And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle (**STRONG**); and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold (**POWERFUL WITH RESOURCES**), and their faces were as the faces of men (**INTELLIGENT**)

And they had hair as the hair of women (**ENTICING**), and their teeth were as the teeth of lions (**PAINFUL DEVOURING**).

And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron (**NOT EASILY OVERCOME**); and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle (**SWIFT MULTITUDES**).

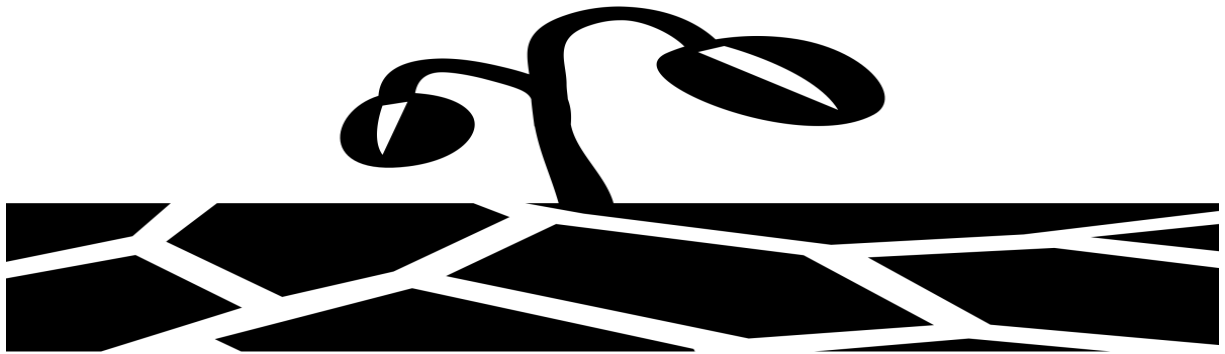
And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails (**THE RESULT OF THEIR AFFLICTIONS**): and their power was to hurt men five months.

And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon (**SATAN**).

One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

5. VIAL- And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain (**SATANIC OPPRESSION AND IGNORANCE RESULTING IN AGONIZING PAIN AND BONDAGE TO SIN**),

And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (**SORRY FOR THEMSELVES BUT NOT FOR THEIR SINS**)



WARNINGS AND SUBSEQUENT JUDGEMENTS FROM THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GOSPEL GRACE

6. TRUMPET- And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar **(ANSWER TO PRAYER)** which is before God,

Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels **(WORLDWIDE INFLUENCE)** which are bound in the great river Euphrates **(GOSPEL OF GRACE)**.

And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men **(JUDGED GUILTY)**.

And the number of the army of the horsemen **(ANGELIC PROVIDENCES)** were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone **(HOLY JUSTICE)**: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone **(ANGELS)**.

By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths **(HOLY WRATH OF GOD ON SINNERS)**.

For their power is in their mouth **(THE EVENT)**, and in their tails **(THE RESULT OF THE EVENT)**: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. **(ONGOING PAIN OF CONSEQUENCE)**

And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts. **(THE BREAKING OF GOD'S LAWS The 10 commandments)**

6. VIAL- And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; **(GOSPEL OF GRACE)** and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared **(FALSE GOSPELS)**.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs **(DOCTRINES OF DEMONS)** come out of the mouth of the dragon **(ATHEISM)**, and out of the mouth of the beast **(FROM THE SEA-NATIONALISM)**, and out of the mouth of the false prophet **(OR BEAST FROM EARTH-**

FALSE RELIGION).

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth **(LEADERS AND INFLUENCERS)** and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty **(JUDGEMENT DAY)**.

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments **(RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS)**, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame **(OF GUILT)**.

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. **(BATTLE BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD/ ANGELS AND DEMONS)**



WARNING OF, AND SUBSEQUENT, FINAL JUDGEMENT TO COME

7. TRUMPET- And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud **(THE LORD JESUS CHRIST)**: and a rainbow was upon his head **(THE COVENANT OF GRACE)**, and his face was as it were the sun **(GOD'S HOLINESS)**, and his feet as pillars of fire **(PERFECT, PURE WAYS)**:

And he had in his hand a little book open **(THE GOSPEL)**: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth **(ALL WORLDS BOTH RELIGIOUS-earth, AND POLITICAL-sea)**,

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices **(THE JUDGE'S VOICE)**.

And when the seven thunders **(GOD'S FINAL JUDGEMENTS)** had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. **(SOME THINGS OF GOD REMAIN UNREVEALED)**

And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that thereinto are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer **(END OF THIS PRESENT AGE)**:

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets **(THE VERY END OF THE PRESENT EARTH)**.

And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little

book **(THE GOSPEL)** which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey **(GOSPEL'S SWEET MESSAGE OF LIFE BUT BITTER JUDGEMENTS ON SINNERS)**.

And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

7. **VIAL-** And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air **(PROVIDENTIAL MOVEMENTS- like weather systems)**; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven **(CHRIST)**, from the throne, saying, It is done. **(THE GATHERING IN OF THE ELECT)** And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. **(GOD'S TERRIBLE VOICE OF WOE IN EVENTS SHAKING MANKIND)**

And the great city was divided into three parts, **(TRUE, NOMINAL AND NON-BELIEVERS)** and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon **(THE SEDUCTIVE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AND COMMERCE)** came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. **(FIXED INSTITUTIONS, RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL, REMOVED)**

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail **(PUNISHMENTS ON GOD'S ENEMIES)**; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Main overarching symbols - Creation- God created the earth the sea and the heavens and then the things within them- these are used as symbols of the results of the curse, warnings and judgements, of how the original curse affected creation.

There is also a reference here to **the plagues of Egypt** which were warnings and chastisements on a kingdom that is like the old life, which keeps men enslaved and in bondage to sin. Out of this old life men are freed to a new life delivered by a Saviour like Moses coming out through the Red sea.

The warning trumpets start with incense- the prayers of the saints- and are an answer, a result of God's people calling upon Him, when the angel casts the censor with fire onto the earth.

Source reference material- A dictionary of Bible symbols by Grace publications/ Preaching from the types and metaphors of the Bible by Benjamin Keach.