

The Book of Revelation

Key Images From the Seven Trumpets

I. Introduction

A. "What kind of literature am I reading?"

II. Key Images From the Seven Trumpets

A. An Incense burner.

1. Rev. 8:1-5 (NLT) ¹When the Lamb broke the seventh seal on the scroll, there was silence throughout heaven for about half an hour. ²I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and they were given seven trumpets. ³Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne. ⁴The smoke of the incense, mixed with the prayers of God's holy people, ascended up to God from the altar where the angel had poured them out. ⁵Then the angel filled the incense burner with fire from the altar and threw it down upon the earth; and thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and there was a terrible earthquake.

B. Cosmic imagery.

1. Rev. 8:6-12 (NLT) ⁶Then the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared to blow their mighty blasts. ⁷The first angel blew his trumpet, and hail and fire mixed with blood were thrown down on the earth. One-third of the earth was set on fire, one-third of the trees were burned, and all the green grass was burned. ⁸Then the second angel blew his trumpet, and a great mountain of fire was thrown into the sea. One-third of the water in the sea became blood, ⁹one-third of all things living in the sea died, and one-third of all the ships on the sea were destroyed. ¹⁰Then the third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from the sky, burning like a torch. It fell on one-third of the rivers and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star was Bitterness. It made one-third of the water bitter, and many people died from drinking the bitter water. ¹²Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet, and one-third of the sun was struck, and one-third of the moon, and one-third of the stars, and they became dark. And one-third of the day was dark, and also one-third of the night.
2. Rev. 8:13 (NLT) Then I looked, and I heard a single eagle crying loudly as it flew through the air, "Terror, terror, terror to all who belong to this world because of what will happen when the last three angels blow their trumpets."
3. Rev. 9:20a (NLT) ²⁰But the people who did not die in these plagues still refused to repent of their evil deeds and turn to God.

C. Small Scroll.

1. Rev. 10:8-11 (NLT) ⁸Then the voice from heaven spoke to me again: "Go and take the open scroll from the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." ⁹So I went to the angel and told him to give me the small scroll. "Yes, take it and eat it," he said. "It will be sweet as honey in your mouth, but it will turn sour in your stomach!" ¹⁰So I took the small scroll from the hand of the angel, and I ate it! It was sweet in my mouth, but when I swallowed it, it turned sour in my stomach. ¹¹Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

2. Matt. 4:4 (NLT) *"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

D. Two Lampstands.

1. Rev. 11:1 (NLT) *Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, "Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers."*
2. Rev. 11:3-6 (NLT) *³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days." ⁴These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. ⁵If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. ⁶They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.*
3. Rev. 11:7-10 (NLT) *⁷When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. ⁸And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called "Sodom" and "Egypt," the city where their Lord was crucified. ⁹And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. No one will be allowed to bury them. ¹⁰All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them.*
4. Rev. 11:11 (NLT) *But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them.*
5. Rev. 11:12 (NLT) *Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, "Come up here!" And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched.*
6. Rev. 11:15-17 (NLT) *¹⁵Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." ¹⁶The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones before God fell with their faces to the ground and worshiped him. ¹⁷And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign."*
7. Acts 13:36 (NAS) *"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay."*

III. Conclusion

Upcoming Messages: 9/27-28/2008 "The Anti-Christ and Common Demonic Strategies"; 10/18-19 "The First Five Minutes of Eternity"; 10/25-26 "The Doctrine of the Judgment of God"; 11/1-2 "Enduring to the End"; 11/8-9 "Extreme Spiritual Reality"; 11/15-16 "The Kind of Person You Will Be in Heaven"; 11/29-30 "The Hope We Have"