

5. The Seventh Seal: the revelation of the 7 trumpets.

(preparation...:1-6) In this section it is interesting to note the 7 angels and the 4th angel who has the golden censor...by which the prayers of the saints are sent Godward.)

Trumpet 1 (8:7)...vegetation on the earth affected

Trumpet 2 (8:8) the sea and sea life affected

Trumpet 3 (8:10) fresh water affected

Trumpet #4 (8:12) the heavenly bodies disarranged.

These first four trumpets are judgments which only God can produce. They are distinguished from the last three which are called the "three woes" (8:13)

Trumpet 5 (9:1) shows the opening of the bottomless pit and the coming of fearsome creatures that have the power to make men's lives miserable. The particular descriptions we look more at under symbols but these creatures are headed up by a grim destroyer (9:11) and for five months have power over men. It is sometimes suggested that five is the number of grace and that the purpose of these five months is to allow men to see the awful wrath of God without losing their lives and to repent. But as we read in 9:20 ...men do not go that way.

Trumpet 6 (9:14) From the altar of incense comes the command to release the forces of the east (four angels bound in the Euphrates) and to permit them to launch an army (9:16). The force moves westward and great death comes with it. This is thought by many to be a warfare waged against the anti-Christ out of which he arises triumphant and establishes his world rule. We are not positive about this and whether that is right or not, it certainly shows the the judgment of God utilizes the forces of men as God pleases.

**SUMMARY:** These chapters show us the initial phases of judgment on the kings of the earth who have set themselves against the Lord and His anointed (Psalm 2). Some of the trials are induced by men's greedy wickedness...some are divinely moved. They are all potent and should make the men of the earth think about the Lord, but apparently they do not.

NOTES ON SYMBOLISM, IMAGERY, ETC., IN REVELATION 6-9

6:1..the seal may be understood quite literally as a seal and is notes both ownership and authority.

the noise of thunder...thunder is used symbolically in many places to indicate the speaking of God. It is used symbolically...not as a factual representation that every time it thunders god is saying something.