

Chapter 6

THREE TRUMPETS

The last chapter dealt with the first five seals. This chapter will continue with the seals and begin the trumpets.

SEAL #6—INJUSTICE

Revelation

6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

When we come into this sixth seal, we are still dealing with imagery. We have already been dealing with imagery through this entire book. It is signed via imagery. We will now look at some new images.

Earthquakes.

When you are dealing with the earth, there are two general categories down where we are: earth and sea. Earth has to do with the secular part of the scheme on earth. I am seeing here in the sixth seal that there is going to be a

disruption, a quaking of this earth and the political scene, the society that is here in place. The events of this seal will have repercussions that are going to be worldwide, and dealing with every form of institution and tradition, and we will look at some of these towards the end of this section on the sixth seal.

Chart 6.1		Judgment
Seal #6	Earthquake, stars fall, heaven departed	

Sun Darkening

But the sun is the source of light for us, and I take the sun as a sign of justice and truth. If you have a darkening of justice and truth, there is going to be a lack of capability of people making wise decisions, and we see that happening today. There are people making asinine decisions because there are no justice and truth available. There is darkening. There are still some justice and truth available in our scenario today, but when the sixth seal is fully matured, we will get to the point where there are no justice and truth because the sun is going to be totally blackened.

Moon Turns to Blood

Now there are many people who are looking for these things to be literal, where the sun blackens and the moon turns to blood and this kind of thing, but if you are going to interpret the book of Revelation in that way,

then you are denying what God has already said, and that is that these are signs, and the angel is to communicate everything in this book by signs through John. John writes the description of the signs that he sees. It is up to us to see the truth in the signs, and that is what we are doing here.

Blood coagulates and putrefies quickly when it quits circulating. Thus the Lord's witnesses quit circulating and become putrid. One of the reasons for stopping the witnesses is the restraint caused by the threatened loss of tax exemption. The church's witness is no longer bringing light into the darkness because to do so will cause the church to lose its tax exemption.

The moon is the reflector of justice and truth. Who are the reflectors of justice and truth? You are the reflectors of justice and truth. When you talk about the moon, you are talking about what comes out of your mouth. What comes out of the Lord's mouth, the Word of God, is the absolute source of justice and truth, and that is considered the sun. If that is the source and you are the reflectors, you are supposed to be witnesses of the Lord in bringing forth justice and truth in a testimony to planet earth, and if you are turning to blood, and your source is darkening, then truth and justice are lessening in the land.

I think the moon's turning to blood is also coming from the persecution of the saints. Persecution may possibly quiet down your testimony and your reflection of justice and truth. You may kind of stand back from witnessing and no longer become a source of light in the darkness.

The moon is reflecting the light, the justice and truth that come from the origin. God's Word is the origin. We are supposed to reflect that. But there is going to be a

putrefaction of our reflection, and the moon becomes as blood. I take that to mean that our witness is going to be cut off because we are going to shut up in order to keep our tax exemption and prevent persecution. But eventually we will be executed because our silence will expedite the advance of darkness (injustice). We will be taking a look at that execution when we look at the people who came out of the great tribulation.

Stars Fall to Earth

God has already told us what the stars are. The stars are angels (Revelation 1:20). The angels come falling out of heaven.¹

What I see this to mean is that there is a kicking out of heaven of the fallen angels. They are booted out. You know how when Job was being tested, how Satan would go to the throne of God, and he would accuse Job before God, and he would say, "If you would just let me do this, he will turn against you." The Lord would say, "Behold my servant Job, test him; do that but do not kill him." Now Satan has no access to the throne of God any more because he and all of his angels have been kicked out. They have hit the ground like a bunch of figs coming out of a tree that is being blown by the wind. You can imagine what it is like when they hit the ground. They scurry off like a crab, running to find a hiding place. If a fallen angel is found by one of God's angels, there will be war.

Student: This is a result of a, I forget what chapter it is, but the one that says there was war in heaven?²

¹ Revelation 6:13.

² Revelation 12:7. And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

V: Yes, and one-third of the angels were thrown out. Here is that event in Seal #6. They come hitting the ground, and they do not have access to heaven any more.

Wanda: This has already happened, has it not?

V: This has already happened in my opinion. You can reject my opinion, but I will be anxious to hear your opinion. But anyway we have these angels come down. They hit the earth. They are now confined to earth, and they need an occupation and a refuge. Where are they going to get refuge? They can come into your home. All you have to do is take something into your home that should not be there, and it is like putting a neon sign out front: ALL DEMONS WELCOME. JUST COME ON IN, and if they have a welcome, the angels of God do not have power over them. Did you know that they have every right to be in your home if you have something evil in your house?

Carl: Is that a verbal invitation?

V: They do not need a verbal invitation. If you have something evil in your house it is like having a neon sign outside welcoming them, and here is another thing. If the head of the house invites the demons in like what I am talking about by having something in there that he has authority over, and the second in command in that household says, "Demons get out," they do not have to leave because they have permission of the strong man of the house. So beware, you fathers, you husbands, you head of the house, get your house in order.

Carl: You said all demons are welcome. Does that mean there is no limit?

V: There is no limit.

Carl: I thought the reason that the demons were going to be there was that you were not godly. If you were going to resist the devil, and you were going to point them to Christ, that is when they would . . .

V: No, here is the way it works. They are always going to oppose you when you live godly, but they cannot abide in your house if it is a sanctified house. Now if you bring something evil in there, it is no longer sanctified. There is an open door, and they can come in there, one or two or 2,000,000 can come in there.

Carl: Define what you call evil. Is it like statues or something?

V: What I would define as evil would probably be broader containing more things than what most people would define as evil. My definition would be a lot tighter, a lot more restrictive for the saints. I would rather not define evil because I might give a definition that gets somebody off the hook, and I do not want to do that.

Betty: Would it be things like pornography and drugs . . . ?

V: Those are good examples. It could be music, it could be things that are seemingly innocent.

Homer: Paid cable channels.

V: TV itself.

Henry: Could you not say evil is anything that is not pleasing to God.

V: Yes, you sure could.

Tim: I did not want us to miss this, but this young man said that if we resist the devil, that is when they attack us. However, the Bible says if we resist the devil that includes demons, he will flee.

V: Right, but their fleeing does not preclude further attacks. When you are acting in foolishness, they will come against you in strength. If you detect them you can send them flying. It is when you do not detect them that they hurt you and bring all kinds of stumbling blocks in front of you and that kind of thing. But what I am talking about here is that when these stars hit the earth, they have to find refuge. If they are found outside of a safety area by the good angels, it is my opinion that they are in big trouble because there is a war that is going on between the angels, and when the evil angels are caught outside of a refuge, they are open game, and God's angels can put the fist to them. They need, then, a refuge place, and it can be into the body. It can be into your house. It can be into your church. It can be into anything that you have, and once they have that refuge, they are untouchable by God's angels unless the head guy says, "Get out," and cleans up his own place. When that happens then God's angels can come in there and enforce that. But unless that head guy takes the initiative, they are completely safe.

Betty: What happens if like me as a wife, I realize that we have brought something into the house that is evil and unclean, and I get rid of it, then what?

V: If you have the authority to get rid of it, and it came in under your authority, then you can excise or get rid of all evil influences and sanctify your house.

Betty: But if the husband brought it in, he has to remove it.

V: Exactly because he is higher than you. But if you brought it in, you can get it out.

Sybil: What if he brought the evil thing in, and I get rid of it while he is gone. I mean that is still going to leave the demons

V: There is still a neon sign lit up and saying welcome when the husband returns.

Sybil: The husband has still got authority over his house and the demons have some ties to it because he is not sanctifying himself or his house.

V: Right.

Bob: So you say this is going on today.

V: Yes, that is right.

I do not know if you have figured it out yet or not, but I think all the seals have been loosed, and we are well into the trumpets, and I will show you where we are in the trumpets here in a little while.

Let me tell you another thing, too, and that is that these things are progressive, and so when the sixth seal was loosed that does not mean instantaneously as soon as the sixth seal that all of a sudden there is no truth and justice in the world. We are in a progressive state of darkening. Do you understand what I am saying here? These seals are linear, and they all come out to the end point, one after another. (See Chart 6.3.)

When we get to Seal #7, then we are going to start a series of trumpets that are going to have the same parallel progressions and the same ending point as does the seals.

Oscar: You had said that the first seal was broken when they wanted Saul as king. Can you tell us when the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth . . .

V: I cannot.

Steve: Are you going to add the last two seals to the chart you gave us in Chapter Five?

V: I am giving you Seal #6 right now. We had the stars which are the fallen angels kicked

out of heaven, then there is the heaven departing as a scroll when it is rolled together, and this means that there is a separation now between heaven and earth. This separation is going to have some important consequences.

Jack: What do we write on the timeline?

V: The timeline for Seal #6. Darkening of the truth and justice is the main thing here or progressive darkness. Also the earthquake is so severe that the mountains and islands are moved out of their places. Mountains are institutions. Years ago since I started teaching this course, and I came to the point that I declared that mountains are institutions, I have been seeing an advertisement on television about First Union Bank being called a mountain.

Paul: The mountain will come to you.

V: Yes. The first time I heard that, it just shocked me because there on television came agreement with my interpretation from the secular world!

Jack: There is the IRS.

V: Yes, another institution is the IRS. But mountains are institutions on the earth, and islands are institutions in the sea. Can you hear what I am saying? All of these rich men, kings, chief captains, bondsmen, freemen, all of these want to hide themselves in the institutions of the earth. They are looking for money, security, insurance, IRA's anything to hide themselves and give themselves security. They are not looking for security in the Lord, and it is a shame because many church members are looking for the mountains to fall upon them and give them security. Security is sought in the institutions.

Jill: Give us an example of institutions in the sea.

V: Denominations, associations, churches, the cooperative program, the annuity board, the tract society, a lot of institutions in religion.

Jill: Are you saying that sea refers to religion?

V: Oh, yes.

Jill: Conventions.

V: Conventions, associations.

Joe: What about the seminary?

V: Yes, it would be an institution. So your security is not to be in institutions. It is only in Jesus Christ.

Jill: And when they say the mountains fell on them, you are saying they want security?

V: That is right. They are looking to be hidden from spiritual insecurity, and they are trying to cover themselves in material security. We see this a lot in the wealthy, the powerful, and the famous. They are looked upon as super-spiritual. You get a wealthy Christian who does not know anything, the next thing you know, he is speaking to millions on television. You get a great football player who gets saved, the next thing you know he is teaching and preaching all over the world even when he does not know anything. It does not make any sense. People who pay their spiritual dues are still down at the bottom, but the ones who are of the institutions are right up at the top.

Mary: That is part of that curved line that goes down for the spiritual and up for the carnal.

V: Yes, the *kenosis* and its opposite.

Ted: You could say that of Reggie White of the Green Bay Packers because he has been

blessed with all that he has, and I guess they consider him a reverend, but I think he does a lot of good work. You would say that he would be one that is high as you are speaking, and the one like that follows the Lord, and his life would be at the bottom?

Oscar: It is not good to preach without knowledge.

Ted: Yes, but Reggie White is a minister of a little church in Knoxville, Tennessee. I think what he is talking about is someone that uses that fame to climb the heights in other things, and he has sort of stepped down from the heights he had in football to go minister to this little church in Tennessee.

V: Reggie White is an example of a football star who has studied and knows of what he is speaking and is pastoring for the long haul. However, I have seen these star football players who get saved on Tuesday, on Wednesday they are preaching and lecturing when they do not know anything. It really does not matter what they know. If they were good football players then it is assumed they are good theologians.

Okay, let us discuss God's wrath. The wrath of the Lamb is coming next in verse 17. The day of His wrath, in fact, has already come. There is at the end of Seal #6 the opening of the trumpets, which is the next seal. So at the end of Seal #6, the trumpets will commence to warn of the coming of the Lamb's wrath. That is Seal #7, which opens up all the trumpets.

Purpose of Seals

Now I want you to see something here. When you are dealing with seals, you are dealing with a set of restrainers. When the Lord is opening these seals, He has said to these people, "No, do not go there, do not go

there," but the people have rebelled, and said, "Oh, yeah, we want to go there. This is the best place for us to go. Let us go." And even the Lord's people want to go there, and He is saying, "Do not go there." They are saying, "Yeah, we must go there," and so everybody is pushing against the seal, and the Lord removes that barrier. Then the people run through, but they can only run so far. Then they hit the next seal; they cannot go past that. They clamor, and they clamor, and God sends His prophets who say, "Do not go there, do not go there." The people keep clamoring and clamoring, and finally they just cannot stand it any longer, and God just opens up the next seal. This is a series of restraining efforts by God to keep people from going further into apostasy, but people keep clamoring to go further.

Purpose of Trumpets

Now when we have come to the trumpets, it is going to be a different idea. They have broken all the restraints, and when you get to the end of Seal #6, there is going to come a time when truth and justice is not even going to be on the planet, not even one little tidbit is going to be on the planet. When you lose truth and justice, you are going to self-destruct. That is when God says, "I have to shorten the days in order to keep the people from killing themselves."³

When we come to the point of the trumpets, he is no longer doing restraints and opening those things at the clamor of the people. Rather, it is to announce a message. He is saying I want your attention, and now the trumpet has a different significance. It means "look to me." When you see these signs, look to me." That is why a trumpet is

³ Matthew 24:22.

blown. It is to get everybody to turn around and look at the warning signs. When the Lord begins to blow His trumpet, it is not a point of restraint. He is saying, "Look to Me." These signs are meaning something here, and if you do not turn, you are going to suffer what I am describing in these trumpets. When we go through these trumpet blasts, He is saying, "Repent, people, repent." He is no longer removing barriers because all the stops have been released. Now we can run all the way to no truth and justice at all on the planet.

That is where we are headed, but He is going to continue to call us back. He is going to blow the trumpet. Some few people have ears to hear, and they are going to look around and say, "See that sign?" They are going to hear the trumpet, and they will say, "God is trying to tell us something here." When a saint does that, everybody else is going to jump on that saint, and say, "What are you doing?" You think all of this stuff is God, and He is talking, and He is saying, "Do not do this?" They will criticize you and downplay God's actions in history. They will believe that the events of history will happen and are happening no matter what God thinks. They are going to criticize you and wait for the moon to turn to blood. As they criticize there is going to be a quenching of the Spirit for the saints especially when persecution begins, and persecution is right here in Revelation 7. We are going to be looking at that!

Beth: It is the same old story. God is still in the redemption mode, and the unsaved people and the carnal saints are in the teardown mode.

V: Exactly, and the Lord keeps saying, "If you listen to me, this is a trumpet blast of redemption. Look at the sign and turn from your wicked ways and follow Me."

Pete: Well, you said this is the sign here, but also in Matthew 24, I notice that it says, "The sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light."⁴ Is this the same thing that He is talking about?

V: Yes.

Pete: Also in that discourse there, He is talking about how there will be earthquakes and famines. Now these are literal things in Matthew.

V: No, not totally.

Pete: These are still signs here?

V: Yes. Absolutely.

Pete: Cause when I saw these earthquakes happening I thought maybe that was the Lord speaking.

V: Okay, now there is a double entendre in these signs. Sometimes the sign needs to be recognizable by either the lukewarm saint or the lost person. Sometimes you have to hit somebody with a two-by-four for him or her to know that they are doing something wrong. Therefore, I think that in God's grace there are going to be literal fulfillments of some of these signs, but not all of them. Most of them require the eyes of faith rather than just a head with a knot stuck out on it.

Pete: Would famine be death, then, in that sequence he is talking about in Matthew 24?

V: Yes, famine can be double entendre: (1) it can be lack of wheat bread and stuff like that, but more importantly (2) lack of spiritual bread, the bread of life. We are already in the midst of famine.

Pete: Famine in hearing the Words of the Lord?

⁴ Matthew 24:29.

V: Man shall not live by bread alone.⁵

The following passage is a parenthetical following Seal #6. It is a reflection of what is going to begin to happen much later in the sixth seal.

REVELATION 7

Revelation

7:1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

7:4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Then there is an enumeration of the tribes. The sixth seal is progressive. It has already been loosened. Darkening is progressing, and the moon is turning to blood. That is already happening. It is not fully matured with the awesome repercussions. Institutions are going to come out of their places. People are going to be looking at institutions for their security. There is going to be a great earthquake. Out of all of the consequences as truth and justice darkens, there is going to come the great persecution because right is going to become wrong, and wrong is going to become right. A great reversal is coming because there is going to be no truth and justice. It is going to go completely black with no light of Christian witness.

Bob: There were so many deaths and persecutions in the first century.

V: Back in John's day, that was true, because good was becoming bad at that time. That is a good point.

Bob: Is there possibly a cycle?

V: Not cycle but spiral.

Bob: Spiral?

V: Yes, because the apostasy is progressing. The seal is progressive, going to an end point. That end point is a total blackening of the sun and a total putrefaction of the moon.

Henry: There was a salvific action included in this timeline?

V: Yes.

Pete: Just a little comment here. I heard on a Christian radio station today about a program, which I did not see. The program portrayed a fundamental, Bible-based Christian as being dumb, ignorant, and a problem, and one that needed to be gotten rid of. Now this message of despising fundamental Christians is going across the nation. I would pretty much say that it is a defamation of Christians.

V: That is right. And the sun is darkening and as the sun darkens, we will begin to be charged with hate crimes because if you start preaching against abortion and homosexuality, you may soon be going to prison.

Pete: It allegedly said in the paper that an athlete turned governor, the wrestler and politico, claims that all organized religionists are weak minded. The implication is that we Christians are just trying to stop people from having fun.

V: It is going to get worse.

⁵ Luke 4:4.

Pete: I think it said that organized religion was a sham, and that Christians were weak-kneed, feeble-minded people.

Ted: I heard yesterday that a law was being discussed that would make criticizing sexual orientation a hate crime.

V: Yes, we are going there. Homosexuality is on the upswing. There is coming a time, and it is close, when you will go to jail for preaching against homosexuality.

Beth: It seems that the stage is being set up to desensitize the other people.

V: The moon is turning to blood.

Four Angels

We have, now, these four angels holding the four winds away from the earth, the sea, and the trees. The earth, of course, is the general, secular planet earth. The sea is the religious planet earth. The trees are the economic planet earth. The four winds are, I think, winds of doctrine, and I believe that these doctrines are going to come out of this darkening of the sun. These new doctrines are coming as winds, or spirits blowing across the earth. I do not know what they are, but it shows four angels holding them back—and this is not one of those kinds of symbolic numbers like seven and ten—this is a specific number which means four. I do not know how you want to read that.

Beth: What did you say trees are?

V: The trees are economic. Trees and grass are economics.

Wanda: I find myself scared of what is happening here. I want to look diligently for the Lord's saving grace. The four winds, you said, are biblical doctrines that are good doctrines?

V: No. Bad doctrines coming out of the . . .

Wanda: Being held back by these four winds?

V: No, by four angels who are eventually going to loose these bad winds of doctrines on the earth. The angel with the Seal of God hollers to them, saying, "Do not loosen those winds until . . ."

Wanda: The angels holding the four winds are God's angels?

V: Yes, and they are going to loose the winds of doctrines to sweep this earth with destructive results. These angels have power over the winds, the winds of evil doctrines. The angel with God's seal says, "Do not loosen them until we seal God's servants."

Sealing the 144,000

Sybil: John said, "I saw another angel beside the four angels ascending from the east, and this is the one that has the seal of the living God." Is there some significance in that?

V: Yes, he is going to come in, and he is going to seal these servants in the forehead, all of these 144,000 servants in the foreheads. I believe now that these servants, servant means slave, and these are servants who do the Word of God, and if you do the Word of God, you will know the truth of the doctrine.⁶ That knowledge of true doctrine is the seal. These are servants, and God's promise is that if you do the Word, you will know the truth of the doctrine. You are sealed in your mind so that you will know. Then when the four new doctrines come sweeping around the

⁶ John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

world, these servants will not be fazed by it. They will say, “That is a bunch of junk.”

Beth: I am really trying to find out if you have any inside thought on the significance of God’s angel who puts the seal in the Christian’s foreheads coming from the east.

V: Oh, from the east? I do not know. I do not know what to say about that.

Ted: Okay, what you said about the truth, is that when Jesus said, “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”⁷

V: Yes, exactly.

Ted: In answer to your question, the sun rises in the east. Truth comes from the east. That is where the angel of God is from.

V: Oh, yes. Man! That is good!

Paul: On these four doctrines that you are talking about, could that be related to the forming of the one-world religion that comes upon the earth in this time?

V: Yes, it could.

Paul: It could be one-world religious doctrines because we all believe in the five first books of the Bible, in mother Mary, and so on.

V: Yes, it could very well be.

Paul: To form the one-world religion?

V: Yes, to form the one-world government, religion, and economy because it is talking about earth and sea and trees here, too. So the winds of doctrines are going to touch on all three of those areas.

Paul: The one-world religion is wanted by us, is it not?

V: Not by us.

Pete: Not by me.

V: I want that exclusive kind—Jesus is the only way.

Pete: The only people who are going to get the seal in their foreheads are the 144,000?

V: Yes, the 144,000 servants of God, and these are converted Jews. I believe that this is a literal part here, because he enumerates the tribes. There seems to be enough significance in the enumeration of the tribes to indicate that these are 12,000 actual people from each of those tribes.

Mary: Are we going to be raptured out, or are we going to go through the tribulation?

V: The tribulation is in process already. We are not to the rapture yet.

Mary: This has already happened?

V: No, it is happening.

Mary: I do not mean to slow you down, but I need this answer. You said the 144,000 could be literal. Could the tribulation come as a result of their witness?

V: Yes. Tribulation is going to progress. Let me show in answer to your question what happens to the people that get led to the Lord by the 144,000. Now these 144,000 Jews I think are going to have some kind of protection, and it may be geographic. That protection is not going to extend to any who are outside the arena of protection. It could be that they are witnessing on the other side of the planet, but they are protected wherever they are. They could be using the internet. But look what happens to all their converts.

Countless Martyrs

Revelation

7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and

⁷ John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

7:10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and [about] the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

7:12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

7:16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Now here is a promise, but I want you to see that Seal #6 is going to bring great tribulation on this planet. When you have the darkening of truth and justice, and a reddening (darkening as it turns to putrefied blood) of the reflection of the witness or the prophetic word of the church, as it continues to putrefy, then there is no truth and justice. There will be no witness of truth and justice, and as a result of that lack there is going to be the great persecution across the entire globe. That persecution is going to be of everyone who is being saved. For each one there will be the requirement to make a public profession of

faith. When that happens, off comes the head.

Where we walk down the aisle today, and we pray to receive Christ, these people will walk down the aisle to spiritual life but also to physical death. It is to die. When we go into baptism, we say that we are buried with Christ in His death, but raised to walk in newness of life. These people will do it literally. They will go down into death, and come up and walk in heaven with a palm in their hand, a white robe and be right there in the temple of God, and they will not ever have to leave because they showed their love enough to God by demonstrating absolute loyalty to Him. If you demonstrate your loyalty to Him, He will demonstrate loyalty to you.

Paul: What were the significant things in chapter 7 that we should highlight or underline.

V: Well, I think the sealing of the 144,000 servants would be important. It is a spiritual sealing in the forehead that indicates their thought processes will never be corrupted. The winds of doctrines are sealed outside their minds. There is going to be a hurting of the earth and the sea and trees that means a hurting of secular society, religion, and also economics by those four winds.

Paul: Do you know what the emblem or logo on that seal that will be placed on the forehead?

V: I do not think that it is going to be a literal seal. I am thinking that it is a spiritual seal that is achieved only for those who are total "servants." It is similar to but greater than the seal that you and I are getting today when we do the Word of God that we know. That promise by God to give us knowledge of

true doctrine⁸ to discern whether it is true or not comes from doing the Word of God. That, then, is a seal that is progressive, and there is going to be this sealing of the 144,000 of the Jewish-type servants, not you, but the Jewish-type servants who are total servants, radical servants.

You are getting your seal today. They do not have their seal, but they are going to get one because it is going to dawn on them in a progressive manner that they need to start doing God's Word in a radical way. When they start truly following the Lord, they are going to turn away from all the sacrifice and all the ritual and all the things, and they are going to do self denial, picking up their crosses, and following Jesus. Once they start doing that, all of a sudden they are going to be able to see, "Hey, these winds of doctrine are evil!" They are going to know what the *kenosis* is. They are going to know what sacrifice is. They are going to be able to know what they are supposed to be doing, and how important witnessing is. Then there is going to be the strong witness that is going to sweep the world simultaneously with the sweeping of the world by the winds of evil doctrines.

A person came up to me a while ago and said there was some significance to this thousand, the thousand years is like a day to the Lord, and so he took his 12,000, divided it by a thousand, and came up with the number 12. Number 12 is one of those significant numbers. It means a whole number. In order to have 12, it could be 12 generations of converted Jews that are being sealed and have been witnessing all along on this planet. That is an interesting concept, and we bring it up as an alternative to what I am teaching. I am willing to listen to that alternative because it is

⁸ John 7:17.

feasible. However, I think the delineations of the tribes point to real numbers.

Ted: Where I got that from, you know that deal of mine was in the Ten Commandments. In Deuteronomy 5:8⁹ where it says, "You shall not make an idol of any form, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

V: So that is where you got it.

White Robes

Ted: In verse 14 it says, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes."¹⁰ Are the robes souls?

V: No, the robes are clothes that you achieve through works. Works clothe you. The blood washes you. You are washed from your sin by the blood of Christ. Your clothes are earned via works, and they are washed via martyrdom. That cleansing of your soul is a free gift, but it does not dress you up. That is up to you, and even the crown is up to you. Everything after the initial washing is up to you. Here are these guys that have been servants, servanthood gets clothes. They have clothes, but their martyrdom got them washed clothes and palms in their hands.

Ted: The palms signify martyrdom?

V: Yes.

Betty: Dr. Vinson, in Isaiah it talks about the garments of salvation¹¹ and the robes of righteousness. When they say the garments

⁹ Deuteronomy 5:8-10 NIV

¹⁰ Revelation 7:14.

¹¹ Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [herself] with her jewels.

of salvation, does that have to do with the one piece that was under the robe? Could it mean that when you get saved, you will at least have your underwear?

V: I would not count on it. The garments of salvation could very well be the garments of sanctification part of salvation. This would be then a parallel to the robes of righteousness. Every one of us wants to think that. Sometimes when the Lord is talking He describes someone as being naked, but it does not mean that the person was naked without the undergarments, but that a person in the undergarments is called naked in the Word of God. So there is hope for us in that area because if we stumble and mess up, we will at least have some underclothes. Every one of us wants to hold to that one, I guarantee you. It is a scary thought.

Tribulation

The tribulation would be another highlight of chapter 7. Those saints came out of the tribulation. I want you to see what “*ek*” or “out of” means. One concept of tribulation is that you bypass it, the wonderful escapist mentality that most of us have that says we are going to escape tribulation. We are just going to be raptured or pulled out, and we do not have any stress put on us because we are such favored people (see Chart 6.2.1).

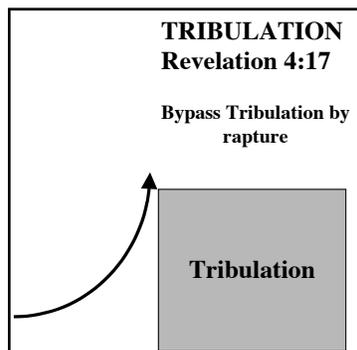


Chart 6.2.1

There is another idea. Out of tribulation means that the saints were in it, then they escaped out of it, and that is what these saints

did. They came out of great tribulation (see Chart 6.2.2).

Then there is the third concept right here, which is through tribulation. In this case, the saints passed all the way through tribulation and came out of it on the other side (see Chart 6.2.3). These are the three ideas that are abounding all over the place.

What I want you to see here is that these who have the palms came out of tribulation. That is the middle illustration

(Chart 6.2.2). They came out of tribulation so that means they were in it. These are the saints who have endured tribulation and died in it. Death is how the exit is made.

Mary: The ones with the palms?

V: The palms indicate that tribulation cost them their lives. In order to be considered a disciple it costs you your life through self-denial. It is supposed to cost us our lives as well—if not through actual death, then through sacrifice and self-denial.

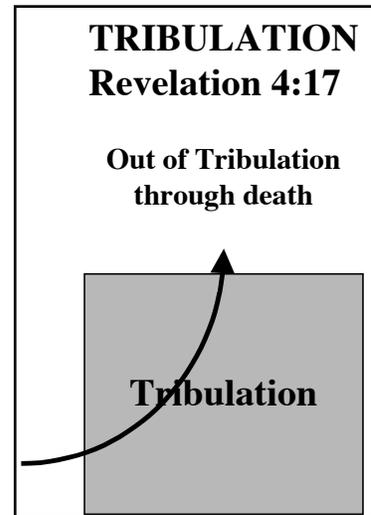


Chart 6.2.2

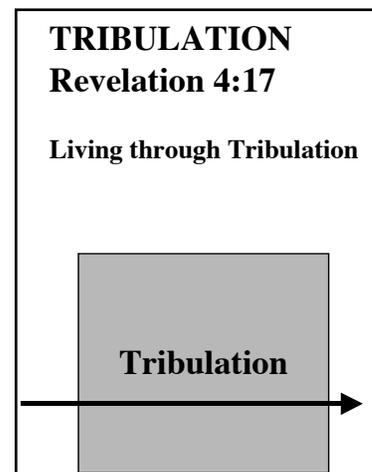


Chart 6.2.3

Mary: We could be those saints.

V: We could be those saints because Seal #6 has already been loosed, and we are in the trumpets. This is an explanation of the mature Seal #6. You know we have one, two, three, four, five, six, and they end at the same point. That is the way the seals operate. Seal #7 converts into a trumpet, and then you have seven trumpets, and all of the trumpets end up at the same point where the seals end. When you get to the maturity of Seal #6, you are maxing out on what is going to happen on this planet. When Seal #6 is matured, He has loosed, loosed, loosed, loosed, loosed, loosed until there is nothing left to loosen. There are no restraints. "Go do what you want to do! Just go do it!"

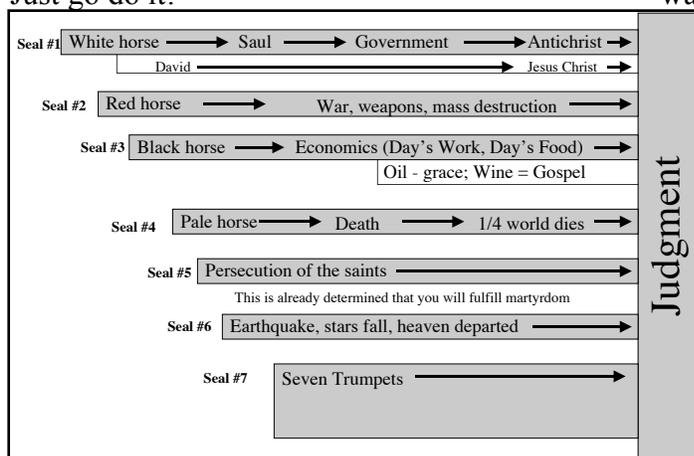


Chart 6.3

Mary: Has this seal been loosed?

V: Yes, even the seventh seal has already been loosed, too, by the way.

Tim: You know those students in that terrible incident where the gunmen shot them down. They asked a few of the victims first if they were Christian.

V: Yes.

Tim: That is tribulation.

V: That is tribulation. I think we started this class with a talk about Polycarp. That is tribulation, folks, and if we are escaping because we are so special, how come Paul did not escape? He was more special than we are! Why did not Polycarp or Michael Sattler escape? If you have taken my church history, why did not all those saints that we studied that were tortured to death escape? Why do we think we are so special that we are immune to tribulation, and that God is swooning over us, and He just thinks, "Man! What a wonderful bunch of saints down here. They can tie their own shoes!"

Tim: I think that what people fail to realize is that if you look from Genesis all the way through, there is not an incident of anybody that was in tribulation that did not go through it. Look at Noah, what happened to him. Did he get a way out? No, he was on a boat for thirteen months, thank you very much. There were not even any windows.

Mary: No central air conditioning!

Wanda: What about the three Hebrews, did they get somehow taken out? No, they got thrown into the furnace. All of them went through, every incident. You go through it; you do not get out of it.

V: Right! You have to go through it.

Wanda: What about Lot?

Jack: Facing the cross, Jesus said, "Is there any way to remove this cup?" And the Lord sent an angel to minister to Him, but He went through that cross. He did not jump off or go around it. We follow Christ so that puts us in the forefront, beyond where you started in the Old Testament to now. It is our turn to go through it.

V: That is right; it is our turn.

Jack: If you think you are going to take a short route and get an exit out of here early, it is not written that way.

V: Right. That would make God a respecter of persons where He respects us and swoons all over us. What is so special about us? Nothing! We are worse.

Mary: It seems to me, Dr. Vinson, that to die a martyr's death is a very special thing to an individual, and it is almost like a blessing.

V: It is an honor signified by the palms in Scripture.

Mary: So maybe we should re-look at that.

Ted: You say when we get to the sixth seal we are maxing out?

V: Out at the end, at its maturity. The sixth seal is describing the most terrible scenario.

Ted: Kind of like God's last warning?

V: Yes. Once He loosens that

Ted: You go through this, and I am done. You are on your own.

V: Yes, and so heaven rolls up like a scroll. He just says, "Okay."

Mary: But you know it has been God's grace all along that has been holding us back.

V: That is right, and we do not deserve that merciful restraint, but He has been holding it back.

Mary: God does not want any to perish, but that all come to repentance.¹² That just

¹² 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

shows His love for us because He has been holding back for thousands of years.

V: You are right. That is just the majestic love of God which we do not deserve.

Paul: So when the sky is rolled back, that is not Ichabod, is it? The Holy Spirit removed?

V: No, no. The Holy Spirit is still here. The Holy Spirit is still in place. The scenario is that God says, "Okay, I cannot do any more for you; I have tried to restrain you, I have tried to hold you back. You are clamoring for destruction? Okay, go ahead." The Holy Spirit is always going to be in place; the restrainer is the law, not the Holy Spirit.

REVELATION 8

Revelation

8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

Seal #7 (or the releasing of the trumpets.)

This means that we are about to move from an active kind of resistance here where the Lord is holding the seals, and then one after another yields to the will of the people by loosing the seals and letting the people go through. We are about to move now to a more passive action from God. It is going to be a trumpet. He is going to sound the trumpet, and He is going to say, "All right, if you have ears to hear this trumpet, look at the signs and see what I am saying."

Tim: What is the significance of the half hour?

V: I think it is to call attention to the importance of God's change of action. God is changing his action from restraint to calling the attention of the people for repentance. We are making a move, a transition.

Prayers of the Saints

Revelation

8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

8:3 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.

You need to see here that the incense is the spiritual addition to the prayers of the saints to make those prayers acceptable to God. This is significant here because sometimes Christians may pray, “God, kill that guy; he is being mean to me. Just kill him.” That could be the kind of prayer that we pray. When that prayer goes up to God, He does not want to hear that mess because He is a redeeming God. The Holy Spirit, then, comes in and incenses that prayer, and makes it acceptable to God.

Ted: Then God kills him. (Laughter throughout the class.)

Ted: The incense makes that prayer acceptable?

V: Yes, it makes the prayers acceptable. It is spiritual addition that makes the prayers acceptable.

Ted: So it kind of changes our prayers.

V: Yes, it makes them acceptable by sanctifying them. It makes it a prayer that God Himself would pray.

Ted: If I am saying, “Kill that guy,” the Spirit would step in

V: And change that prayer so God can say yes to it. When you pray, God does not say yes to your prayers unless they are acceptable. He does not say yes just because you are saved.

Ted: So the Holy Spirit takes that prayer and changes it to “God kill that guy after he has had twenty more chances to get saved or something like that.

V: Or He could change it slam around to bring trouble in the saint’s life so that the saint will hear the trumpet.

Henry: It is like the Bible says, “The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us because we do not know how”¹³

V: We do not know how to pray. We just moan and carry on, we make all kinds of noises, and He says, “I wish that guy would shut up.” So the Holy Spirit comes along and takes that mess that we pray and fixes it up, and God says, “Yes, that is a good prayer. I will do that.”

Revelation

8:4 And the smoke of the incense, [which came] with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.

Now the angels are even involved in this prayer. The incense represents the Holy Spirit. We have, then, the Holy Spirit, God the Father, the angels, and the saint on the planet all participating in this scene. The saint on the planet does not know what is going on. He cannot see unless He has the eyes of faith and has read this book. He, then, may have an idea that there are angels involved, and these prayers are being incensed, and the Holy Spirit is involved, and this kind of stuff. But most of the time the saints on the earth are just praying, “Oh, God, I want this, and I want that, and I want this. I am going to do such and such. Come and bless me over here. Hey, God where are you?”

¹³ Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

I am over here. Hey, God, I am over here!” You see how it works? Most of the time the saints on the earth do not even know what is going on. But what we are supposed to do is read this Scripture and then know that this is the kind of thing that is going on. There is a whole lot of action that you cannot see that is going on. We need to be able to see with the eyes of faith, and use these scenes here to get our eyes opened up.

Precursors to the Trumpets

Revelation

8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast [it] into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

When you have thunderings and lightnings and voices and earthquakes, then you have a repetition of what was happening in the book of Exodus when Moses was going to the mountain. God descended to the mountain, and there was earthquake, there was lightning, there was thunder, and all of that. God is speaking in all of that. When you hear thunder and see lightning, there is significance. By reading this significance you ought to be able to say, “God is speaking to the earth.” You may not know what He is saying, but you ought to be able to look at that and say, “God is speaking to the earth.” Just by faith, say that God is speaking to the earth.

Joe: The earthquake here is to draw our attention to something that is about to happen?

V: Yes. And all this quaking business has to do with your society, your institutions, the tremblings of what is secure on the secular

part of our planet. It is not a seaquake, it is an earthquake.

TRUMPET #1—ECONOMICS

Revelation

8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

On the first trumpet when it is matured, one-third of economic systems (trees), the larger economic systems, are going to go down the tubes. They are going to burn up. The economy of the little people (grass) is going to be burned up. Across this planet, then, when this trumpet is sounded, and it is matured (it begins the process at the sounding, but at the end point, at the point of judgment, there will be economic chaos), the little man, the private businesses are going to be swallowed up and be destroyed. There is not going to be any profitability for the little man to try to be an entrepreneur. That is going to be gone. The only ones that will survive are two-thirds of your General Motors, Fords, AT&T, and that kind of thing. One-third of them are going to go down the tube at the maturation of this trumpet.

Joe: Could that be what is going on now with all these companies merging together?

V: It is happening right now. This trumpet has blown.

Ted: They say there are 400 people worth one trillion dollars here in the United States.

V: Man! That is unfathomable

Ted: There are four hundred men here in the United States worth \$1,000,000,000,000.

Betty: Can you do this one more time? There is one-third of the earth, one-third of

the trees, and one-third of the grass? Differentiate those.

V: It is not one-third of the earth. It comes upon the earth, which is the secular part. It is one-third of the trees and all of the grass. So trees are the larger enterprises of which one-third are going to go bankrupt. However, all of your little people enterprises (grass) are going to go bankrupt.

Jack: Is this grass in this chapter, meaning little people, a universal sign?

V: Yes, universal.

Student: Is there any significance in the fact that it says **green** grass?

V: Yes, green grass indicates that they are growing, doing good, and profitable. All of these prior seals such as the darkening of the sun, you see, are going to have destructive influence. Pretty soon we are going to be so “wise” that we will pass more restrictive laws and taxes. Next OSHA will add further restrictions as will the Labor Relations boards, and pretty soon nobody can make a penny.

TRUMPET #2 INSTITUTIONALISM

Revelation

8:8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

8:9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

Here is the sea. We did the earth, now it is time for the church, the great mountain, the institution, a great institution burning with fire. It is the thrust of institutionalism. Institutionalism lands in the church, and the next thing you know, you have an idol made out of the church, and there are people that are going

to die. Institutionalism in the church turns the church into an idol, and one-third of the people in the church are going to die spiritually. This mountain is burning with fire. That means that it is alive, and institutionalism is alive today, and it is a driving force.

Jill: They are going to die spiritually?

V: Yes, spiritually.

Tim: The church will no longer worship?

V: No, they are going to be in there worshipping that institution and that is the source of death. There will be dead people in the church worshipping away.

Wanda: It is like a lot of these big mega churches, I guess. They are run more like a business; they have the CEO and the people working under them like the secretaries to keep things going.

V: Instead of following Jesus, the members follow the institution. The Lord is the Savior, but there is a beginning to worship of the institution.

Wanda: Sort of like Catholicism?

V: I think so. Anyway this trumpet has blown and institutionalism is running rampant.

Sybil: Dr. Vinson, the great mountain just means it is big?

V: It is the concept of institutionalism.

TRUMPET #3 FALSE PREACHING

Revelation

8:10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star . . .

You know what the stars are.

8:10 . . . from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, . . .

Seems like it gives off light.

8:10... and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

8:11 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.

Now this is you. You are the fresh water, you are the clergy, you are the source of the waters that go into the sea and bring life and refreshment to the sea. Wormwood, though, comes down and you can see wormwood in Jeremiah 23. It has a whole pile of stuff in there about wormwood. God is going to be pointing His hostility and anger and retribution upon the clergy.

Jeremiah

23:9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.

23:10 For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force [is] not right.

23:11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.

23:12 Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery [ways] in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, [even] the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

23:13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.

23:14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

23:15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with **wormwood**, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.

23:16 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, [and] not out of the mouth of the LORD.

23:17 They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

It just goes on and on and on about these prophets. These are the clergy. This is Jeremiah preaching to Judah just before the Babylonian captivity. Judah is in apostasy, and they think they are in revival. Judah is sinking low, but they are worshipping like you would not believe, going into the temple, and they are preaching, "The Temple of the Lord, The Temple of the Lord, The Temple of the Lord." That makes them righteous just because they are in the temple of the Lord. This is institutionalism in Judah prior to Christ and the Church.

Jill: Worship of the place rather than the Lord.

V: There is the burning mountain, and here are the clergy, the fresh water, the fountain of waters, and what are they doing? They are strengthening the hands of evildoers. They are not calling the people to repentance. They are being fed wormwood, and their preaching of institutionalism is causing many to die. That is wormwood, and many men will die out of wormwood, drinking the bitter waters, and God says, "These are my prophets, people do not listen to them." Man! That is a terrible situation when God says, "Do not listen to my prophets because

they have done the evil thing.” They are preaching out of the imaginations of their hearts. They are saying that peace is going to come upon you if you are coming to church and tithing. “Oh, peace is going to come upon you.” And they say, “Do not worry, there is no evil going to come upon you.” When you preach peace and no evil going to come upon you without hardship, there is something wrong with that. God said later in Jeremiah that a true prophet always preaches repentance. If there is no repentance, do not listen to them. “These are my prophets, do not listen to them.”

In Malachi God said that my prophets are going to have their blessings turn to curses.¹⁴ That means that when you are under the teaching of a false prophet, and he gives a blessing to you, you are going to receive a curse. Do not even sit under the false prophet because you will receive a curse guaranteed by the Word of God. Wormwood is going to come down here in the third trumpet, and it is going to land on the clergy, the fresh waters, and that wormwood is an evil angel. He is going to convince the clergy, and they are going to preach this weak-livered gospel. Their message has no call for repentance, and they are going to strengthen the hands of evil-doers. There is not going to be any changing and stepping up and becoming the men of God that you need to be. You are going to be a bunch of people that are going to receive nothing but praise as you sink into depravity.

Jill: And that one has blown.

V: And that one has blown. And it is active right now. You can even get two homosexuals married in the church.

Jill: By a homosexual.

V: That is right, by a homosexual.

Jill: Turn on the TV and listen to the evangelists there.

V: Yes.

Bob: Love, joy, fulfillment, and no worry.

V: Right, no call for repentance.

Bob: Name it and claim it.

Beth: No persecution, no cross.

V: No cross, nothing but peace and good prosperity coming.

Oscar: Sit under one of those false prophets. Does that mean to be taught by them? Or are you talking about just hearing their preaching.

V: If you hear the blessings in your ears, and receive it into your hearts, they will be turned into curses. Malachi—go read it.

Steve: Did you say what the ships were in verse 9 because I did not catch that.

V: Yes, I think I did. When you are in the general church, which is the sea, guess what the ships are?

Steve: Individual churches.

V: There, you have it.

Ted: The ships are the local churches.

Homer: So when you read Jeremiah, you will get a description of these prophets? The description which you just read would pretty well do it?

V: That is wormwood, the false preaching. We are stopping on the third trumpet,

¹⁴ Malachi 2:2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay [it] to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay [it] to heart.

which has blown. I will take a couple of more questions, then we will dismiss.

Homer: In verse 9 also where it says the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, is that just a reiteration of verse 8 where it says that a third of the sea became blood?

V: Yes, those in verse 8 are the people who are becoming putrid, and verse 9 describes them as dying. This death in verses 10 and 11 is by the wormwood.

Ted: Wormwood did not give death to the preachers?

V: Correct, I think we read about that principle in Thyatira.

Ted: Wormwood is pretty much being false prophets?

V: False preaching. It is the easy stuff without the calling for repentance.

Ted: Do you think this business about wormwood being Chernobyl is . . .

V: I do not buy that, but it is your call. It does not line up for me. I think that wormwood is a false preaching. This is a trumpet that is going to mature all the way out here to the end, where there will be nothing but those politically correct preachers who are preaching that homosexuals are wonderful, that we ought to ordain them, we ought to marry them. That is no call for repentance. As a matter of fact we are going to get to the point where the only way you can be wrong is to be right.

Paul: You were talking about a call to repentance for the people who are not doers of the Word of God. Jeremiah-type preaching might be able to wake some of those people up.

V: That is what I am saying.

Paul: The people that reject God's Word are looking toward this type of teaching, the tickling of the ears type of stuff.

V: That is what I am saying. What is going to be your protection? Protection comes in doing the Word of God. When you are doing the Word of God, you will be sealed just like the 144,000. It does not mean that you are not going to get killed. It means you are going to know the truth.

Ted: In this double entendre, would that also be the Chernobyl deal, and . . .

V: It could be, but for me it is not.

Steve: I want you to talk to us a little about us making decisions about sitting under or going to a place and listening to this false prophet. We tend to think that we are strong enough, we have had it strapped on enough that we . . . I know what to take in and take out. Talk to us a little about it, about discerning that.

V: Okay. Whenever you participate as a partner in a church, when you are a member, you are a partner there. Any kind of corporate punishment that comes down on that church gets every partner in it. Okay, so if you are going to be in a false church, or a church that has the burning mountain in it, or wormwood in it, if you are going to be in there, you had better be a missionary, and as a missionary, you are going to be the prophet of the Lord saying, "Turn this thing around," and if they are going to repent, they will. If they are not, they are going to throw you out. Your tenure is going to be short lived.

Paul: A prime example of just the opposite was Moses in the desert where he had the waters that were bitter, and he turned them sweet because Israel had come out of Egypt with false doctrine and false gods and false

beliefs. Moses turned around and received from God and put forth the truth. He, therefore, turned bitter or wormwood into sweet water.

V: Yes!! Absolutely! And that is what the prophet does. Amen, well said.

Tim: As prophets we need to be careful that we are teaching repentance as well.

V: Absolutely. If we do not, we have the same problem. We are, then, spouting out wormwood, and it will kill the people.

Chapter Questions

1. Describe Seals #6 and #7.
2. Differentiate God's actions when moving from seals to trumpets.
3. Describe the 144,000.
4. Describe the martyrs.
5. Describe the 3 methods of saints bypassing, coming out of, or going through tribulation.
6. Describe the first 3 trumpets.