

Chapter 7

MORE TRUMPETS**TRUMPET #4, DIMINISHED WITNESS**

Revelation

8:12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

8:13 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!

This is a trumpet call. You remember when we looked into the seals, and the seals revealed a darkening of the sun and a darkening of the moon. The darkening was progressively moving toward a total darkening. I believe that was Seal #6. That seal, you see, is progressive, and it is going to be an advancing darkness all the way to a total blackness when you get out to the end times. You remember how I drew an end time, and all the various seals are going in that direction (see Chart 7.2 at the end of this chapter).

Those seals were God's restraints. The trumpets are now calls to repentance. God was using the seals, contrary to the trumpets, as restraints of evil on the earth to keep the light in place, to keep truth and justice in place. He wanted those good things to stay in place, but the people of the planet were pushing against those restraints that God had in place. The church was supposed to be watchmen on the walls, and telling with a prophetic voice, "Do not go through this seal, this restraint. Restrain yourselves, pull back,

do not flirt with temptation, stay with the truth and justice that God has given to us. Make man's laws come right out of God's laws so that they will be true and just." The people have not heard, plus the voice of God's people has been quietened down, and quietened and quietened to the point where it is just a little squeak now.

The people are doing what they want to do and ruling on what norms we are going to have. One of the things that they are demanding is homosexuality. Laws favoring homosexuality are in place. There will soon be laws against saying bad things about that homosexuality. This situation means that darkness is closing in around us.

As reflectors of the light, which is what the church is, we are basically like the moon. We reflect light from the source, and we bring light into darkness. We need to be bringing light into darkness, but the trumpet blast that comes at this point, Trumpet #4, is to alert you that you are darkening, and you may not even perceive the fact that you are darkening.

A trumpet, then, is different from a seal. A trumpet is to get your attention. It is a loud, certain sound that is to call the church, the ones that have an ear to hear it of course, to hear the trumpet blast and to cause you to look around to see the reason for the trumpet blast. You are to be able to look around and very clearly and easily see the darkening. That darkening is in a progressive state (see Chart 7.1 near the end of this chapter).

Here we are at this trumpet blast one-third of the way to the completeness of Seal #6. When you see this kind of darkening, you

should redouble your efforts to be the prophetic voice calling for repentance among our people that are passing these stupid laws and doing this kind of craziness that is going around. If you do not, we will progress in a rapid order all the way to the end of Seal #6. The trumpet blast is to get your attention.

The seal was a restraint, and we pushed through it. We go clamoring through this seal, and we go into the next level of self-destruction. Even though God has released the seal, it is not causative because He did not push us through there. Our destruction is because of man's stubborn will demanding the release. As we go running through, God, out of His grace, gives the trumpet blast. We are supposed to hear the trumpet. If you hear the trumpet blast, you will redouble your efforts to get the people to stop their progression into apostasy. But how do we hear? You hear by what is associated with the trumpet blast. You hear the trumpet by looking around and seeing the condition of our society. If you can see, it ought to knock your eyes out. It ought to be so loud that it is deafening.

Joe: Are not all seven seals open now?

Vinson: Yes, but they are progressing. All the seals have been opened, but they are not fully matured. When He opened a seal it was not a mature seal, it is a seminal seal, a seed seal. When you go blasting through this seal, like it was a gate, you are not totally apostate, just on the other side of the gate. You still have a long way to go in this process of the slippery slope down into oblivion.

Henry: Are there other restraints beyond the seal on that same path?

V: The trumpet blasts are to call the attention of the church, and the church holds in its hand the deliverance of the world: 2

Chronicles 7:14, "If my people . . ." So that means that if the church can hear the trumpet blast, there is hope for the lost world, but if the church turns a deaf ear to the trumpet blast and just pushes on with the rest of the people, where is the hope? God has already done His part. It is our turn.

Mary: You know it always speaks in the Bible about the remnant of Israel. I see what you are saying, there is going to be a remnant of the church that is going to hear the trumpets because . . .

V: Yes, I think that you are hearing it.

Joe: The majority is just going to say, "Hey, let us just go ahead and have homosexuality."

V: That is right. They will say there is not a problem. But you are hearing the trumpet blast. You have to be deaf and blind not to hear the trumpet blast after having read what we have read in the book of Revelation. There are people out there that are deaf and blind, but it is because there has not been a hole bored into their ears yet. Get them into Hebrews, get them into Bible Doctrine, get them into some Evangelism and all of that. We can get some holes bored in there; then they will be waking up. We have some good things going, some good classes. We just need some good students in them.

Paul: Back at the beginning of Chapter 8, it talked about the seven angels that were given the seven trumpets. Those are the seven angels over the seven churches; is that correct?

V: Not necessarily.

Ted: Do you think the seared conscience and the lack of hearing go hand in hand?

V: Yes, I do. But I believe that the seared consciences are in the lost people, but the lack

of hearing is in self-interest. We will be talking about that later.

As we have this fourth trumpet blowing, it is calling attention to the progress of the sixth seal.

Mary: The sixth seal?

V: Yes, that is the one that has the sun becoming totally black as sackcloth, and the moon becoming putrefied blood.

Ted: The seals have run, and now the trumpets are overlapping with the sixth seal. The trumpets overlap with the sixth seal. Is that correct?

V: All the seals are opened and running. Now the trumpets are starting (see Chart 7.2), but the trumpets have a different purpose than the seals. The trumpets are to call your attention. We have already gone through the seal. Seal #7 actually goes into Trumpet #1. The idea here is that Seal #6, when it is loosed, goes eventually into total darkness. That is where you are going. That is what it says. But Trumpet #4 says that you are already 1/3 dark. That means then that in God's mercy He is blowing the trumpet to call your attention to the fact that you are going somewhere. Look around and see what the results are right now. You ought to be able to see that if it is 1/3 dark right now, what will it be like when it is fully dark? When we are fully dark, right is going to be wrong, and wrong is going to be right. If we are not already getting there, folks, I do not know how to read a newspaper.

Carl: Dr. Vinson, what I am concluding from my Bible study is that I think people are confused. Many different people are interpreting Scripture so differently. It is mass confusion. Half of the people do not study the Bible, and they do not have a clue. Like

you are saying, there should be something of God in you when these evils like homosexuality arise. It should be such that I could never accept it. Look, you who are accepting these evils need to go somewhere to school to study because people are getting bad doctrine.

V: Yes, that is right. They are getting no doctrine and staying ignorant, or they are getting bad doctrine and becoming heretical. It is a combination of both things coming in together. It is producing more darkness.

Ted: We did not get this way overnight. What has happened is that the bad doctrine and lack of Bible study have both been a long time progressing. We have lulled ourselves into a false sense of security, and you are exactly right. We have more people in our churches that are biblically illiterate. They know more about the Dallas Cowboys than they do the Gospel of John. We need to turn the tide. It is ministers like myself that need to call the attention. Like you said, if we love our people, we are going to tell them the truth.

V: That is right. Every chance you get. You hammer in there, hammer in there, just cut out all the fluff—get rid of it. Commit tonight, get rid of the fluff. Go straight to the core of it. There are people dying and going to hell right now because we are playing church. There is just too much at risk here.

Paul: It is also each person's responsibility to study the Scripture, and maybe they need to be preaching more about . . .

V: Personal Christianity. When I say church, I am not saying those things that have steeples on them. I am talking about the people.

Tom: There are a lot of people who believe whatever the preacher says . . . and that is the only way some people will respond.

Mary: That is how we got in the shape we are in. We sit in church, and all we have to do is listen to the preacher.

V: I know it. We have to take on personal responsibility.

I want to show you that the trumpet blast is calling attention to the progressive nature of the opened seals. Who can see with their eyes and hear with their ears will hear the trumpet blast and begin to watch out for the people. You are going to tell people, "Do not go that way. We are going in the wrong direction. We are going toward destruction. We must repent and turn around."

Joe: I believe it was the third trumpet where He was talking about the people being lost. It was time for them to take notice and turn around and repent.

A Look at the Clergy

V: I think the third trumpet was the wormwood that landed in the fresh water, and that is us. That indicates to me that the ministers are not teaching and preaching the truth. They are teaching fluff and churchianity and institutionalism and "grow my little empire," and "I do not really care about the Kingdom of God," and "I sure do not want one of my parishioners to get his hand in the Lord's hand and them go off together. That leaves me with nobody. The Lord has got that one. I had better guard this one before the Lord gets him, too. I will not have any tithers left."

You see the problem? John the Baptist showed us how to do it. He was standing there with his disciples, and when the Lamb walked by, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God,"¹ and his disciples left him and went

with Jesus. Now that is a real minister right there.

Describing Our Job

We are to be watching and hearing all these trumpet blasts. We have already reviewed three of them, and the fourth blast has just been described, and it has to do with 1/3 of the light. We are 1/3 of the way. When you see this, you are 1/3 of the way through Seal #6. He is blowing that trumpet to get our attention so that we do not run pell-mell down in Seal #6. All of these seals and trumpets are progressing together concurrently. How do you stop it? The church of Jesus Christ can turn the tide. We hold the key in our hand: "If my people who are called by my name."² That is a big "if." The first requirement is to humble yourself. That is basically impossible. In my opinion, there is not a chance that will happen. The church cannot humble itself. The church is the wonderful, great bride of Christ with unspotted garments. You see how can you repent when there is nothing wrong with you. You cannot even humble yourself much less repent, seek His face, and turn from your wicked ways. All those actions are impossible for your present-day kind of church. Your job, then, is to rescue the perishing one by one, and you can forget about preaching in some stadium and having the whole world repent. That is out. You are going to rescue only one by one. Get your loved ones, get your co-workers, get your neighbors, tract all over the place, pray for those people and for everyone's sake, vote and vote right. That is what the disciple's job is. That is what all of us are required to do. When we get down to the end, and it is coming quickly, there is

¹ John 1:36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! 1:37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

² 2 Chronicles 7:14.

going to be an underground church at work. You will be sneaking over to your neighbor's house while the police are not watching and talking to them and witnessing and giving an invitation, praying that they will not turn you in. That is the way it is going to be.

Sybil: I have been told at times by some church members that you should not be too harsh when you talk to other people by telling them right out that they are worshipping the wrong god. "Do not be so hard with people because they might not like it." They say, "Well, they might tell you about how your belief is wrong." I have no problem with that. They can tell me if I am wrong.

V: Amen!

Use the Bible

Carl: I am telling them from the Bible, not from what I think.

V: That is right. We need to tell them what God has said.

Jack: If I am wrong, then the whole Bible is wrong. If telling them about Jesus is wrong, then Jesus was wrong, too. If they get mad because I tell them they worship the wrong god, that is fine. That is their prerogative, but I am not in doubt of the truth.

V: Praise God, may the Lord bless you, Jack.

Bob: My older brother lives in California. He is complaining because there are many preachers who do not want to preach against sin for fear of offending their members. A church once invited him to preach for a special

service. They only used him for one night because the pastor of that church told him that he should not have said what he said because a lot of the members were angry. The pastor told him, "You stepped on a lot of toes tonight." My brother said, "Well, I am sorry, but I was not aiming for the toes. I was aiming for their hearts." I am sorry, but I know we have preachers in our Baptist churches who do not want to preach against sin because they do not want to hurt their members' feelings.

V: We have to get over it. Just get over it.

Oscar: One of the things that I ran across a couple of days ago was given to me by a friend. It is actually a religious site, a church out east, and they have "God Hates Facts" as the name of the place. They have gone so far overboard to say that. They also hate facts and those who hold to facts. These are fundamental, Bible-based Christians. If you go to the site, you find out they mean well, but Satan is in the camp.

V: Yes, it sounds like it.

Betty: But you should not hate . . .

V: You hate sin, not the sinner. Jesus came to die for the sinner.

Betty: Here you have people that are fundamental, Bible-based Christians saying they hate this person. They also turn around and say, "God hates them, too." A policeman may knock on the door and take you away because you are labeled as one of those so-called fundamentalists. What are you going to say? You do not hate, but as a Bible-believing Christian, you may be lumped right along with the hate crowd.

REVELATION 9***Trumpet #5, Woe #1: Love of Death***

Here we have this angel flying through and saying, “Woe, Woe, Woe.” We have three woes. The first woe is the fifth trumpet.

Revelation

9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

9:2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

9:3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

9:5 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.

9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

9:7 And the shapes of the locusts [were] like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and their faces [were] as the faces of men.

9:8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as [the teeth] of lions.

9:9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings [was] as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

9:10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power [was] to hurt men five months.

9:11 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.

9:12 One woe is past; [and], behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

This trumpet is a blast calling your attention to suicide, euthanasia, and abortion. Here is a situation in which people desire death. There is a clamor for death. Death, death, death. Who is the angel of death? Apollyon, Abaddon. That angel is the star that fell from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit.³

You remember that the stars are angels.⁴ The star comes down, he opens up the pit, and out comes this great smoke. Smoke is a clouding which adds to the process of this fourth trumpet where we have justice and truth being darkened.

Your witness has been darkened because you are the moon, you are the one that brings reflected light into the darkness, 1/3 of your witness has been darkened. It is dark today because the church has not demanded the freedom to keep on keeping on. One-third of the church’s witness has been sold for tax exemption.

Now it is against the law to take a Bible into a classroom in a public school, to pray in a public school. This country was founded on these kinds of freedoms, but now many of our former freedoms are against the law. The church is losing its influence because 1/3 of its witness is gone. You have 2/3 left, but it is going down hill. It is slipping away.

There is this smoke that comes up while you are 1/3 dark. There is a smoke coming into the air at the same time. This smoke is ascending right out of the bottomless pit. In

³ Revelation 9:1.

⁴ In Revelation 1 it was disclosed that stars are angels.

the midst of the smoke is all the demonic activity obscured by this smoke screen that is arising so that you cannot discern what is coming at you. All of this propaganda is being slammed at you from every direction, coming at you, coming out of this demonic activity. It further says that this demonic activity is not going to affect our economy at all—not the little man at the green grass level and not going to affect the big company at the green tree level. It is going to affect people, and if you have the seal of God in your forehead, it is not going to affect you either.

Massive Demonic Activity

That demonic activity sounds threatening. Some folks ought to listen to what I am saying because if there is no seal of God in the forehead, you are open season to this demonic activity.

This demonic activity is worldwide. It is the rush of all of these locusts swarming all over the place, and it has a driving torment which is already present. If you try to start talking about taking the right of abortion away, you are going to get your head knocked in. I have stood out here on the sidewalk and taken abuse just holding up a sign that says, “Abortion is murder.” I have held that sign up, and people have driven by and cursed me, and if it had not been beside a six-lane city street that was filled up with cars, they would have stopped and beaten me to a pulp. That is how bad it is.

There is also a clamoring for it to progress because these locusts have a driving compulsion like a scorpion sting. When a scorpion stings, you cannot stand still. You are going to move. That is what these demons do. They are going to move the people that do not have the seal on their foreheads to clamor for suicide, abortion, and euthanasia.

Steve: Correct me if I am wrong. I want to know the truth. One of my daughters is a nurse, and I have told her not to assist a doctor who is doing an abortion. I told her, “Because when we come before God, you are going to answer to God for helping the doctor perform an abortion.” Am I wrong or not?

V: I think you are right on the money. I think you told her the right thing. It is now costly for us to take a stand for the right. It might cost you your job, but when we get a little bit further, it is going to cost you your life.

Joe: Real quickly, back to the text. The smoke that comes up out of the abyss . . .

V: It is composed of spirits spreading a darkening propaganda.

Government

Here is a situation in which all over the world these demons are coming up out of the abyss. It is like an army. They describe the demons, looking at verse 7, as having crowns of gold, and I take that to mean the resulting influence is going to be from our government. The people in our government are going to be the pawns in Satan’s hands to be a driving force throughout the land. The government officials are described as having faces of men. I believe they are going to be men, rulers in high places, but they are going to have the hair of women. They are going to come across as nurturing and caring. They will persuade the citizenry that we need suicide, abortion, and euthanasia because they care for us.

That smoke is going to be coming up, up, up, and what are we going to see? They love us. Yes, we will begin to think that we need to have euthanasia, suicide, and abortion. The smoke is boiling, and it will blind you. You yourselves who have the seal of God in your

forehead can still see, and the torment will not get you. The torment gets the people that do not have the seal of God, but the smoke can still obscure some of your vision.

Abortion, Suicide, and Euthanasia

The torment comes along and drives the people. This torment is demonic-driven, and it is top down from the government to the people, and the people are herded up like cattle. They are being influenced around the world. Abortion, suicide, and euthanasia are everywhere. I believe the five months has to do presently with the first two trimesters. You can freely abort in the first two trimesters, but not in the third. Around the world—abortion within the first five months is possible, but it could be extended to five months after birth. You might have opportunity to examine that child for five months. You get a free time of examination, and then you can abort—it will not be called killing, just aborting.

Beth: This may be sort of reaching out there, but this seems to fall into place with cloning.

V: Yes, it could hook up to the “clone and kill” practice of harvesting stem cells.

Wanda: If it does not turn out to be a desirable fetus like one with a high IQ, cut them off.

V: And it will not be killing. It will be aborting.

Tom: A lot of this talking about the government and what they have done, is not easily detected. We have blinders (like horses) on our eyes, because we are so busy and have not been able to see. We focus so much on our work and paying bills and

surviving that we have not been able to pull the blinders off.

Carl: If you get a presidential candidate who says abortion is against the law, he will be put out because our government has made it legal.

V: It is going on today; that is why this trumpet has blown. Suicide is rampant among Islamic terrorists who practice suicide bombings. Suicide is taking many lives around the world because of lost hope. Abortion has taken the lives of an entire generation. Euthanasia is being considered in cases of death selection for people deemed useless in society. The withholding of treatment in order to bring about death for people over fifty years of age is already being practiced in other countries. This is a form of passive euthanasia. This trumpet has blown and is progressing

Joe: One of the ways that the blindness is there is that everything is oversexed. Sex is emphasized everywhere, and it is causing the practice of premarital sex. You see you would not need abortion if you were not having the sex.

V: That is right.

Tim: Sex is the problem. I mean, we need to talk about this. Because the Bible says that marriage is the context for sex. However, all that everybody wants to hear is that sex is good outside of marriage. People do not see the wrong in extramarital sex. Women are naked in TV movies. Look at the truth. The kids watch TV. You have to sit there with the remote control in your hand so you can fast forward. Sex is rampant!

V: You are right. You are on the money.

Paul: But you can buy that device that will edit it out so you do not have to fast forward. I have heard that advertised.

Henry: When you mentioned the five months and stuff, it reminded me of just this last week seeing the show about a new philosophy professor that was hired at [an unnamed prestigious] university. He has three or four books that are advocating euthanasia, and he is advocating abortion at any time, and one of the books was going to talk about killing a child after it has been born. He is actually teaching the classes this stuff, and there is a big demand by the students to get into the class because he is so fascinating. His classes are packing up, filling up. He is a professor of ethics, and at this [prestigious] university, and even though there are protesters, the university has not gotten rid of him. I cannot remember his name now, but it was just three or four days ago when I saw that.

Pete: Clinton I believe just vetoed a bill that would outlaw these late-term abortions. It caused a big uproar.

V: Oh, yes, partial birth abortions, I think.

Henry: He was out in California for a fundraiser with the homosexuals just this past weekend and then flew to New York for another meeting.

Mary: Does the teeth like lions refer to the partial birth abortion because they use a hook to go in there and abort the child.

V: No, I think the teeth like lions is referring back to these people with crowns and the faces of men and the long hair. But they are going to be irresistible. They will bite through anything and everything. Every resistance is going to come to no avail against the pressing on of this army of people driven

by the demonic. Not only that, but they are going to have the breastplates of iron on their chests, so that their defenses are impenetrable. You attack them, but your attacks just bounce off. When they attack you, the mouth of a lion will bite through any of your defenses. But to whom are they going to have access? Only the people without the seal.

The smoke that comes up from the furnace is going to fill the air, and that is what you have to be able to see through. Sharpen up your eyes and look through that smoke screen that is just there to get you to shut up and be dazzled so that you cannot give your witness, your prophetic voice, and therefore Trumpet #4 is darkening by 1/3 the moon which is reflected light. It all connects together.

Sybil: The abortion and having the baby for five months, and if it is not a perfect child or it does not have the right color of eyes, you can exterminate it and . . .

V: This is a suggested interpretation of this trumpet in its mature state. I believe it now has to do with the gestation period. I believe this trumpet has blown—the lions are out there chewing away. They have such a sweet personality. They are nurturing like mothers in their appearance, which causes you to swoon and say, “Oh, these are nice people. We need both of these nice provisions which they are offering to us.” I am using “you” loosely, of course. It is generally the public including the church. Do you know that many in the church do not know how to vote?

Jill: If the church votes at all.

V: Homosexuals and murderers and pornographers and thieves and abortionists know exactly how to vote.

Ted: Who are the men that seek death and cannot find it?

V: They are the people that want to die—seeking euthanasia. Some have a terminal disease. They are people who want to die now, and they are hiring Dr. Death whoever that joker is. Some have ruined their lives and are in despair. Some are Islamic terrorists seeking a quick trip to heaven.

Tim: We had an experience of pregnancy in which the doctor told me that my wife could make it or the baby could make it. I would have to choose. Abortion, of course, could have been the way out, but I told the doctor, “No, I want both of them.”

V: Amen!

Tim: I told the doctor: “You just see that I get both of them, either that or God can have both of them.” I guess if I hadn’t been a child of God, I would have said, “I want my wife.” But being a child of God, I was against abortion, and thank God, I am not saying lucky because I do not ever use that word, I consider it a blessing from God. They are both all right for my baby is over 30 years old.

V: Amen!

Trumpet #6, Woe #2: War with Middle East

This is where we are in time. This is where we are in time. Do you get that? This is where we are. Trumpet #6 has blown, but Trumpet #7 has not blown.

Revelation

9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

9:15 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.

9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen [were] two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

9:17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses [were] as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

9:18 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.

9:19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails [were] like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

9:20 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:

9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

This Trumpet #6 describes a great war involving the Middle East. It starts there near the river Euphrates, and I believe that those angels who were bound inside the river Euphrates have been loosed for the purpose of destroying 1/3 of mankind.

Jerry: We also determined that they had to read Jeremiah all the time that they were bound. So they are really mad (laughter throughout the class).

V: They were getting madder by the minute, were they not?

Death for 1/3 of Mankind

On this trumpet make note that this is a war that breaks out in the Middle East, and it is going to kill 1/3 of the planet, and I believe that this is the kind of killing that comes from bullets and bombs and that kind of thing. With the killing that we saw earlier with wormwood and the fiery mountain that landed in the sea, those were the spiritual killings, killing of the church through institutionalism. After a third of the church died from institutionalism, the spoiling of a third of the clergy through wormwood caused many more to die. Not only did the clergy get wormwood, but many men died. That is spiritual death dealing with the church.

This trumpet #6 war is dealing with the planet. We are not talking about spiritual things here. It is a full-blown war that comes out of the Middle East. Those four angels have been loosed. I believe that loosing (trumpet #6) occurred on September 11, 2001. War was declared on America by Muslim terrorists. America has declared war on terrorists. The war of trumpet #6 is on.

Paul: When you say planet, do you mean everything on the planet or people?

V: People. One-third of the people are going to be killed in this global war that originated in the Middle East right near the river Euphrates. This is Trumpet #6, and that trumpet has blown. The war is in process, when this trumpet is fully matured, 1/3 of the people on the planet will be killed. All but the last trumpet, as you can see, have already blown. All the seals have been opened. Everything is on “go,” but here we are waiting. We are standing here at the end of verse 12 having just heard that two woes are past. Behold there comes one more woe. That is what we heard. There is one more

woe to come: that woe is the last trumpet, the rapture.

Homer: In verse 20 it says that the rest of mankind that was not killed by these plagues still did not repent. Is that to imply . . . ?

V: That implies that everybody that is still left alive will not repent because they are not “hearing” the trumpet blast. The ones who “heard” are the saved who have ears to hear. The saved without ears and the unsaved are not repenting because they have not “heard.” The unsaved can still be saved by hearing the Gospel, but their salvation does not come as a result of hearing the trumpet.

Bob: We are gone!

V: No, we are going to be here, some of us will be dead because of this war. Now it could be that bombs land right here on top of us, and every one of us gets killed from this war. It is going to be worldwide war, and 1/3 of this planet is going to be killed. It could be us that get killed. It may not be, but it could be. It may be just some of us who get killed. It may be. It may not be. I do not know. But I am ready.

Steve: You are saying that this world war precedes the rapture.

V: Right because the rapture is at the last trumpet.⁵

Jill: The last woe is the rapture?

V: That is correct.

Tom: Have you heard the idea that two million people could be killed in China because one of the Chinese leaders boasted that he could mount a two-million-man army?

V: No, I am not even interested in that kind of thing. All I know is that 1/3 of the

⁵ 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

planet is going to be killed, and I must teach that. Get ready for it! Get your people ready for it; this might be all the life that we have today, tomorrow, the next day. I know this much: 1/3 of the planet is going to be killed. God said it.

I need to go back to the fifth trumpet so you can get a better understanding. We are dealing with this euthanasia and abortion and all this driving force of locusts and the blinding smoke.

Luke

10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Mark this verse. This is a reference to the stars falling from heaven like the figs falling off the fig tree in a strong wind that we talked about earlier in this course. Here is the reference to him falling, coming down out of heaven onto earth, and it says:

Luke

10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

You are sealed. If you have the seal of God in your forehead, neither Satan nor any of the serpents or the scorpions has any power over you. These are demonic forces. When it says serpents and scorpions, it is not talking about literal serpents and scorpions. It is talking about the demonic. He says further,

Luke

10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Here is the promise in Luke that because of who you are, God has sealed you up as His possession. There is not going to be a problem with our having these demonic scorpions driving us to commit this kind of thing.

Your problem instead is going to be in wisdom and the ability to see through the smoke. That is your problem. If you will use the glasses that God has given you through the Word of God and analyze what is coming at you through the smoke, you will be able to discard all this junk and get down to the root issues and make some proper decisions.

Those proper decisions will not be blatant sin like some people say. Many churchmen want the church to adopt blatant sin. They want the preachers to quit preaching about blatant sin. You ought to be able to see through that kind of smoke. When it is blatant sin, just say, "It is blatant sin." Look through the smoke. John 7:17 is the eye-glasses that you need.

Do What You Know

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.

7:18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Do what you know to be the truth. If you will just do the truth, then your eyes will sharpen up, and you will be able to see through all this smoke screen that is trying to fool you and to get you off guard and to give you confusion. The little truth that you do can be multiplied by doing it. If you do the little that you know, you will have additional truth. You spiral up by doing what you know to be the truth. But on the other hand, if you do not do the little truth that you have, you will be darkened, and you will spiral down.

Wanda: It gets harder to see.

V: The smoke gets harder to see through. Be faithful to do the truth in order to see through the smoke. If you ever stop, if you

are the preacher or the pastor, and God gives you a sermon, and you start to prepare that sermon, and you think, “Oh, my land, we are having such a hard time meeting the budget. If I preach this, some of the families will get mad because they have been committing these sins. You are spiraling down, folks. It is going to be difficult to see through the smoke. You will be useless. Somebody will need to be your guide.

Please pause for a few moments and reflect on what you need to do to bring Truth and Justice from the Lord. (pause) Will you do it? Please pray with me now: “Lord Jesus, I know one thing that I should do to be your disciple. I commit now to yield myself to you in the area of my _____. Please work in me and accomplish your will on earth by using me to do that thing. Please search my life and determine all other changes that you want to make in me. In your name and for your glory, Amen.”

The Rapture is Coming

Mark

13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

That verse in Mark describes the maturing of Seal #6.

Mark

13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, . . .

You know that verse 25 is describing one of the seals in which the fallen angels are kicked out of heaven.

Mark

13:25 . . . and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

13:27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from

the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

That passage describes the rapture which we are nearing and will be discussing in the next trumpet.

Mark

13:28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:

13:29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, [even] at the doors.

13:30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

13:32 But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Now this passage is a warning to us. The rapture is at the door. But none of us can tell you when it is going to happen. We cannot say it is going to happen next week. We cannot say it is going to happen next year. We can say this: we can look at the budding fig tree, and we can say that summer is at hand. It is at the door. If we cannot look at these trumpets and these seals and see the evidence in our society, then we cannot even look at a budding fig tree and tell what season it is. Look around; the end is at the door.

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke

14:25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

14:26 If any [man] come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?

14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him,

14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Let me repeat verse 33.

14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

The cost of discipleship is everything, everything! God is calling out His disciples today. Will you be His disciple? Will you pay what it takes to run this race all the way to the end? It is a hard call. Many of us have never had to sacrifice. We have only just celebrated. We go to church and sing and pray and feel good and get blessed. Every bit of that worship is with a purpose. That purpose is for you to realize that Jesus is Lord. He is calling for you to be His disciple, not just his cheerleader, but a disciple. A disciple is required to sacrifice everything.

We are coming to the end now. It is time for the church to stand up and be counted. You are it. You are the ones who are called. You have been called very clearly in these words. Will you take a stand? Stop and tell God right now.

I know that there are some of you who are going through some hard times right now. You question, “Am I right? Is the pain that I am suffering an indication that I am on the wrong path?” That is the kind of question that is going to come into your mind. This smoke that is pouring out of this pit is coming up right now. It is blinding us, and we are having a hard time seeing through all the smoke.

I want you to know that Jesus does not mince words, and He does not beg people to come after Him. This passage started by saying, “A great multitude was coming after Him and He turned and he said, ‘If you are not ready to forsake all that you have, you cannot be my disciple.’”⁶ He does not beg anybody. He is telling you, “Deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Jesus.”⁷ When you get confused in the smoke, just go back to this idea that if there is no pain and suffering in it, you are on the wrong path. You are on the glory-now path, and that is the wrong path.

Joe: The word hate that you read, what does that mean? I know it does not . . .

V: It is used in comparison. When you love the Lord with all your heart, your love for loved ones will appear as hate in comparison.

Joe: God really spoke to me on John 7:17-18 where it says, “He that seeks self, seeks glory.” We are looking for a pastor right now, and there is a man that a lot of the people really like. They like some of the things he says, but half of the things that he preaches is about himself.

V: Okay, I hear you. Beware.

⁶ Luke 14:33

⁷ Matthew 26:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23.

The Rewards of Discipleship

Mary: Going back to suffering, I am reminded of Paul's words in the book of Romans where he said, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."⁸ We need to realize that whatever pain and suffering we endure, it can get down right dirty, is still temporal, but I am going to back up to verse 17 of chapter 8 in Romans where it says, "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with Him**, that we may be also glorified together." The more I read Scripture the more this message just pops out at me.

V: It is popping out to me, too. Glory to God! The smoke is clearing up.

Ted: You know when you said that the churches will say, "God, we just praise you that we are not persecuted like other Christians are." Jesus says blessed are you when you are persecuted.⁹ Did He ever say, Blessed are you when you are not persecuted?

V: No, only when you are persecuted. If being a disciple were easy, anyone could do it. *Agape* is a love that contains sacrifice. "Greater love has no man than that he lay down his life for his friends."¹⁰

REVELATION 10***Trumpet #7, Woe #3: The Rapture***

Revelation

10:1 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a

cloud: and a rainbow [was] upon his head, and his face [was] as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and [his] left [foot] on the earth,

10:3 And cried with a loud voice, as [when] a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

10:4 And when the seven thunders 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.

10:5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

10:6 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 therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

10:7 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.

10:8 And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go [and] take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.

10:9 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.

10:10 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.

10:11 And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

⁸ Romans 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

⁹ Matthew 5:10 Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹⁰ John 15:13

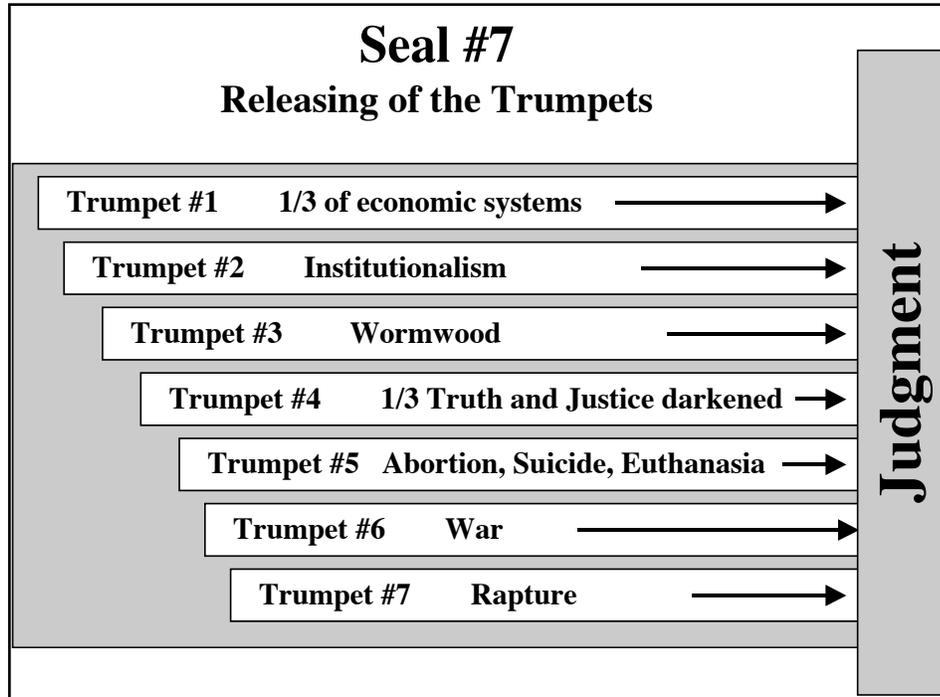


Chart 7.1

of Jesus Christ, is the sweetest thing you will ever eat. You receive that with joy; you bring it in and, “Oh, yeah, it is celebration time.” But there is something afterwards, there is a swallowing involved, and when you swallow it, it is going to take you places you do not want to go. It is going to call for you to be that sacrificial disciple that forsakes all that he has to follow Jesus Christ, and that is a bitter pill.

The Little Book

Here is the angel with one foot on all of secular society—on the earth, and the other foot on the sea—on the church. You have the whole planet, both church and state, covered by the two feet. His hand is reaching up to heaven. That means that He is uniting heaven with the earth and with the sea, with secular society and with the church. All is blended together here. All this comes under the rule of the little book in His other hand.

The angel tells John to eat that little book. That means do not merely read it. That means to study it and make it part of yourself so that it is assimilated through your entire system. All of your thoughts, all of your body, all of your psyche, all of your being is involved in that little book. That little book is the Gospel.

That little book is sweet as honey in the mouth. Justification, the receiving of the gift of eternal life that was purchased by the blood

The Bitterness in Discipleship

The church cannot swallow that bitter pill today because it is not being preached. We need you to be out there modeling, preaching, and teaching this real discipleship. The people need to know that there is a cost to discipleship. The gift of eternal life has no cost for it to you. You do not pay anything for eternal life. Jesus paid the whole price. It comes to you as a gift, you receive that in your mouth, and it is like honey. But once you swallow it, there is a changing of your character, there is a desire to please the Lord, there is a hunger to hear the words, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant,”¹¹ which will drive you on. You will go where you do not want to go, and do what you do not want to do, and you will cry, “Lord, I do not want to be here.”

¹¹ Matthew 25:21 and 23.

But what is the alternative? To go against your Lord? You cannot stand that idea. On the one hand you are driven to go with the Lord. On the other hand you do not want to go, you do not want to do it. You have to press on. You have to do it. Here the description of this little book is bitter sweet. Discipleship contains the sweetness of forgiveness and the difficult sacrifice of followship. But it is sacrifice that bears fruit.

John

12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour.

12:27 Now is my soul troubled; . . .

See, Jesus had the same passions here. It cost Jesus His life. It costs us the same kind of self-denial—the giving of our lives to Jesus to live through us.

John

12:27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

12:28 Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, [saying], I have both glorified [it], and will glorify [it] again.

12:29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard [it], said that it thundered: . . .

You remember we just got through hearing about the seven thunders. God is speaking in thundering. When you hear it thunder, God is speaking, and I have often listened to the

thunder, and I have wondered who on this planet is hearing what God is saying. I keep waiting for that thunder that is for me. I will be listening and listening. It goes thunder, thunder, thunder, and then I am like these people here, “It is thundering.” But somebody may be hearing the voice of God. I am waiting. Every time it thunders I wonder, Is it my turn? I am ready. I am listening.

John

12:29 The people therefore, that stood by, and heard [it], said that it thundered; others said, An angel spake to him.

12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me.

Now here is the plan. This is the forgotten plan! You must die in order to bear fruit. You cannot bear fruit by standing up here and living your life. The only way is to die. We are talking about dying to self. Your will must be surrendered! If there is no surrender, if you cannot pay the cost of discipleship, you cannot be a disciple. If you cannot be a disciple, there is no fruit. That is the only active fruit that counts to your credit: the fruit from discipleship. That is because Jesus does the work only when you are surrendered. You become a vehicle for Him to do His work through only when you are surrendered. Then He can do something in this world through you. But if it is left up to us, we are going to build ourselves a temporal mansion and have all of our eternal rewards right now.

Tim: When it says, “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out,” He is saying that we would now be judged, or something else?

V: I think that Satan is the prince of this world. He has been cast down to earth, and the Lord is fixing to do something worthwhile, and His soul is troubled. I mean He is doing just what I said a while ago. On the one hand He cannot do anything but the will of God because He says, “For what did I come here for? This is what I came here for.” But on the other hand He wants to call out, “Do not put me through this!” If He can deny Himself and die to self and let God do His work through Him, the prince of this world will be defeated!

Wanda: Forever.

V: That is right. Here is the casting out of Satan from this world. He has already been cast out of heaven. He is down here now, and he is the prince and power of the air. He is down here. He is running amuck, slashing and binding and loosing all of this demonic stuff out of the bottomless pit, doing all of this evil kind of thing.

Now here is the battle. If Jesus can do what He is telling us to do, He is saying, “I am going to give you the model to follow.” He set His face for Jerusalem. He knew that

He was going to the death. He was going to die, and in His death He was going to bring forth victory. This kind of spiritual warfare is what you are to do, and that is to win through death. You do not win by killing. Rather you win by dying.

The Rapture

When this last trumpet sounds, all living believers will be raptured out of the earth. Without the salt and light from the presence of believers, the earth will have no restraints and no more light. Its apostasy will accelerate precipitously.

We have looked at the angel that unites heaven, church, and state. The little book held by the angel is the Gospel. The true disciple is to eat the Gospel. Thus the disciple will be concerned with bringing both church and state under God’s rules. The work to accomplish this goal will cost you your lives because only God can accomplish it. You must die to yourself (deny yourself) follow Jesus (letting Him live His life in your body) and carry your cross (the altar of sacrifice) with you at all times.

[See Chart 7.2 and Chapter Questions on next page.]

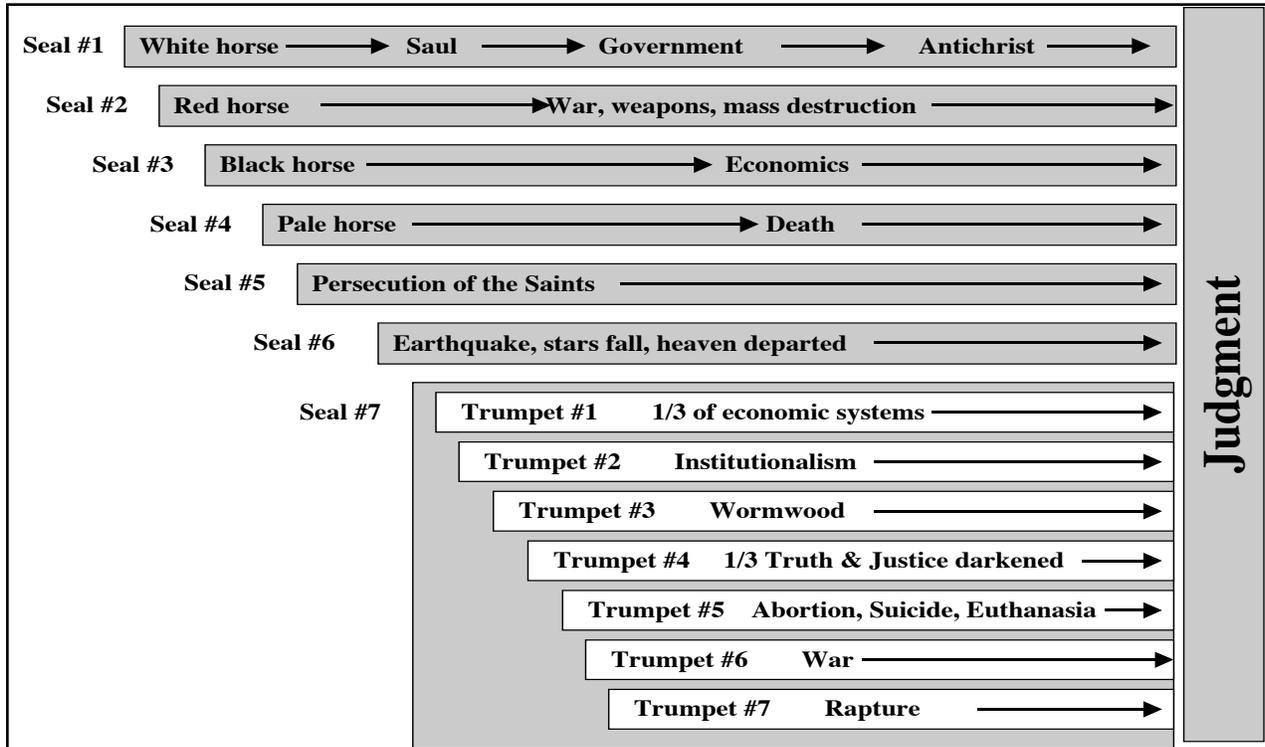


Chart 7.2

Chapter Questions

1. List and describe the trumpets.
2. What are the three woes?
3. Describe the cost of discipleship.
4. What is the Little Book, and what does it mean?