

BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS PART I • Friday, November 6, 2009 • Instructor: Arminda Perch
PO Box 325 • Manteca, CA 95336 • 916-222-1580 • www.mygospelworkers.org



“There are those now living who, in studying the prophecies of Daniel and John, received great light from God as they passed over the ground where **special prophecies were in process of fulfillment in their order**. They bore the message of time to the people. The truth shone out clearly as the sun at noonday. Historical events, showing the direct fulfillment of prophecy, were set before the people, and the prophecy was seen to be a **figurative delineation of events** leading down to the close of this earth's history.” (Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 102)

1 -> Babylon, 2 -> Medo-Persia, 3 -> Greece, 4 -> Rome (Pagan) 5—> Papal Rome (or the Papacy)

“**The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans** and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict **to regain control of the world**, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done.” (GC88, p. 565)

“Let the principle once be established in the United States, that the church may employ or control the power of the State; that religious observances may be enforced by secular laws; in short, that the authority of church and State is to dominate the conscience, and the triumph of Rome in this country is assured.” (GC, p. 580)

“...Rome is aiming to **re-establish her power, to recover her lost supremacy. Let history testify of her artful and persistent efforts to insinuate herself into the affairs of nations**; and having gained a foothold, to further her own aims, even at the ruin of princes and people ...” (GC, p. 580)

“If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to **trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past...**” (GC88, p. 573)

Five Important Points in the History of Rome prior to the Trumpets

1. Persecution of Christians ceases under Constantine who converted Christianity in 312 AD. Church now finds herself in a position of being exalted and there develops an apostasy, union of church and state

“The nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.” (GC88, p. 49)

“Thus again was demonstrated the evil results, so often witnessed in the history of the church *from the days of Constantine to the present*, of attempting to build up the church by the aid of the State, of appealing to the secular power in support of the gospel of Him who declared, ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ [John 18:36.] **The union of the church with the State, be the degree never so slight, while it may appear to bring the world nearer to the church, does in reality but bring the church nearer to the world.**” (GC88, p. 296)

“It was apostasy that led the early church to seek the aid of the civil government, and this prepared the way for the development of the papacy,—the beast.” (GC88, p. 443) (**COMMENT: In the time of the first church, there was a falling away: see Revelation 2:4, 5. Also Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8 “the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” We see an example of this iniquity in 3 John 1:9)**

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2. *Constantine allows for religious freedom for Christians and all other religious with the Edict of Milan, 313 AD*

The Edict of Milan was “a proclamation that permanently established religious toleration for Christianity within the Roman Empire... The proclamation... granted all persons freedom to worship whatever deity they pleased, assured Christians of legal rights (including the right to organize churches), and directed the prompt return to Christians of confiscated property. Previous edicts of toleration had been as short-lived as the regimes that sanctioned them, but this time the edict effectively established religious toleration.” (Edict of Milan, 2009, ¶1)

“After the Edict of Milan granted Christianity legal status, the church adopted the same governmental structure as the Empire: geographical provinces ruled by bishops. ... Bishops of important cities therefore rose in power.” (History and Development of the Papacy, 2009, ¶13)

3. *Constantine Enacts First Sunday Law in 321 AD*

“Royal edicts, general councils, and church ordinances sustained by secular power, were the steps by which the pagan festival attained its position of honor in the Christian world. The first public measure enforcing Sunday observance was the law enacted by Constantine. [A. D. 321.] This edict required townspeople to rest on “the venerable day of the sun,” but permitted countrymen to continue their agricultural pursuits. Though virtually a heathen statute, it was enforced by the emperor after his nominal acceptance of Christianity.” (GC88, p. 574)

“In the early part of the fourth century the emperor Constantine issued a decree making Sunday a public festival throughout the Roman Empire. (See Appendix.) The day of the sun was revered by his pagan subjects and was honored by Christians; it was the emperor's policy to unite the conflicting interests of heathenism and Christianity. He was urged to do this by the bishops of the church, who, inspired by ambition and thirst for power, perceived that if the same day was observed by both Christians and heathen, it would promote the nominal acceptance of Christianity by pagans and thus advance the power and glory of the church. But while many God-fearing Christians were gradually led to regard Sunday as possessing a degree of sacredness, they still held the true Sabbath as the holy of the Lord and observed it in obedience to the fourth commandment.” (GC, p. 53)

“When the early church became corrupted by departing from the simplicity of the gospel, and accepting heathen rites and customs, she lost the Spirit and power of God; and in order to control the consciences of the people she sought the support of the secular power. The result was the papacy, a church that controlled the power of the State, and employed it to further her own ends, especially for the punishment of ‘heresy.’” (GC88, p. 443)

4. *Constantine builds a new capital in the Eastern part of the Empire in 330 AD*

“After his defeat of Licinius in 324 Constantine decided to found a new capital for the empire. This was not unusual, since many emperors had founded or re-founded cities, and the Empire had several capitals in the third and fourth centuries. Thus, Constantine did not ‘move the capital from Rome to Constantinople,’ but the new city soon became the primary capital of the empire and the real heart of Byzantine civilization. It soon outstripped every other city in beauty and prosperity and by the fifth century its fortune had become identified with that of the empire as a whole... In general, the city was patterned after Rome and its official title was ‘New Rome;’ there were seven churches, and a great palace, which later became the central part of the Great Palace.” (The Founding of Constantinople, n.d., ¶1 & 11)

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“[330 CE:] Emperor Constantine decided to build a ‘*New Rome*’ on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium (now at Istanbul, Turkey). It was called Constantinople. It became the center of the largely Christian empire. By this time, the church had evolved from a small, scattering of congregations to a geographically widespread church under the authority of many bishops.” (Robinson, 2007, ¶12)

5. *Theodosius makes Christianity the official Religion of the state, and, upon his death in 395 AD, his will officially splits the Empire into separate East & West States ruled by his incapable sons*

“At Theodosius' death in AD 395, Honorius assumed the role of emperor of the west, with his brother Arcadius becoming emperor of the east. This division of the empire into eastern and western parts was the decisive one, which sent the two on separate ways... the accession of Arcadius and Honorius is widely seen as the division of the Roman Empire into two completely separate parts.” (Flavius Honorius, n.d., ¶3)

“The Emperor Theodosian issued a series of decrees or rescripts in the years 341, 345, 356, 381, 383, 386 and 391 CE. The effect of these orders was to ‘*suppress all rival religions, order the closing of the temples, and impose fines, confiscation, imprisonment or death upon any who cling to the older [Pagan] religions.*’ The period of relative religious tolerance in the Roman Empire ended as Pagan temples were seized and converted to Christian use or destroyed.” (Robinson, 2007, ¶ 13)

God has revealed to us in prophetic symbols the fall of the Roman Empire

Hosea 12:10 “I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets”

- I. The 7 Trumpets are a type or symbol of the end of the world
 - a. **The Seven Trumpets being sounded are parallel with the Seven Last Plagues poured out onto the world by the seven angels pouring out the wrath of God in Revelation 16:1-8 (earth, sea, fountains of waters, sun, darkness, the river Euphrates, Christ finishing His work in the sanctuary)**
 - b. **“Although it was not the end of the world...the fall of Rome is full of lessons that indicate exactly the things that will be at the end of the world. For that, with all its terrors, was the consequence of the evils heaped upon society by the making and working of the Papacy. And when the world shall really end, that, with the terrors that accompany it, will be but the consequence of the evil that is heaped upon the society of the world at this time by the making and the working of the Image of the Papacy.” (Jones, 1901, p. 14-15)**
 - c. “The great leading features of Daniel’s visions were the four great governments of antiquity, beginning with the Babylonian, and ending with the Roman, in its papal form. Not so, however, with John; he lived when three of those governments had passed away, and the fourth and last was in being, and in the height of its glory, as an universal monarchy. Under that government John was in banishment on the isle of Patmos, ‘for the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Accordingly, instead of predicting the rise and triumph of either of those four great governments, it was his part to give the prophetic history of the fall of the last of the four, and give us the various means by which that great persecuting system should come to ruin.” (White, 1875, p. 2)

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- d. The Bible teaches us that history repeats itself
 - 1. **Ecclesiastes 1:9** “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.
 - 2. **Ecclesiastes 3:15** “That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.”
- II. The First 4 Trumpets are bound together & cover the entire territory of creation: The earth, sea, fountains of waters & the heavens - signifying that the judgments are upon a world power-at the time of John this world power was Pagan Rome
 - a. **Revelation 14:7** “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and **worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**”
 - b. These 4 Trumpets tell us about the Fall of Western Rome and the fall of the imperial city of Rome, Italy
 - a. According to James White (1875), the first four trumpets refer to the fall of the Western Divisions of Rome (that of Constantine II & Constans)
 - b. It is out of the Western Roman Empire that we have the division of Rome into 10 parts
 - 1. “There were no fewer than eighteen distinct tribes of the barbarians who, by their active presence, were instrumental in the ruin of Western Rome. Of these, some, after their work of destruction was done, left the territories of the West, and established themselves elsewhere, or were lost among the other wild peoples of the northern and eastern Europe or Asia. Other coalesced and the names of lesser tribes were lost under the predominating one. And so, when the last vestige of the Western Empire of Rome had vanished, the territory was found partitioned into exactly ten parts, occupied by exactly ten independent nations; no more no less.” (Jones, 1901, p. 56)
- III. The Last 3 Trumpets are bound together & refer to the fall of Eastern Rome and the fall of the capital city of Constantinople
 - a. Also refers to the rise of Islam & the Fall of the Papacy/Babylon

“And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.” (Revelation 8:6)

Isaiah 18:3 “All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and **when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.**”

Trumpets = Alarms, Signify War/Battle, Judgment

Numbers 10:9 “And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.”

Jeremiah 4:5, 6 “Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities. Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.”

Jeremiah 4:19-21 “My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, [and] my curtains in a moment. How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?”

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Jeremiah 51:27 “Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillars.”

Ezekiel 7:14 “They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.”

Ezekiel 33:2, 3 “Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people.”

Zephaniah 1:15-17 “That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.”

1 Corinthians 14:8 “For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?”

“The prophet on Patmos was given a threefold view of events which would take place between the time in which he lived, and the time when the redeemed gather about the throne... Another phase of history, not wholly national, but having to do with nations, is revealed in the sounding of the trumpets. The sounding of the seven trumpets extends to the close of the eleventh chapter, the seventh trumpet carrying history into eternity, like the seventh church and the seventh seal... The trumpet, or bugle sound, is the call to war; and the history of the trumpets is one long story of war and bloodshed, but in order that men might learn that the hand of God is overruling in every army, and that He guides in every war, the story of the trumpets is left on record.” (Haskell, 1906, p. 65)

Daniel 2:21 “And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.”

“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.” (Revelation 8:7)

The Campaign of Alaric & the Visigoth, 395-419 AD

First invaded the East and then sacked imperial city of Rome (~410 AD)

“In one city the whole world perished.” (Jerome, Comm. In Ezech. 1.praef.)

Hail, Fire, Burnt Up –signifies an act of judgment coming from God

- Remember the story of Pharaoh, a plague of hail and fire sent by God (Exodus 9:23, 24)
- See Also: **Psalm 21:9; Psalm 148:8; Isaiah 4:4; Isaiah 28:2, 17; Isaiah 30:30**

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*Mingled with Blood = Mingled with Mercy (Blood signifies mercy, See Leviticus 16:14, 15)
Signifies that the judgment did not happen world-wide or across all of imperial Rome*

“These plagues are not universal, or the inhabitants of the earth would be wholly cut off. Yet they will be the most awful scourges that have ever been known to mortals. All the judgments upon men, **prior to the close of probation**, have been mingled with mercy. The pleading blood of Christ has shielded the sinner from receiving the full measure of his guilt; but in the final judgment, wrath is poured out unmixed with mercy.” (GC, p. 628)

Third Part

According to Uriah Smith (1872) in the book *Daniel & the Revelation*, after Constantine died, Rome was divided into three parts, among his sons Constantinus (Possessed the East and resided in Constantinople), Constantine II (Britain, Gaul, & Spain-Western Division), & Constans (Illyricum, Africa, and Italy-Western Division).

Grass & Trees signify both people & food supply

1 Peter 1:24 “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away”

Isaiah 40:7 “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass”

Mark 8:24 “And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking”

Genesis 1:29 “And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat”

Deuteronomy 20:19 “When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an ax against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down for the tree of the field is man's life to employ them in the siege”

Deuteronomy 11:14-15 “That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full”

Psalms 104:14 “He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth”

Alaric's campaign also signified by fires, slaughter of life, and the burning & cutting off of food supplies

“We do know that for three days the Goths ransacked the city, everything of value from temples, palaces, and private houses, then burned, the villas on the Aventine Hill, a fashionable part of [where] many families lived. They broke into the Mausoleum, dumped the ashes of the caesars on the floor, and ran off with burial urns and other tomb ornaments. The magnificent house and Sallust near the Sallarian gate, as well as the Basilica Aemelia in the Forum, were consumed in a great fire...” (Craughwell, 2008, p. 20)

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“The Visigoths, under Alaric’s command, entered Rome through the Salarian Gate on the night of 24 August 410. They remained for three days. The massacres, fires, and looting especially affected the wealthier quarters—the Caelian and the Aventine Hills...The marks of the fire that raged in the hall of the Senate are perhaps still visible.” (Arnaldi/Shugaar, 2005, p. 4)

“...Alaric’s army had advanced, plundering, through Italy, camped outside Rome, and cut off its supplies from the port of Ostia. Famine quickly sapped resistance...” (Friell & Williams, 1999, p. 21)

“...Alaric marched on Rome. When the Visigoths blockaded the food supplies at Portus, the senate, having briefly rejected a request from Alaric that it join him against Honorius, capitulated and agreed to form a government (late 409).” (Cameron & Garnsey, 1998, p. 126)

Saint Jerome wrote: “I hear from the West the terrible news that Rome is besieged, that her citizens have been obliged to purchase their salvation in heavy gold, and, already plundered of all their possessions, they have been besieged anew because, having lost their goods, they must now lose their lives. My words strangle in my throat. Behold, the city that conquered the world has been conquered in its turn. Rome is dying of hunger before it can die by the sword. There are but few survivors, who will be led away in chains. The ravenous hunger of the besieged is nourished with an unclean food. The Romans are eating one another.” (Arnaldi/Shugaar, 2005, p. 3-4)

“My voice sticks in my throat; and, as I dictate, sobs choke my utterance. The City which had taken the whole world was itself taken.” Jerome, *Letter CXXVII (To Principia)*

Rise of the Papacy during the campaign of Alaric

Alaric had alliance with the Pope, and the papacy arises as political broker to seize an opportunity to increase its influence:

“Alaric found the Pope's alliance valuable — or at least the daily assistance given to his generals by the Christian priests, who thought it an act of piety to obliterate every vestige of pagan art.” (Bigelow, 1918, p. 48)

“In 407 Alaric entered Italy, surrounded Rome and prepared to attack. Rome's Bishop entered negotiations with Alaric and, after paying substantial tribute, bought him off for the time being.” (Hines, 2007, ¶20)

“The government at Ravenna began to prepare for war...Alaric, however, moderated his demands and through the bishops of the Italian cities made a new offer for a formal alliance...When Honorarius, now committed to confrontation, rejected this offer, Alaric marched on Rome.” (Cameron & Garnsey, 1998, p. 126)

“...Alaric was a Christian and although his forces caused widespread destruction throughout the city, he spared Christian buildings and made an extra effort to attack pagan structures. When [Pope] Innocent returned to Rome, he embarked upon extensive charity efforts - thus, although this seemed like the end of the world to the people of Rome, it became a great opportunity for the Church to expand its power and influence.” (Cline, 2009, ¶2)