

REVELATION CHAPTER EIGHT

The Seventh Seal – The Golden Censer – The First Four Trumpets

Dan Trotter

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- I. **Revelation 8:1 (HCSB)** *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.*
- A. “seventh seal”
1. if Israel breaks God’s commandments, subject to SEVENFOLD judgments
 - a. thus helping to explain the SEVEN seals, trumpets, and bowls
 - b. **Leviticus 26:18 (HCSB)** ¹⁸ “But if after these things you will not obey Me, I will proceed to discipline you seven times for your sins. **Leviticus 26:21 (HCSB)** ²¹ “If you act with hostility toward Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will multiply your plagues seven times for your sins. **Leviticus 26:24 (HCSB)** ²⁴ then I will act with hostility toward you; I also will strike you seven times for your sins. **Leviticus 26:28 (HCSB)** ²⁸ I will act with furious hostility toward you; I will also discipline you seven times for your sins.
 - c. these are judgments on *Israel*
 2. “seven” is the number of divine perfection
 - a. so this is divinely perfect judgment (DT)
- B. “silence”
1. Edersheim, *The Temple*, p167f
 - a. “As the president gave the word of command, which marked that ‘the time of incense had come,’ ‘the whole multitude of the people without’ withdrew from the inner court, and fell down before the Lord, spreading their hands in silent prayer... It is this most solemn period, when throughout the vast Temple buildings deep silence rested on the worshipping multitude, while within the sanctuary itself the priest laid the incense on the golden altar, and the cloud of ‘odours’ rose up before the Lord, which serves as the image of heavenly things in this description.”
- C. “half an hour”
1. about the time in the Temple service it would take to perform the “time of incense”
 - a. cf. 8:3
- II. **Revelation 8:2 (NASB)** *And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.*
- A. “seven angels”
1. **Revelation 1:20 (CSBBible)** The mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
 2. the seven angels of the churches
 - a. each church gets to participate in one judgment (DT)
 - b. perhaps literal angels in the vision assigned to bring messages to the churches *in the vision* (DT)

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B. “seven trumpets”

1. same number of trumpets that blew when Jericho fell (Josh 6:4,5)
 - a. **Joshua 6:4-5 (CSBBible)** ⁴ Have seven priests carry seven ram's-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the trumpets. ⁵ When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the troops give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the troops will advance, each man straight ahead."
 - b. Jerusalem now a pagan city like Jericho (Chilton)
2. Temple liturgy used 7 trumpets
 - a. Scriptures Chilton quotes don't mention 7 (I Chr 15:24, Neh 12:41)

III. **Revelation 8:3-4 (NASB)** *Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. (v4) And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.*

A. “angel” (v3)

1. this must be Christ (Gore)
 - a. only a priest, not an angel, can offer incense (Gore)

B. “incense” (v3)

1. symbolized the prayers of the saints
 - a. **Revelation 5:8 (CSBBible)** When he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and golden bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

C. “prayers” (v3)

1. notice how prayers of saints are associated with judgment
 - a. prayers go up in v4, judgment comes down in v5
 - b. example of imprecatory prayers in NEW Covenant times
 - i. it is not wrong for Christians to pray for judgment on God's enemies
 - a. should pray for either their conversion or their destruction

D. “golden altar which was before the throne”

1. just like in the Tabernacle

IV. **Revelation 8:5 (NASB)** *Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth [land]; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.”*

A. “fire of the altar”

1. in Tabernacle and Temple, God first lit the fire when materials prepared
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **Leviticus 9:24 (HCSB)** Fire came from the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell facedown [on the ground].
 - ii. **2 Chronicles 7:1 (HCSB)** When Solomon finished praying, fire descended from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.
 - b. priests kept the fire burning as a holy fire
 - i. carried from place to place so it could start other holy fires (Chilton)
 - c. so this is God's holy fire (DT)
2. in order to destroy apostate Israel, apostate Jerusalem

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3. in OT, only acceptable way to burn a pagan city was with holy fire from the altar
 - a. Scripture
 - i. **Deuteronomy 13:16 (NASB)** "Then you shall gather all its booty into the middle of its open square and burn the city and all its booty with fire as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God; and it shall be a ruin forever. It shall never be rebuilt.
A/ note: KJV, HCSB don't have "as a whole burnt offering"
1/ but NIV, NASB do
 - b. all burnt offerings were done with "holy fire"
- B. "land"
 1. the land of Israel
- C. "thunder"
 1. typical accompaniments of judgment
 - a. just like "lightning," "earthquake"
 2. Scripture
 - a. **Exodus 19:16 (HCSB)** ¹⁶ On the third day, when morning came, there was thunder and lightning, a thick cloud on the mountain, and a loud trumpet sound, so that all the people in the camp shuddered. **Exodus 19:18 (HCSB)** ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke because the LORD came down on it in fire. Its smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain shook violently.
 - i. the OC law had curses and judgments in them
 - ii. note the things in common with Rev 8:1-5
 - A/ trumpet
 - B/ smoke
 - C/ fire
 - D/ thunder
 - E/ lightning
 - F/ earthquake

V. **Revelation 8:6 (NASB)** *And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.*

- A. "trumpets"
 1. several reasons they are symbolic
 - a. used for ceremonial processions
 - i. especially for escorting the Ark of the Covenant
 - A/ like when Ark was marched around Jericho (Joshua 6)
 - 1/ other example
 - a/ **1 Chronicles 15:24 (CSBBible)** The priests, Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, were to blow trumpets before the ark of God. Obed-edom and Jehiah were also to be gatekeepers for the ark.
 - 2/ John must have had Jericho in mind
 - a/ with blowing of the seventh trumpet (11:15 "¹⁵ And the seventh angel sounded")
 - i/ the ark appeared
 - A) **Revelation 11:19** "¹⁹ And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ARK of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."
 - ii/ a tenth of Jerusalem fell
 - A) **Revelation 11:13** "¹³ And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men

seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

b. used to proclaim the rule of a new king

i. OT Scripture

A/ **1 Kings 1:34 (CSBBible)** There, the priest Zadok and the prophet Nathan are to anoint him as king over Israel. You are to blow the ram's horn and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'

ii. 7th trumpet is signal for heavenly choir to sing coronation anthem

A/ God has begun to reign

1/ **Revelation 11:15 (HCSB)** The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying: The kingdom of the world has become the [kingdom] of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign forever and ever!

c. used to sound an alarm

i. to warn Israel of approaching judgment

A/ Scriptures

1/ **Jeremiah 4:5-6** ⁵ “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. ⁶ Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.

2/ **Jeremiah 6:1** ¹ “O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.”

3/ **Ezekiel 33:2-4 (HCSB)** ² “Son of man, speak to your people and tell them: Suppose I bring the sword against a land, and the people of that land select a man from among them, appointing him as their watchman, ³ and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows his trumpet to warn the people. ⁴ Then, if anyone hears the sound of the trumpet but ignores the warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head.

4/ **Joel 2:1 (CSBBible)** ¹ Blow the ram’s horn in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the residents of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; in fact, it is near—

5/ **Judges 7:18 (CSBBible)** When I and everyone with me blow our trumpets, you are also to blow your trumpets all around the camp. Then you will say, 'For the Lord and for Gideon!'

d. to call Israel to national repentance

i. Scriptures

A/ **Isaiah 58:1 (NASB)** "Cry loudly, do not hold back; Raise your voice like a trumpet, And declare to My people their transgression And to the house of Jacob their sins.

B/ **Jeremiah 6:17,19** ¹⁷ “Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. ¹⁹ Hear, O earth [land]: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.”

C/ **Joel 2:15,17** ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: ¹⁷ Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?”

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ii. Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashana)

A/ special trumpets were blown on the Day of Trumpets

a/ Scriptures

i/ **Leviticus 23:24 (CSBBible)** "Tell the Israelites: In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you are to have a day of complete rest, commemoration, and trumpet blasts — a sacred assembly.

A/ leading up to Tishri 10, the Day of Atonement

ii/ **Numbers 29:1 (CSBBible)** "You are to hold a sacred assembly in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, and you are not to do any daily work.

This will be a day of trumpet blasts for you.

b/ on Tishri 1

i/ Rosh Hashana

ii/ the Feast of Trumpets

iii/ the civil New Year's Day, first day of first month

iv/ first day of the seventh month in the ecclesiastical year

c/ purpose

i/ to especially acknowledge Day of the Lord

A) Chilton offers no Scripture for this

ii/ to especially acknowledge Day of Atonement

A) << a wake-up blast and a sobering reminder that the time is near for the Day of Atonement>> << a call to . . . repentance and turning back to the LORD.>> (gotquestions.org)

B)

e. to summon the congregation

i. two reasons

A/ to worship

B/ to go out to battle

ii. Scripture

A/ **Numbers 10:1-9 (CSBBible)** The Lord spoke to Moses: ² "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to summon the community and have the camps set out. ³ When both are sounded in long blasts, the entire community is to gather before you at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁴ However, if one is sounded, only the leaders, the heads of Israel's clans, are to gather before you. ⁵ "When you sound short blasts, the camps pitched on the east are to set out. ⁶ When you sound short blasts a second time, the camps pitched on the south are to set out. Short blasts are to be sounded for them to set out. ⁷ When calling the assembly together, you are to sound long blasts, not short ones. ⁸ The sons of Aaron, the priests, are to sound the trumpets. Your use of these is a permanent statute throughout your generations. ⁹ "When you enter into battle in your land against an adversary who is attacking you, sound short blasts on the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the Lord your God and be saved from your enemies.

B. summary: what are implications for apostate Israel

1. God about to do to Jerusalem what he did to Jericho
2. a new King is about to be proclaimed over the New Israel
3. the old Israel is being warned of impending doom
4. the army of God is about to be unloosed upon Israel
5. judgment is about to fall on Israel

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VI. **Revelation 8:7 (NASB)** *The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth [land]; and a third of the earth [land] was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.*

A. “third”

1. trumpet judgments more severe than seal judgments (fourths)

B. hail

1. judgment (DT)
 - a. hail destroys crops and livestock (DT)

C. fire

1. lightning (Mounce)
 - a. symbol of destruction
2. probably a reference to seventh Egyptian plague (Mounce)
 - a. **Exodus 9:24 (CSBBible)** ²⁴ The hail, with lightning flashing through it, was so severe that nothing like it had occurred in the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

D. blood

1. options
 - a. blood of the slain witnesses (fifth seal) (Chilton)
 - i. idea → “their blood is on your head” (DT)
 - b. blood of the slain apostate Jews living on the land (DT)

E. “all the green grass”

1. all the green grass that was on the third of the Land that was burned up
 - a. keeps the judgment in “thirds” scheme intact
 - b. can’t be 100% of the green grass was burnt up
 - i. how could 100% of grass be burnt up, but only one-third of trees burnt up

F. “burned up”

1. Josephus, *The Jewish War*, vi.i.1
 - a. “The countryside, like the city, was a pitiful sight, for where once there had been a multitude of trees and parks, there was now an utter wilderness stripped bare of timber; and no stranger who had seen the old Judea and the glorious suburbs of her capital, and now beheld utter desolation, could refrain from tears or suppress a groan at so terrible a change. The war had blotted out every trace of beauty, and no one who had known it in the past and came upon it suddenly would have recognized the place, for though he was already there, he would still have been looking for the city.”
2. problem: how can land be burned up
 - a. DT’s answer
 - i. the burning up of the trees and the grass was tantamount to burning up the land

VII. **Revelation 8:8-9 (HCSB)** ⁸ *The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain ablaze with fire was hurled into the sea. So a third of the sea became blood, ⁹ a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

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A. “mountain”

1. an accepted symbol for Israel
 - i. Scriptures
 - A/ **Exodus 15:17 (CSBBible)** You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your possession; Lord, you have prepared the place for your dwelling; Lord, your hands have established the sanctuary.
 - ii. Mount Zion a universally recognized symbol for Israel
 - A/ **Hebrews 12:22 (HCSB)** Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels in festive gathering,
 - B/ **Psalms 48:1-2 (CSBBible)** ¹ The Lord is great and highly praised in the city of our God. His holy mountain, ² rising splendidly, is the joy of the whole earth. Mount Zion — the summit of Zaphon — is the city of the great King.
 2. Jesus referred to Israel as a “mountain thrown into the sea” in the midst of cursing apostate Israel
 - i. Jesus gave a whole lengthy series of discourses and parables about destruction of Jerusalem
 - A/ Matthew 20-25
 - B/ in the middle, he cursed the unfruitful fig tree
 - 1/ the fig tree was a symbol of unfruitful, apostate Israel
 - a/ **Matthew 21:19 (HCSB)** Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He went up to it and found nothing on it except leaves. And He said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” At once the fig tree withered.
 - 2/ only two verses later, Jesus refers to a mountain being thrown into the sea
 - a/ also refers to Israel being destroyed
 - i/ **Matthew 21:21 (CSBBible)** ²¹ Jesus answered them, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will **not only** do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you tell this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ it will be done.
 - A) did Jesus change the subject?
 - 1) no, he’s asking that the disciples pray for judgment on Jerusalem
 - a) just like he cursed the fig tree (“not only”)
 - b) **Matthew 21:22** ²² “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. “
 - i) Jesus is asking his disciples to pray in faith *for the destruction of apostate Israel*
 - A] souls under the altar did just this
 - 1] **Revelation 6:10** ¹⁰ “And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth [land]?”

B. “fire”

1. even as Jerusalem burned, the mountain burned
2. fire indicates judgment

C. “sea”

1. options
 - a. Israel is thrown into the sea of Gentiles (Gore)
 - i. sea is typical symbol for Gentiles
 - A/ as “land” refers to Israel
 - ii. happened when they were destroyed by Rome in AD 70
 - b. sea of Galilee during the Jewish war
 - c. symbol of destruction in general

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D. “blood,” “dead,” “destroyed”

1. options

a. refers to the catastrophe and destruction felt all across the Roman Empire (Gore)

i. many thought Rome was going to die in the Year of Four Emperors (69 AD)

b. death and destruction Romans carried out on the Sea of Galilee

i. this would parallel the third bowl judgment

A/ **Revelation 16:4 (CSBBible)** ⁴ The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

1/ 100% of the waters of Israel are destroyed

a/ which would make “seal” in Revelation 8:7 be sea of Galilee

i/ and not symbolic of the Gentile nations (the Roman Empire)

ii. <<thousands of Jewish rebels fled to the Sea of Galilee from the Roman massacre of Tarichaeae. Setting out on the lake in small, flimsy boats, they were soon pursued and overtaken by the sturdy rafts of Vespasian’s superior forces. Then, they were mercilessly slaughtered: “The Jews could neither escape to land, where all were in arms against them, nor sustain a naval battle on equal terms... Disaster overtook them and they were sent to the bottom, boats and all. Some tried to break through, but the Romans could reach them with their lances, killing others by leaping upon the barks and passing their swords through their bodies; sometimes as the rafts closed in, the Jews were caught in the middle and captured along with their vessels. If any of those who had been plunged into the water came to the surface, they were quickly dispatched with an arrow or a raft overtook them; if, in their extremity, they attempted to climb on board the enemy’s rafts, the Romans cut off their heads or their hands. So these wretches died on every side in countless numbers and in every possible way, until the survivors were routed and driven onto the shore, their vessels surrounded by the enemy. As they threw themselves on them, many were speared while still in the water; many jumped ashore, where they were killed by the Romans... One could see the whole lake stained with blood and crammed with corpses, for not a man escaped. During the days that followed a horrible stench hung over the region, and it presented an equally horrifying spectacle. The beaches were strewn with wrecks and swollen bodies, which, hot and clammy with decay, made the air so foul that the catastrophe that plunged the Jews into mourning revolted even those who had brought it about.”>> (Josephus, *The Jewish War*, iii.x.9)

F. “ships”

1. options

a. reflects disruption of commerce in the Roman Empire (Gore)

b. refers to ships destroyed by Romans on the Sea of Galilee

i. problem

A/ 100% of ships were destroyed in the Josephus quotation

VIII. **Revelation 8:10-11 (NASB)** *The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of the waters. (v11) The name of the star is called wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.*

A. “star”

1. parallels Isaiah’s prophecy of fall of Babylon

a. note: Jerusalem is the NEW Babylon (the whore of Babylon)

B. “fell from heaven”

1. OT reference

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- a. **Isaiah 14:12-15 (HCSB)** ¹² Shining morning star, how you have fallen from the heavens! You destroyer of nations, you have been cut down to the ground. ¹³ You said to yourself, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will set up my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of the gods' assembly, in the remotest parts of the North. ¹⁴ I will ascend above the highest clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." ¹⁵ But you will be brought down to Sheol into the deepest regions of the Pit.

A/ KJV → “Lucifer”

- 1/ most translations translate without the proper name
 - a. “day star,” “star of the morning,” etc.
 - 2/ KJV, NKJV, Third Millennium, Douay-Rheims have “Lucifer”
 - 3/ much folklore about Lucifer comes from Pseudigraphica
 - 4/ the day star here refers to King of Babylon
 - a. either primarily, or completely
- b. ancient Babylon was called a falling star by Isaiah
 - i. and John depicts the whore of Babylon (Jerusalem) as a falling star
2. literalists have a problem
- a. if “star” is literal, it would incinerate the whole earth
 - i. not just destroy a third of the creatures in the water
 - b. possible literalist answers
 - i. “star” incorrectly translated, Gk word means “meteor”

A/ Answers

- 1/ Crosswalk Lexicon
 - a/ definition of “aster”
 - i/ “a star”
 - A) this is the ONLY definition
 - b/ NASB usage
 - i/ star 11, stars 13
 - A) “star” is the ONLY way the NASB translates aster
 - c/ KJV usage
 - i/ star 24
 - A) “star” is the ONLY way the KJV translates aster
- 2/ why would a mere meteor kill 1/3 of all rivers on earth?
 - a/ a meteor is too small, a star is too big
- 3/ how *literal* is translating “star” as “meteor”

C. “Wormwood”

1. a term used in Law and Prophets to warn *Israel* of its destruction as a punishment for apostasy
 - a. Scriptures
 - i. **Deuteronomy 29:18-20 (NASB)** ¹⁸ so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. ¹⁹ "It shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, 'I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered land with the dry.' ²⁰ "The Lord shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven.
 - ii. **Jeremiah 9:15 (NASB)** therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, "behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.

- iii. **Jeremiah 23:15 (NASB)** "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood And make them drink poisonous water, For from the prophets of Jerusalem Pollution has gone forth into all the land.'"
- iv. **Lamentations 3:15 (NASB)** He has filled me with bitterness, He has made me drunk with wormwood.
- v. **Lamentations 3:19 (NASB)** Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness.
 - a. spoken in connection w/ destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon
- v. **Amos 5:7 (NASB)** For those who turn justice into wormwood And cast righteousness down to the earth."

IX. **Revelation 8:12 (NASB)** *The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.*

A. "darkened"

1. such imagery long used in the prophets to depict the fall of nations and national rulers

a. "Lights out" Scriptures

- i. **Isaiah 13:9-11 (HCSB)** Look, the day of the LORD is coming— cruel, with rage and burning anger— to make the earth a desolation and to destroy the sinners on it.
¹⁰ Indeed, the stars of the sky and its constellations will not give their light. The sun will be dark when it rises, and the moon will not shine.¹¹ I will bring disaster on the world, and their [own] iniquity, on the wicked. I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant and humiliate the insolence of tyrants.
A/ when Babylon overthrown by the Persians, did the moon and stars quit shining?
 - ii. **Isaiah 24:23 (HCSB)** ²³ The moon will be put to shame and the sun disgraced, because the LORD of Hosts will reign as king on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and He will [display His] glory in the presence of His elders.
A/ this prophecy is against apostate Israel
 - 1/ Isa 24:1 ¹ Behold, the LORD maketh the earth [land] empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof."
 - a/ Jamiesson, Fausset, and Brown
 - i/ the earth is "rather, 'the land' of Judah"
 - ii/ "The desolation under Nebuchadnezzar prefigured that under Titus."
 - A) Titus destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70
 - 1) and Jesus, in Olivet Discourse, used same language against Titus that Isaiah used against Nebuchadnezzar
- B/ when apostate Israel fell, did the stars, sun, and moon quit shining?
 - 1/ if so, why are they shining now?
- iii. **Isaiah 34:4-5 (HCSB)** ⁴ All the heavenly bodies will dissolve. The skies will roll up like a scroll, and their stars will all wither as leaves wither on the vine, and foliage on the fig tree. ⁵ When My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens, it will then come down on Edom and on the people I have set apart for destruction.
A/ Edom was judged for insulting the Jews left behind in Israel after Babylonian Captivity
 - 1/ Nebuchadnezzar wiped them out (JFB, Jeremiah25:15-21)
 - a/ when Idumea was judged, did the stars fall down to the ground?
 - i/ and if so, why does the planet still exist?
- iv. **Ezekiel 32:7-8 (HCSB)** ⁷ When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars. I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. ⁸ I will darken all the shining lights in the heavens over you, and will bring darkness on your land.

[This is] the declaration of the Lord GOD. Ezekiel 32:11-12 (HCSB) ¹¹ For this is what the Lord GOD says: The sword of Babylon’s king will come against you! ¹² I will make your hordes fall by the swords of warriors, all of them ruthless men from the nations. They will ravage Egypt’s pride, and all its hordes will be destroyed.

A/ when Egypt was judged by Babylon, did stars and moon quit giving their light?

- v. **Joel 2:10 (HCSB)** ¹⁰ The earth quakes before them; the sky shakes. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars cease their shining. **Joel 2:31 (HCSB)** ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and awe-inspiring Day of the LORD comes.

A/ judgment is on apostate Israel

1/ coming from “northern” countries

a/ either Assyria or Babylonia (cf. JFB on 2:20)

2/ when judgment came on apostate Israel, did the sun and moon go dark?

B/ ultimately fulfilled when Jesus came the FIRST time, at Pentecost

1/ the remnant returning from Jerusalem typified believers saved under the NC

a/ **Acts 2:20-21** “²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: ¹ And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

B. “day,” “not shine”

1. note how silly it is to take passage literally

a. how can a day not shine for 8 hours, because a third of the sun has been darkened?

X. **Revelation 8:13 (NASB)** “Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven; saying with a loud voice, “woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth [land], because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

A. “eagle”

1. note: KJV uses “angel” (manuscript difference)

2. prophetic warnings of Israel’s destruction often couched in terms of eagles descending upon carrion

a. speed and certainty

i. swift and certain judgment (Gore)

b. Rome’s most famous symbol

i. Rome is going to do a number on apostate Israel, the new Babylon

c. the Greek can be translated as “vulture”

i. eagle and vulture are from the same family

an eagle is a pretty vulture, and a vulture is an ugly eagle

d. Scriptures

i. **Hosea 8:1 (HCSB)** ¹ [Put] the horn to your mouth! One like an eagle comes against the house of the LORD, because they transgress My covenant and rebel against My law.

ii. **Habakkuk 1:8 (HCSB)** ⁸ Their horses are swifter than leopards and more fierce than wolves of the night. Their horsemen charge ahead; their horsemen come from distant [lands]. They fly like an eagle, swooping to devour.

iii. **Matthew 24:28 (HCSB)** ²⁸ Wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather.

iv. **Deuteronomy 28:26** “²⁵ The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶ And thy carcass shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray *them* away.”

v. **Proverbs 30:17** “¹⁷ The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.”

- vi. **Jeremiah 7:33-34** “³³ And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray *them* away.”
 - vii. **Jeremiah 16:3-4** “³ For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land; ⁴ They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; *but* they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.”
 - viii. **Jer 19:7** “⁷ And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.”
 - ix. **Jer 34:19-20** “¹⁹ The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf; ²⁰ I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth.”
 - x. **Ezek 39:17-18a** “¹⁷ And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered FOWL, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, *even* a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. ¹⁸ Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, “
 - xi. **Rev 19:17-18** “¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the FOWLS that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, *both* free and bond, both small and great.”
3. cf. what Jesus said in the Olivet discourse
 - a. **Matthew 24:28 (CSBBible)** Wherever the carcass is, there the vultures will gather.
 - i. Roman eagles were gathering around the corpse of apostate Israel
 - B. “midheaven”
 1. **Revelation 14:6 (HCSB)** Then I saw another angel flying high overhead, having the eternal gospel to announce to the inhabitants of the earth—to every nation, tribe, language, and people.
 - a. judgment first, preaching of the gospel next
 - i. salvation of the world comes from apostate Israel’s fall
 - C. “woe, woe, woe”
 1. the last three trumpets