

**Lesson 12**  
**Revelation 8**

**The sounding of the Trumpets!**

**Memory verse:** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:13 NIV)

The climactic judgment event that ends man's control and Satan's rule on earth is called the day of the Lord. And that term describes the final takeover of God, as He takes the world and the universe that is rightfully His from the usurper. The day of the Lord involves a final holocaust of furious and wholesale deadly destruction.

Now as we enter chapter 8, the full fury of the day of the Lord has already begun. It started with the sixth seal and we now find ourselves in the seventh seal, as noted in verse 1. And this seventh seal is best understood to contain all of the final judgments, all that is described here by way of judgment is an earthquake when the angel throws the fiery censer to the earth, thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

The first six seals then were somewhat simple, that is to say they opened and are rather simply and directly described. This one is more complex. The first seemed to be opened in a moment, this one while being opened in a moment then leads to fourteen following judgments that are opened sequentially. So this one takes more development, it's more complex, and that seems to fit as the judgments begin to mount in speed and power and devastation.

But once the seventh seal is opened and out of it comes trumpets and bowls, it's going to take time for these to develop. For example, in chapter 9 and verse 10 there is a description of what happens under the fifth trumpet. And it says that what happens involves scorpions with stings and their tails have power to hurt men for five months. And that tells us that the blowing of the trumpets and the effect of those trumpet judgments is going to stretch out over months. So when the seventh seal is opened and the judgments begin, they're going to take days and weeks and even months before they're completed. We don't know exactly the time table.

The way the book lays out chronologically, it seems to be reasonable to assume you go through the seventh seal, the seventh seal is opened, you have seven trumpets, the seventh trumpet is blown, you have seven bowls and so they really, the last fourteen judgments, bowls and trumpets, are contained within that final seal. So this is the rapid-fire final holocaust, it's going to take some time to fully unfold, and even some time for us to fully describe as we study through the chapters ahead of us.

The seal judgments now over, the trumpet judgments are about to begin. These will be followed by the bowl (vial) judgments, culminating in the destruction of Babylon and Christ's return to earth. Note that from the seals to the trumpets to the bowls, the judgments increase in their intensity. Note also that the trumpet and the bowl judgments touch on the same areas, as the following summary illustrates:

	<i>The Trumpets</i>	<i>The Judgment</i>	<i>The Bowls</i>
1.	8:1–7	The earth	16:1–2
2.	8:8–9	The sea	16:3
3.	8:10–11	The rivers	16:4–7
4.	8:12–13	The heavens	16:8–9
5.	9:1–2	Mankind - torment	16:10–11
6.	9:13–21	An army	16:12–16
7.	11:15–19	Angry nations	16:17–21

The trumpet judgments are released during the first half of the tribulation, and the bowl judgments during the last half, which is also called “the wrath of God” (Rev. 14:10; 15:7). The trumpet judgments parallel the plagues that God sent on the land of Egypt. And why not? After all, the whole world will be saying, as did Pharaoh, “Who is the Lord that we should serve Him?”

Things to learn: 1) Preparations for the seventh seal 2) Unimaginable desolations 3) The worst is yet to come

**Discussion questions:**

1) What will take place when the seventh seal is about to be opened (verse 1 -6)?

Q2. What are the effects when the four trumpets are sounded based on verses 7 to 12 and can you think of other records in the bible that had or will have the same results?

Q3. What is the warning to the inhabitants of earth at this stage (verse 13) from the angel and how would you respond if you are in the same situation?