



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE SEVEN TRUMPETS:

THE BLOWING OF THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the first four of the Seven Trumpets. Notice that there are seven trumpets in the book of Revelation and the Lord divides the seven trumpets into two groups. The first four are grouped together and the last three are grouped together. See Revelation 8:2, 12-13.
2. **Note:** The Seven Trumpets must be understood in context of the seventh seal. We must also understand the Biblical purposes for the blowing of trumpets. In this study, we will address two of the prominent purposes for the blowing of trumpets.
3. What was one significant event that was connected to the blowing of trumpets? Joshua 6:4, 5; Judges 7:19-22; Numbers 31:6-8

4. Which nation was about to be overthrown, by the blowing of the first four trumpets? **Answer: The ancient Roman Empire. To confirm this fact, we must first understand the time period when the trumpets began to sound in sequential order.**
5. Which article of furniture in the heavenly sanctuary is Jesus standing in front of when the trumpets begin to blow? Revelation 8:2, 3

6. Which apartment of the sanctuary contains the golden altar? Exodus 30:1-6; contrast with Exodus 26:33

7. **Note:** Jesus entered the Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary to begin His ministry as high priest, after His resurrection, in the year 31 A.D. See Hebrews 9:12. Jesus remained in the Holy Place until October 22, 1844 A.D., when He moved into the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. See Daniel 8:14; Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14. With this knowledge, we can conclude that the first four trumpets began to blow sequentially after 31 A.D. when Jesus entered the Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary.
8. Which nation was ruling the world during Jesus' earthly ministry and after His ascension which instituted pagan worship, men's traditions, and also persecuted God's faithful people? Luke 2:1; Acts 25:10-11

9. **Note:** The blowing of the first four trumpets signaled the overthrow of the ancient Roman Empire. Jesus gives us a principle that we should compare history and current events with Bible prophecy. See John 14:29; John 13:19.
10. Let us read Revelation 8:6, 7. Who is the first army, the first trumpet, that stormed and plundered specific areas of the Roman Empire? **Answer: The Goths, German barbaric tribes, under the leadership of Alaric. See the 1909 version of Daniel and the Revelation by Uriah Smith, page 476-480.**

"Large extracts show how amply and well Gibbon has expounded his text in the history of the first trumpet, the first storm that pervaded the Roman earth, and the first fall of Rome. To use his words in more direct comment, we read thus the sum of the matter: 'The Gothic nation was in arms at the first sound of the trumpet, and in the uncommon severity of the winter, they rolled their ponderous wagons over the broad and icy back of the river. The fertile fields of Phocis and Boeotia were crowded with a deluge of barbarians.; the males were massacred; the females and cattle of the flaming villages were driven away. The deep and bloody traces of the march of the Goths could easily be discovered after several years. The whole territory of Attica was blasted by the baneful presence of Alaric. The most fortunate of the inhabitants of Corinth, Argos, and Sparta were saved by death from beholding the conflagration of their cities. In a season of such extreme heat that the beds of the rivers were dry, Alaric invaded the dominion of the West. A secluded "old man of Verona," the poet Claudian, pathetically lamented the fate of his contemporary trees. which must blaze in the conflagration of the whole country [note the words of the prophecy, - "The third part of the trees was burned up"]; and the emperor of the Romans fled before the king of the Goths.' {DAR1909 478.8}

"Alaric I (Gothic: Alareiks; 370 - 410) was the King of the Visigoths from 395–410. Alaric is most famous for his sack of Rome in 410, which marked a decisive event in the decline of the Roman Empire. This was the first time in almost 800 years

that Rome had fallen to an enemy.”
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaric>

“Alaric devastated Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece. Stopped, but not defeated, by Stilicho, **he retired northward**, and by an agreement with the Eastern emperor, Arcadius, occupied Epirus.”

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/history/ancient-history-late-roman-and-byzantine-biographies/alaric-i>

11. What does the “third part” mean? Revelation 8:7; 9:15 **Answer: It firstly points to men. It also is a reference to Emperor Constantine dividing the Roman Empire into East and West. Then Constantine divided the empire, the ancient civilization, into three regions so that his three sons may rule each region. Emperor Constantine’s sons were named: Constantius, Constantine II, and Constans.**

12. Let us read Revelation 8:8, 9. Who is the second army, the second trumpet, that stormed and plundered specific places of the Roman Empire? **Answer: The Vandals, under the leadership of Genseric. See the 1909 version of *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, page 480-484.**

“The **Vandals** were an East Germanic tribe who in 429 under **king Genseric** entered Africa and by 439 established a kingdom which included the Roman Africa province, besides the islands of Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Malta and the Balearics. **From 428-455, they sacked the city of Rome.**”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vandals>

“The history illustrative of the sounding of the second trumpet evidently relates to the invasion and conquest of Africa, and afterward of Italy, by the terrible Genseric. His conquests were for the most part **NAVAL**; and his triumphs were “as it were a great mountain burning with fire, cast into the sea.” What figure would better, or even so well, illustrate the collision of navies, and the general havoc of war on the maritime coasts? In explaining this trumpet, we are to look for some events which will have a particular bearing on the commercial world. The symbol used naturally leads us to look for agitation and commotion. Nothing but a fierce maritime warfare would fulfil the prediction. If the sounding of the first four trumpets relates to four remarkable events which contributed to the downfall of the Roman empire, and the first trumpet refers to the ravages of the Goths under Alaric, in this we naturally look for the next succeeding act of invasion which shook the Roman power and conduced to its fall. **The next great invasion was that of “the terrible Genseric,” at the head of the Vandals. His career occurred during the years A.D. 428-468. This great Vandal chief had his headquarters in Africa. But as Gibbon states, “The discovery and conquest of the black nations [in Africa], that might dwell beneath the torrid zone, could not tempt the rational ambition of Genseric; but he cast his eyes TOWARD THE SEA; he resolved to create a naval power, and his bold resolution was executed with steady and active perseverance.”** From the port of Carthage he repeatedly made piratical sallies, and preyed on the Roman commerce, and waged war with that empire. To cope with this sea monarch, the Roman emperor, Majorian, made extensive naval preparations. Three hundred long galleys, with an adequate proportion of transports and smaller vessels, were collected in the secure and capacious harbor of Cartagena, in Spain. But Genseric was saved from impending and inevitable ruin by the treachery of some powerful subjects, envious or apprehensive of their master’s success. Guided by their secret intelligence, he surprised the unguarded fleet in the bay of Cartagena; many of the ships were sunk, taken, or burned, and the preparations of three years were destroyed in a single day. {DAR1909 481.1}

“**Genseric was the leader of the Vandals**, a barbarian tribe that succeeded in gaining control of huge areas of formerly Roman territory, immediately preceding the collapse of the Western Empire. By the time Genseric was crowned king of the Vandals, in 428 A.D., Rome had already been sacked by the Visigoths, and had lost its territories in Britain and Gaul, but it still held Western Africa, and most islands in the Mediterranean. Due to treachery within the Roman Government, Genseric was allowed to cross over from Spain into Africa, in 429 and immediately proceeded to conquer Roman territory in Africa, including the city of Hippo.”

<https://www.heritage-history.com/index.php?c=resources&s=char-dir&f=genseric#:~:text=Genseric%20was%20the%20leader%20of,the%20Vandals%2C%20in%20428%20A>

13. Let us read Revelation 8:10, 11. Who is the third army, the third trumpet, that stormed and plundered specific areas of the Roman Empire? **Answer: The Huns, under the leadership of Attila. See the 1909 version of *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, page 484-487.**

“It is here premised that this trumpet has allusion to the desolating wars and furious invasions of **Attila against the Roman power, which he carried on at the head of his hordes of Huns**. Speaking of this warrior, particularly of his personal appearance, Mr. Barnes says:” {DAR1909 485.1}

“**In the manner of his appearance, he strongly resembled a brilliant meteor flashing in the sky. He came from the East gathering his Huns, and poured them down, as we shall see, with the rapidity of a flashing meteor, suddenly on the empire.** He regarded himself also as devoted to Mars, the god of war, and was accustomed to array himself in a peculiarly brilliant manner, so that his appearance, in the language of his flatterers, was such as to dazzle the eyes of beholders.” {DAR1909 485.2}

“**Attila** (/ˈætɪlə/ or /əˈtɪlə/?–453), more frequently referred to as **Attila the Hun**, **was the ruler of the Huns from 434** until his death in 453. He was leader of the Hunnic Empire, which stretched from the Ural River to the Rhine River and from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea. **During his reign he was one of the most feared enemies of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires.**

He crossed the Danube twice and plundered the Balkans, but was unable to take Constantinople. He also attempted to conquer Roman Gaul (modern France), crossing the Rhine in 451 and marching as far as Aurelianum (Orléans) before being defeated at the Battle of the Catalaunian Plains. **Subsequently he invaded Italy, devastating the northern provinces**, but was unable to take Rome. He planned for further campaigns against the Romans but died in 453.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attila>

14. Let us read Revelation 8:12. Who is the fourth army, the fourth trumpet, that stormed and plundered specific areas of the Roman Empire? **Answer: The Heruli, under the leadership of Odoacer. See the 1909 version of *Daniel and the Revelation* by Uriah Smith, page 487-493.**

“We understand that this trumpet symbolizes the career of Odoacer, the barbarian monarch who was so intimately connected with the downfall of Western Rome. The symbols sun, moon, and stars - for they are undoubtedly here used as symbols - evidently denote the great luminaries of the Roman government, - its emperors, senators, and consuls. Bishop Newton remarks that the last emperor of Western Rome was Romulus, who in derision was called Augustulus, or the “diminutive Augustus.” Western Rome fell A.D. 476. Still, however, though the Roman sun was extinguished, its subordinate luminaries shone faintly while the senate and consuls continued. But after many civil reverses and changes of political fortune, at length, A.D. 566, the whole form of the ancient government was subverted, and Rome itself was reduced from being the empress of the world to a poor dukedom tributary to the Exarch of Ravenna.” {DAR1909 487.6}

“Odoacer (ōdōā`sər) or Odovacar (-vā`kər), c.435–493, chieftain of the Heruli, the Sciri, and the Rugii (see Germans). He and his troops were mercenaries in the service of Rome, **but in 476 the Heruli revolted and proclaimed Odoacer their king.** Odoacer defeated the Roman general Orestes Piacenza, took Ravenna (the West Roman capital), and deposed Romulus Augustulus, last Roman emperor of the West. **The date 476 is often accepted as the end of the West Roman Empire.”**

<https://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Odovakar>

The first of the three horns had been uprooted. “[By] mid 6th century they [Heruli] vanished from history” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1990 edition, art. Heruli).

15. Let us recapitulate the first four trumpets and discover an important point. What year did the first trumpet blow as a signal of the first decline and overthrow of the ancient Roman Empire? **Answer: In the year 410 A.D.**
16. Since the blowing of trumpets represents the overthrow of a nation and unrepentant people, what did the leaders of the Roman Empire do (in 321 A.D.) that caused Jesus to allow the barbarian tribes to attack and overthrow the Roman Empire?

“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.” {GC 53.1}

“The archdeceiver had not completed his work. He was resolved to gather the Christian world under his banner and to exercise his power through his vicegerent, the proud pontiff who claimed to be the representative of Christ. Through half-converted pagans, ambitious prelates, and world-loving churchmen he accomplished his purpose. **Vast councils were held from time to time, in which the dignitaries of the church were convened from all the world. In nearly every council the Sabbath which God had instituted was pressed down a little lower, while the Sunday was correspondingly exalted.** Thus the pagan festival came finally to be honored as a divine institution, while the Bible Sabbath was pronounced a relic of Judaism, **and its observers were declared to be accursed.** {GC 53.2}

17. What comprises a part of the final message to the world? Revelation 14:8-9

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18. As the ancient Roman Empire fell, primarily because she enforced Sunday worship and denounced the Sabbath, why will modern, mystery, Babylon the great fall? Revelation 18:2-6; Psalm 119:126

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19. What is our mission as God’s professed people before Babylon completely falls? Revelation 18:1-4
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