Welcome, again, to the Time-of-the-End Prophecy Series. This 41 page e-book will take up the subject of The Seven Trumpets.

Under the time of the sixth seal, which is our own time, we discover that there are four angels holding the four winds, until the servants of God are sealed. The time period of the sixth seal is from the late 1700's until just before the coming of Jesus, which takes place under the seventh seal. Under the sixth seal we learn that 144,000 are sealed, plus an innumerable company of worshipers from every age in earth's history. The time of the sixth seal also includes the investigative Judgment. 1 Peter 4:17 says ..."For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" So during the investigative judgment, God is considering how to reward his followers. We will save the subject of the 144,000 and the investigative judgment for a future sermon. What we are about to show you is that Revelation ch 8 and 9 and 11, which talks about 7 trumpets, shares a strong correlation with the events of the 7 churches and the 7 seals. We might explain the corellation like this: If you took a single piece of history and shone a light on it from one side you would come up with a particular viewpoint. Then, if you took that same piece of history and shone a light on it from a different angle, you would come up with a totally different viewpoint. In effect, this is why God has presented three separate viewpoints about the same time in history: The seven churches, the seven seals, and the seven trumpets are different viewpoints of the same slice of history.

The number seven plays a prominent role in the book of
Revelation. Seven candles, seven churches, seven horns and seven eyes on the Lamb that was slain. Our calendar is made up of seven days per week...a cycle established by God Himself. Over and over, as we encounter God, the cycle of seven appears. But, there is a special and deliberate grouping that you need to be aware of as you study the book of Revelation:

1-Seven churches (covering church history from the 1st century-apostolic-age til the 2nd coming of Jesus.)
2-Seven seals (1st century til the 2nd coming of Jesus.)
3-Seven trumpets (3rd century til the 2nd coming.)

With only minor time differences, each of the three snapshots of church history reveals different viewpoints of God’s church, altogether giving us a fleshed-out glimpse of a spiritual struggle that spans more than 2000 years.

Because the following interpretation of the Seven Trumpets seems to correlate well with the known facts of history, we believe it is an interpretation with a high degree of accuracy.

One thing is certain: The prophetic book of Revelation, although presented in heaven's language of picturesque symbols, WAS MEANT TO BE UNDERSTOOD. Consider God's sobering declarations to John that the prophetic writings of the book of Revelation are not to be SEALED (closed from understanding). “Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.” (Rev. 22:10) And then God told John that the message in the book of Revelation was of such importance that the prophecies must not be altered...but must remain as originally transcribed.“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the
book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

(Rev. 22:18,19)

The book of Revelation is of such great importance because it was written by our Savior (see Revelation 1:1), to encourage His church through every age...revealing that He has ultimate control, and that the church, through all its tribulations, will in the end become the church triumphant.

Now, back to our Bible interpretation, covering the 7 trumpets of the book of Revelation, found in chapter 8, 9. and 11.

**Introduction to the Seven Trumpets**

As we begin our study, remember, the seven trumpets span over a time period from the 3rd century AD until the return of Jesus.

We'll begin with Rev. 8 verse 1. This text declares there will be silence in heaven for ½ an hour...which in prophetic time is 1 week. Why is there silence in heaven? Because Jesus and the angels are on their way to earth to gather the harvest of the Redeemed. However the silence in heaven, representing the time when Jesus begins his journey to earth, takes place not under the 1st trumpet, but under the time of the 7th and final trumpet. So, why, you might ask, has it been placed here? This announcement of silence in heaven is a thrilling assurance that, indeed, God has not forsaken earth; He will leave heaven with all His angels and arrive, on schedule, to rescue His redeemed.

But, in the meantime, in Rev. 8 verse 2 the scene switches; and we see seven angels holding the seven trumpets.
Please turn there and just keep your Bible open...Rev. 8, verse 2....

“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Then in verses 3 and 4 our view is focused on another angel, and interpreters believe this angel is Jesus, who is offering the prayers of the saints to His heavenly Father. Let's read....

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.
4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

Now, why do you suppose interpreters believe this angel that is holding the golden censer is Jesus? Because Jesus is our mediator in heaven. Our prayers, by means of the Holy Spirit, are sent up to Jesus, and Jesus then takes those prayers and adds a sweet-smelling incense from his golden censer and presents the prayers to His Father. The sweet smelling incense that He imparts to our prayers is His sacrifice on the cross. The merits of our Lord's pure life, and His sacrifice at the cross are the very incense that the Lord mixes into our prayers....and by the time our heavenly Father receives those prayers they have been transformed into a sweet, sweet smelling, pleasing aroma of righteousness. By the merits of his pure, sinless life, Jesus makes our prayers acceptable before His Father.

This scene of Jesus with the golden censer has been
strategically placed to remind us that Jesus is in heaven, listening to our prayers, mediating in our behalf inspite of the chaos and war that is about to be unleashed when the seven trumpets begin to blow.

“Every Autumn in Bible times God had His priests blow trumpets to warn the people to get ready for the upcoming Day of Atonement, which was also the annual day of judgment. See GC 1:178-186. In Revelation 8 to 11, God warns us of our need to repent; and; change our ways by having seven of His angels blow seven trumpets.” (“God Cares, Vol 2,” by C. Mervyn Maxwell, p. 228, Copyright 1985, Pacific Press Publishing Association)

Now, almost abruptly, the introductory sanctuary scene at the golden altar changes. Reading in Rev 8 verse 5 we see the same angel, but He is no longer adding incense to the coals that are inside the censer. In this new scene the offering of incense ends. Now this angel (who may be Jesus) takes fire from the altar and puts it in the censer and flings the fire down to the earth, indicating that a time of judgment has begun. He bids the first angel to sound the first trumpet...

Let's read from Revelation 8 verse 5.

“5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”

What we seem to be seeing here is a response from God's throne in answer to the prayers of the souls under the alter in chapter 7, the souls who were pleading with God to avenge them. In other words, the fire inside the golden censer that
is cast down to the earth, appears to initiate God's retribution in behalf of all Christians who were tormented for their faith, a retribution that takes place in several different places during the sounding of the seven trumpets.

So, as an introduction to the seven trumpets, Revelation 8 verse 5, provides us with two important notifications: 1) The prayers (incense) of God's saints under the altar have been heard, and 2) retribution for the souls under the altar is under way; the retribution begins, as the angel puts fire in the censer from the altar and flings the fire to earth. Instructing one of the seven angels to sound the first trumpet. But, then, verse 5 continues to include events that take place during the 7th trumpet... “and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”

What are these “voices” that take place during the 7th trumpet? Turn to Rev. 11:15...and let's read.

“And the seventh angel sounded [his trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

So the “voices” that are mentioned in Rev. 8:5 and Rev. 11:15 are voices of victory...because Armageddon ends when the time of the 7th trumpet is over...the Lords followers have been wrenched from the hands of the fallen angels, and the spiritual kingdoms of earth (the ransomed of earth) are awarded to Jesus.

Now let's consider the meaning of the “thunderings, and lightnings,” mentioned in Rev. 8:5, Rev. 11:15 and
Revelation 16:18. Rev 11 verses 18 &19 provide an answer about the meaning of the “thunders and lightnings” of Rev. 8:5...

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”

“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.”

Here are two verses that clearly occur during the 7th trumpet...it's the time of the seven last plagues, the time of judgment, the time of reward for the saints, and the time when sinners will be destroyed by the brightness of the Lord's return...a time that is right at the end of the 7th trumpet. But, especially notice that when the temple was opened and the ark was revealed...there were “lightnings and voices and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”

Now, we just explained the meaning of the “voices” of Rev. 8:5, which are voices from God's heavenly beings, declaring victory for the saints. The earthquake and hail that are mentioned are the seventh plague. But, what are the “thunderings and lightnings?” Thunderings are the loud preaching of a message from God (as indicated in Revelation 10:4). However, this thunder and lightning symbolically hearkens all the way back to the Old Testament
when God wrote the ten commandments onto tables of stone...

In Exodus 20:18, God told Moses to gather the Hebrews at the bottom of Mount Sinai, but, they didn't want to go near the mountain, because they thought God might kill them.

Exodus 20:18 says...
“And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.”

What happened next was that God spoke the ten commandments aloud to the gathering, and they all heard His booming, authoritative voice. And, then, Moses reinforced God's magnificent presentation by displaying the two tables of stone. Now, think forward to the book of Revelation...when the 7th trumpet sounded there were thunderings and lightnings and under the 7th trumpet the temple in heaven was opened revealing the arc which holds the ten commandments.

So, during the 7th trumpet at the end of the world, the loud thundering and lightnings (of Rev. 11:19) appear to represent God's reassertion of His ten commandments, which were long ago presented with great grandure and emphasis, using thunder and lightning at Mt. Sinai. At the end of the world, during the time of the 7th trumpet, the temple of God is opened in heaven, and the eternal Father again points the world to the Law of the Old Testament, and the new covenant which seals that Law in the heart of all worshipers, a law that reveals both the Creator of heaven and earth and the 7th day sabbath rest. Even the worst Bible student of Revelation would have to acknowledge that
Revelation 11:19 is pointing the entire world to the validity and importance of the ten commandments.

So, what are we actually reading in Rev. 8 verse 5? God is drawing our attention to two important events...

1) **The incense of prayers being presented at the altar by the angel.** These prayers are likely from the saints under the altar, mentioned in the previous chapter (see Revelation 6:9, 10), **asking for retribution and justice for all of Christ's followers who would ever suffer persecution.**

   AND...

2) **God's response to those prayers**...He gives assurance that, by the time the events of the 7th trumpet conclude, both retribution and victory for the saints would be complete. The voices and thunderings and lightnings and final earthquake reveal that the spiritual battle of the church would end in total victory.

   **“18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.”**

This earthquake is the final earthquake that occurs under the seventh plague. And, by now you must realize that the time of the 7th trumpet somewhat parallels the time of the 7th seal and the 7th church.

Here is a quick snapshot of the astonishing prophetic events we will see during the time of the 7th church, the 7th seal, and the 7th trumpet...where each of these time periods represent the same slice of history, viewed through a different window...

*Through one window, we see that it is the time of Satan's impersonation, when He announces himself as Jesus...and it*
is a time when the conflict over the validity of God's Ten Commandments reaches a boiling point. Through another window, we see that it is the time of Jacob's trouble. And, it is the time when no man can buy or sell, save him that has the mark of the beast. It is the time of trouble, when the antichrist is in full power, corrupting all the churches with the wine of impure doctrines. It is the time when seven plagues are sent from God upon those who have the mark of the beast, or have made an image to the beast. And, the time period we are viewing is also the conclusion of Armageddon, when Babylon that great city is broken down into three parts, and is brought in judgement before God. And, finally, It is the time when Prince Michael (Jesus) stands up for His people, and sends angels to protect them, just as He did for Elisha. Then, the time of the 7th church, the 7th seal and the 7th trumpet all meet together and conclude with the earthshaking arrival of Jesus and his host of angels.

Having explored the meaning of the introductory sanctuary scene of Revelation 8:5, and God's assurance that the 7th trumpet would bring total victory for God's kingdom, we can now examine the trumpets, one by one.

Just as the subjects of the seven churches and the seven seals presented different viewpoints on the history of God's church, the seven trumpets will also present a new perspective, beginning with Pagan Rome, and going all the way to the second coming of Jesus.

**The First Trumpet**

Generally a trumpet is a sound of warning or war. Turn to Rev. 8:6 and 7, and we'll see if we can figure out the meaning of the first trumpet.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven
trumpets prepared themselves to sound.
7 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.

Why does this prophecy specify geographical areas one-third in size? Because, Emperor Constantine left his three sons in control of the three main parts of the Roman Empire.

The prophecy of the first trumpet covers a time from 395 to 419 AD. The hail symbolizes the fact that Barbarian hordes swept in from the cold lands of the north. First the Goths under the leadership of Alaric attacked the failing Roman Empire in the West. Alaric was so infamous he was called the “scourge of God.” The fire and blood are symbols of the savagery of these Goth invaders, burning entire towns as they passed through and destroying good farming land. Alaric was conquered in 403 AD...but, more barbarian hordes, led by Rhodogast, poured in from the north to attack the Roman Empire. In 408 AD Alaric returned and invaded Italy, and in 410 he layed siege to Rome, captured it, sacked it and died the same year. In 412 the Goths voluntarily left Italy.

The Second Trumpet
Now we move on to the second trumpet, which covers a time period from 428 to 476 AD. We'll read from Rev. 8, verses 8 and 9.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; 9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the
ships were destroyed.

Here we see more attacks on a “third part” of the Roman Empire. Have you ever heard the word VANDALISM. Guess what...this word came into infamous use because of the terrible Genseric, who was the king of the Vandals and “Monarch of the Sea,” and it is his war mongering activity that is being described in verses 8 and 9. The word VANDALISM means willful, wanton, and ignorant destruction.

Genseric and his Vandals formed a great Navy based in Africa, and so the prophecy describes a “burning mountain,” cast into the sea. His war ships raided the Roman Empire of treasure and slaves. In 455, the people of Rome stoned Emperor Maximus and threw his body in the river. And by chance, Genseric arrived with his warships right at this time, and looted the city of its wealth...including the things from the temple at Jerusalem, that had been brought there by Titus when Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70.

In response to Genseric's raid, the emperor of Rome built a fleet of his own warships, and sent them to Carthage, where the Vandal's fleet of ships had been located. The crafty Genseric asked for a five day grace period to prepare his surrender. But, instead of surrendering, he gathered his fleet and attacked and destroyed the Emperor's fleet.

Now, notice in verse 8, how the prophecy describes a great mountain, burning with fire, that was cast into the sea? This is probably a description of the battle tactic that Genseric used to defeat the Roman emperor's armada. Genseric would take huge barges and load them with combustible material, put a match to them, and sail the burning barges right into the Roman Emperor's fleet. The
Roman fleet was completely destroyed...and, before his death, Genseric saw the western part of the Roman Empire totally ruined. So Revelation 8 verses 8 and 9 are describing the terrible Genseric, his Vandal pirates, his pillaging of Rome in 455 and the destruction of the Roman fleet by the use of huge, burning barges that looked like mountains of fire.

The Third Trumpet
Now we move on to the angel who sounded the third trumpet, found in verses 10, and 11...

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;
11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The time period of this trumpet is from 451 to 453. Interpreters believe this meteor which came blazing across history was Attila, King of the Huns. Like a meteor, it was short lived, but very intense. Bear in mind that each invasion that comes against Rome weakens it further and allows it to become divided even more, preparing the way for the Little Horn kingdom, the papacy, to be set up. So King Attila was one more nail in the coffin of Rome.

The prophecy describes that Attilas' military pursuits were around the rivers and fountains of waters which originated in the area of the Alps. Think of melting snow making rivers, and you'll get the picture. These rivers flowed to most of Europe in all directions. Attila demanded to be married to
the Roman emperor's daughter, Honoria, and used warfare to get the emperor to agree. On the night of their wedding, Attila died after a drunken binge that burst an artery in his throat, drowning him in his own blood. Attila's blazing star was abruptly quenched in a river of alcohol. The prophecy gives a name to the star that fell, calling it 'wormwood.' Wormwood is a notoriously bitter herb. Interpreters believe the bitter herb symbolizes the brutality and viciousness of Attila the Hun.

In summary, the “rivers” and “fountains of Water” refers to the area where Attila mostly attacked. He blazed through history, like a meteor that died out quickly... and his effect on the world was like the herb, wormwood...extremely cruel, distasteful and bitter. As the prophecy says, “many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.”

The Fourth Trumpet
Let's move on to the fourth trumpet, found in Revelation 8 verse 12.

“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.”

This trumpet illustrates the blotting out of the pagan Roman government, which was made up of three parts, the Emperor, the Consuls and the Senators. The prophecy uses the sun to symbolize the Roman Emperor, the moon to symbolize the Roman Consuls, and the stars to symbolize the Roman Senators. The sun was an especially appropriate symbol for the Roman emperor, because some of them
claimed to represent the pagan sun god on earth.

Around the year 476, Theodoric, an Ostragoth king, ruled in eastern Rome, where the power of the Caesars had been broken...thus, according to the prophecy, a third part of the sun had been smitten. Why a third part...because the Emperors represented 1/3 of the ruling class in the Roman Empire...while the Consuls and the Senators made up the other 2/3rds of the ruling class. But in the western part of the Empire, the moon and the stars, which symbolized the Roman Consulship and the Senators, still retained some power. Then, in 552 AD, Belisarius, who was a General of the Emperor of the East, attacked the Goths, and in the order that the prophecy gave, first the consulship ended and the senate soon followed. Thus, the sun, the moon and the stars, which were the three ruling bodies of the Roman Empire, no longer gave their light.

The once great Roman Empire, which we call PAGAN Rome was coming to an end, and a new power was on the ascendancy. This new power, which we refer to as PAPAL Rome, was created by Emperor Justinian, when he transferred the ruling power in Rome to the Bishop in Rome...thus creating a new church state that would have both civil and religious authority. This transfer of power was actually prophesied in Rev. 13:2.

Now, if you remember your Bible prophecy, in Daniel we were shown a 4th beast that had ten horns, representing Pagan Rome. And a little horn came up among these ten horns and grew very dominant and it removed 3 of the ten horns. The little horn that grew up, is, of course the same power that Justinian created, when he transferred Rome's governing authority to the Bishop of Rome. But, in order for Papal Rome to come to full power, 3 of the ten horns had to be destroyed, and true to the prophecy in Daniel, that's
exactly what happened...the Vandals, the Ostragoths and the Heruli were virtually exterminated, “plucked up by the roots” as the prophecy foretold, and by 538 AD, when the slaughter was over, Papal Rome had secured complete power and supremacy, both as a governing and religious authority. But, did you notice what happened? The church now had blood on its hands...it had played God...it had urged and brought about the destruction of human life...it had become the church militant, actively engaging in political decisions that were genocidal in scale and had nothing to do with spreading the gospel of Jesus, which is also known, ironically, as the gospel of peace. Through the crusades, the church shed its innocence and took to the sword; it became judge and jury of the spiritual realm, allowing nothing to stand in the way of its political dominance. The devil made the church believe that it could force humans to follow God, and so the Inquisition was established; you could recant of your unbelief, or you would be tortured or burned at the stake.

And now, at the end of time, we are living during the last second of the prophetic clock, and prophecy tells us that the United States, is...I repeat IS going to make an image to the beast (the Papacy), and cause that as many as did not worship the first beast (the Papacy) should be put to death. History is to repeat itself. We have the truth, we have the Spirit of Prophecy, but, what we don't have is the luxury of indecision. The hour is too late for indecision. It's midnight, it's the 12th hour, and the Bridegroom is about to leave the Most Holy place of the temple in heaven, lay aside his priestly robes, and don the crown and robe of a king. He's about to put his entourage together....the 24 elders, the four beasts and all the heavenly angels...and together they will head for planet Earth. Are our lamps trimmed and ready to meet the Bridegroom?
Now, continuing with the trumpets. Please turn to Revelation Ch. 8 verse 13.

**The 3 Woes (the 5th, 6th and 7th Trumpets)**

“And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”

Doesn't this verse just curdle your blood? It sounds ominous, doesn't it. And it is ominous. This verse is letting us know that, however bad the first four trumpet scourges were, the last three were to be much worse. The word WOE is a cry of desolation and suffering...it means bad things are about to happen.

So far, under the first four trumpets, we've seen the Western part of the Roman Empire brought down. There is no Roman emperor in the city of Rome anymore...instead the Bishop of Rome sits on the throne and rules both the church and the government. Now, as time passes, when the 5th and 6th trumpets sound, the Eastern part of the Roman Empire comes under attack, and by the end of the 6th trumpet the eastern Roman Empire is destroyed completely.

So, what are the three woes? The three woes are the sounding of the 5th 6th and 7th trumpets and the events that take place under each trumpet.

**The 5th Trumpet (the 1st Woe)**

When the 5th angel sounds his trumpet of WOE, we see in history the birth of a new, more dangerous threat, the rise of the religion of Islam under the Ottoman Empire.
Notice that in this prophecy, the rise of Islam is not seen as something good, it's birth is announced to the world by a trumpet of WOE. Read along with me, from Rev 9, verses 1 and 2.

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.
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.

In Rev 1:20 Jesus was shown holding stars in his right hand, and the Bible explained that these stars were symbols representing the angels of the seven churches... in other words, god's messengers. But, in Rev 9 verse 1 we see a falling star that is a very different kind of messenger, a form of antichrist, and this messenger is given a key to a bottomless pit that unleashes dark smoke...and if you think of the smoke of this pit as spiritual darkness you would be right on target. This falling star is believed to be Mohammed and his message of darkness; the smoke which comes from the pit that he controls, is the teachings of Mohammedism, which we know today as the religion of Islam. The bottomless pit symbolizes the geographical location where Mohammedism originated...and that was the vast Arabian desert of North Africa. And the darkening of the sun may be thought of as the effect the religion of Islam had on the spread of Christianity.

After Mohammed died, his teachings were gathered into a book that we know today as the Koran. It is the teachings of Mohammed that brought 9/11 down on America, caused our country to form a new governmental agency called
Homeland Security, and caused some of our constitutional freedoms to be taken away through the Patriot Act. So, if you think that today the prophetic message of this star that fell from heaven is of very little consequence in our daily lives, think again. And then when you're done thinking again, think one more time. The message that came into the world from the bottomless pit was a message of darkness, and it has spawned tremendous evil and bloodshed ever since its dark smoke began to rise from the pit.

Mohammed taught that all should be forced to obey his religion, or, be killed if they refused. And, of course, if you were a Moslem, and you were killed while forcing someone to worship Allah, then Allah, which is what they call their god, would send you immediately to an endless reward of women, wine and sumptuous feasts in the afterlife. How could the abstemious religion of Jesus compete with prurient teachings like these? How many people have lost their way to heaven because of the smoke from the pit of Mohammedism that obscured the teachings of Jesus? And, in a way, today in America, we have our own form of this religion. It's called Atheism. Under the religion of atheism, you can enjoy all the women, wine and food you like, because atheism eliminates both God and the Judgment, and says there is nothing beyond the grave. Do you see the similarity? Atheism just says, your heaven is now, in the things you do while you're alive. Atheism values human experience above everything else...while Mohammedism and Christianity place the ultimate value on the rewards of the afterlife. We have all been sucked down into a maelstrom of competing beliefs...thank God for the clear terminology of His Word, which declares...”And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)
Look at Rev 9 verse 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.

Mohammedism arose in the vast barren desert lands of North Africa...and in this verse we see two more symbols that make us think of the desert. It was typical for locusts to come out of the desert from time to time and eat up all the crops, and this verse says that the locusts would seem to have power like the venomous insect, the scorpion. So this verse is describing the destructive swarm of Mohammedism that arose from the bottomless pit...and their venom...or their doctrine had the power to sicken a man spiritually.

According to the SDA Commentary, As early as the 8th century A.D., a Spanish monk, named Beatus, is said to have identified the symbol of the locusts with the Moslem Arabs, who in his day had just overrun North Africa, the Near East, and Spain. ¹

Look at Revelation 9 verse 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.”

In verse 4, the green things which were to be left unhurt were God's true people. By now, Papal Rome had changed God's true Saturday Sabbath to the false Sunday, so according to the prophecy, the locusts, that is the Moslem Arabs, would now torment those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. To put it another way, the

Moslem Arabs largely left Christians and Jews alone, because they were faithful to God's Saturday sabbath...but directed their attacks mostly against those who did not keep the Biblical Sabbath. As long as those being conquered gave tribute, they were generally allowed to live...because the tribute provided support to the Arab warriors.

Even though Mohammedism was a religion apart from mainline Christianity, God used it to bring torment to the Catholic Christians who had changed His seventh-day sabbath to Sunday. The judgment fire of the censer that was thrown down to the earth in Rev. 8:5 was continuing to bring retribution in behalf of the souls under the altar.

Let's read on in Rev 9, verses 5 and 6 . . .

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.
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.

Time after time the Moslem Arabs came out of the desert to attack the Eastern Roman Empire...but, they did not manage to destroy it completely...you see, the strike of a scorpion usually doesn't kill a man, but it makes him so sick he'd rather die than go on living. And, so, according to the prophecy, the torment of the Arab invaders would last 5 months. Using the day for a year principle, the 5 months symbolized a time period of 150 years, which began July 27th 1299 and ended in the year 1449...and this time period was identified by the fact that it was a time when the Moslems would have a king over them, King Othman.
Let's read on in Revelation 9 verses 7 thru 10...
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.
8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.
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.
10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

Verses 7 thru 10 give us a clear description of what these desert warriors were like. They swarmed over their enemy on amazing horses that were trained to be unafraid of battle. The crowns like gold, mentioned here, were the yellow turbans they wore. In verse 8 their hair was like that of a woman, it was either braided or worn long. Teeth like lions is simply a phase to denote their fierceness. When swarms of locusts are foraging for food, you could hear them coming...so in verse 9 the sound of these fearless Arabian horses is compared to that fearful sound. In verse 10, the sting of the scorpion's tail is refering to the lies set forth in the teachings of their prophet, Mohammed...teachings that could make a man spiritually very ill, just like the sting of a scorpion. (See Isaiah 9:15) And verse 10 ends by repeating the time prophecy of 150 years, the length of time that this power would torment unbelievers.

Let's continue reading in Revelation 9, verse 11...
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.

The rise of Mohammed was in 606 AD and for a long time after his death, there was no central king over them. Each tribe had its own ruler; but, as already mentioned, in July 27th, 1299, Othman became king and what we call the 'Ottoman Empire' was set up, right at the beginning of the 5-month prophecy. Notice in verse 11 the two names that Revelation uses to describe King Othman...Abaddon and Apollyon are symbolic names, and they both mean destroyer; so king Othman is given two nicknames...Abaddon in the Hebrew and Apollyon in the Greek, and both nicknames call him a *destroyer.*

So, the year 1449 brings us to the end of the first woe (which is the 5th trumpet). We'll read about the 2nd woe (the 6th trumpet), in Revelation Ch. 9, verses 12 thru 16.

The Sixth Trumpet (the 2nd Woe)

12 One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.
13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,
14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
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.
16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.
In verses 13 thru 16 “we see the same dark fanatical religious power, but this time coming from the 'river Euphrates', which referred to the area of the country of Turkey. The 'four angels' [of verse 14] refer to the four great sultanies—Bagdad, Damascus, Iconium, and Aleppo—of which at that time the Mohammedan power was composed.” (Understanding Daniel and the Revelation, Ch.29, p.228, Harvestime Books)

Now pay particular attention to verse 15, because here we find yet another amazing time prophecy...but, what is particularly interesting about this prophecy is that a man named Josiah Litch had been studying this prophecy and had it written up in the newspapers, before it ever came to pass. And then, when the prophecy did come to pass, as he had reported it would, many people who would not have otherwise believed in the Bible, did believe. And, because he had used the day-for-a-year method for interpreting the time scale of the prophecy, many Bible scholars adopted the day-for-a-year method.

So according to this prophecy, the four angels, which were the four great sultanies, would cause conflict in the region from the end of the 5th trumpet, on July 27th, 1449...continuing all the way to August 11th, 1840. to put it another way, the Ottoman Empire would be in power between 1449 to 1840. Just as Josiah Lynch had outlined to the newspapers, to the year and to the very day, the prophecy came true. On the 11th of August 1840, on board a ship, the turkish leader signed a paper that took away the independence and power of the Turkish Sultan forever. Up until the signing on the ship, the Ottoman Empire had continued to attack the eastern part of the Roman Empire, until the last remains of it were gone and the modern nations, the four great powers of Europe, ruled.
Turn to Rev. 9:17-19...These verses describe more about the warfare methods of the Turkish warriors of the Ottoman Empire...

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.
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.
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.

Verse 17 is giving us a picture of fierce warriors on well trained horses. Traditionally the Turkish warriors wore clothing that was the color of fire (red) the color of jacinth (dark blue) and the color of brimstone (yellow). Interpreters believe the fire that Apostle John saw issuing from the mouths of the horses was actually the fire from muskets, because it was about this time that gunpowder, muskets and cannons came into widespread use. Verse 18 is saying that the use of guns and cannons killed a lot of people. In verse 19 that phrase “the power in their mouths” is probably describing the muskets that were fired frontward...and “the power in the tails of the horses” may be describing the cannons that were pulled behind the horses.

It was partly through the use of cannons that the Turks managed to overthrow Constantinople in the eastern part of the Roman Empire.

Now, look at Rev. 9:20-21
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: 21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

Notice in verse 20 that these attacks against the Roman Empire by the followers of Mohammed were called *plagues*. As such, verse 20 and 21 indicate that these *plagues* were judgements. Judgments against the rampant idolatry of the Roman Empire, against the widespread practice of sorcery, fornication and murder. As well as, against church traditions that had changed God's Sabbath and incorporated deities of stone within the walls of God's sanctuaries.

Why else might God have brought these judgments? During this time period, the inquisition was going on, the imprisonment and torture of Christians, and burning at the stake. So it is a good bet that God was allowing Islam to exist as a means of bringing judgment against these obvious inconsistencies in the Christian religion. Unfortunately, verse 20 also tells us that none of the people who were oppressed by the Turks repented of their ungodliness.

Does God allow punishments to be brought against his church when it is working contrary to His teachings? Do you remember that the Little Horn (Roman Catholicism) came into full power in 538 AD, but received a deadly wound in 1798? Well this trouble with the Islam Turks of the Ottoman Empire began in 1449 AD and ended in 1840...so Islam brought these torments against the Roman empire and the Roman church for about 4 centuries.
Do you remember the souls under the altar, how they cried out to be avenged? Well, these attacks on the Roman Empire by the Mohammedan Turks could have been, in part, God's way of avenging the souls under the altar. The religion of Islam was like a strong irritant that worked against the Roman church as it tried to gain both political and civil dominance in the region. The Roman Catholic church wanted to be universal, as its name (Catholic, meaning universal) implies, but Islam was preventing this idea of total domination of the religious world from becoming a reality.

Unfortunately, today the teachings of Mohammed and the religion of Islam continue to plague our world with dark smoke from the pit, giving us more trouble than we know how to handle. But, God Himself has an answer...in Ephesians Ch. 4 verse 5 he declares that there is “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Satan can create a 1000 more religions if he wants to, but God's Word, which cannot lie, says there is only “One Lord, one faith, [and] one baptism,” and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, as the Ottoman Empire comes to an end around 1840, we also come to the close of the 6th trumpet (which is the second WOE) of Revelation ch. 9.

In Revelation ch. 10, a mighty angel appears, with a special message for all the disappointed churches of earth that were looking for the Lord's return in 1844. This message is covered in sermon #7, entitled “The Time of the End.” But, the subject of the 7th trumpet (the third WOE) is not taken up again until Revelation chapter 11. So please turn there now, in your KJV Bible, as we study the events of the 7th trumpet.
(Historical Note: Time period of the Ottoman Empire: 1449
The Seventh Trumpet (the 3rd Woe of Rev. 11)

“And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.” Revelation 11:1,2

We have a saying...**How does he measure up?** It applies here; Jesus is telling Paul that a measuring (or judgment) of the Lord's worshipers is to begin. As we have studied, the 2300 day prophecy brought us to 1844, when a special event was to begin...called the **Investigative Judgment**. This scripture said that the rod was to be used to measure “the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.” This is a clear reference to the judgment of only God's people, referred to in Revelation 14:7 as **“the hour of his judgment”**...speaking about all those on earth who have ever claimed to belong to God, whose names were written in the Book of Life.

If you have shunned God, and rejected His Son and His way of dealing with sin, then the verse goes on to describe you as a 'Gentile' belonging to the 'court' outside the temple...a group that is to be 'measured' (or judged unfavorably) at a later time. Sadly, the 'court' is a reference to the world and all the people who will be LOST, because they are outside God's temple.

However, for those who are being measured in the 'Temple of God', their outlook of judgment is much more hopeful, yet
not entirely assured. For these worshipers, they could yet lose their salvation through unconfessed and unrepented sins, or even because of the unpardonable sin.

This time of judgment, beginning in 1844, is announced by an angel in Revelation 14: 6, 7 which says... 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
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.

Since 1844, in this very moment, and continuing until God closes the judgment books, He is measuring the worshipers in His temple, to see if our lives reflect His will, to see if we behave as sons and daughters of God...to see if our names are worthy to remain in the Book of Life. Unseen angels faithfully transcribe our actions, our worship, and our prayers...and those records are being examined right now, because “...the hour of His judgment is come:”

Revelation 14:7

Next in Revelation 11:3-6 we encounter the 1260 day/year prophecy of persecution at the hands of the Papal authority, when God's people would be trampled underfoot.

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt
them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devour eth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut up heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.” Revelation 11:3-6

This intriguing language describes 'Two Witnesses' who 'prophesy for 1260 days [years] dressed in sackcloth'. Who are the 'two witnesses'? If you are familiar with the prophets of the Bible, then you will see clues that identify the two witnesses as the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. When a nation sinned, the prophets of the old and new testaments would declare various punishments from God, such as a drought to shut up the heavens. When the Hebrew slaves were freed from Egypt, one of God's plagues turned the Nile river to blood...and in the New Testament, we find the Seven Last Plagues that are brought against impenitent men...so, these clues clearly identify the two witnesses as the Old and New Testament of God's Holy Word.

And, why are they dressed 'in sackcloth' during the 1260 years? In our day, we go to funerals dressed in black suits and black dresses, to indicate our extreme sorrow. In Bible times, sackcloth meant much the same, only in a spiritual sense; the Papal persecution of Christians during the Dark Ages is the cause of the extreme sorrow of the Two Witnesses and is the reason they are symbolically dressed in 'sackcloth.' The 'Two Witnesses' (the Old and New Testaments) give witness, through prophecy, describing the atrocities and the blasphemy committed by the Papacy in the
name of God. The Old and New Testaments of the Bible are personified as reluctant witnesses to the Papal indiscretions, dressed in sackcloth, saddened by the persecution, torture, burning at the stake, and drownings of true believers and non-believers alike. Millions lost their lives in so called 'Holy Wars' as a direct cause of the Papal authority.

In truth, God's Holy Word was hoarded by the Roman church, largely inaccessible to the common man through the Dark Ages...and, yet, its Truths, whispered by mouth, or its scriptures passed down on scraps of paper, gave men the courage to live and die for Jesus. While under extreme duress, the Two Witnesses were still able to 'prophecy' with 'power' during the 1260 years of Papal indiscretion.

“And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.” Revelation 11:7,8

It wasn't enough that Satan had used the Roman church to murder in the name of God; Rev 11:7 says that now, near the end of the 1260 years, the testimony of the two witnesses (the Bible) was to be brought to an end by a “beast” that ascends out of “the bottomless pit”...to “make war against them, and...overcome them, and kill them.” “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”
This “beast” from the “bottomless pit” appears in history, around the end of the 1260 years, around 1798. It's stated purpose was to “kill” the two witnesses (the Bible).

So, what is the 'bottomless pit'? **It is the origin of the spiritual darkness of our world.** (Remember the 'dark smoke' that came out of the 'bottomless pit' when the new religion of Islam began tormenting the Roman empire?) This new 'beast' would cause the 'two witnesses' (the Bible) to abruptly 'finish' their testimony, by killing them. But, how was this death of the Bible accomplished?

“In 1793, the power of Atheism, calling itself 'Comunism' arose mainly in France...and they passed a law outlawing the Bible. The Roman power had kept the Bible from the common people, but now this new power declared that the Bible was to be destroyed forever. 'It was 'killed'; in other words, it was to have no political influence at all.

What city is here shown to us? The Bible says 3 things; Sodom, Egypt, and where Jesus was crucified. But these are symbols here; Sodom meant the wicked and dirty way they lived when they also ruled to have no proper marriage anymore. Egypt was where Pharaoh declared he 'knew not God', and France now declared the same thing; and Jesus was crucified symbolically, when His people were slain in France in the St. Bartholomew's Massacre years before. The city? It was Paris, France.” (Understanding Daniel and the Revelation, by P.G. Temple, p. 237, Harvestime Books, © 2007)

This dark time in France's history was known as the **'Reign of Terror'**. Countless heads were removed by the Guillotine. Imagine what would happen in America if our
government passed a law that outlawed the Bible? Imagine the carnage and misery that would overcome our nation. In essence, the sexual revolution of the United States has already thrown away the moral code of the Bible, just as France did. How are we less different from them, when we won't even let our children pray in public schools? When God is dishonored and removed from our lives, Satan, the antichrist, becomes our master by default. He places assault rifles into the hands of our children and sends them off to do his bidding...and, then, like the idiots we are, we shake our heads, trying to figure out why our children kill. Our nation is reaping a terrorism of our own creation, caused by a godless society.

“And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and thy stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.” Revelation 11:9-11

The prophecy says that for “three days and an half” (3 ½ years) the other nations watched the frightening results of the Reign of Terror, when France declared themselves free of moral servitude to the Bible. At first, they rejoiced, made merry, and sent gifts, because they were no longer being tormented by the “two prophets,” (the Old and New Testament). But, by the end of the 3 ½ years, the French government conceded to reason; when the anarchy and
death could not be brought to an end, they restored the Bible and belief in God, and so ended the 'Reign of Terror.'

After seeing how tragedy and death had almost destroyed the nation of France, the onlooking nations of the world held the Bible in greater reverence. In coming to their senses, they saw the face of Satan, clearly reflected in the pools of blood and in the atheism and immorality that was trying to remove the name of Jesus from the lips of mankind.

“12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 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.” Revelation 11:12, 13.

Not only had the Reign of Terror failed to destroy the two witnesses...now, they were being honored, as they 'ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.' They [the two witnesses] were revered by means of a great missionary movement, as Bible Societies sprang up all over the world, to carry God's Holy Word to the sin-drenched cities and the heathen people of earth. The struggle to destroy the Bible had only resulted in its rightful elevation.

Verse 13 mentions an 'earthquake' and that the 'tenth part of the city' fell in the earthquake: The earthquake is not a real one...the earthquake is used as a symbol of the French Revolution (1789-98), an event that struck France, which was equal to 'one-tenth' of Europe.
The prophecy becomes even more specific in detail: “And in the earthquake were slain of men [margin, names of men, or TITLES of men] seven thousand.” Those who have studied the French records discovered that just seven thousand hereditary titles of men were abolished in that revolution.

How fitting is that last sentence of Revelation 11:13, which states that “the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.” The remnant were those who had escaped the fate of the 7000. Deserving or not, they had received a second chance, and their response was that they “gave glory to the God of heaven.”

The Seventh Trumpet (the 3rd Woe) Sounds

“The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.” Revelation 11:14-17

The first two WOES were about armies that attacked Papal Rome. But, the 3rd WOE, which is the 7th trumpet, opens a time that involves the investigative judgment of all of God's worshipers, both past and present. In order for God to make up His kingdom, in order for “The kingdoms of this world” to “become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ,” all those who claimed to be servants of God must
first be judged...and this task commenced in 1844 and is going on right now. The “Great voices in heaven” are excited that God's Judgment Hour has finally begun and that Jesus is about to receive a kingdom made up of all of His true worshipers. While the great voices in heaven (the angels, and the 24 elders and the 4 beasts) display excitement that the Lord is about to receive His kingdom, yet another angel pronounces to earth in a loud voice that the most solemn moment in earth's history has begun: “Fear God,” cries the angel, “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.” (Rev. 14:7)

What we are seeing here is a nexus of history, when the final events of earth's history all meet in 1844, right at the end of the 2300 year prophecy...when the cleansing of the sanctuary began, when the hour of God's judgment began, and in effect, when the sealing of God's servants begins. Remember, God's seal can only be given to Christians who have passed God's judgment and remain in the Book of Life. Many people have the mistaken idea that they will be taken to a court in heaven, where they will face Jesus. The truth is, the process of the judgment of God's professed followers is conducted in our absence. Otherwise, Jesus would not know who would be rewarded when He returned to earth. The Books of heaven reveal our life record...and the angels serve as witnesses. If we have confessed our sins and repented of them, then Jesus will stand as our lawyer, presenting His nail-pierced hands to His Father as payment for our sins. When the list of the righteous from all the ages of earth is completed, the mercy of heaven will come to an end...and the seven angels having the seven last plagues will be sent to bring the first judgment upon all who rejected God's Son, while their final eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire would not take place until a thousand years after the return of Jesus. ("But the rest of the dead [the
wicked people of earth] lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” (Revelation 20:5)

The Bible gives a frightening and very compressed word image of our day, and the time of trouble that awaits all of mankind in the very near future.

“18. And the nations were angry, [two world wars] and thy wrath is come, [the seven final plagues] and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, [the investigative judgment] and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; [Jesus brings our reward of immortality with Him] and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth [those who have destroyed the saints, the worship of the living God, and the earth itself].

The next verse tells us why the people of earth have received the plagues...

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.” (Revelation 11:18, 19)

In the verse above, 'the ark of his testament' contains the ten commandments that are written on two tables of stone, unchanged from the day they were given to mankind at Mt. Sinai. In a miracle, perhaps similar to a hologram, God displays the temple, then the ark of the covenant, and finally the two tables of stone...in such a way that every eye on earth will see the ten commandments and read them...and
so earth will finally understand that God's Holy Law is an eternal standard for all of mankind. And, now, it would serve as a standard of judgment. Indeed, since 1844, the true 7th day Sabbath, the new covenant, the sealing, and the prophecy of the cleansing of the sanctuary have been preached in churches around the world. “The Temple of God was opened in Heaven” indicates that at the end of the world, these important truths of salvation would be made plain to worshipers, giving them a chance to decide for or against the Creator of heaven and earth.

God Repeats Important Information
Since verse 18 is dealing with the ark and the commandments, this provides us a clue for interpreting the 'thunder' and 'lightning'. Notice the similarity between Revelation 11:18 and the verses that we find in Exodus 19:16-20, when God's voice spoke the commandments from Mt. Sinai:

16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.
17 And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.
18 And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.
19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.
20 And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on
the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

In the verses you just read, we find **thunders, lightning, the voice of a trumpet, and the quaking of the whole mountain.** And in Exodus 20:18, when the ten commandments are actually spoken by God, virtually the same description is given. Thus we see that the scene in Revelation 11:18 seems to be **stressing the Law of God that was given at mount Sinai.**

Others have interpreted the 'thunder' to be the preaching of a **warning message** (such as the three angels who give the last warnings of God to earth, found in Revelation 14:6-12). This is also an acceptable interpretation; it just means that the 'thunder' symbol can have a dual application.

Finally, in Revelation 11:19, after the lightnings and thunder, after the temple in heaven was opened, after the Lord reveals that the ark and the tables of stone are to be the standard of mankind's judgment...after these incredible events, there would be **“an earthquake and great hail.”** These two events, together, are the 7th plague (also described in Revelation 16:17-21). The 'earthquake and great hail' bring a final destruction upon earths' cities and their ungodly inhabitants. As the Lord appears in the eastern sky, the few wicked people who survive the seven plagues, will die at the brightness of the Lord's appearing (2nd Thessalonians 2:8). The only survivors remaining at the end of the seven plagues are the saints of God...those who have made the Lord their fortress and kept the commandments of God, and the faith and testimony of Jesus.

By means of the plagues, the 7th trumpet (the 3rd WOE) brings an end to all the human, demonic, and spiritual forces that have opposed God's true church. The Roman power is
finally crushed, as Babylon breaks apart into its original three parts (see Revelation 16:19). The earth lays in ruin, nothing remaining of civilization or mankind's proud accomplishments.

May we each be found worthy to pass through the hour of God's judgment and through the seven plagues. And, as we struggle to form our prayers of dismay and turmoil, may the sweet incense of our Lord's sacrifice be added to every prayer we send to our heavenly Father. And, may the assurance of victory (that our Lord is about to receive His kingdom) give us the courage we need to endure till the end.

At the end of the 7th trumpet, Jesus will arrive in the clouds and send all the angels to sift the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), separating those who are saved (having the SEAL of GOD) from those who are lost (having the MARK of the BEAST). Today, have you decided to keep God's Holy Law (His SEAL) as a covenant of loyalty between yourself and your Creator (Heb. 8:10)? As commanded, do you remember the Saturday sabbath, to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8-11, John 14:15)?

Your time to decide for or against the Two Witnesses (the Old and New Testaments of the Bible) is nearly gone. Make your decision soon...before God's most solemn proclamation is issued from His throne: “He that is righteous; let him be righteous still and he that is unjust, let him be unjust still.” (Revelation 22:11)

Or, like most of the inhabitants of earth, will you declare.... “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20) “...We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at
agreement;” (Isaiah 28:15)

Thanks for your kind attention...Until next time, this has been *The Time-of-the-End Prophecy Series.*