

Understanding the Feast of Trumpets

Doctrinal Statement:

This festival represents the **preaching of the gospel** (1) to the world by God's faithful **watchmen** (2) who have the responsibility of **arousing the people** (3) from their spiritual slumber (Ezekiel 33:1–16). The Day of **Trumpets** (4) also symbolizes both the **resurrection** (5) of all who died in Christ and the **change** (6) of all who are alive in Christ. This stunning event—the achievement of **eternal life** (7) for millions through **birth into the Family of God** (8) — will occur simultaneously with the **return of Jesus Christ** (9) at the last trump.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor 15:52).

Lev 23:23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 23:24 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, **a memorial of blowing of trumpets** (10), a holy convocation.

Lev 23:25 You shall do no customary work *on it*; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' "

1. Preaching of the Gospel Mat 4:23 Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the **gospel of the kingdom**, & healing all kinds of sickness & all kinds of disease among the people.

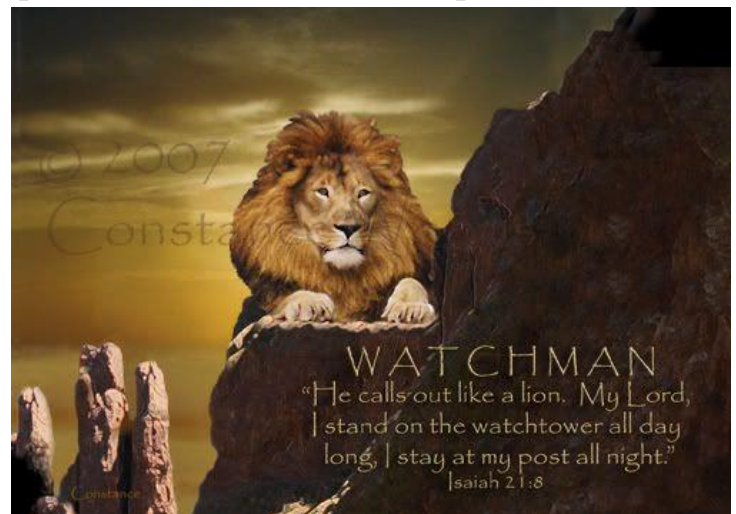
Doctrinal Statement:

The gospel is the message preached by Christ and by His Church **about God's coming Kingdom**, the restoration of His government on earth, and how mankind can enter that Kingdom and government. It includes the message of what Jesus has done, is doing, and shall do—and ultimately is the message of the entire Old and New Testaments. The **primary purpose and commission of the Church** is to proclaim this gospel in all the world as a witness to all nations, and to baptize and teach those who respond.

2. Watchmen

Role of the Watchman

- Described in scripture in both Old and New Testaments
- Mar 13:35 Then you watch, for you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, *at evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or early*;
- Mar 13:36 lest he come suddenly come *and find you sleeping*.
- Mar 13:37 And what I say to you, I say to all. Watch.



Isa 21:8 He calls out like a lion: "My lord, I stand on the watchtower all day long, I stay at my post all night."

3. Arousing the people ... from their spiritual slumber



Eze 33:1 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Eze 33:2 "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman,

Eze 33:3 when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people,

Eze 33:4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.

Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life.

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming & does not blow the trumpet, & the people are not warned, & the sword comes & takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

Eze 33:7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

Eze 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Eze 33:9 Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Why Will You Die, Israel?

Eze 33:10 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions & our sins lie upon us, & we pine away in them, how can we then live?

Eze 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. **Turn, turn from your evil ways!** For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

Eze 33:12 "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the children of your people: 'The righteousness of the **righteous man** shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression; as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall because of it in the day that **he turns** from his wickedness; nor shall the righteous be able to live because of his righteousness in the day that he sins.'

Eze 33:13 When I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, but he trusts in his own righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous works shall be remembered; but because of the iniquity that he has committed, he shall die.

Eze 33:14 Again, when I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' if he turns from his sin and does what is lawful and right,

Eze 33:15 if **the wicked restores** the pledge, gives back what he has stolen, and walks in the statutes of life without committing iniquity, he shall **surely live**; he shall not die.

Eze 33:16 None of his sins which he has committed shall be remembered against him; he has done what is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

4. Trumpets ...

Trumpets in Bible

- OT use of trumpets
 - War, warning, coronation, gathering a people
 - Num. 10: 8-10 Temple services and holy wars
 - Used by Priests – a reminder of God
- NT Trumpets
 - End time events
 - Matt 24 God gather's the elect
 - 1 Cor. 15 Resurrection to eternal life
 - 1 Thess. 4 Second coming of Christ

1Co 14:8 For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?



1. The Tekia

2. The Shevarim

3. The **Teruah**

4. The Tekia
Gedolah

The Feast of Trumpets,
Yom Teruah, and the
Teruah Shofar Blast



1. TEKIAH - A pure unbroken sound that calls man to search his heart, forsake his wrong ways, and seek forgiveness through repentance. The tekiah called the people to attention and to gather unto Moses. It is the calling note, calling your attention and holding you. It would be in general the summons to listen to God, to receive from Him the orders for the day.

2. TERUAH- A broken, staccato, trembling sound. It typifies the sorrow that comes to man when he realizes his misconduct and desires to change his ways. It must be at least 8 notes, most make 9 blasts so as not to accidentally do too few.

3. SHEVARIM - A wave-like sound of alarm calling upon man to stand by the banner of God. Teruah in Hebrew means not only a certain unique sound. It also connotes "to break", denoting breaking something and/or causing damage. It is the note for bustling, speedy activity, the signal for breaking up, for striking tents and breaking up camp.

4. TEKIAH GEDOLAH - The prolonged, unbroken sound typifying a final appeal to sincere repentance and atonement.

5. Resurrection ... of all who died in Christ

Doctrinal Statement:

The **hope of all mankind** and the **promise to the Christian** is the resurrection from the dead. There are references to four resurrections in the Bible: 0) the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead and the pioneer of our salvation; **1) the resurrection of the saints at the return of Christ when the true believers shall become spirit-composed members of God's family**; 2) the resurrection back to physical life of all who have ever died without having understood God's way, for their first opportunity for salvation; 3) the resurrection of all those who have refused to repent and have rejected God's way, to be consumed in the lake of fire (called the second death).

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESURRECTION BODY

**“We know that when He appears, we will be like Him.”
(1 John 3:2)**

- 1. It does not appear unusual, Luke 24:13–32; John 20:11–16**
- 2. It can vanish from sight, Luke 24:31**
- 3. It can move through barriers, Matt 27:65–66 cf. 28:5–6; John 20:19, 26**
- 4. Can retain marks, Luke 24:39–40; John 20:20, 27 (at least for Jesus)**
- 5. Can become flesh and bones, Luke 24:39**
- 6. It is capable of taking food, Luke 24:41–43; John 21:15**
- 7. It can move through interstellar space at warp speed, Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9**
- 8. It is imperishable and immortal, 1 Corinthians 15:54 cf. Philippians 3:21**

6. Change of all who are alive in Christ

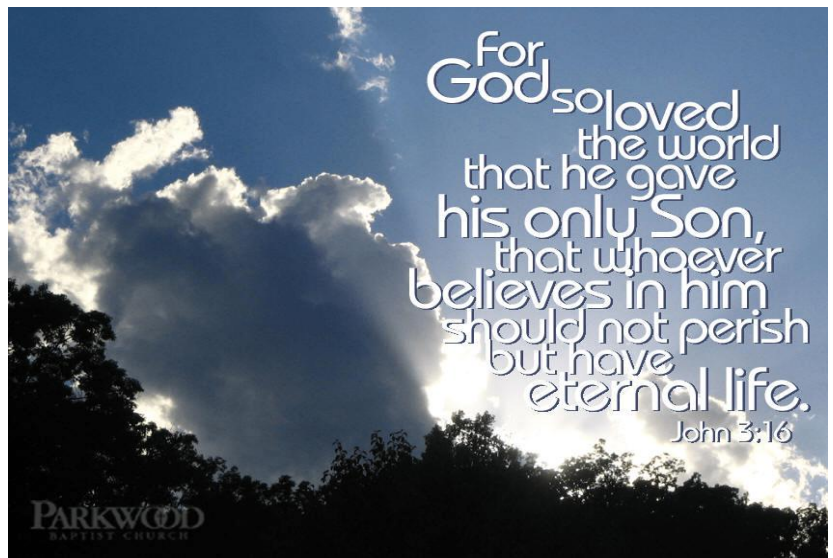
- Through history it has been known that there would be **1 unique generation** of faithful people who will be alive when Jesus returns ... and Paul confirms they do not need to “live the rest of their lives as humans” (until they die) ... Instead, at the same time the dead are raised, those living faithful Christians will also “change”.

1Th 4:16-17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, & with the trumpet of God. & the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...

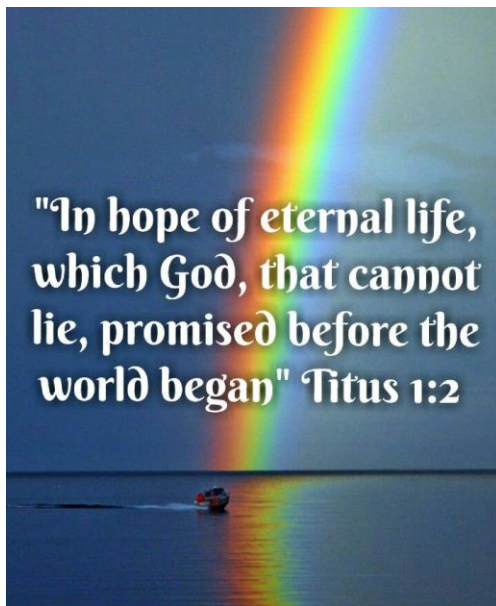
7. the achievement of eternal life

Job_14:14 **If a man dies, shall he live again?** All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes.

Ecc_3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also **He has put eternity in their hearts**, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.



Isa_57:15 For thus says the **High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity**, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.



A *ho-hum* forever?? No!

1Co_2:9 But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."



8. Birth into the Family of God

(Rotherham) Rom 8:15 For ye have not received a spirit of servitude, leading back into fear, but ye have received a **spirit of sonship**, whereby we are exclaiming—**Abba! Oh Father!**



9. the return of Jesus Christ



Mat 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

Rev 19:13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Rev 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Rev 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

On the Feast of Trumpets it is interesting to note that we are not alone in this belief that Jesus will return!

Roman Catholic – (1.04 billion members) Catechism

673 Since the Ascension, **Christ's coming in glory** has been imminent, even though "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority." This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are "delayed".

677 ... The kingdom will be fulfilled, then, **not** by a historic **triumph of the Church** through a progressive ascendancy, but only by God's victory over the final unleashing of evil

Anglican – (70 Million members) Articles of Religion

<IV. Of the Resurrection of Christ.>

Christ did truly rise again from death, ... he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until **he return to judge all Men at the last day.**

Lutheran - (75 million members) - **Augsburg confession**

Article XVII: Of Christ's Return to Judgment.

.... **at the Consummation of the World, Christ will appear for judgment** and will raise up all the dead; He will give to the godly and elect eternal life and everlasting joys, but ungodly men and the devils He will condemn to be tormented without end.

Orthodox - (300 million members) - **Beliefs**

SECOND COMING: Amid the current **speculation** in some corners of Christendom surrounding the **Second Coming of Christ** and how it may come to pass, it is comforting to know that the beliefs of the Orthodox Church are basic. Orthodox Christians confess with conviction that **Jesus Christ "will come again"** to judge the living and the dead", and that His "kingdom will have no end". Orthodox preaching **does not attempt to predict God's prophetic schedule**, but to encourage Christian people to **have their lives in order** so that they might be confident before Him when He comes (I John 2:28).

Pentecostal - (125 Million members) **Beliefs**

13. The Blessed Hope

All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and will **meet the Lord in the air**. Christians who have not yet died will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord. Then Christians of all ages will live with God forever. The **scriptural truth of the Lord's soon return** is the blessed hope (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This doctrine is very important because it provides a **primary motivation for witnessing and living a holy life**. For the believer, the return of Christ for his redeemed is a blessed hope indeed!

- It is nice to know that the **vast majority of Christianity also awaits** for the Return of Christ ... But there is still a problem.
- We look to the holy days as an annual reminder of God's plan for mankind. Every year we take time at the Feast of Trumpets to recognize the reality of this event. We read of it. We think about it. It becomes current and real to us ... It is in our prayers and thoughts.
- **The rest of the world does not have this annual reminder** ... and with the secularization of society and even the churches, it is unclear how much longer the **truth of Christ's coming** will be listed among their teachings



We'll meet Christ in the air—but when?

Most people say 1 Thessalonians 4 describes a secret Rapture taking place before the Great Tribulation. But put together all the scriptures that talk about being resurrected to meet Christ in the air, and you can piece together a coherent picture of not only when it will happen (at the end of the Tribulation), but how obvious it will be (very).

	1 Thessalonians 4	Matthew 24	1 Corinthians 15	Revelation 11-20
WHEN?	Not stated	After the tribulation	Last trumpet	Seventh trumpet
WHERE IS CHRIST?	In the clouds	In the clouds	Not stated	Seen coming down to earth
WHO IS GATHERED?	The dead, then the living saints	The elect	The dead, then the saints	The dead are judged, the saints rewarded
WHO IS RAISED FIRST?	The dead	Not stated	The dead	Not stated
WHAT IS HEARD?	The voice of an angel and a trumpet	A trumpet	Last trumpet	Seventh trumpet

10. A memorial of blowing of trumpets ... (See last Page for Prophetic view)

- The Hebrew statement, “a memorial of blowing of trumpets,” can also be understood as “a memorial of triumph,” or “shouting for joy with trumpets.”

Psa 81:1-4 Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a **joyful shout** to the God of Jacob. Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute. **Blow the trumpet** at the time of the New Moon, At the full moon, on our solemn feast day. For this is a statute for Israel, A law of the God of Jacob.

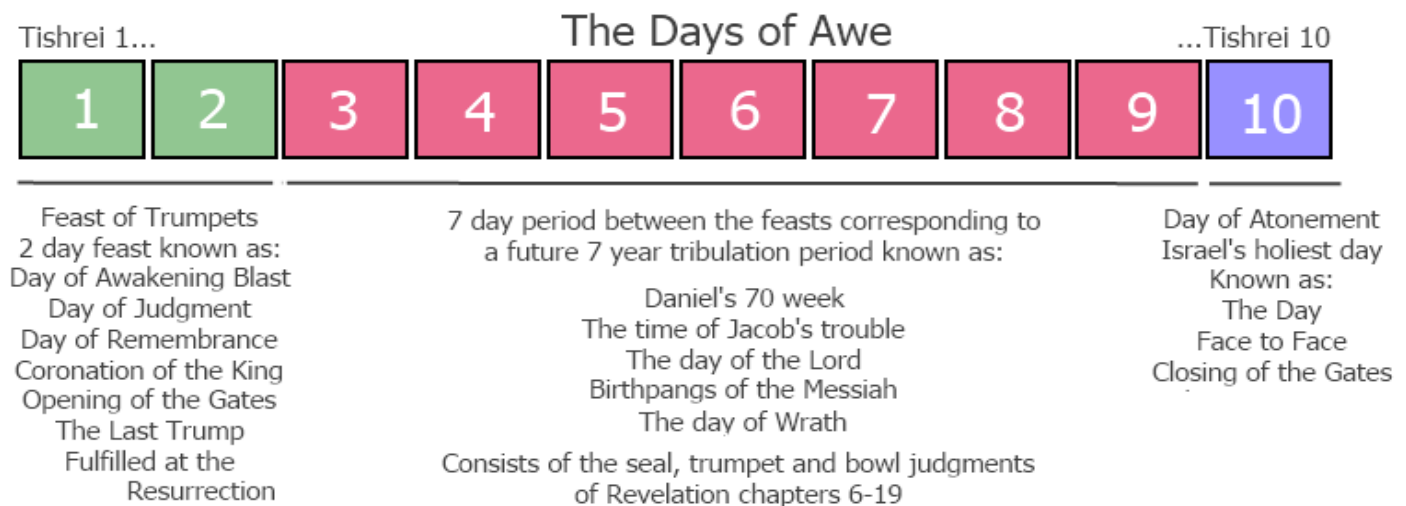
Num 10:1-10 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. But if they blow only one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance. The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations. "When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

- **Jewish tradition** says that, in addition to silver trumpets (chartsotserah in Hebrew), a ram's horn (shofar in Hebrew) was blown on the Feast of Trumpets.
- While it was possible to produce a number of musical notes on the silver trumpets, only a piercing blast corresponding to a shout, or noise, was produced from the ram's horn (shofar).
- At Mount Sinai, when **God gave Israel the law**, He spoke so **loudly with the voice of a trumpet** that the people trembled. We can see a **correlation** between the sound of the **ram's horn** and the **voice of God** (Exodus 19:16–19; 20:15–18).
- The use of the **ram's horn** on the **Feast of Trumpets** is the reason this feast day is so **unique**. While this day is to be a **joyous** feast day, the blast of the ram's horn, which is a **warning of war**, adds the **contrasting** note of **solemnity**.

“O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because you have heard, O my soul, the **sound of the trumpet**, the **alarm of war**” (Jeremiah 4:19).

Another Jewish tradition ...

- Days of Awe (Yamim Noraim) or the "Days of Repentance". This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before the Day of Atonement. A time for repentance, prayer, good deeds (usually, charity).



In closing ... Let's review!

This festival represents the **preaching of the gospel** (1) to the world by God's faithful **watchmen** (2) who have the responsibility of **arousing the people** (3) from their spiritual slumber (Ezekiel 33:1–16). The **Day of Trumpets** (4) also symbolizes both the **resurrection** (5) of all who died in Christ and the **change** (6) of all who are alive in Christ. This stunning event—the achievement of **eternal life** (7) for millions through **birth into the Family of God** (8) — will occur simultaneously with the **return of Jesus Christ** (9) at the last trump... It is **a memorial of blowing of trumpets** (10)

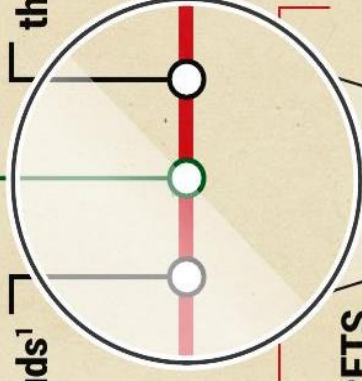
Timeline of End Time Events

The book of Revelation describes Satan's wrath on God's people and God's judgment on humanity as seven seals. Additional passages in Matthew, Daniel and other books add further detail. By piecing together all of these references, we can create a timeline of end-time events, presented here. |

God's people raised²

Christ seen
in the clouds¹

Jesus stands on
the Mount of Olives³



7 SEALS



7 TRUMPETS (7th seal)



Satan is bound⁴

7 LAST PLAGUES (7th trumpet)



The "Day of the Lord" ≈ 1 year

The Great Tribulation = 3.5 years

7 Seals

1. Religious deception (Revelation 6:1-2; Matthew 24:4-5)
2. War (Revelation 6:3-4; Matthew 24:6-7)
3. Famine (Revelation 6:5-6; Matthew 24:7)
4. Disease epidemics (Revelation 6:7-8; Matthew 24:7)
5. Tribulation (Revelation 6:9-11; Matthew 24:8-12, 21-22)
6. Heavenly signs (Revelation 6:12-17; Matthew 24:29)
7. Seven trumpets (the "Day of the Lord")

7 Trumpets (the "Day of the Lord")

1. Destruction of vegetation (Revelation 8:7)
2. Devastation of oceans, sea life (8:8-9)
3. Devastation of rivers, fresh water (8:10-11)
4. Sun, moon and stars darkened (8:12)
5. Torturous human afflictions (9:1-12) Woe #1
6. Enormous military destruction (9:13-19) Woe #2
7. Seven last plagues (15:1; 16:1-21) Woe #3

7 Last Plagues (the 7th Trumpet)

1. Sores on beast worshipers (Revelation 16:2)
2. Oceans become blood (16:3)
3. Rivers and fresh water become blood (16:4)
4. The sun scorches the earth (16:8)
5. Thick darkness in the beast kingdom (16:10)
6. Euphrates River dried up (16:12)
7. Massive final destruction (16:17-21)