

The First Four Trumpet Judgments

(Revelation 8:1-14)

Intro: This morning we resume our study of the seven seal judgments. Chapter 8 opens with the Lamb, Jesus Christ's breaking of the seventh seal. Keep in mind that the seven seals contain all the judgments for the entire Book of Revelation. This includes both the seven trumpet judgments and the seven bowl judgments. In fact, the seventh seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments and is explained by them; and the seventh trumpet judgment introduces the final seven bowl judgments and is explained by them.

I. The Opening Of The Seventh Seal (8:1-6)

- A. Silence in heaven (v. 1)
- B. The seven angels and seven trumpets (v. 2)
- C. An eighth angel with a golden censer (vv. 3-6)



II. The First Four Trumpets (8:7-12)

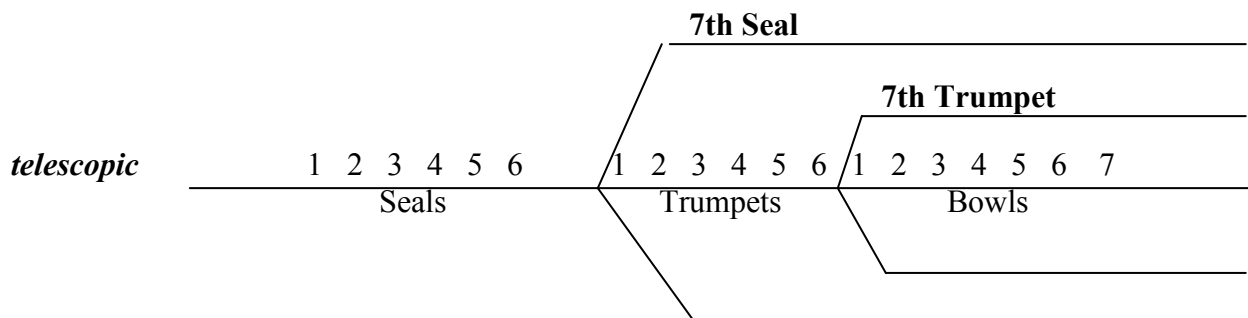
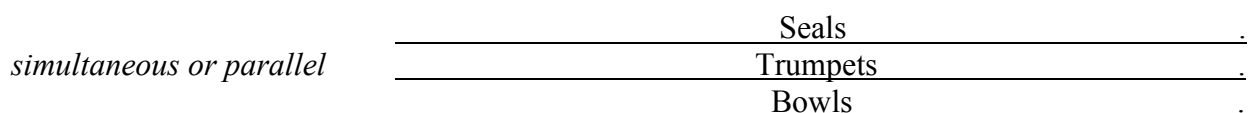
- A. The first trumpet: *A third of the earth smitten* (v. 7)
- B. The second trumpet: *A third of the sea smitten* (vv. 8-9)
- C. The third trumpet: *A third of the fresh water's smitten* (vv. 10-11)
- D. The fourth trumpet: *A third of the heavenly bodies smitten* (v. 12)

III. The Eagle's Threefold Proclamation Of Woe (8:13)

Introduction to the Judgments of Revelation

The bulk of the Book of Revelation, chapters 4:1–19:21, deals with events that will occur during a future period commonly known as the Tribulation (Dan. 9; Matt. 24-25; Luke 21). Following an Introductory Prologue in Chapters 4 and 5, John details the future tribulation period by dividing it into three sequences of seven divine judgments that God will release upon this Christ rejecting world: **7 seal judgments**, **7 trumpet judgments**, and **7 bowl judgments**.¹ Interspersed between these narrative sections depicting the eschatological judgments of God are *four literary parenthesis* (). The same phenomenon is witnessed in the Book of Hebrews. These parenthesis do not advance the prophetic narrative, and in fact they can either look forward or backward. They can at times speak of results that have not as yet taken place in the narrative section as though it had already taken place. These *parenthesis* provide the reader with additional information.

There are three possible sequential arrangements for the order of these judgments:



Note: A correlation of concepts and passages seems to support the *telescopic arrangement* as the best development of the three series of seven judgments. As can be seen in the above chart, the seventh seal introduces the seven trumpet judgments and is explained by them; and the seventh trumpet judgment introduces the final seven bowl judgments and is explained by them.

¹For a full development of the various literary features associated with the threefold series of the sevenfold divine judgments that God will pour out on the world during the Tribulation period see Robert Gromacki, *New Testament Survey*, 395-97.