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| **Trumpet and Bowl**  **Judgments** | |
| **Seeing the Trumpet and Bowl Judgments Together**  (The trumpet and judgments set forth a divinely designed orderly progression in *the ruin*, *utter collapse*, *and destruction* of the end-time world system under Antichrist, who will occupy a position of worldwide power and authority, ruling from Satan’s throne. These judgments provide detail and commentary, particularly on that which is seen when the sixth seal of the scroll was broken. And the breaking of this sixth seal, in turn, answers a question asked when the previous seal was broken, along with providing detail and commentary for that which is seen when the first four seals of the scroll were broken.  This is *the orderly arrangement*, *with all of the necessary information*, in which matters surrounding the redemption of the inheritance are revealed by and through the breaking of the seals on the seven-sealed scroll.)  The trumpet and bowl judgments are to be understood in complete keeping with the manner in which the book is structured (“signified” [[Revelation 1:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.1&t=NKJV)]), along with the extensive use of metaphors.  And this would simply be a continuation of and would be in complete keeping with that which is previously seen when the first six seals were broken (ref. Chapters 1 [[The Revelation of Jesus Christ (1)](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The Revelation of Jesus Christ (1))], 13-15 [[The Four Horsemen](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The Four Horsemen), [Souls Under the Altar](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#Souls Under the Altar), [The Great Seismos](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The Great Seismos)]).  Using metaphors or similes, a symbolic-type of language, can often convey a more forceful or vivid picture than a lengthy statement.  And this is perhaps the main reason we find the extensive use of this type of language throughout Scripture, particularly in this closing book. | |
| **First Trumpet** | **First Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 8:7**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.7&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:2**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.2&t=NKJV)  **Both have to do with the *earth*.**  The sounding of the first trumpet and the pouring out of the first, describing the first judgment two different ways, provides beginning detail and commentary for that which is previously dealt with in an overall scope. This first judgment provides *beginning detail and commentary* for that which is dealt with when the sixth seal was broken (showing the complete collapse and utter disarray of world government, along with its interrelated trade and commerce). And this, in turn, provides detail and forms commentary for that which is dealt with when the first four seals were broken, particularly in relation to where the whole of the matter leads. | |
| The **first trumpet** judgment presents “*hail and fire mingled with blood*,” which were “thrown to the earth.” The “*third*” of *the earth and trees* was burned up, and “*all*” *green grass* was burned up. | Then, paralleling the preceding, by way of further explanation and comment when the **first bowl** was poured out, it is stated, “*a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image*.” |
| **Second Trumpet** | **Second Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 8:8-9**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.8-9&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:3**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.3&t=NKJV)  **Both have to do with *the sea.*** | |
| When **the second angel sounded his trumpet**, “*a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea.*” A third of the sea *became blood*, a third of the living creatures in the sea *died*, and a third of the ships *were destroyed*. | And exactly the same thing is seen when the **second bowl** is poured out. An angel poured out the second bowl on *the sea*. And the sea “*became blood as of a dead man*; *and every living creature in the sea died*.” |
| The second trumpet judgment dealt with *one-third* of that which was affected, but the second bowl judgment dealt with *the whole*, carrying the matter to completion. And it is evident from information given when this bowl is poured out that “*death*,” which is seen as all-inclusive, cannot be a reference to individuals in the kingdom but rather to *the government*, *along with its interrelated trade and commerce*.  Both the sounding of the second trumpet and pouring out of the second bowl show exactly the same thing as seen when the sixth seal was broken, with detail added. Both together form a further description of the utter and complete collapse and destruction of the whole of Antichrist’s kingdom. | |
| **Third Trumpet** | **Third Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 8:10-11**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.10-11&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:4-7**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.4-7&t=NKJV)  **Both have to do with *the rivers and fountains of waters*.** | |
| When the **third angel sounded his trumpet**, “*a great star*” fell from heaven. And the star fell upon *the third of the rivers and on the springs of water*, resulting in the waters becoming *bitter* and causing *the deaths* of numerous individuals. | When an angel poured out the **third bowl** upon *the rivers and fountains of waters*, “*they became blood*.” Then attention is called to the righteous judgments of the Lord. Those on the earth “*have shed the blood of saints and prophets*,” and these same individuals have been given “*blood to* *drink*. *For it is their just due*.” (cf. [Genesis 9:6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.6&t=NKJV)) |
| “Stars” are used in the book of **Revelation** to denote *individuals* (*both angels and men*) *in positions of authority*, *spiritual and/or political* (([Revelation 1:16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.16&t=NKJV), [20](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.20&t=NKJV); [6:13](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6.13&t=NKJV); [12:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.1&t=NKJV), [4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.4&t=NKJV)).  “Waters” are used to denote “peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues” ([Isaiah 17:12-13](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+17.12-13&t=NKJV); [Revelation 17:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.1&t=NKJV), [15](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.15&t=NKJV)).  “Waters” form the source of life ([Exodus 17:3-6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+17.3-6&t=NKJV); [Isaiah 55:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+55.1&t=NKJV); [John 4:6-14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+4.6-14&t=NKJV); [7:37-38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+7.37-38&t=NKJV)), but in the text the waters not only become *blood*, but they become *bitter*. Thus, the waters here are associated, not with life, but with *death*. And they are actually associated with something *beyond simply death itself*. They are associated with *a bitterness in connection with death*, *which takes one beyond the normal thought of death*. And the whole of the matter is associated with both the kingdom of Antichrist and those in the kingdom.  The sources of all national life become associated with *a death beyond the normal thought of death — the continuing collapse of the kingdom*, *trade and commerce*, *and the continuing deterioration of the mental state of those in the kingdom*.  And the punishment — *a drinking*, *a partaking of the whole of the matter* — is as *terrible* on the one hand as it is *righteous* on the other. It is here that the cry of the saints seen under the altar begins to be addressed:  *When He opened the fifth seal*, *I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been* *slain for the* *Word of God and for the testimony which they held*.  *And they cried with a loud voice*, *saying*, “*How long*, *O Lord*, *holy and true*, *until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth*?” ([Revelation 6:9-10](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6.9-10&t=NKJV)).  *And I heard the angel of the waters saying*: “*You are righteous*, *O Lord*, *the One who is* *and who was and who is to be*, *because You have judged these things.*  *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets*, *and You have given them blood to drink*. *For it is their just due*.” ([Revelation 16:5-6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.5-6&t=NKJV)).  The reference, of course, is not to a physical drinking, but *to something far worse*. Those in the kingdom in that coming day will find themselves having to pass through something *far worse than physical death*, *and they will fully know and experience its bitterness*. | |
| **Fourth Trumpet** | **Fourth Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 8:12-13**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+8.12-13&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:8-9**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.8-9&t=NKJV)  **Both have to do with *heavenly bodies*.** | |
| When the **fourth angel sounded his trumpet**, *a third of the sun*, *moon*, *and stars were struck*; and this resulted in darkness for “*a third*” of both the day and the night. | When an angel poured out the **fourth bowl** on *the sun*, power was given to the sun “*to scorch men with fire*.” |
| *The sun*, *moon*, *and stars* are used in a collective sense to reference *the whole of the governing powers in Antichrist*’*s kingdom*. There is a universal crash in the government; and where *life* and *light* once existed *death* and *darkness* begin to pervade the kingdom, and this continues until *the whole is affected* (cf. [Matthew 13:33](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.33&t=NKJV)).  This is the same thing previously seen when the sixth seal was broken. Also, the fourth trumpet and bowl judgments are similar to the succeeding fifth trumpet and bowl judgments and belong together in the sense of the former being continued and carried to completion in the latter. Only *one-third* is affected in the fourth trumpet judgment, with nothing being stated along these lines in the fourth bowl judgment. But the matter is carried to completion in both the fifth trumpet and bowl judgments, with *the whole* being affected.  The fourth bowl judgment has to do with one central thing — individuals being “scorched” by “great heat” from the *stricten sun*, as it is seen when the fourth trumpet sounds. This, of course, is not a reference to the intensity of the sun itself being increased, for the “sun” is being used in a metaphorical sense, referring to *the main governing authority in the kingdom*. And being *scorched with great heat* must be understood in line with the way that the “sun” is being used in the passage.  The reference is to the utter collapse of the government, seen at its center (the sun), being the cause of not just *anguish* but of *intense anguish* among those in the kingdom (note *the painfully bad wound* when the first bowl was poured out). And this results, not in a change of mind (repentance), but in their blaspheming the name of the One in control of the entire matter (ref. to a corresponding and continuing scene in the fifth trumpet and bowl judgments). | |
| **Fifth Trumpet** | **Fifth Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 9:1-12**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+9.1-12&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:10-11**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.10-11&t=NKJV)  **Both have to do with *darkness throughout the kingdom of the beast*.** | |
| When the **fifth angel sounded his trumpet**, a star fell “*from heaven to the earth*.” This star, an angel, held the key to “*the bottomless pit* [lit., ‘the shaft of the underworld,’ i.e. a shaft going down into the underworld].” He opened the shaft, and smoke so thick that it blotted out the sun came up from the shaft, producing darkness; and locusts came out of the smoke.  The locusts had tails like scorpions, and they were given power over those having received the mark of the beast *to torment men* “*five months*.” | When an angel poured out the **fifth bowl** “*upon the throne of the beast* . . . *his kingdom was full of darkness*.” Those in the kingdom are then seen *gnawing their tongues for pain and blaspheming* “*the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores*.” |
| The fifth trumpet and bowl judgments simply form a continuation from the fourth trumpet and bowl judgments, bringing the kingdom of Antichrist into *its final form immediately before it is destroyed*.  As previously seen, an angel came down and opened a shaft going down into the underworld. And *smoke* came up out of the shaft, with *locusts* coming out of the smoke. The smoke was so thick that it blotted out the sun, producing *darkness throughout the kingdom*; and the locusts coming out of the smoke had tails like scorpions, and they were given power over men *to torment them* for “*five months*” (the normal life-span of locusts, which may or may not be a reference to literal time [note *the five months of judgment* in a type of the Tribulation during the Flood in Noah’s day, with torrential rain falling and subterranean water rising for one hundred fifty days — [Genesis 7](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+7&t=NKJV); [11](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+11&t=NKJV); [12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+12&t=NKJV); [24](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+24&t=NKJV) and [Genesis 8:1-2](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+8.1-2&t=NKJV)]).  Again, the “*sun*” is a reference to *the central governing authority in the kingdom*, and the sun being darkened by smoke can only be a reference to *the utter collapse and ruin of the central governing authority in the kingdom*, *wrought by and through judgment from God* (*smoke associated with fire*).  The locusts have a “*king over them*,” *the angel of the bottomless pit* (underworld),whose name in the Hebrew is “*Abaddon*” and in the Greek “*Apollyon*” ([Revelation 9:11](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+9.11&t=NKJV)). Both words mean *Destroyer*. “The underworld” in view (Greek: *abussos,* “abyss”) is seen in Scripture as *an abode of demons and the place where Satan will be bound during the Millennium* ([Luke 8:31](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+8.31&t=NKJV); [Revelation 20:3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.3&t=NKJV); cf. [Revelation 17:8](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.8&t=NKJV)). In this respect, it appears evident that the locusts coming up in the smoke from the shaft going down into the underworld can only refer to *a demonic plague* (possibly a loosing of the angels in [2 Peter 2:4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Peter+2.4&t=NKJV) and [Jude 1:6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.6&t=NKJV)).  Thus, the picture is that of *a kingdom in utter collapse and men who are already in unimaginable anguish being tormented by demonic spirits unleashed throughout the kingdom* (cf. [Luke 8:26-33](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+8.26-33&t=NKJV); [9:38-39](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+9.38-39&t=NKJV)), *with these individuals seen gnawing their tongues for pain* (an expression found only here in Scripture [[Revelation 16:10](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.10&t=NKJV)]).  Is it any wonder that Scripture reads:  *In those days men will seek death and will not find it*; *they will desire to die*, *and death will flee from them*. ([Revelation 9:6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+9.6&t=NKJV))  This is what Gentile world power under Antichrist will be reduced to immediately before it is destroyed.  (The last two trumpet and bowl judgments are different than the first five.  The first five describe different facets of how the kingdom of Antichrist will be brought into utter and complete disarray and ruin.  The last two then describe not only how the Lord will destroy that which previously had been brought into utter and complete disarray  and ruin [sixth trumpet and bowl judgments] but also how everything will be brought to a full and complete end [seventh trumpet and bowl judgments].  These last two trumpet and bowl judgments are dealt with in Ch. 18,  [Silence in Heaven (3)](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php" \l "Silence in Heaven (3)), with the last trumpet and vial judgment further dealt with in Ch. 19,  [The Opened Scroll](http://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-in-revelation.php#The Opened Scroll).) | |
| **Last Two Trumpet and Bowl Judgments**  The last two trumpet and bowl judgments are different than the first five. The first five describe different facets of *how the kingdom of Antichrist will be brought into utter and complete disarray and ruin.* The last two then describe not only *how the Lord will destroy that which previously had been brought into utter and complete disarray and ruin* [*sixth trumpet and bowl judgments*] *but also how everything will be brought to a full and complete end* [*seventh trumpet and bowl judgments*].  More specifically this destruction is seen in the sounding of the sixth trumpet and the pouring out of the sixth bowl, with the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the pouring out of the seventh bowl bringing matters to *a complete end*, *announcing the finality of that which will have been accomplished*.  Once all the judgments of the seven-sealed scroll have been brought to pass, matters will be *exactly* as described when the seventh trumpet sounds and the seventh bowl is poured out:  *The angel* [the angel with the seventh trumpet] *whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand* [lit. his right hand] *to heaven*  *and swore by Him who lives forever and ever*, *who created heaven and the things that are in it*, *the earth and the things that are in it*, *and the sea and the things that are in it*, *that there should be delay no longer*,  *but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel*, *when he is about to sound*, *the mystery of God would be finished*, *as He declared to His servants the prophets*. ([Revelation 10:5-7](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.5-7&t=NKJV))  And the seventh angel sounded; and there followed great [loud] voices in heaven, and they said, “The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ: and He shall reign forever and ever.” ([Revelation 11:15, ASV](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=ASV))  Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” ([Revelation 16:17](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.17&t=NKJV)).  The thought in [Revelation 10:5-7](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.5-7&t=NKJV); [11:15](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15&t=NKJV) (cf. [Revelation 10:1-6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.1-6&t=NKJV)) is not that “*the kingdom of the world*” *is about to become* “*the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ*.” Rather, when the seventh trumpet sounds, “*great* [‘loud’] *voices in heaven*” *will clearly state* that the kingdom, ruled by Satan up to this point in time (Satan through his Christ — Antichrist — during the last half of the Tribulation), *has become* “*the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ*.”  *It will all be over at this point in the book*. Not only will the kingdom have previously been delivered into the Son’s hands by the Father ([Revelation 16:17](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.17&t=NKJV)), but a repentant and converted Israel will have been restored to the land, the Gentile armies of the earth will have been destroyed, Satan and his angels will have been put down, Satan will have been bound in the “*bottomless pit*” [the underworld], and *Christ can now take the scepter and*, *with His co-heirs*, *reign over the earth for 1*,*000 years*.  The scene that is presented when the seventh trumpet sounds takes one to the point in time following [Revelation 20:3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.3&t=NKJV).  And *this same thing* is clearly stated another way in [Revelation 16:17](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.17&t=NKJV) by and through the words voiced *in a loud manner by God Himself*, *from His throne in heaven*, “*It is done*.” These words are the translation of a perfect tense in the Greek text, indicating action completed in past time and existing during present time in *a finished state*.  In the preceding respect, when God Himself one day proclaims, *in a loud voice*, “*It is done*,” matters surrounding the judgments of the seven-sealed scroll will be just as complete as His Son’s finished work at Calvary when the Son cried out, “*It is finished*.” The work surrounding God’s redemption of the inheritance will, at that point in time, exist in the same finished state as His Son’s prior redemptive work at Calvary, the same finished state in which man’s salvation presently exists. | |
| **Sixth Trumpet** | **Sixth Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 9:13-21**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+9.13-21&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:12-16**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.12-16&t=NKJV)  **Both judgments have to do with *the great river Euphrates*.** | |
| When the sixth angel sounded his trumpet, the command went out, “*Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates*.” And these four angels are said to have been “*prepared for the hour and day and month and year*, *were released to kill a third of mankind*.” Then the actual slaying is seen being carried out at the hands of an army of two hundred million. | When an angel poured out the sixth bowl upon the great river Euphrates, the waters were dried up to make way for the kings of the East. Then three unclean spirits — demonic spirits — are seen going forth “*to the kings of the earth and of the whole world* . . . *to the battle of that great day of God Almighty*,” to “*Armageddon* [meaning, ‘the Mount of Megiddo’].” |
| The picture is that of the armies of the earth, the armies of a kingdom in complete disarray and collapse, being gathered to the Middle East, to the land of Israel. And they are being gathered by demonic spirits, for *a single purpose on Satan*’*s part*, as well as *a single purpose on the Lord*’*s part*.  *On Satan*’*s part*, they will be gathered to the land of Israel in order to destroy a converted and re-gathered people (the Jewish people) and their King (the Lord Jesus Christ, who will be residing in their midst in that future day).  *On the Lord*’*s part,* they will be gathered to the land of Israel in order to themselves be destroyed, bringing an end to Gentile world power.  Through God’s sovereign control of all things, He will allow Satan to effect a gathering of the armies of the earth to the Middle East in order to, in turn, bring to pass that which He has decreed. God will have brought the kingdom of Antichrist into complete disarray and collapse during the Tribulation. Then, immediately following the Tribulation, following His Son’s return and the subsequent conversion and restoration of the Jewish people, the military leaders and armies of an already decimated kingdom will be brought into the land of Israel *to be destroyed*.  1) Symbolism Used in the Sixth Trumpet and Bowl Judgments  The angel sounding the sixth trumpet is commanded to loose four angels that were “*bound at the great river Euphrates*.” These angels were being held for a particular mission that was to occur at *a previously set time* — an “*hour and day and month and year*.” And this would be in complete accord with the manner in which God acts — *at set times that He Himself has previously established*.  These angels are apparently synonymous with the three demonic spirits seen when the sixth bowl is poured out (two ways of describing the same angels), which are to go out into the entire world and gather the kings of the earth, with their armies, into the Middle East.  *Four* and *three* — referring to the angels, the demonic spirits — are evidently *representative numbers*; and *meaning* would be provided from the numbers referenced, like the twenty-four elders [Revelation 4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4&t=NKJV).  And, as with the twenty-four elders, a much larger contingent of angels would undoubtedly be in view.  “Four” is a number having to do with the earth, and “three” is the number of divine perfection.  The former shows the extent of their mission (the four corners of the earth, the four points of the compass); and the latter, as seen in the text, has to do with a counterfeit divine perfection, coming “out of the mouth of the dragon” (Satan [[Revelation 12:9](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.9&t=NKJV)], who sought, in time past, to be as God [[Isaiah 14:13-14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+14.13-14&t=NKJV)]), “out of the mouth of the beast” (who will declare himself to be God [[2 Thessalonians 2:4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Thessalonians+2.4&t=NKJV)]), and “out of the mouth of the false prophet” (who will direct all worship toward the beast [[Revelation 13:12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.12&t=NKJV)]).  The Euphrates River, where these angels are said to be bound, is the largest river in the Middle East (about 1,700 miles long), forms the northern boundary of the land in the Abrahamic covenant, and forms a natural divide between the land of Israel and the nations beyond. It is apparent that the Euphrates is being used in a metaphorical sense in the preceding respect, and a literal river or a literal drying up of that river is evidently not what is in view at all.  The reason given in the text for the drying up of this natural divide is “*that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared*” ([Revelation 16:12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.12&t=NKJV)). The way modern armies move, rivers wouldn’t stop them; nor would the drying up of rivers help them to any degree. The reference is undoubtedly to the removal of anything that would prevent various Gentile armies worldwide from moving into the Middle East.  Numerous metaphors are also used to describe the armies making their way into the Middle East (“*army*,” KJV [[Revelation 9:16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+9.16&t=NKJV)] is plural in the Greek text; ref. NASB). These armies are seen as horsemen, wearing breastplates described by the words *fire, brimstone, and blue smoke issuing forth from the brimstone* (that which is referred to by the word translated “*jacinth*” [KJV] or “*hyacinth*” [NASB]). And the horses that they ride have *heads as lions*, *with fire*, *smoke*, *and brimstone issuing forth from their mouths*.  A “lion” would portend *qualities of majesty or courage*. The lion is the king of the beasts, and these individuals are being led forth in this majestic and courageous manner by an individual Scripture refers to as a “*beast*” himself (([Daniel 7:7](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.7&t=NKJV); [Revelation 13:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.1&t=NKJV)). Then, the description of the breastplates worn by the horsemen and that which comes from the mouths of the horses — *fire*, *smoke*, *brimstone*, *blue smoke from the brimstone* — would all have to do with *judgment*.  The power of those being led forth into battle is said to be in the mouths of the horses; but the horses are also seen to have tails “*like serpents*,” with heads on their tails. A “serpent” has to do with *deceit and subtlety*.This was Satan’s chosen vehicle when he exhibited these qualities following man’s creation in **Genesis**. Now, in the book of **Revelation**, when the reason for man’s creation in the beginning is about to be realized, the matter comes full-circle.  Through the armies that Satan leads — armies led by a beast described in a similar metaphorical way, a beast having seven heads and ten horns ([Daniel 7:7-8](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+7.7-8&t=NKJV); [Revelation 13:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.1&t=NKJV)) — he will launch his final thrust in his vain efforts to destroy the King and His people in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.  All is an apparent reference, through metaphorical means, to the modern-day methods of travel to the battlefield, the vast array of modern-day weapons of warfare, etc. All-in-all, the multifaceted reference to that which will climactically occur can only be a horrific and unimaginable scene of judgment, bloodshed, and death.  2) The Order of Events in the Sixth Trumpet and Bowl Judgments  Armies numbering 200,000,000 are seen being led into the land of Israel, and they are being led to a particular place in the land referred to *in the Hebrew tongue* as “*Armageddon*,” a word derived from two Hebrew words (*har Megiddo*), meaning, “Mount of Megiddo.”  The number comprising the armies being led into the land — 200,000,000 — literally reads in the Greek text, “two myriads of myriads” (the Greek word *murias*, “myriad,” appears in the plural twice in the text, preceded by the number “two”). *Murias* is used in the New Testament in seven different references, and it is used mainly, if not exclusively, referring to a large indefinite number (e.g., [Luke 12:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+12.1&t=NKJV); [Hebrews 12:22](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.22&t=NKJV); [Jude 1:14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Jude+1.14&t=NKJV)).  And the number “two,” used in connection with the myriads of myriads is possibly a reference to the only two directions that land armies comprised of myriads of individuals can be brought into the land of Israel — from the north and from the south.  In other words, “two” could possibly refer to the myriads that will come from one direction and the myriads that will come from the other direction (cf. [Ezekiel 21:19-27](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+21.19-27&t=NKJV)).  The Mount of Megiddo in [Revelation 16:16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.16&t=NKJV) would call attention to more than just one mountain in the land of Israel. The entire surrounding area, the valley of Megiddo, which would include the Plain of Esdraelon (the valley of Megiddo is in this plain), would have to form part of the area referenced. The Plain of Esdraelon is about twenty miles long and fourteen miles wide, forming a natural battleground where opposing armies have met at different times over the centuries.  Because of the size of the invading armies, the central point for this battle could very well be the area surrounding Megiddo. But vast areas beyond this would have to fit into the equation. Note that blood from this battle is going to run “*up to the horses*’ *bridles*, *for one thousand six hundred furlongs* [about 180 miles]” ([Revelation 14:20](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+14.20&t=NKJV)). And this battle — God’s Son *treading the winepress*, “alone” — will extend all the way down into Edom ([Isaiah 63:1-6](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Isaiah+63.1-6&t=NKJV)).  Thus, is it any wonder that the Spirit of God has gone to great lengths to describe this climactic scene, by and through the use of numerous metaphors, when the sixth trumpet sounds and the sixth bowl is poured out? Non-descriptive language simply would not do justice to the scene at hand.  (In the preceding respect, “Armageddon” in [Revelation 16:16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.16&t=NKJV) is apparently used in a metaphorical sense, drawing from the type of battleground and the history of this battleground rather than to the actual geographical location of the battle itself.  The point toward which the invading armies will move is Jerusalem, located some fifty miles south of the Plain of Esdraelon. And it is from Jerusalem, beginning from the Mount of Olives, that the Lord will go forth to tread the winepress [cf. [Joel 3:1-2](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1-2&t=NKJV), [12-16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.12-16&t=NKJV); [Zechariah 14:1-4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Zechariah+14.1-4&t=NKJV)].)  a) The Battle in Biblical Typology  To see the proper timing and sequence of events in what is often referred to as “the Battle of Armageddon,” note two Old Testament types in the history of Israel, separated by a forty-year period — the leading of the Israelites out of Egypt under Moses, and the leading of the Israelites into the land under Joshua.  The death of the paschal lambs, the proper application of the blood, and the Lord passing through the land of Egypt the night of the Passover (executing the death of the firstborn if it had not already occurred vicariously through the death of a lamb from the flock) occurred while Israel was still in Egypt. This occurred immediately before the Israelites began their march toward the Red Sea.  The Passover is the first of the seven Jewish festivals in [Leviticus 23](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Leviticus+23&t=NKJV) and has yet to be fulfilled insofar as Israel is concerned. The Jewish people have slain the Lamb, but they have yet to apply the blood. And this application of the blood will occur while they are still in the land typified by Egypt, seen in [Exodus 12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+12&t=NKJV). This (a proper application of the blood by and through their believing on the Lord Jesus Christ) will occur while the Israelites are still dispersed throughout the Gentile nations, prior to their restoration. The fifth festival, the feast of Trumpets, has to do with a removal from the nations and a restoration to the land; and that to which these festivals point will be fulfilled in the order of their occurrence.  Then note the sequence of events that followed in the Exodus under Moses. The armed forces of the Assyrian of that day, the Pharaoh of Egypt, *were destroyed in the Red Sea* following the Israelites removal from Egypt by *their passing safely through the Sea* ([Exodus 14:21-31](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Exodus+14.21-31&t=NKJV)).  And exactly the same thing is seen forty years later when the Israelites were led through the Jordan under Joshua. They had been keeping the Passover year by year in the wilderness; and once they had been led into the land, Gentile power was then to be progressively destroyed, beginning with Jericho ([Joshua 3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joshua+3&t=NKJV) ff).  Viewing these two types together, it is an easy matter to see that the Jewish people, yet future, must not only apply the blood of the slain Lamb but be removed from the nations and be placed back in the land *before* Gentile world power under the latter-day Assyrian is destroyed.  b) The Battle in the Prophets  The matter is presented the same way in the Prophets — national conversion, removal from the nations, and the destruction of Gentile world power, in that order. Some of the Prophets present the whole of the sequence, some just part.  [Ezekiel 36](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36&t=NKJV); [37](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV); [38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) would suffice to illustrate the whole of the matter from one of the Prophets.  The latter part of [Ezekiel 36:17-38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+36.17-38&t=NKJV)) deals with the reason for the dispersion of the Jewish people, their national conversion, and their restoration to the land.  All of [Ezekiel 37](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+37&t=NKJV) then provides more information concerning their national conversion and restoration to the land.  Then [Ezekiel 38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) have to do with the destruction of Gentile world power once they have been restored to the land, with these two chapters ending at the same place as the previous two chapters — Israel in the Messianic Era, as seen more in detail in [Ezekiel 40-48](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+40-48&t=NKJV).  That events in [Ezekiel 38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) can occur only after Israel has been restored to the land, following the Tribulation, is evident from things stated in these chapters.  For example, conditions seen in [Ezekiel 38:8](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11-12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV); [39:12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.12&t=NKJV) (cf. [Ezekiel 38:23](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.23&t=NKJV); [39:21-23](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.21-23&t=NKJV)) cannot possibly exist before that time.  These conditions don’t exist today; nor can they exist any time before or during the Tribulation.  That events in [Ezekiel 38](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38&t=NKJV); [39](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39&t=NKJV) can occur only after Israel has been restored to the land, following the Tribulation, is evident from things stated in these chapters.  For example, conditions seen in [Ezekiel 38:8](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.8&t=NKJV), [11-12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.11-12&t=NKJV); [39:12](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.12&t=NKJV) (cf. [Ezekiel 38:23](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+38.23&t=NKJV); [39:21-23](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ezekiel+39.21-23&t=NKJV)) cannot possibly exist before that time.  These conditions don’t exist today; nor can they exist any time before or during the Tribulation.  Then note the same sequence of events in the book of Joel, having to do with the Jewish people re-gathered to the land and Messiah in their midst before Gentile world power is destroyed ([Joel 3:1-21](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.1-21&t=NKJV)).  Further, in Joel, these events are seen occurring beyond Man’s Day, in the Lord’s Day ([Joel 1:15](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+1.15&t=NKJV); [2:1-2](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+2.1-2&t=NKJV); [3:14](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Joel+3.14&t=NKJV)).  And this same sequence of events can be seen in Prophet after Prophet in the Old Testament. | |
| **Seventh Trumpet** | **Seventh Bowl** |
| [**Revelation 10:1-11**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.1-11&t=NKJV)**;** [**11:15-19**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.15-19&t=NKJV)**;** [**16:17-21**](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+16.17-21&t=NKJV)  **Both judgments have to do with a *full and complete end*.** | |
| When the seventh angel sounded his trumpet, time in relation to Man’s Day no longer existed, the mystery of God was brought to completion, the kingdom of this world became that “*of our Lord and of His Christ*,” and there were “*lightnings*, *noises*, *thunderings*, *an earthquake* [‘a shaking’], *and great hail*.” | When an angel poured out the seventh bowl “*into the air*,” *a loud voice* came out of the temple in heaven, saying, “*It is done*.” Then, the same thing is seen that followed the announcement concerning the transfer of regal power after the seventh trumpet sounded. There were “*noises and thunderings and lightnings*; *and there was a great earthquake* [‘a great shaking,’ unlike anything seen since man’s creation]” and “*great hail*.” |
| The full measure of God’s judgment will have fallen upon the final form of the kingdom of Babylon; and the full revelation of God ([Revelation 10:7](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.7&t=NKJV)), made known through a full revelation of the Son ([Revelation 1:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1.1&t=NKJV)), will be realized at this point.  Israel will have been brought to the place of repentance and belief, the inheritance will have been fully redeemed, and the kingdom will have become that “of our Lord and of His Christ.”  A rainbow is seen two times in the book of Revelation ([Revelation 4:3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4.3&t=NKJV); [10:1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10.1&t=NKJV)).  The rainbow, as first seen in [Genesis 9:13-16](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+9.13-16&t=NKJV), appeared following the storm.  And the rainbow is used after a similar manner, in relation to judgment, in the book of Revelation.  It is seen surrounding God’s throne in [Revelation 4](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+4&t=NKJV) in connection with a past judgment of Christians ([Revelation 1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1&t=NKJV); [2](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV)), and it is seen in [Revelation 10](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+10&t=NKJV) on the head of the “mighty angel” who sounds the seventh trumpet, in connection with a past judgment of Israel and the nations.  In both instances, judgment will be over.  By and through the first judgment, the bride will have been made known ([Revelation 1](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1&t=NKJV); [2](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV)); and, by and through the second judgment, Israel will have been brought to the place of repentance, the inheritance will have been redeemed, and the bride will have become the Lamb’s wife ([Revelation 6-19](http://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+6-19&t=NKJV)). | |