

# God's Master Plan In Prophecy

## Lesson 8 – The Heavenly Altar of Incense & the First Five Trumpets

*Key Scriptures: Revelation 8:2 - 9:11*

### Introduction

Having thoroughly discussed the opening of the seven seals and what they might represent in end time events, we now turn our attention to the famous seven trumpets of Revelation. Immediately after seeing the events of the seventh seal being opened, John turned and wrote:

**Rev 8:2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.**

Some preliminary remarks might be helpful here because it seems strange that the seven seals would end with the first verse of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book and then the seven trumpets would begin several verses later. First, we must point out that the chapter and verse divisions of Revelation tell us nothing because they were not apart of the original texts but were added much later by translators so that readers could find passages more easily.<sup>1</sup> In other words just because something is the first part of a next chapter does not mean that it is altogether different in sequence from the preceding events. In this case, the 7<sup>th</sup> seal was in the first verse of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter while the first six seals were in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter. Obviously the 7<sup>th</sup> seal follows chronologically the 6<sup>th</sup> seal and that is why God numbered them for us.

We must also remember that John recorded the events that they were revealed to him by God as played out before him on the screen of the heavens. As we have seen, the book of Revelation as a whole is not necessarily in chronological order with itself and we must use clues and details of the events themselves to determine where they fit in with each other. More specifically, this verse we just read where John looked up at the culmination of the seals and saw the angels with the seven trumpets lining up and getting ready to sound does not mean that the seven trumpets happen chronologically after the events of the seven seals have been fulfilled but just means that God first showed John the vision of the seven seals and then subsequently showed him the vision of the seven trumpets. Again, we must allow the clues within these events help us determine how they correspond to all of the rest of the vision.

There is also a parenthetical passage here between the seven seals being finished and the first of the trumpets sounding where John describes the offering of the prayers of the saints upon a heavenly altar of incense in Revelation 8:3-5. Even though John saw the angels with the seven trumpets getting ready to reveal themselves to him in verse 2 of this chapter, the actual trumpets do not start to be blown until the sixth verse. The placement of parenthetical passages do give us some clues to their chronological fulfillment and so in our study, we must decide if this altar of incense event describes something that happens after the seventh seal or if it is something that must happen before the first trumpet can sound. For reasons that we will quickly delve into, I believe that this parenthetical event of the offering of the saints' prayers on the altar of incense is something that happens immediately after the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened.<sup>1</sup>

### The Heavenly Altar of Incense

**Rev 8:3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.**

This is a very remarkable scripture and worthy of a closer look! We have already discussed how that Moses' Tabernacle was simply a model of the reality of heaven so that by learning about the items in Moses' temple, we can get a clearer picture of these heavenly events. In the Tabernacle of Moses, the altar of incense was a smaller altar placed directly in front of where God's presence dwelt in the Most Holy Place and upon it, incense was to be offered continually night and day. A silver censer was used for ordinary daily offerings but on the Day of Atonement – that special day once a year where sin was reckoned with and judged – the priest used a golden censer.<sup>2</sup> It was on this one day and this one day only that a man, the High Priest, could go into the very presence and throne room on earth of God, the Holiest of Holies. All of

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More specifically, the chapter numbers were added by Cardinal Hugo in A.D. 1250 and they were then further divided into verses by an English minister, Sir Robert Stephens in 1551.

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this was absolutely necessary and he had to have incense burning upon the altar and in the golden censer when he entered this sacred place or God would kill him instantly; we can now see that all of this was but an earthly model of the heavenly reality.

The heavenly reality can be further discerned by comparing a few scriptures: when Isaiah saw a vision of heaven, the angel answered his prayer for forgiveness by removing a coal off of the altar and touching his lips.<sup>3</sup> Obviously, this altar of incense is a tangible reality. Here in Revelation 8:3, the angel offered up two things upon the heavenly altar of incense: incense and the prayers of saints. We have already been told what the incense is and we only have to go back to the scriptures describing the twenty-four elders that were the leaders of the angelic worship to find:

**Rev 5:8 When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

The twenty-four elders had "a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of saints." Before we get back to Revelation 8:3, let's realize what all of these scriptures are telling us. When a Christian prays, that prayer is as incense before God and it is offered up before God upon the altar of incense in heaven. The "smoke" of the prayer comes before God as an offering. We find an example of this fact in the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Acts where a gentile man, named Cornelius, had his prayer answered because God could not ignore their offerings in heaven:

**Acts 10:3-4 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" 4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.**

Cornelius had been praying so much that his prayers were coming up as a "memorial" before God. The Greek word for "memorial" here means "something that causes you to remember." The Bible teaches elsewhere that the prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.<sup>4</sup> Apparently, Cornelius was praying so fervently that God could not ignore his prayers as they were offered! This teaches us that how we pray and how often we pray matters because it can be the difference between a little thin line of smoke in heaven or a "memorial" rising up in the throne room of God: Cornelius' prayers were such that God could not forget them but had to remember his prayers! This story is an excellent example teaching us that our prayers are daily offered before God.

Now consider with this the fact that the twenty-four elders had bowls full of incense of the prayers of the saints. The term in the Greek for "incense" refers literally to the smoke or odors of incense that has already been burned. This means that when we pray, not only are our prayers offered up before God at that moment, but their savor or smoke is carefully stored within a golden bowl by an angel and saved: every prayer that you have ever prayed is stored in heaven and every prayer ever prayed by any righteous person is stored in heaven. Such is quite a number of prayers! Understanding all of this, let's get back to our subject in Revelation chapter 8 and look again at what this verse is telling us:

**Rev 8:3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne.**

In this verse, the angel uses a golden censer which tells us that this is no common, everyday occurrence but is the final reckoning and judgment day of sin. The angel brings the "much incense" of all of the stored prayer from the centuries and is going to offer it together with the current prayers of all saints upon the golden altar. What we are witnessing is the final offering of all of the prayers signifying that it is a Day of Reckoning and signifying that God is about to judge sin by responding to every prayer at once. Watch what happens when this takes place:

**Rev 8:4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand.**

If Cornelius' steady prayers came up for such a memorial before God that it caused Him to pour out the Holy Ghost upon the formerly-neglected and "unclean" Gentiles, then imagine what the offering at one time of every prayer ever prayed by the righteous is going to do to God – every cry for justice and fairness will be heard at once! Every prayer wondering why

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<sup>2</sup> A "censer" is a small ceremonial shovel used for moving coals from the altar outside to the altar of incense inside. It resembled a fancy version of the common child's sandbox toy.

<sup>3</sup>

See Isaiah 6:5-9.

<sup>4</sup> See James 5:16.

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the world is so sinful and asking God to move will be heard at one time, and it will provoke God to begin to bring judgment upon all of the world.

**Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.**

When the prayers were offered, there was "thunder and flashes of lightning and an earthquake" all of which we learned last week that happen during the Wrath of God.<sup>5</sup> What is going to provoke God to bring His wrath upon His creation? The offering of all of the prayers of the saints at once upon the altar of heaven!

Understanding the significance of the parenthetical passage of offering of incense upon the golden altar helps answer our question about whether or not this event is at the end of the seven seals or the beginning of the seven trumpets. The sixth seal is the pouring out of the Wrath of God and the seventh seal was silence in heaven following the arrival of the church, the Lamb's bride. The church will be in heaven during the time that the wrath of God is being poured out, so it is very obvious that this passage coincides with the end of the seven seals perfectly. As we will see, the wrath of God is not poured out until the seventh trumpet so these verse could not be chronologically before the fulfillment of the seven trumpets.

We also know that the Rapture of the church takes place before the wrath of God is poured out, so just as there had to be incense burning when the High Priest entered into the "throne room of God" in Moses' temple, there will also be the incense of all of the prayers of the saints at the moment that the saints who have been caught up to meet Jesus enter into God's throne room in heaven!

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpets**

Finally, we arrive at the seven trumpets themselves. It is important to note that the terms with which God used to denote these events are telling because there is a great difference between a seal and a trumpet. A seal was holding back the opening of something and once it has been opened, it is opened. A trumpet, on the other hand, gives a sound for a certain amount of time and then it is quickly finished. The seals were also all things that came into being and then remained "open" having forever changed the world. The trumpets will refer to much shorter events with specific duration. Trumpets were often sounded in war, and most of the trumpets seem to be wars or catastrophic events that have great bloodshed. The Wrath of God is classified as both a seal (the 6th) and a trumpet (the 7th) because it will open to reveal the final revelation of the complete plan of God but, like a trumpet, will only sound for a short while. Also keep in mind that, in Biblical times, a seal of a king had an effect over the entire kingdom, but a trumpet could only be heard in the immediate area where it was blown, and that fact will be telling in deciphering some of the clues given.

**Rev 8:6-7 And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. 7 The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.**

The first trumpet does not give us many clues. The fact that "blood" is involved would seem to indicate that it refers to a war, but our only clues are that hail and fire were cast upon the earth "mixed with blood" and a third part of trees and grass were burnt up. This brings up a question that must be answered for most of the trumpets: are the clues describing what happens to all of the earth or are they describing only the region that is involved in the trumpet? In other words, is it a third part of the trees and grass of all the earth burnt up or is it a third of the trees and grass that are in the region where the trumpet sounded? As we will see, the fact that this event is described as a trumpet and a trumpet could only be heard in the region where it was blown seems to indicate that a third part of the trees and grass of the area where the trumpet was blown was meant. We will come back and examine possibilities for the first trumpet after the second trumpet.

**Rev 8:8-9 The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, 9 and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

The second angel gives us more clues that are easily recognizable. It was again a type of war because ships and blood were involved. John saw "something like a great mountain burning with fire" being thrown into the sea and this event caused a "third part of the sea" to become "blood." A third part of the creatures which were in the sea died, and a "third part of the ships were destroyed." There is a past event that, I believe, fits this description perfectly: World War II.<sup>ii</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See the chart of "Wrath of God comparisons" in the previous lesson.

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That the second trumpet could possibly be foretelling the second World War is not so far fetched when you consider the following points:

-  There were approximately 105,000 ships involved in the war, and approximately 36,000 were sunk. That is almost exactly a third of the ships even using rounded numbers!
-  Over 52 million people died during the war which certainly makes it one of the most catastrophic events in human history and certainly a notable event in the sequence of human history.
-  The war ended in a history-making way by the dropping of the first atomic bombs upon Japan. When the bombs were dropped, they produced the famous fiery "mushroom cloud" which perfectly fits the description of the second trumpet of a "great mountain burning with fire." Historical eyewitness accounts tell us that immediately after the bombs were dropped, the winds blew most of the radiation fallout over the sea surrounding Japan and the water literally became "red" with contamination killing much of the aquatic life in the region. This all seems to perfectly fit with the description of the second trumpet in Revelation.

If the second trumpet was World War II, then the first trumpet probably refers to a similar event or war that happened before this time. Even though there are not enough clues to really discern fully this event, it is very possible that the first trumpet could be World War I. Here are some points that would seem to support this theory:

1. World War I was truly a catastrophic event during its time with 8 million people being killed. At the time of the war, no conflict had ever seen over 1 million casualties.
2. World War I was the first extensive conflict where airplanes were used extensively to drop bombs, a fact that could tie in to the "hail and fire mixed with blood" that was cast upon the earth.
3. World War I was characterized by trench warfare, machine gun nests, dug-in positions, and mortar attacks. It is very possible that a third of all of the vegetation in the areas where the battles were conducted was destroyed although such a statistic is impossible to prove.

**Rev 8:10-11 The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. 11 The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.**

As we progress through the trumpets, we are given more and more information about each subsequent trump. The third trumpet was John's witnessing "a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch" that "fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters." Its name was called "wormwood" which is a small plant that is used in herbal medicines and that has a bitter taste. This name was fitting because the third part of the waters became "wormwood" or "bitter" and "many men died from the waters."

On April 26, 1986 a tragedy hit that seems to fit the description of the third trumpet perfectly. At a nuclear reactor in the Soviet Union – a place called "Chernobyl" – two scientists decided to bypass the safety systems of the reactor to conduct some personal experiments. Things went horribly wrong, and the mechanism jammed causing a massive nuclear reaction. The explosion blew off the cement lid of the reactor which weighed millions of pounds and cast it hundreds of feet into the sky. For the first time ever in the history of the human race, the world was openly exposed to a full-tilt nuclear meltdown. The death of the scientists and personnel working in the reactor was immediate. Because of the great radiation, it began to rain in torrents and continued so for three weeks and the greatest tragedy began as the radiation got into the water table of the region and millions of people drank contaminated water! Before the immediate threat was over, millions of people had died of radiation related illnesses, and even today people in the area are still developing illnesses related to the accident. The area around Chernobyl has the highest ratio of cancer to population in the world and there is no telling how many people will die of related diseases. All of this perfectly fits the description of the third trumpet but the parallel really hits home when you consider the following fact: the word "Chernobyl" is the Ukrainian word for "wormwood" and the plant was so named because the plant used to grow in abundance in the countryside around the reactor! It is extremely possible and some would say probable that God foretold this tragedy thousands of years before it happened!

**Rev 8:12 The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.**

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The fourth trumpet is a unique event as it is something that is done by God to the sun, moon, and stars that causes time to go faster by a third. That is, the day and night are sped up in such a way that time speeds up. There are at least three possibilities as to the fulfillment of this prophecy:

1. *God causes the entire universe and thus time to speed up by a third.* Einstein's theory of relativity, which -- in very simple terms -- states that everything in the universe is perceived by its amount of influence from everything else in the universe -- proves that it would be possible for time to speed up in the entire universe and yet everything remain in constant balance. That is, there would still be twenty-four hours in a day but the day would be shorter in the sense that we would be able to get less done.
2. *God causes time to speed up in the prophetic sense only.* That is, the duration of time between events is sped up and prophetic events begin to be fulfilled more quickly.<sup>6</sup>
3. *Both theories listed above happen at the same time.*

As this is an event that God does in the heavens, we cannot be sure that this trumpet has sounded until we see the definite fulfillment of the 5<sup>th</sup> trump.

**Rev 8:13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"**

We have seen that each trumpet has been *an escalation of catastrophe* and this verse supports that theme. If the first trumpet was World War I, then 8 million people died during its blast; if the second trumpet was World War II, then over 52 million people died; if the third trumpet was Chernobyl, then millions have been killed and hundreds of millions lives have been forever altered in a negative way by the incidence. If the fourth trumpet involves the speeding up of end-time events, then the next three woes will be spaced much closer together time wise than the first three.

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet**

**Rev 9:1-2 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.**

John recorded much information about the event of the sounding of the fifth trumpet and yet this is ironic because *as of the writing of this study there has not been an event which perfectly met all of the criteria of the details given*. The fifth angel begins with John's having seen a "star" that had already fallen from heaven to the earth and to whom was given the key of "the bottomless pit." In the vision, this star -- who obviously is a being or creature of some sort opened the pit and caused so much smoke to rise up that the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke.

If this trumpet is a war, then it seems to involve oil wells burning similar to what Saddam Hussein did in the Gulf War and the recent Iraqi Freedom. In the former, he set fire to wells so much that the sun was blacked out at noon, and in the latter, he dug trenches around Baghdad and pumped oil into them to set afire so that the helicopters had limited visibility. As we will see, it is debatable whether these two conflicts fulfill all of the details of this trumpet, but if they are not the fulfillment, then it would definitely seem that the future war will involve the burning of oil and wells because the picture fits so perfectly with the prophecy in this one area.

**Rev 9:3-4 Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.**

"Locusts" came "out of the smoke" and "upon the earth" and they had power "as the scorpions of the earth have power" -- that is, they had the ability to bring death and damage. The locusts were commanded to only hurt those "men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads." In light of the Jewish people and Spirit-filled Christians being the ones "sealed" in the book of Revelation,<sup>7</sup> then this would seem to apply to non-Jewish people or unbelievers.

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<sup>6</sup> That point number 2 applies seems evident from reading Revelation 9:12 which we will soon discuss.

<sup>7</sup> See the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> chapters of Revelation and the future study where we discuss those verses.

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**Rev 9:5-6** And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. **6** And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them.

These people would be tormented for "five months." This is a key part of this prophecy and when we understand how this verse and time table given will be fulfilled, then we will have realized the true identity of the fifth trumpet war.

**Rev 9:7-8** The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. **8** They had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions.

The prophecy becomes very whimsical here because the description of these "locusts" seems to possibly match a description of a modern attack helicopter if it were being described by someone who had never seen such a contraption. Many people have noted how that the two ideas correlate in that what John saw:

- Locusts – able to fly in every way at varying speeds and quickly change directions.
- Like horses prepared unto battle – they were specially outfitted for war.
- Heads as crown of gold – they were armored with metal.
- Faces as face of men – they appeared to have two eyes and a nose: look at a helicopter from the front and you will see the similarity.
- Hair as the hair of women – a good analogy to describe the way the rotors looked.
- Teeth as the teeth of lions – a possible reference to the missiles and guns protruding from underneath.

**Rev 9:9-10** They had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. **10** They have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months.

Here, the possible similarities to a modern attack helicopter continue:

- Breastplates – more descriptions of armor.
- Of iron – John saw hard metal armor.
- The sound of their wings as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle – what a perfect Bible-time comparison for the distinctive sound of a helicopter!
- Tails like scorpions, stings in their tails – it would hurt if their tails touched you, which fits with a description of the small spinning blades on the end of the tail of the helicopter.

Again we are told that the "locusts" had power to fight for five months and I keep emphasizing this fact because the Bible seems to emphasize that the time table of "five months" will be prominent with identifying this trumpet.

**Rev 9:11** They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

The scripture is not clear if this "king over them" is king of the locusts or king of the men who are being hurt by the locusts. The Hebrew and Greek words for this king's name mean "destroyer."

The obvious analogy of a star having fallen from heaven and being the "angel of the abyss" and being a "destroyer" is that of Satan and undoubtedly Satan will be involved in some way in all of these end time events. It is an interesting fact that Saddam – as in Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq – means "destroyer." It was not his actual first name but was a nickname given to him by his childhood nanny. Because of the possible matched description of helicopters fighting through the smoke of burning oil that was pumped from "the pit," and the uncanny coincidence of Saddam meaning "destroyer," it was supposed by many after the Gulf War that the fifth trumpet war was being fulfilled. I pointed out at the time, however, that the time table of "five months" was in no way shape or form associated with this war and in fact Kuwait was liberated much more quickly than that. Also, there were very few casualties in the Gulf War especially when compared with World War I and II and Chernobyl.

I watched with great interest the war for Iraqi Freedom in 2003 because it had all of the similarities of the Gulf War and yet promised to be a much bloodier affair. Yet the expected biological counterattack never materialized and the war went less than a month and a half. I still have yet to see a "five month" time period associated with the conflict or the American

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rebuilding of Iraq. Also, with the escalation of casualties from the first trumpet to the fourth trumpet, it seems odd that either of these two historically minor conflicts would be the fulfillment of the fifth trumpet. As United States involvement escalates in the Israeli-Arab relations, I think that it is still much more probable that the fifth trumpet war will be a future, more bloodier, conflict with the characteristics of burning oil or oil wells and helicopters fighting through the smoke. Saddam Hussein is now dead so if that coincidence of names had anything to do with the fulfillment of the war, it is not apparent how that would work. It is most likely that the war of the fifth trumpet is yet to sound and that it will involve a much bloodier conflict in the Middle East. One thing is absolutely sure, though – the sixth trumpet war will be much bloodier and easier to identify than the others and when we see it fulfilled, we will certainly know that the fifth trumpet has sounded.

### **Review**

| <b>Trumpet #</b>            | <b>Key Aspects</b>   | <b>Possible Fulfillment</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Trump</b> | A third of vegetation burned; hail and fire falling.   | World War I?  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Trump</b> | A third of ships destroyed; burning mountain of fire falls into sea.   | World War II  |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Trump</b> | Star called "Wormwood" falls; a third of waters made bitter; many people die because of the waters                                       | Chernobyl Nuclear Mishap  |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> Trump</b> | Stars, Moon, and Sun struck in such a way to speed up time by a third.   | We cannot tell from earth as it is a heavenly event.  |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup> Trump</b> | Great smoke rises from the pit; Locust-like creatures fight in the smoke; leader named "destroyer;" power given to locusts for 5 months. | Probably a future war in the Arab world involving burning oil wells and perhaps helicopters. Because of the remarkable coincidence of the meaning of "Saddam," some said it was the Gulf War or Iraqi Freedom but such a theory is unlikely because of the lack of a 5 month timetable and them being minor conflicts, historical wise. |

## **i Endnotes**

We should also comment on the fact of there being seven trumpets corresponds with there being seven seals and seven thunders and seven bowls of God's Wrath. There are seven angels that stand before the throne of God. There were seven lamps which represented the seven spirits of God, etc... The book of Revelation is replete – as is the rest of scripture – with the number 7. This is not because – as so many people believe – that 7 is “God's lucky number.” Rather the number 7 represents “God's perfect number of completeness.” To God, the number 7 denotes that something has come completely to fruition and culminated and is now complete. Creation was not truly done until God had rested and pronounced “it is good.” The work of the Holy Spirit is not truly complete until a person allows it to work in the seven ways that we discussed in Lesson 6. And here in our text, all of the seals have not been opened and the plan of God fully revealed until the 7<sup>th</sup> one has been removed. Ditto for all of the other sevens in the Bible.

ii These explanations and correlations are, I believe, the ones that make the most sense and correlate the best. We must remember, though, that we have moved from the realm of provable and into what is probable or possible. It is certainly possible that these interpretations are correct and I even feel probable. But there is just not enough evidence and information given to say “its provable.” Time will tell.