

God's Master Plan In Prophecy

Lesson 9 – The 6th & 7th Trumpets, The Seven Thunders, & the Two Witnesses

Key Scriptures: Revelation 9:12 – 11:19

Introduction

Rev 9:12 The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.

The 5th, 6th, and 7th trumpets are all referred to as "woes." In the Greek, the word for "woe" is a proclamation of grief similar to our "alas" in English. That the scriptures lump these last three trumpets together and use this phrase to refer to them alludes to the fact that these final three trumpets must be wars or events of great carnage and destruction – even greater than the previous trumpets that had sounded. If our previous deductions of the identities of the previous trumpets were correct in that they refer to the World Wars and the Chernobyl incident, then these last three trumpets shall be "woes" indeed!

The 6th Trumpet

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Again we are told of there being an altar in heaven. The altar in Moses' tabernacle was made of brass – symbolizing sin – but the altar in heaven is made of gold – symbolizing purity. This is the heavenly altar of God where the precious and pure blood of the Lamb was sprinkled to make atonement for the sins of humanity!

Rev 9:14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

The fulfillment of the 6th trumpet begins with God loosing four angels that are bound at the river Euphrates. The Euphrates is one of the original four rivers carved by the finger of God in the garden of Eden.¹ The Flood greatly altered its original course, but it still flows through the lands of modern day Turkey and Iraq. From these references in scripture, we can discern that the Euphrates river has great prophetic significance. Apparently at the river there are already four angels being held back by the force and command of God which will not be loosed until the time of the 6th trumpet.

Rev 9:15-16 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

It seems that these four angels will be loosed to go forth and provoke the war of the 6th trumpet. They have "been prepared for the hour and day and month and year" which seems to indicate that these angels are waiting until a precise moment set aside by God for this event to begin. We must never forget that God is much more in control of this world's kingdoms and events than men usually acknowledge.

The 15th verse here tells us that the 6th trumpet war kills "a third of mankind" and the following verse gives us our first concrete clues of the event, that an enormous army of 200 million men will be involved in the conflict. There are two ways to interpret the "third of mankind" as the literal Greek just reads "men." It could mean that the war would kill a third of all men on the earth, or it could mean a third of the men involved in the actual conflict will be killed. Seeing how the third of men is tied to the number of the army, realizing how the "third principle" seemed to work in the other trumpets, and with the understanding that a trumpet has a limited scope in its sound, I think it very likely that a third of the men involved in the war is meant, but only time will tell.¹

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See Genesis 2:14.

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Prophecy #9 – The 6th & 7th Trumpets, The Seven Thunders, & the Two Witnesses

Rev 9:17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: the riders had breastplates the color of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

These "horses" could possibly be a perfect Biblical-day representation of a modern-day armored tank. As John saw it, they are "horses" as opposed to "locusts" in that they cannot fly but gallop across the ground, and they have "breastplates." They are characterized by "the color of fire" and "hyacinth" is a "deep red color, bordering on black;" "brimstone" refers to a "sulphur-like" or "pungent burning smell." So we could have here tanks which smell of gunpowder, are shiny metal, and are a deep, dark, red color. Their "heads" are fierce in appearance and out of their mouths come fire and smoke and that same burnt smell. Instead of the sleek look of a horse, they have "heads of lions" in that their heads are fuller and more bulky. This description seems to fit the main turret gun of a tank or similar vehicles.

There is a great probability that this army is that of China. In the 1990s they announced to the world that they had the world's first 200 million man army. They have extensive armored divisions in their military, and, being communistic, their prevailing color is red. Even their flag is red with white markings. The interesting point to note is that the angels that provoked the war were let loose from the Euphrates river. This would seem to indicate that the war has something to do with this region and most scholars consider this prophesied 200 million man army as "the army of the east" in that they seem to cross the Euphrates or come to the Middle East from east of Israel. Given the recent involvement in this region by America and the world's superpowers and in light of this prophecy and China's rise to a military superpower, it will be interesting to see China's reaction and future responses to the changes in the Middle East.

Rev 9:18-19 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths. 19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

This verse repeats information that we already know, that a third part of men are killed; it also clears up a popular misconception that the angels are the killers: rather, it seems that the angels provoke the war and the armies do the actual killing. The "tails" of the horses could be interpreted to the rear machine guns of a modern armored tank, or these scriptures may refer to a future invention of which we do not have knowledge or enough information to identify.

Rev 9:20-21 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Despite these great calamities and wars, the majority of the world still did not repent or turn to God! That the scripture mentions the fact that they did not repent, seems to indicate that they could. That fact seems to indicate that this is still before the Catching Away of the Saints – what most people refer to as "the rapture of the Church" – because the Gentiles can still be saved and repent. Unfortunately, most will not.ⁱⁱ

The Seven Thunders

Rev 10:1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire;

We now move to a parenthetical passage that was placed between the 6th and 7th trumpets. These events not only give us more information about the last days, but serve to pinpoint the timeline of the trumpets with the seals and the other visions that we have studied.

Rev 10:2-3 and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land; 3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.

The angel has a little book which we will see represents divine revelation of prophecy and then "seven thunders" roared. We first had seven seals and seven trumpets, and now we are given seven thunders. Take note of the fact that all of the seven thunders roar between the 6th and 7th trumpet.

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Rev 10:4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."

John was about to write down the events of the seven thunders when God commanded him to stop so, obviously, whatever the seven thunders are, God did not want us to be able to identify them. Conversely, it must be that whatever God did allow John to write, then He intends for us to understand. The timing of the seven thunders give us our only clue as to their identity. The seven seals, as we have seen, are a broad view of history beginning in the fourth century and ending after the rapture of the church and the wrath of God. The seven trumpets are a shorter view beginning in the 20th century and ending, as we will discover, at the wrath of God. The seven vials, which we have yet to study, are an extremely short and detailed view of the wrath of God. It seems then, that the seven thunders are seven events that happen closer together than the seals and trumpets but are more broader in scope than the vials and the fact that God doesn't disclose these events shows us that God wanted us to understand to a point but to also have some uncertainty so that we keep our faith in Him. Therefore the seven thunders were kept from being written!ⁱⁱⁱ

Rev 10:5-6 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer,

It is a testament to the mercy and graciousness of God that there is a prophesied delay in these events because God was giving each person on earth as much time as possible to be spiritually awakened by the "signs of the times." But finally a cut off point is reached and the angel swears that there will delay no longer! Things are about to wrap up as to this Era we call "Grace."

The 7th Trumpet & the Two Witnesses

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

Here we learn that in the days of the 7th trumpet, the "mystery of God" will be finished. The word "mystery" is always used in the New Testament to denote something that was once hidden to man by God but has now been revealed² and the word is used 31 times in the New Testament to refer to various things that God hid for a time from humanity but has now chosen to reveal them to us.^{iv}

The question, then, is "to which mystery of God does Revelation 10:7 refer to as being finished in the days of the seventh angel?" The truth is that all of them will begin to be finished in that day, but a careful study of the "rapture scripture" – as the following verse is commonly called – reveals a direct correlation with the seventh trumpet:

1 Cor 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Paul reveals to us a mystery that had been hidden about the "Catching Away of the Saints" or the Rapture of the church: it happens "at the last trumpet." In Revelation, we find that there are seven trumpets and that at the sounding of the seventh trumpet, we are told that the mystery is finished. We will also find a resurrection at the seventh trumpet as well as the wrath of God being poured out. This matches perfectly with Jesus' prophecy in the 24th chapter of Matthew about the gathering of the church taking place at the same time the wrath of God is beginning to be poured out. Pointing out this correlation would not be controversial if people had not been taught for years that the Catching Away of the Saints would take place before the Great Tribulation.^v

Rev 10:8-9 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, I heard again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey."

²

See, for example, Mark 4:10-13.

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John was commanded to go and take the little book from the angel's hand and to eat it. It is very likely that the little book represents the end time events that John was witnessing and writing and that he was commanded to "take in" the knowledge.

Rev 10:10-11 I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. 11 And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

When John consumed the prophecies, they were at first sweet as honey, but after he had digested it, they became bitter. When something becomes bitter in the stomach, the natural response is to regurgitate it out of the mouth, and that is exactly what the angel commanded John to do with the knowledge: "You must prophesy again." This was a direct word for John that God was not through with him and that he would indeed escape the isle of Patmos and again minister the Word of the Lord.

Prophecy and learning end time events still has the same effect today when we take it in and digest it as John did. You are learning about prophecy because it is "neat" and when understood it at first has a "sweet" taste and a "wow, that's cool" factor. But as you begin to digest what you are learning and begin to fully understand it and let it become a part of you, then it will become bitter in order to make you tell others about the events to come. It becomes bitter because you realize how many people in this world are truly lost! We must digest the Word of God and allow our understanding to drive us to reach others with this saving message before it is too late.

Rev 11:1 Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it."

This is an interesting scripture because John was being commanded to measure the temple of God in Jerusalem. The book of Revelation was written almost thirty years after the Jerusalem temple had been destroyed so it is evident that this is referring to future temple that has not yet been built. This scripture proves that a literal temple will be built in the end times.

Rev 11:2 "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months."

The angel forbade John to measure the outer court, because it would be given "to the nations." The word in the Greek for "nations" is literally "foreigners" and it is a reference to non-Jewish people. They would walk through the holy city for "forty-two months." This is another reference to three and a half years and correlates the trumpets with our other timelines perfectly! We know that after three and a half years of peace, the Antichrist will go into the rebuilt Jewish temple and proclaim that he is God.³ We know that there is a temple here between the 6th and 7th trumpet and that the 6th trumpet is a war. Therefore the 6th has to happen before the three and a half years of peace, and this forty-two months in which the Gentiles or "other nations besides Israel" will trod in the outer court must happen before the Abomination of Desolation because when that happens, Gentiles will have come into the Holy Place.

The prophecy of the outer court being "given unto the nations" is also interesting in relation to the present temple mount. The reason that the Jewish people have been unable to build a temple upon the mount is because the Muslims have built a temple, the Dome on the Rock, there. If the Jewish people were to ever remove the Dome on the Rock the fury of the Muslim world would immediately descend upon them. Most Jews now believe that the site of Solomon's temple was actually a bit east of the Dome on the Rock – that is, the Muslims did not build their shrine on the exact location. If a Jewish temple was built on where many believe is the correct location, it would place the Dome on the Rock in the outer court of the temple, thus perfectly fulfilling this prophecy! Something to watch for in the future is any sort of peace treaty where Israel trades land away for the right to build the temple beside the Dome on the Rock..

Rev 11:3-4 "And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

³ This is what Daniel and Jesus called the "Abomination of Desolation." See the 2nd lesson of this study.

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God will not allow the Antichrist to make his claims without opposition and so God will send two witnesses that He has reserved until the end time to preach to warn the Jews of these things. These two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days or exactly three and a half years! Currently, they are standing before God waiting until the correct time.⁴

Rev 11:5-6 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. **6** These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

These two witnesses will have great miraculous power and will testify that the Antichrist and His false prophet are not genuine, and they will perform great signs that equal or surpass the workings of the Antichrist and the False Prophet and throughout the three and a half years of tribulation, God will have preachers of righteousness in Israel!^{vi}

Rev 11:7-8 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

After three and a half years, God will allow the Antichrist to kill these two men. Their dead bodies will lie in the streets "where their Lord was crucified," meaning Jerusalem. The question now is "who are these two witnesses?" Of the identity of one, there can be no doubt: he is Elijah. Notice the following scriptures:

Mal 4:5-6 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. **6** "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

Matt 17:11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things;

We discussed these scriptures in detail in our first lesson, but also notice that scripture says that Elijah never died but was taken away in fiery chariots:

2 Kings 2:11 As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.

Why did God preserve Elijah so that he did not face death? Because God has a greater plan for him! Elijah will come back to earth during the Great Tribulation and prophesy against the false teachings and idolatry of the Antichrist! He will finally die after the three and a half years!

Many people have noticed the similarities of the witnesses' miracles with that of the plagues of Egypt and taught that Moses was the other witness. The only problem with that theory is that the scriptures clearly state that Moses die and that is appointed unto man *once* to die.⁵ It would not make much sense for Moses to have died once back then, be resurrected, and then die again. Especially when the scriptures do not tell of such an event and there is other person in scriptures who never died and whom exited the world with much the same manner as Elijah: the man called Enoch. The Bible says:

Gen 5:24 Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

The similarities between his translation and Elijah's strongly point to Enoch being the other witness, especially when we read in Jude that Enoch, too, was a prophet:

Jude 14-15 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, **15** to execute judgment upon all, and to convict

⁴ This verse alludes to an Old Testament prophecy; compare this verse to Zechariah 4:11-13.

⁵ Deuteronomy 34:7 with Hebrews 9:27.

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all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

These are the only word spoken by Enoch that we have recorded, and they say that Enoch was prophesying of the coming of the Lord with His saints and that God would come to judge the ungodly. Could it be that God saw Enoch's prophecies and ability to live for Him in a time when few men did and said, "I can use this guy, I'll just take him without him dying and keep Him with me until the end of time?" It is very possible.

Rev 11:9 Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

Not only will the two witnesses be killed, but they will lay in the streets for three and a half days unburied – the ultimate sign of disrespect and irreverence.

Rev 11:10-11 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. 11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.

Most of the people on earth will actually rejoice at the deaths of these two witnesses to the point of giving each other gifts in celebration of their demise, but after three and a half days, God will raise them back from the dead!

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

As the whole world watches in horror, the two witnesses that they killed will not only come back to life, but will ascend up into heaven "in the cloud!"

Rev 11:13-14 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Before the very hour that the two witnesses were resurrected had passed, a great earthquake hit Jerusalem and caused a tenth of the city to be destroyed. It also killed seven thousand men. The seventh trumpet is beginning to sound.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

The seventh angel sounds at the resurrection of the two witnesses and loud voices announce that the kingdom of the Christ is coming to take over the earth!

Rev 11:16-17 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

The twenty-four elders fell before God and worshiped Him because they realized that a monumental point of history is taking place. Grace is now over and the events are changed to set up Christ's kingdom upon this earth.

Rev 11:18 "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."

The monumental event is the "wrath" of God! This is clearly provable from the scriptural declarations here and the timing is important to grasp: this happens after the three and a half years of Tribulation in which the Two Witnesses prophesied which is another proof that there is a difference between the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God.

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Rev 11:19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

The judgment of God is revealed to the world, and lightning, voices and sounds from the heavens, thunder, an earthquake, and great hail are all present. This is exactly what always accompanies the wrath of God in scripture and notice that John's timeline of these events perfectly correlates to the teachings of Jesus in the 24th chapter of Matthew.

Review

Trumpet #	Key Aspects	Possible Fulfillment
1st Trump	A third of vegetation burned; hail and fire falling.	World War I
2nd Trump	A third of ships destroyed; burning mountain of fire falls into sea.	World War II
3rd Trump	Star called "Wormwood" falls; a third of waters made bitter; many people die because of the waters	Chernobyl Nuclear Mishap
4th Trump	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.
5th Trump	Great smoke rises from the pit; Locust-like creatures fight in the smoke; leader named "destroyer;" power given to locusts for 5 months.	Possibly a future war in the Arab world involving burning oil wells, helicopters.
6th Trump	Armored horses; a 200 million man army; a third of men killed; angels loosed from Euphrates.	Probably a future war involving China and having something to do with the Euphrates region. Probably the war that triggers the three and a half years of peace of Daniel's 70 th week.
<i>Parentetical Passage of Revelation 10:1-11:15 – The seven thunders sound; the temple is measured and the outer court is given to the Gentiles; the two witnesses prophesy for three and a half years and then are killed.</i>		
7th Trump	The mystery is finished; the wrath of God is poured out upon the earth; earthquake, hail, voices, lightening, and thunder all happen.	Immediately after the Great Tribulation.

Endnotes

It is a notable argument to realize that these woes and trumpets seem to escalate in terms of sheer causalities and carnage. The 7th Trumpet is the Wrath of God being poured out upon this earth and we will learn later that the Wrath of God involves the Battle of Armageddon. If these verses about the 6th Trumpet war are meant to indicate that a third of all of humanity on earth is to be killed during this conflict, it is difficult to see how that the Battle of Armageddon – which the Bible describes in great detail – will be a worse “woe.” Simply put, if it is true that the 6th Trumpet war kills one third of all of humanity, then by comparison, the Battle of Armageddon will be a small affair and the Bible doesn’t describe it as such.

ⁱⁱ This is a good time to mention that you cannot wait until you see these events begin to unfold and then try to get right with God. By doing so, you may harden your heart to the point that you will not even realize what is happening! Too many people make the mistake of thinking that they can come to God on their own terms and their own time. But no man comes to God unless the Spirit draws him. (John 6:44). The fact that you are reading or being taught this study indicates that God is drawing you: do not wait until a more convenient season to serve God because then it may be too late!

ⁱⁱⁱ The Apostle Paul was taken in a heavenly vision into “the third heaven” and shown revelations “too wonderful to utter.” (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) That he saw things that God would not allow him to write seems to indicate that he saw much of the same things that John saw, only God wanted John to be the one to fully write the visions and both had parts of the revelation that God would not allow them to write about. It could be some of the things that Paul alludes to but does not give details of are the events of the seven thunders.

^{iv} To be more specific, each of the uses of the word can be categorized in seven specific mysteries of God that have been revealed to the church. The mysteries are:

1. *Mystery of Godliness* (I Timothy 3:16) - the fact that God made Himself into a man and dwelt among us!
2. *Mystery of the Cross* (I Corinthians 2:7-8) - the fact that the flesh that God became would die on a cross to redeem man!
3. *Mystery of the Gentiles being saved* (Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:3-6, 9-11; Romans 16:25-26; Colossians 1:26-27 are a few) - the fact that God was going to turn to the Gentiles and offer salvation to them as well as the Jews!
4. *Mystery of the Blindness and Future Salvation of Israel* (Romans 11:25-27; Zechariah 12-14 are a few) - the fact that God will again turn to the Jewish people and give them a chance at salvation after the time of the Gentiles has been fulfilled.
5. *Mystery of the Gospel* (Ephesians 6:18-20; I Timothy 3:9) - the gospel is the "death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ" (see I Corinthians 15:1-4). The mystery that has been revealed to the Apostolic church is how to correctly OBEY the Gospel! We have a spiritual death through repentance (I Corinthians 15:31), are buried with Jesus Christ through water baptism in His name (Colossians 2:12), and are resurrected to a new life through the infilling of the Holy Ghost (Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5)!
6. *Mystery of the Rapture of the Church* (I Corinthians 15:51-54; I Thessalonians 4:16-17) - the fact that God will instantly change the Spirit-filled believers body at the last trump and we will meet Jesus Christ in the air in a glorified body!
7. *Mystery of the Marriage Relationship between Christ and the Church* (Ephesians 5:30-32; Revelation 19:7-9) - the fact that the true Apostolic church is the "bride of Christ" and will spend eternity with Him!

^v To me, it is incredible the fanciful theories that people have come up with to explain away this very obvious link in the scripture between these two passages. I’ve heard people invent “other trumpets” and try to say that the reference that Paul was making was to trumpets used in festivals in Corinth or some other nonsense. The truth is the trumpets that are referred to in the Bible in prophecy are the seven that are found in the book of Revelation. And the truth is that the seventh trumpet is the “last trumpet.” Why make it difficult?

Furthermore, let's not stop with the mystery of the Rapture of the church, but all of the other mysteries will be fulfilled during the "days of the seventh trumpet" as the angel said. First, when the world sees Jesus Christ coming back, there will be no doubt that He is God in glorified flesh! Second, the power and purpose of the cross will be declared more powerfully than it ever has by the glorified bodies of the redeemed! Third, there will be no doubt that God has chosen to save Gentiles in that day! Fourth, after the Rapture of the Church and during the wrath of God, we will see that God will turn again to the natural Jews. Fifth, there will be no more arguments as to the correct way to "obey" the Gospel of Jesus Christ when those who repented, were baptized in Jesus' name, and filled with the Holy Ghost are raptured and others are not. Sixth, as we have discussed, the rapture of the church will happen when the trumpet first sounds. Seventh, while the events of the seventh trumpet are unfolding and the wrath of God is being poured out upon the earth, the church will be at

our marriage supper with Jesus Christ in heaven! In that day, everything that God has declared in His Word will come to pass!

^{vi} It's hard not to see a correlation between these end time events and the Exodus from Egypt in the time of Moses. Just as Pharaoh's sidekicks could perform miracles – even some of the same things that God's two witnesses, Moses and Aaron, could do – yet God's two witnesses outperformed them in the end. What makes the Bible neat is that there always seems to be a type or shadow of future events somewhere in the Old Testament. It would lead one to believe that God sort of knows what He is doing!