

whom are given seven trumpets at the sounding of which are revealed certain preliminary judgments, the purpose of which is to bring the unbelieving to repentance. Before the trumpets sound and these preliminary judgments begin, there is an impressive silence in heaven, and all the saints on earth are assured that their prayers are not only heard, but are given added weight, by a censer of heavenly incense in the hands of an angel. Then come the blowing of the trumpets in chapters eight and nine, and the nature of these preliminary judgments is unfolded. As the seal is the symbol of authority, the trumpet is the symbol of power and the signal for war and the beginning of God's judgments. The first four trumpets set in motion forces of ruin which fall on natural objects and the world of nature is thus represented as being used of God to punish evil men. The last three trumpets have to do with human life and are introduced by an eagle flying in heaven and crying "Woe, woe, woe, for them that dwell on the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels who are yet to sound." The fifth trumpet introduces an onslaught of demonic powers in the form of locusts loosed from the abyss by a fallen angel. The sixth brings a much-dreaded invasion of Parthian hordes, and chapter nine closes with the announcement that notwithstanding these admonitory judgments, the remnant of mankind would not repent and we must therefore prepare for the seventh trumpet.

Here again in chapter ten, before the sounding of the seventh trumpet, as in chapter seven before the breaking of the seventh seal, we have another interruption. Instead of the seventh trumpet, a strong angel is seen holding a little book. He is ushered in by seven thunders uttering voices which the prophet is not permitted to record. This may indicate that in addition to the disasters he attempts to describe, there will doubtless be others the nature of which he is not permitted to foresee. He is bidden rather to eat the book and finds it sweet to the taste but very bitter when actually devoured. Thus he and his people are assured that the end for which they are looking and longing will be a blessed answer to their prayers but will nevertheless mean for them bitter suffering and distress. They are comforted and encouraged in chapter eleven by the introduction of two older sources, the measuring of the temple, indicating security, and the well known story of the two witnesses, who, though persecuted even unto death, were restored again to life and came off victorious.

When the seventh trumpet sounds great voices are heard in heaven declaring that the end is at hand, and the rulership of the world is truly in the hands of Christ. The preliminary judgments are now ended and the stage is set for the actual and complete overthrow of the enemies of the Kingdom. Before this is depicted as it is to take place on earth, the prophet, in harmony with common apocalyptic