

## THE FIRST TRUMPET : The ' Fiery Storm ' on Earth

v7 The **FIRST ANGEL** sounded , and there followed **hail and fire** mingled with **blood** ,  
and they were **cast upon the earth** :  
and ' the third part ' of **trees** was burnt up , and all **green grass** was burnt up.

**HISTORICAL FULFILMENT** : The 'first trumpet' foretold the invasion of the Roman Empire by **Alaric & the Goths** in AD395-410. The events of this epoch were a type of another mighty & ruthless destroyer yet to come ( Isaiah 28:2 )

Beyond the events of the 'Roman times' wherein Alaric and his Visigoths fulfilled this prophecy recorded in verse 7 , there is yet to be ' a greater fulfilment ' of these words coming in our time. The sounding of ' *the first trumpet* ' marks the beginning of a series of *end-time* judgments God will soon pour out upon the ' *kingdoms of men* ' in the last days.

Unleashed by the first angel , this first trumpet foretells of a **fiery storm** coming upon the earth , which is described as :

**" hail and fire ... mingled with blood " .**

Hail , fire and blood. These 'three elements' are a peculiar mix , which in the ordinary course of nature are 'rarely' found together , making more difficult the interpretation of this prophetic event. Yet like so many other latter-day prophecies , it does have a 'precedent' in the Old Testament which was clearly and purposefully intended by the Father to foreshadow this , its final 'latter-day' fulfilment.

In the ancient account of the Ten Plagues found in Exodus 9 , the ' *Plague of Hail* ' ( being the 7th judgment God sent upon the land of Egypt using the ' *forces of nature* ' ) is an event we find described in almost identical words in verse 24 :

**" hail and fire ... mingled with the hail "**

The parallel to the ' *first trumpet* ' is striking and cannot be missed. The words used are *near* identical. The Septuagint renders it as : " *there was hail and the fire flaming in the hail* ". The only difference between the two passages being the second reference to " *hail* " in the Exodus record is replaced with " *blood* " in the end-times account in Revelation 8. Can there be any doubt the ' *Plague of Hail* ' God rained down upon ancient Egypt was an epic ' foreshadowing ' of the final judgment to come upon the ' *Egypt* ' of the latter days ( ie. ' *the world* ' ) as we find detailed in the first trumpet ?

In the original ten plagues sent upon Egypt , all those dreadful events were entirely ' *the forces of nature* ' whereas by contrast the end-time judgments detailed in the seven trumpets of the Apocalypse are NOT ' *natural forces* '. With the exception of the 7<sup>th</sup> and final trumpet - all of the first six judgments are ' *man-made* '. Consistently throughout scripture we are told in the clearest terms these *final judgments* to come upon mankind will be the result of ' *man's own evils* ' being returned or recompensed upon his own head. [ viz : 2 Chro 6:23 / Psa 7:16 , 9:16 , 94:23 / Ezek 7:3-4 , 8-9 , 11:21 , 17:19 , 22:31 / Hos 12:2 / Joel 3:4 / Obad 1:15 / 2Thes 1:6 / Heb 10:30 ]



Divine judgment through man's wicked devices ' *raining down* ' on his own head. It's also why the words immediately following in verse 7 accurately and intentionally describe these objects ( of " *hail and fire* " ) as being ' *thrown down* ' :

**" and they were cast upon the earth "**

The grim reality is , the sounding of *the first trumpet* is a ' *prophetic signal* ' to the outbreak of the next great world conflict ( as a true understanding of the remaining six trumpets later confirms ). Global conflict that will invariably be fought with man's weapons of mass destruction , principally missiles. These wicked devices will be the " *hail and fire* " that ' *rains down* ' upon mankind and inevitably is " *mingled with blood* " at their dreadful , terminal conclusion. Not only will it be a latter-day fulfilment of the plague of hail in Egypt , but it will also be the fulfilment of another ancient 'type' the Lord warned of : " *But the same day Lot went out of Sodom it 'rained' FIRE and BRIMSTONE from heaven and destroyed them all ... EVEN THUS SHALL IT BE in THE DAY when the Son of man is revealed.* " [ Luke 17:29-30 ]

It is a terrifying prospect that no rational-minded person would wish to contemplate. It will be the long-propheesied " *time of trouble* " arising from the sudden , cataclysmic outbreak of a series of military conflicts and wars around the globe. While the *first trumpet* does not offer any clues to the identities of the combatants involved in this first conflict ( *East vs. West* ? ) the confrontation between the kings of the South and the North recorded in Daniel 11:40 may well

be the initial trigger that unleashes this catastrophic sequence of conflicts prefigured in the first six trumpets. It also provides a measure to the frightening scale of this approaching period of war. Through the use of two well-known metaphors the terrible aftermath from this *plague of hail and fire* “**cast upon the earth**” is revealed in the same verse :

*“ ... **the third part of TREES** was burnt up , and all green **GRASS** was burnt up .”*

Just as the Lord used the analogy of a “**field**” to represent ‘*the world*’ ( Matt 13:38 .. *see also* Psalm 96:12 / Isaiah 55:12 ) it is widely accepted that throughout God’s Word “**trees**” and “**grass**” also have deeper symbolic meanings , namely :

- “**trees**” are commonly used as a symbol to represent ‘*nations*’ ( Joel 1:12, 19 / Luke 21:29 / Ezekiel 17:24 ) &
- “**grass**” speaks of ‘*people*’ , populations or multitudes of men ( Isaiah 40:6-7 / Job 5:25 / 1Peter 1:24 )

So the effect of this catastrophic outbreak of war will be “**the third part**” of the “**trees**” - or - 1/3 of the ‘*nations*’ will be “**burnt up**” in these end-times ‘*judgments of fire*’ along with the “**green grass**” ( ‘*people*’ ) of all those nations. It will be an event the likes of which this world has never before known - both in its horrific nature and its enormity. It will be an event ( *the Bible tells us* ) will come both “**suddenly**” and “**as a snare**” upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

It is the same ‘*EVENT*’ the prophet Zechariah saw unfolding in his vision ( Zech 5 v 1-10 )

*“ Behold ... I see a ‘**flying**’ roll ... This is **THE CURSE** that goeth forth over the face of **the whole earth** ”*

It is the same ‘*CURSE*’ pronounced in Isaiah 24 v 6

*“ Therefore hath **THE CURSE** ‘devoured the earth’ , and they that dwell therein are desolate : therefore the inhabitants of the earth ‘**are burned**’ ... and **few men left** .”*

It is the same ‘*FIERY APOCALYPSE*’ described in 2 Peter 3 v 10 -12 :

*“ ... in the which **the heavens** ( ‘*being on fire*’ ) shall pass away with a ‘**great noise**’ , and **the elements** shall melt with fervent heat , **the earth** also and the works that are therein shall be burned up ”*

It is the same noisome ‘*PESTILENCE / PLAGUE*’ revealed to God’s ‘*faithful servants*’ in Psalm 91 v 5-10 :

*“ Thou shalt not be afraid for the ‘**terror by night**’ ; nor for the ‘**arrow that flieth**’ by day ; Nor for the ‘**pestilence**’ that ‘*walketh*’ in darkness ; nor for the ‘**destruction**’ that ‘*wasteth*’ at noonday **A thousand** shall fall at thy side , and **ten thousand** at thy right hand ; but ‘**IT**’ shall not come nigh thee Only **with thine eyes** shalt thou behold and see the ‘reward of the wicked’ . There shall **no evil** befall thee , neither shall any ‘**plague**’ come nigh ‘*thy dwelling*’ ( ie. Passover ) .”*



Finally , it is the very same ‘*PATTERN*’ seen in the first trumpet’s ‘*historical fulfilment*’ during Roman times. In the aftermath of Emperor Constantine’s death , the Roman Empire was divided into *thirds* , of which the Italian third of the empire was vanquished by Alaric and his Visigoths. Just as Alaric ( name means “*an all-powerful ruler*” ) during his military exploits first marched against Constantinople , then ravaged Greece , before finally wreaking great destruction and suffering upon ‘*a third*’ of the then-known ‘*world*’ ... so likewise , there is yet a parallel fulfilment still to come.

We who live in the very last days of Gentile dominion - now await the brutal deeds of another ‘*mighty ruler*’ who will inflict similar waste and destruction upon the third part of ‘*this world*’ ( with his ‘*RODS of wickedness*’ ) and who in this looming global storm shall rain ‘*fire and brimstone*’ from the heavens upon this godless and untoward generation.

As will be shown in the current series of articles , it is this very same ‘*all-powerful ruler*’ who will wreak havoc through the first six of the seven trumpets of the Apocalypse. Given that God’s Word explicitly and repeatedly tells us ‘*the saints*’ will most certainly be present and witness the majority of these events , we would encourage all readers to thoughtfully consider ( and verify for themselves ) the scriptural authenticity of the evidence presented in these papers , so that we may all be ‘*spiritually prepared*’ to endure through the very darkest hour of the Gentile night .