

The 7 Trumpets Continued

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Two Witnesses (11:3-14)



Grace through 144,000 and 2 Witnesses

Just as God used the 144,000 to preach the message of the Kingdom during tribulation, He will also use these 2 witnesses to preach repentance during great tribulation. After they have finished their work (v.7), the beast will kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street to be mocked by the people. After 3 days in the street, God will raise them up, they will ascend into heaven followed by a great earthquake ending the second woe.

The Third Woe

- The first woe is revealed after the fifth trumpet judgment. This woe involves something like locusts that have the ability to sting like a scorpion (9:3).

- The second woe is revealed after the sixth trumpet judgment and begins when a voice commands, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates” (9:14).
- These four angels are demons who were cast from heaven along with Satan. God is right now keeping them imprisoned until the appointed time (Revelation 9:15; Jude 1:6; and 2 Peter 2:4) These angels and their armies, numbering two hundred million, are released to kill a third of mankind (9:15-16).

- After the second woe passes (11:14), there comes a clear division in the book with the announcement from heaven, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ” (11:15). In other words, this final stage of judgment will be the end, and righteousness will be restored to the earth.

- The third woe is revealed after the seventh trumpet judgment. It signals the consummation of God's plan for the entire world. It occupies the book of Revelation through the 19th chapter, when Christ's Kingdom is established on earth. Incorporated within this third and final woe are the seven "bowls" of God's wrath, described in Revelation 16:1-21.
- This series of judgments is the greatest horror the citizens of earth have ever seen. Jesus said, "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive" (Matthew 24:22).

Celebration in Expectation

An end of heaven's silence

Read 11:15-19

In the ancient Greek grammar, the verb tense of **have become** indicates an absolute certainty about Jesus' coming and reign, even *before* the fact is accomplished. How can there be such joy, when the King is not reigning completely yet?

Characters in the “great wonder”

John sees a “great wonder in heaven”.

“an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature”

In Revelation chapters 12, 13, and 14 the main figures of the Great Tribulation are described, and this great wonder introduces the first of the seven:

Woman Clothed with the Sun

Who is she?

Mary? (Mariology, Queen of
heaven)

Israel?

Church? (New Israel,
Supersessionism,
Replacement theology)

- **A woman clothed with the sun:** Scripturally, this **woman clothed with the sun** should be identified with Israel, according to Joseph's dream (Genesis 37: 9-11). In that dream, the sun represented Jacob, the moon represented Joseph's mother Rachel, and the eleven stars were the sons of Israel which bowed down to Joseph. In this sign with **twelve stars**, Joseph is now among the other tribes of Israel.

- The woman, representing Israel.
- The dragon, representing Satan.
- The man-child, referring to Jesus.
- The angel Michael, head of the angelic host.
- The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation.