

REV 7:9-17

⁹After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, 'What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?'" ¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, 'These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb. ¹⁵Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. ¹⁶They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.'"



John now sees the resulting work of the 144,000 from Israel.

Great multitude John is in heaven and sees people before God's throne, gathered from the nations of the earth. This group of people in Heaven is all encompassing. John uses four terms so there is no mistake about the composition of these souls in Heaven before the throne, nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues. Again, the book of Revelation affirms to those on earth, the home of the saint is in Heaven, in the presence of God, before His throne. Heaven is not just for the 144,000 as the Jehovah's Witnesses like to claim, but for all who have a relationship with Christ. Imagine being on Earth, and about to die for your new faith in Christ, this section in Revelation will serve as refuge to any suffering believer. Following the blade of execution, the believer can look forward to entering the presence of God in Heaven.

In the tribulation, all throughout the earth, persecution will break out and those who put their faith in Christ will die. Here we see the fulfillment of **Matthew 24:14**, *“this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations”*. The ministry of the 144,000 will be to proclaim the gospel to the nations, and from their work, we see a great multitude in Heaven. So, there is no mistake, the multitude is in Heaven. They are not on earth, but before the throne of God, in Heaven. This is the hope of the believer, John wants to assure them.

White robes in the fifth seal, we saw under the altar the souls of those who were killed for their faith in Christ. They were told, rest a while until their fellow servants should also die and white robes were given to them. Here in verse 9 we see the completed number of saints, gathered out of the tribulation standing before God’s throne in Heaven.

Palm branches This event of the saints before God’s throne waving Palm branches is actually pictured in the Feast of Tabernacles. Israel was to rejoice before God with branches for seven days. The Feast of Tabernacles was a prophetic shadow of a future event when the saved both Jews and Gentiles would stand before God’s throne and celebrate their salvation.

Leviticus 23:40 *“And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.”*

There will be great praise in Heaven *“11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God.”* The Heavens again rejoice over this group gathered from the nations of the world. This is the third time we see the Heavens rejoicing in unison (**Revelation 4:9-11, 5:9-14**). John again demonstrates this multitude is in Heaven, lest there be any mistake.

The elders mentioned in verse 13 takes us back to chapter 4 verse 4 where John saw four and twenty elders sitting. In **Revelation 6:9-11**, the martyrs were told to wait until their number was complete. These before the throne are clearly the redeemed of humanity and not angels. They are wearing white, the clothing of the redeemed that are in Heaven. Jesus promises the *“Overcomers”*, they will wear white. (**Revelation 3:4,5,18, 4:4, 6:11,19:14**) John, asked if he knows where this multitude came from because John could not say. This group is a mystery to John. The elder then informs John they came out of the “Great Tribulation”.

After the sealing of the 144,000 and before the last judgments, we see a great multitude that no man could number around the throne. These are all those saved through the testimony of the 144,000 during the great tribulation. They are those that died confessing Jesus. The 144,000 are the first fruits but their testimony brings the full grain harvest on earth.

Some scholars say that these and the multitude they convert are not part of the Church since they believe that the Church already left in the rapture. Since God is sending his son for his bride, and that bride is made up of Jews and gentiles, then most likely these are the saints killed for their faith during the great tribulation or gathered by angels at the end of the great tribulation and also leave the earth for heaven prior to the wedding. Thus, the first fruits and the grain harvest will be included as members of the spiritual body that is also called the Bride of Christ if they endure until the end (**Mat 24:13**).

Since many in *dispensation theology* say the 144,000 and this multitude that come out of the tribulation are not included in the Church. Let us learn the truth about the people in this passage by examining the theology that tells us who the body and bride of Christ are. This understanding is necessary to give proper hope to the Jews and martyrs who find Jesus in the great tribulation and to correct some bad theology in the dispensational camp.

Why true Christians from Pentecost onward and true Jews are both in the bride of Christ:

The passage in Revelation that is listed above says that this multitude is a distinct people who will always be before the throne of God.

The text is very clear that they will serve in God's temple. Later in this book, we will learn that in eternity God will have no temple in the Holy City. He and the Lamb will be the temple. If there is no temple in eternity other than God in His people and this multitude serves Him in the temple then they must be indwelt with His Holy Spirit and must worship and serve Him in spirit and in truth just like the faithful Church. We also will be told in Revelation chapters 21 and 22 that the eternal Holy City is the place where there will be no need for the sun, and it is where the Lamb's throne is located.

The Lamb in the midst of the throne and no sun or heat is promised to this multitude. Thus, it is certain that this multitude will dwell and serve in the Holy City. That alone should make it obvious that these 144,000 Jews and all they convert are included in the body of Christ. They live in the home of the bride that is described in chapters 21 and 22. This understanding makes me depart from classical dispensationalists on their point that believing Jews are not part of the body that is the bride of Christ. I believe the scripture teaches that the bride of Christ is the whole commonwealth of Israel and not just the believers that entered the new covenant bride by God's grace to believers since Pentecost.

These dispensationalists claim that saved Israel is not part of the bride of Christ but that these are merely friends or brethren of the groom. Some claim the body of Christ and the bride are different entities. They generally use Jewish marriage illustrations to support their views. However, whatever the truth is about these illustrations, I see no distinction in scripture between true Israel of the Old Testament and true believers since Pentecost. Scriptures say that both assemblies are included in the commonwealth of Israel and that both assemblies are

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branches on the same Olive Tree; they also have identical destinies in the city of the bride. Most of the arguments these dispensationalists use are from subjective reasoning and they cannot be supported by any direct scripture passage, yet there is scripture to refute their reasoning.

Those that hold this theology claim the bride started at Pentecost and those saved since Pentecost are the only people in the bride. They claim that the Church since Pentecost until the rapture (or some say the marriage) will be the only believers married to Christ. This mostly Gentile bride will be one with Christ but Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and all the people of faith prior to Pentecost and after the rapture are not part of the body or bride. Therefore, they say the 144,000 sealed Jews and the billions they help bring to Christ have missed the opportunity to become part of this body of Christ but will now be friends or brethren of Jesus.

Dispensational teachers have been dead set against the replacement theology that prevails in many mainline covenant theology denominations. Nevertheless, they themselves may be guilty of a more subtle form of replacement theology that takes place in the kingdom of heaven. They make believers since Pentecost the queen of the kingdom and co-regent with Christ over all creation, but they make the founding fathers and the 144,000 first fruits merely friends, subjects, or servants in the kingdom. Why would God discriminate between pre and post Pentecost people all saved by trusting in God's promise? The Apostle Paul said we are all branches on the same Olive Tree. These theologians seem to claim we should exclude true Israel from the bride because God had the grace to graft in Gentiles! Why does true Israel get this graft shaft and how did the Gentiles now become the only true love of God's life?

God is no respecter of persons it says in **Galatians 3:28** ***"There is neither Jew nor Greek, (gentile) there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: FOR YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS."*** In Christ we are all one! Salvation by faith is a free gift to all, until the body called the bride of Christ is completed. Not including true Israel as members of the bride not only would not be fair to true Israel but the book of **Romans (Ch. 11:26-29)** demolishes that thought by making it clear that there is only one Olive Tree of which Old and New Testament believers are all branches and there is one Commonwealth of Israel of which we are all members. The Gentiles were by God's grace grafted into the Commonwealth of Israel. They did not replace the commonwealth and all the promises made to all children of Abraham (the children of faith and the promise). We all get nourishment from the same root that is watered by the Spirit of God.

The argument they use is that true Israel did not have the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit was not given until Pentecost, does not hold water either. The promised New Covenant baptism of the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, but the Holy Spirit was alive and well on planet earth from the beginning and filled and saved people prior to Pentecost.

The scriptures are filled with many such examples. In **John 20:22** Jesus told His disciples to receive the Holy Spirit when he appeared to them and breathed on them and this was before Pentecost.

Pentecost was the baptism that John the Baptist promised would come through Jesus (**Mat 3:11**). This baptism identified all believers into the death and resurrection of God's chosen High Priest so all who believe by faith could have eternal atonement for their sins and be born into His spiritual new creation called the Body of Christ.

That does not mean there were not those of faith before Pentecost. Pentecost was the giving of the promised new covenant and body of Christ, but people also got saved by faith during the time of the old covenant. No one can be saved without the Holy Spirit in any dispensation. It is impossible to please God without faith and you cannot have true faith without the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament is filled with accounts proving that the Holy Spirit worked through Old Testament people of faith. Accordingly, how could those dead in their sins without His Spirit have the faith to please Him as many obviously did? The Bible also says that all Israel was baptized into Moses and the sea and they all drank of the rock that was Christ.

1 Co 10:1-4 *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”*

Psa 51:11 *“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy Spirit from me.*

Isa 63:10 *“But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore, he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.”*

Isa 63:11 *“Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? Where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?”*

The Holy Spirit was very much evidenced in the Old Testament, although He only came upon the Prophet, the Priest, and the King. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit comes upon all that put their trust in Jesus Christ.

At Pentecost, because Jesus had poured out his blood in the Holy Place in heaven the New Covenant promise was put into effect, because all sin was paid for.

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Because of natural Israel's unbelief, many branches were broken off the Olive Tree. This allowed the grafting in of believing Gentiles into the New Covenant promise given to the house of Israel and Judah. At Pentecost, Jesus as High Priest in the heavenly holy place poured out His blood and paid for the sins of mankind once and for all. By doing so, the Holy Spirit was now poured out on all flesh who would hear this new covenant message of God's grace by faith regardless if they were Jew or Gentiles. No longer was it necessary for a high priest in Israel to atone for their sins for anyone on earth to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Nevertheless, before Pentecost there were high priests in Israel who once a year brought in blood, to the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of Israel. The blood of animals sacrificed did not pay for the sins as did the blood of Jesus, but it reminded everyone that they were sinners and that they must by faith trust God to save them.

These blood sacrifices required faith in God and that is what justified the people who carried them out. This practice did not even start with Israel. It started shortly after the fall of man when Abel offered a blood sacrifice of an animal delivered into his hands by faith. The blood of this animal was a testament that sin in the world brought suffering and death and that God would have to provide a redeemer to the earth because of the fall of Adam. The blood by faith in God's provision atoned for his sins and Abel's sacrifice by faith was acceptable to God while Cain's sacrifice of grain raised by his own self-effort was not.

The Old Testament people by faith believed these sacrifices would atone for their sins. These people not only offered sacrifices for their sin but were looking forward to the sacrifice that God would provide for sin. Many did not have that much insight into God's divine plan. However, by faith (in God) they believed their sins would be covered and were thus justified by the law of faith (**Rom 3:27**) so the Holy Spirit could indwell them.

We see proof of this when at Passover; the angel of death could not touch the descendants of Israel because he could see no sin within their house. The obedient covered the entrance to their house with the blood of the lamb by faith. Sacrifice by blood to atone for sin was paramount in Israel. Why would Israel even need to be continually reminded of their sins if they could not be justified by faith and have a relationship with the Spirit of the living God?

Let us not be conceited; the grafted in branches are in the same Olive Tree as the natural branches. A study of **Romans chapter 9-11** makes it clear that all people who believe God's promise by faith whether Jew or Gentile now make up the bride for the new covenant in Christ (**Heb 12: 22-24**). After all, the promise of a new covenant was really made to the house of Israel and Judah and not to the Gentiles as we read in Jeremiah: **Jer. 31:31-33** ***"31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 31 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they***

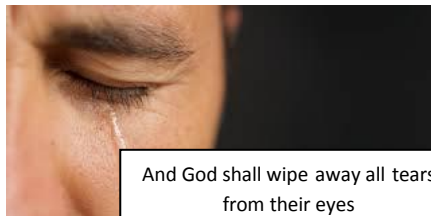
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brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Just look at the hall of fame of the people of faith in Hebrews Chapter 11 and then say these people did not have the Holy Spirit in them. Yes, they did!

The redeemed Gentiles of this vision are either saints who will be martyred during the tribulation, or believers who will survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennium in their natural bodies, or both. Earthly sorrows will be over (21:3, 4). Christ will give them spiritual sustenance. There will be absolutely no crying or sorrow in the presence of God, for He will have wiped away all tears from their eyes.

These people are before God’s throne day and night in his temple. God dwells among them forever. They will never hunger or thirst anymore. No hot days and no cold days; absolutely perfect conditions. Then the Lamb of God, which is Jesus, shall feed them, and lead them to living fountains of water. God will wipe away all their tears, so they had had sorrow on earth. Praise the Lord for that day when death is gone, sorrow is gone, and we are with Jesus!



And God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes

REV 8:1-5

¹And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. ²And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. ³And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. ⁴And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. ⁵And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire off the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”

The opening of the seals on the scroll stretch from Revelation chapters 6 to 8. Chapter 7 is placed between the opening of the sixth seal and the opening of the 7th seals. The 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel spread the Gospel, either before or after the 6th seal, the great earthquake. The great earthquake of the 6th seal opens up the world for further evangelism. The break of time, between the sixth seal, and the opening of the seventh seal, allows humanity

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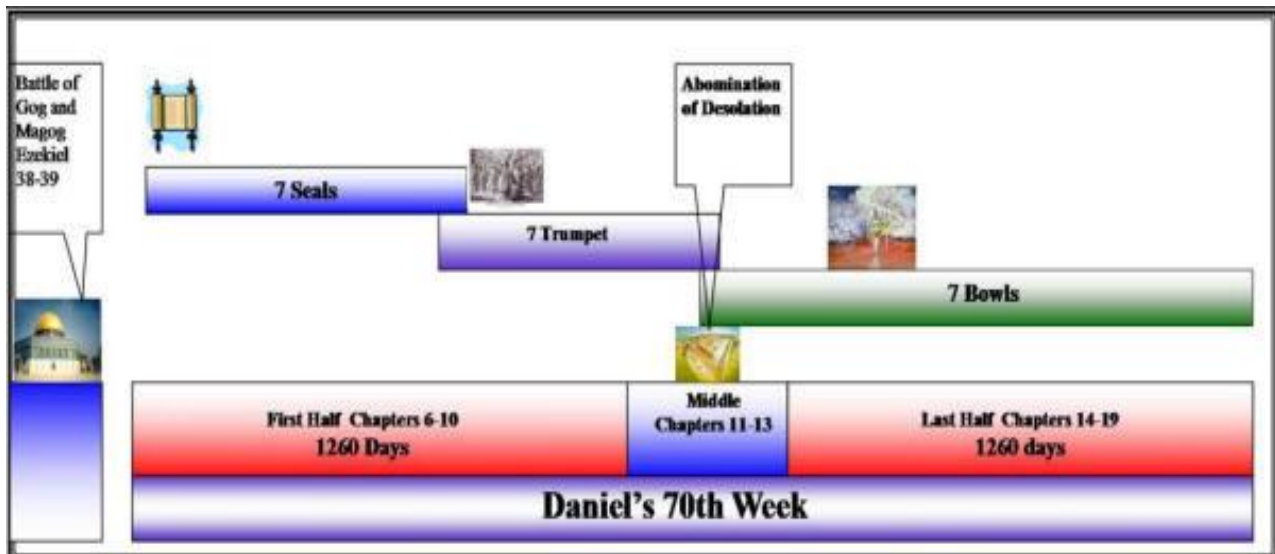
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to contemplate their eternity. In chapter 8, the seventh seal is opened (**Rev. 8:1**), this brings forward the seven trumpet judgments. In the seventh trumpet are the seven bowl judgments. The seventh bowl judgment concludes with fall of the cities of the earth and the return of Christ in Revelation 19.

Prior to the opening of the seventh seal, the evangelism of the 144,000 and the “Two Witnesses” in Jerusalem, calling down God’s judgment on the earth turn many to salvation in Christ. With an increase in saved souls, there is also an increase in persecution, as the Antichrist and his servants pursue those who turn to Christ. It’s the prayers of these new “Saints” that are heard in Heaven, causing God’s wrath to commence on the earth. However, even in the Trumpet Judgments, God’s mercy is demonstrated, by the limited extent of the judgments. The Trumpet Judgments are limited in their scope as opposed to the bowl judgments in the second half of the tribulation, which are more encompassing. One of the main purposes of the tribulation is to bring people to a point of decision.

In chapters 8 and 9, the trumpet judgments are carried out when the 7 angels blow their trumpets causing God’s judgments to fall on earth. In the book of Joshua, there is a prophetic foreshadowing of the events taking place in Revelation. In Joshua, we have 7 priests with 7 trumpets who circle the city of Jericho 7 times, followed by the *Arc of the Covenant*, led by Joshua. This foreshadowing is ultimately fulfilled in Revelation’s *Trumpet Judgments*.



He At this point, the Lamb is still opening the seals on the scroll. Chapter 7 was a break between the 6th seal, which resulted in a great earthquake and the opening of the 7th seal.

Seventh Seal The 7-sealed scroll represents the title deed of the earth. The seventh seal is the final seal on the scroll. In the seventh seal, are the seven trumpets and under the seventh trumpet, is the *Seven Bowl Judgments*.

Silence Heaven in chapters 4 and 5 is a place where the angels and the redeemed loudly proclaim God's glory, rejoicing. At the start of the 8th chapter, we have silence for half an hour. The silence warns of the storm about to envelope the earth. The first six seals resulted in unprecedented destruction and death of ¼ of the earth's population, the events to follow are more horrific in scope. All Heaven stands in silence at what is about to happen when the 7th seal is opened.

Seven angels In Heaven seven angels stand in the presence of God by His throne, waiting the command, we know one of them is Gabriel. Gabriel told Zacharias the priest, he would have a son named John (Luke 1:19) Gabriel was also dispatched from the throne to give Daniel understanding, about the timing of the death of Messiah and what would precede the Messiah's return. (Daniel 9:24). Gabriel and the six other angels are now to herald the coming judgments on the earth.

Seven trumpets the purpose of the trumpet is to draw attention, so people take notice. In Exodus 19 we see the trumpet of God proclaim God's presence to Israel. The trumpet is also used to call up the saints to be with the Lord.

In 1 Thess.4:13-18 *"¹³ I would not have you to be ignorant brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words"*

Matthew 24:29-31 *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the*

powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

I Cor. 15:50-52 *“50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, **(to be dead)**, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”*

Here seven trumpets are given to seven angels to herald the judgments of God on the Earth. In a prophetic foreshadowing of this event before Israel entered the promised land 7 priests held seven trumpets. Joshua, commands Israel how Jericho is to be taken. Let’s look at this chart to compare the conquest of Joshua with the conquest of Jesus.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS OF JOSHUA AND REVELATION

JOSHUA CONQUEST	JESUS CONQUEST	
Commander’s Name	Joshua (Joshua 5:14)	Jesus (Yeshua) Matt. 24:30-31
Trumpets	7 trumpets (Joshua 6:6)	7 Trumpets (Rev. 8:2)
Days of Conquest	7 Days	7 years (Daniel 9:27)
Location of Trumpets	Before the ark (Joshua 6:6)	Before the throne (Rev. 8:2)
Silence	Silence until the 6 th day (Joshua 6:10)	Silence in heaven for ½ hour (Rev. 8:1)
Invading army	Children of Israel (Joshua 6:1)	Saints with angels (Rev. 19:14; Mat 24:31)
Time of Invasion	End of 7 th trumpet (Joshua 6:15-18)	End of 7 th trumpet (Rev. 10:7)
Holders of trumpets	7 priests before the ark (Joshua 6:6)	7 angels before the throne (Rev. 8:2)
People’s reaction to 7 th trumpet	Shout by Israel (Joshua 6:16)	Loud voices in heaven (Rev. 11:15)
Inhabitants spared	Rahab and all her house waiting for Joshua’s invasion (Joshua 6:17)	Inhabitants on earth awaiting Jesus’ return (Matt. 24:31-41)
Description of Rahab and Israel before the invasion	Prostitute	Prostitute: (Ezekiel 16:33:36) Ezekiel 23; Hosea 1:2, 2:4, 4:10

Another Angel The identity of this angel has been a point of debate among Bible scholars since this angel seems to intercede with the prayers of saints. Some argue this is Jesus Christ appearing as an angel, interceding on the behalf of saints because he offers the prayers on the golden altar. This was the function of the priestly office in the Old Testament.

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1. The Lord Jesus, when appearing in the Old Testament to the children of God, is never referred to as “an angel.” Instead, he is always introduced as “The angel of the Lord” or “The angel of God.”

2. We have no record of the Lord Jesus appearing on earth as an angel after His incarnation and ascension to heaven.

Also, the 24 elders have 24 golden bowls with incense which we are told are the prayers of the saints (**Revelation 5:8**). The angel could very well be merely administering and not interceding.



Golden censer in addition to the scene from the battle of Jericho (**Joshua 6**), Revelation 8 also corresponds to the shadow of the Temple worship (**Hebrews 9:4,10:1, Exodus 37:25-28**). The censor would hold the fire when combined with incense, a fragrant smoke would ascend upward. This was a picture of the priestly office, and the smoke represented the prayers and worship going toward heaven.

Altar The altar of incense before the holy of holies was a picture of the original located in Heaven.

Prayers of saints During this time in the tribulation, many of the new believers are being pursued and killed. Their prayers have come before God’s throne.

Fire from the altar God is now about to answer the persecution of his saints with His judgment.

In **Exodus 7-11** through the hand of Moses, God sends 10 “Literal plagues” on Egypt resulting in the release of the children of Israel from their captivity. Four of those plagues are again found here in the Trumpet judgments. Just as in Egypt, these are literal plagues on the earth. One point to be revealed in **Revelation 11** is these plagues are being called down on the earth by the

“Two Witnesses” who are in Jerusalem during this time. They are witnessing to the world about the true “God”, another demonstration of God’s grace. Still, despite the evidence of God’s power and grace, the earth rejoices at the death of these two individuals at the hands of the Antichrist.

Speaking of the two witnesses:

We know from **Malachi 4:5** one of these two witnesses is Elijah, the other is either Moses or Enoch. Moses appeared with Elijah on the Mountain of Transfiguration (**Matthew 17:3**), and Enoch like Elijah never suffered death. The story of the plagues in Exodus in fact is foreshadowing of this event which results in Israel being freed again after God’s judgments fall on the world and not just Egypt.

Rev. 11:6 *“These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the day of their prophecy; and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”* **Rev. 11:10** *“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another, because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”*

PLAGUES ON EGYPT	PLAGUES ON EARTH
Water turned to blood (Exodus 7:17)	Sea becomes blood (2 nd trumpet Rev. 8:8)
Frogs from the rivers (Ex. 8:3)	
Lice (Exodus 8:17)	
Flies (Exodus 8:21)	
Disease on Livestock (Exodus 9:3)	
Boils and Blisters (Exodus 9:9)	
Hail (Exodus 9:18)	Hail – First Trumpet (Rev. 8:7)
Locusts (Exodus 10:13)	Locusts from the Earth – 5 th Trumpet (Rev. 9:3)
Darkness over Egypt (Exodus 10:21)	Darkness – 4 th Trumpet (Rev. 8:12-13)
Death of the First born (Exodus 12:29)	

The seven angels that are now standing before God may be the same seven angels that were on the right hand of Jesus that had oversight over the seven churches on earth. These seven angels of the churches may be given the power to carry out the wrath of the Lamb on those that persecuted the Church on earth (spoken of at the fifth seal). The prayers of the saints are about to be answered and Jesus will judge those on earth who persecute and kill His saints.

The wrath of the Lamb does not come without reason. It comes in answer to a specific time of persecution of saints on the earth. When each angel blows the trumpet given to him, a specific judgment will fall upon the earth. These judgments do not come as a result of the warfare of man as did the horsemen of the seals. These judgments come because Jesus is angry, and He

answers the prayers from the saints for justice. Before the judgments come, the passage indicates that the prayers of the saints ascended up before God. An angel then took the censer containing the prayers of the saints, filled it with fire and cast it upon the earth. The voices, thunderings, lightnings, and the earthquake indicate that judgment has been summoned from the throne and angelic forces are being told to prepare for action.

Some prophecy writers make all the judgments in Revelation come as a result of man's own weapons and a result of his own wars, but this chapter makes it pretty clear that what is coming is payback time to those who dwell on earth who have the blood of the saints on their hands. The first five trumpet judgments have nothing at all to do with any war caused by man.