

Survey of Biblical History – Part 1: Creation to Christ

#28 - THE END OF THE AGE (PART 2)

E. The Two Witnesses and the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet (11:1-19)

1) *The Two Witnesses and their Ministry* (vss. 1-14)

- a. Measuring the Temple of God (vss. 1-2)
- b. Their Identity and Power (vss. 3-6)
- c. Their Death and Resurrection (vss. 7-12)
- d. The Aftermath of their Ministry (vs. 13)
- e. The Third Woe (vs. 14)

Who are the two Witnesses? While there is no explicit identification, some lines of evidence suggest the possibility it is Moses and Elijah:

- They afflict earth with plagues (like Moses) and cause drought (like Elijah).
- Both were expected to return to the earth (Deut. 18:15-18; Mal. 4:5-6).
- Both were present at Christ's transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-4).
- Both used supernatural powers to induce repentance.
- Elijah was transported to heaven and Moses was mysteriously buried at death.
- The drought they bring is 3½ yrs. as was the one Elijah brought (James 5:17).
- On the relationship between John the Baptist and Elijah see Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1; 4:5; Matt. 3:1-3; 11:14; 17:10-13; Luke 1:17; John 1:21.

2) *The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet* (vss. 15-19)

F. The Dragon, the Woman and the Child (12:1-17)

1) *The Dragon's Battle for the Child of the Woman* (vss. 1-6) (For woman, see Gen. 37:9-11)

"Seven heads" = 7 consecutive empires: (1) Egypt; (2) Assyria; (3) Babylon; (4) Medo-Persia; (5) Greece; (6) Rome; (7) Future Empire of Antichrist.

"Seven diadems" = power and authority accorded the consecutive empires.

"Ten horns" = 10 leaders of 10 nation confederacy under Antichrist (See Dan. 7:23-28).

Note history of Satan's plot to kill the Child and destroy His line:

- Cain's murder of righteous Abel (Gen. 4:1ff.).
- Corruption of line of Seth (Gen. 6:1-12).
- Attempted rapes of Sarah (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18).
- Attempted rape of Rebekah (Gen. 26:1-18).
- Murder of male babies in Egypt (Ex. 1:15-22).
- Attempted murder of David (1 Sam. 18:10-11).
- Queen Athaliah's attempt to destroy David's royal line (2 Chron. 22:10).
- Haman's attempt to slaughter Jews (Esther 3-9).
- Herod's plot to kill the baby Jesus (Matt. 2:13-18).
- Death plots throughout Jesus' earthly ministry (Lk. 4:28-30).

Note the providential irony of the failed plots: see Acts 2:22-24; 4:27-28.

2) *The Dragon's Expulsion from Heaven* (vss. 7-12)

3) *The Dragon's War Against the Woman* (vss. 13-17)

G. The Antichrist and the False Prophet (13:1-18)

1) *The Antichrist* (vss. 1-10) See also 2 Thess. 2:1-12 for further information on the Antichrist.

- a. His Description, Resurrection and Worship (vss. 1-4)
- b. His Blasphemies and Worldwide Reign (vss. 5-8)
- c. His Oppression of the Saints (vss. 9-10)

See Dan. 7:2-8, 19-28. Note parallels to the vision of the beasts and its interpretation.

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- 2) *The False Prophet* (vss. 11-18)
 - a. His Description and Vice Regency (vss. 11-12)
 - b. His Power and Deception (vss. 13-14)
 - c. His Power and the Image of the Beast (vss. 15-18)

Note the Unholy Trinity of the Dragon (Satan), the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

H. The Fate of the 144,000 and the Worshipers of the Beast (14:1-12)

- 1) *The Destiny of the 144,000* (vss. 1-5)

Note the 144,000 will escape the horrors of the Tribulation unscathed.
- 2) *The Destiny of the Beast Worshipers* (vss. 6-12)
 - a. The Message of the First Angel: The Gospel to the Earth (vss. 6-7)
 - b. The Message of the Second Angel: Judgment on Babylon (vs. 8)
 - c. The Message of the Third Angel: Damnation to Beast Worshipers (vss. 9-11)
 - d. The Perseverance of the Saints (vs. 12)

I. The Coming Harvest of Judgment (14:13-20)

- 1) *The Martyrs' Blessing* (vs. 13)
- 2) *The Grain Harvest of Judgment; The Bowl Judgments* (vss. 14-16)
- 3) *The Grape Harvest of Judgment: Armageddon* (vss. 17-20)

See Joel 3:12-13, 21; Isa. 63:1-6; Matt. 13:30, 39-42. Armageddon will end in a blood bath as the fury of Christ is unleashed in all its fullness (See Psa. 2:12; Heb. 10:31).

J. Preparation for the Seven Bowl Judgments (15:1-8)

- 1) *The Seven Angels and their Plagues* (vs. 1)
- 2) *The Songs of the Martyrs* (vss. 2-4)
- 3) *The Temple of Judgment* (vss. 5-8)
 - a. The Seven Angels Emerge from the Temple (vss. 5-6)
 - b. The Transcendent Glory of God and His Wrath (vss. 7-8)

K. The Bowl Judgments (16:1-21)

The Seal and Trumpet judgments were partial, more local in nature and limited in duration including both natural and supernatural elements. However, the Bowl judgments are universal, cumulative, supernatural and unprecedented in their intensity.

- 1) *The First Bowl: Loathsome Sores* (vss. 1-2)
- 2) *The Second Bowl: The Oceans Turned to Blood* (vs. 3)
- 3) *The Third Bowl: Fresh Waters Turned to Blood* (vss. 4-7)
- 4) *The Fourth Bowl: Scorching Heat from the Sun* (vss. 8-9)
- 5) *The Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain* (vss. 10-11)
- 6) *The Sixth Bowl: Preparation for Armageddon* (vss. 12-16)
 - a. Kings of the East Prepare for Armageddon (vs. 12)
 - b. Preparation of the Rest of the World for Armageddon (vss. 13-16)
- 7) *The Seventh Bowl: Catastrophic Calamity* (vss. 17-21)

Note the earthquake as it affects Jerusalem prepares it for the coming of Christ (see Zech. 14:4-10). The earthquakes and hailstones throughout the rest of the world will result in unprecedented destruction. The unrepentant and demonic inspired masses remaining will be prepared to oppose the coming Christ whom they hate, but to their ultimate demise.