



PART III

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

REVELATION 8–10

WHAT EVENTS DO THE SEVEN TRUMPET JUDGMENTS REPRESENT?
WHEN DO THESE EVENTS OCCUR?

HISTORICIST APPROACH:

- The trumpets speak of a series of invasions against the Roman Empire (Vandals, Huns, Saracens, and Turks).
- The sixth trumpet brings the fall of Constantinople to the Turks (1453).
- The little book represents the Bible being made available to the masses of Europe after the invention of the printing press.

PRETERIST APPROACH:

- The first four trumpets correspond to disasters inflicted by the Romans on the Jews in the Jewish War (AD 66–70).
- The fifth trumpet probably depicts the demonic spirits rendering the besieged Jews irrational and self-destructive. The sixth trumpet refers to the Roman armies, who destroyed Jerusalem and slaughtered or deported all the Jews.

FUTURIST APPROACH:

- Either literally or symbolically, the trumpets represent calamities that will be endured by the unrepentant inhabitants of earth during the coming seven-year Tribulation.
- These may be supernatural judgments direct from the hand of God or merely the disastrous effects of man's improper stewardship of the earth and his abuse of technology (e.g., nuclear weapons).

IDEALIST APPROACH:

- Catastrophes reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt befall sinful humanity many times in history, demonstrating God's displeasure and, like trumpet blasts, warning of worse things to come upon the unrepentant.
- Sinful humanity typically absorbs these injuries with defiance, refusing to repent.

THE 1,260 DAYS

REVELATION 11-13

HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THE PERIOD OF 1,260 DAYS? WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?



HISTORICIST APPROACH:

- The measuring of the temple represents the determining of the true remnant church in the midst of the papal church at the time of the Reformation.
- The 1,260 days are actually 1,260 years, being the duration of the power of papal Rome.
- The two witnesses represent the Waldenses, Albigenses, and others who resisted the papacy in the years before the Reformation.
- The woman is the visible church persecuted by Imperial Rome prior to AD 313, and her male child is the true church within her, vindicated by the enthronement of Constantine.
- The beasts each represent different aspects of the papacy.



PRETERIST APPROACH:

- The 1,260 days is the period of the Jewish War, of Nero's persecution, or both.
- The two witnesses are either historic prophetic witnesses against the Jews prior to the downfall of Jerusalem or a representation of the civil and religious authority in Israel.
- The woman (Israel), gives birth to a child (the church), which flees Jerusalem (during the Jewish War) and is afterward persecuted by the devil.
- The first beast is Rome (or possibly Nero, or both), persecuting the church.
- The second beast is either the cult of the emperor, some zealous Roman procurator, or false prophets in Israel



FUTURIST APPROACH:

- The 1,260 days refer either to a period of a literal three and one-half years at the end of the Tribulation or to two different periods of that length totaling seven years.
- The two witnesses are two individual prophets yet to appear in Jerusalem—possibly Moses and Elijah or Enoch and Elijah. Alternatively, they may represent a larger witnessing body.
- The woman (faithful Israel) will be forced by persecution from the Antichrist to flee into the wilderness during the Tribulation.
- The first beast is a political world-leader, and the second beast is his religious counterpart, who enforces universal worship of the first beast. (Some futurists take an approach to this section more like that of the idealist approach.)



IDEALIST APPROACH:

- The 1,260 days symbolize the entire church age.
- The two witnesses are the church throughout the church age.
- The woman sustained in the wilderness represents the same.
- The first beast signifies political power that persecutes the church at any time in history and anywhere upon the planet.
- The second beast is false religion and especially that which venerates political power.