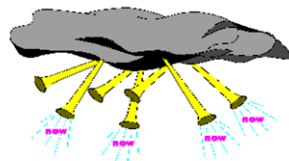


# TRUMPET SOUNDS

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## Ten Kings who reign for one hour

*"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast."*

Revelation 17: 12

### The harlot

The harlot in Revelation chapters 17 and 18 is a picture of the kingdom of this world. She is seated on the beast but is not the same as the beast. She relies on the beast for her wealth and security. She persecutes the faithful and leads the people of the world to worship other gods. She sits on many waters which refers to her influence spreading over the entire world. She is proud of her outward appearance but in reality inside she is the home of demons and foul spirits. Also called Babylon, she represents mankind's attempt to live independently from God.

In Revelation 16: 19 we learn that God hates her and will pour out his wrath on her. For this purpose He uses the ten horns which are on the beast to destroy her. *"And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire."* Revelation 17: 16.

### Ten Kings

At the opening of chapter 17, John is invited to witness the judgment of the harlot. It is God who puts it into the hearts of the ten kings, who give their power to the Beast, to destroy the harlot. They hate her and will *"make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire"*. Revelation 17: 16 – 17. Who are these kings? In the past I have thought of them as the ten Islamic nations which came into existence in the same period as Israel. Islam hates the west and through its oil wealth has the power to destroy it. They are the other trees in Luke 21: 29. Strong support for this views is found in Islamic eschatology which runs parallel to but is the reverse of Biblical eschatology.

The Bible describes the ten kings as being without a kingdom. An alternative identification, which I have long been aware of, is the globalist interpretation. They are 10 exceptionally wealthy men who through their wealth have immense power? They operate above the level of national politics and keep hidden from

view. In the past, wealthy people such as Cecil Rhodes and J P Morgan were the agents of those with even greater wealth. Today it is possible that Bill Gates, Klaus Schwab and George Soros are front men doing the bidding of others. The hidden men believe passionately that what they are doing has to be done to preserve the future of the human race. To fulfil their plans they will bring the western world down and initiate a time of absolute control.

The Bible tells us that Babylon will fall. It warns that the fall will be sudden and complete. With the collapse of western civilisation the world will quickly descend into lawlessness. Satan will then offer his man as the world's saviour. But note it is all in accordance with the will of God (Revelation 17: 17).

Nebuchadnezzar had to learn, *“...that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He chooses.”* Daniel 4:17. When the fifth seal was opened the martyrs cried out, *“How long O Lord.”* They were told to be patient. Jesus Christ is just in His judgments. He will avenge the blood of all slain on the earth in His time.

For the Christian, Babylon is not their home. We are pilgrims passing through. In the west we are in danger for we have benefitted from living in Babylon for too long. Babylon provides us with many comforts and luxuries. We are warned not to be like Lot's wife who couldn't tear herself away from the comfortable life she was leading in Sodom. Jesus calls us to be ready to let go of everything.

Jesus said of these times, *“men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth,* Luke 21: 26. Those who place their trust in Jesus Christ have nothing to fear. He will stand with us through whatever the future may hold. Trust in Jesus will give us hope. All those who display hope will be a witness to those whose hearts fail them from fear. I believe that we are on the threshold of these events. Our preparation for these times is to draw closer to Jesus and be guided by Him. Maranatha, our Lord comes.

## **Sri Lanka**

Reminiscent of the ill-fated Arab spring, which was triggered by rising food prices, Sri Lanka has experienced months of unrest. The food riots have at times turned deadly with policemen being beaten up and politician's houses burned down.

The nation is grappling with its worst economic crisis since independence. Prices of every day goods are soaring and electricity is in short supply. The people are protesting over government incompetence in dealing with the crisis.

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been described as a “socialist oligarchy ruled by the Rajapaksa dynasty for decades”. Following the protests, both Mahinda Rajapaksa the Prime Minister and Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President have been forced to resign and leave the country.

### **Economic collapse**

The collapse of the Sri Lankan economy has been due to excessive national debt and ill-advised environmental policies.

Sri Lanka fell into the debt trap as a result of public investment infrastructure projects funded by China's, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Under BRI the money for the projects is loaned by China. It often comes with strings attached which require the use of Chinese contractors to construct the infrastructure. This means that the local economy gains little benefit from the construction of a large scale project. It is intended that the additional income generated by the new infrastructure will pay off the debt.

### **Hambantota**

An example of a Chinese funded (BRI) investment is the Hambantota Port Project. From the start there were concerns over the viability of constructing an additional major international port in Sri Lanka, especially one financed through borrowing at commercial rates. The port has not generated the income necessary to pay off the loans. This has forced the government to lease the port back to China for \$1.12 billion for 99 years. However Sri Lanka is still liable for paying off its debts to China.

### **The green initiative**

Another aspect of government mismanagement is agricultural policy. President Rajapaksa launched a green initiative. He wanted the country to be the first to fully adopt green agriculture. He required farms to go organic and banned the use of chemical fertilisers. This has led to a 50% fall in yield. A country which was once self-sufficient in food has been forced to import. Due to its debt crisis it lacks the foreign currency to pay for that food and other essentials such as fuel and medicines.

### **Far Far Away or next door?**

Sri Lanka is a poor country a long way away. Surely it couldn't happen here! In the Netherlands 40,000 farmers gathered to protest over Government plans to reduce emission of nitrogen oxide and ammonia from livestock. It is estimated that a third of livestock farmers will go out of business. Protests have broken out in other nations of Europe following government plans to implement green agendas coupled with the rising cost of fuel and fertilisers. Protecting the environment is being put ahead of producing food and so people will starve.

**Notice:** Supply chain difficulties will increasingly affect us all. My supplier has given notice that printer paper is in short supply. Recently I have encouraged people to receive a paper copy because I see the danger of the internet being shut down. But paper and post may also become unavailable. Until that time I will continue sending Trumpet Sounds. Thank you to all readers and please pass it on once you have read it.

## **Why I don't believe in a seven year tribulation**

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised that, if he is returned to lead the State of Israel, he intends to bring about a full peace agreement with the Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. Peace with Saudi Arabia would be a stunning reversal of 75 years of hostility which has continued since Israel's foundation. Saudi Arabia is strong enough to insist that the Palestinians also seek to live in peace. The prospect of a peace treaty has led some to speculate that it might herald the start of the seven year tribulation.

### **The tribulation**

Does the Bible teach that there will be a seven year tribulation preceding the return of Jesus Christ? Most Christians who are interested in Bible prophecy will state that it is an absolute fact. Whether they expect to be caught up to be with the Lord at the beginning or at the end of this time, they are certain that it will last seven years.

The concept of a seven year tribulation comes from the prophecy recorded in Daniel chapter 9. The prophecy of the weeks sets a period of seventy weeks in which a number of things will be accomplished. It is generally understood that weeks refers to periods of seven years. Therefore 70 weeks represents a period of 490 years (7 x 70). The prophecy also says that there will be a period of 7 weeks and a period of 62 weeks which will elapse before the messiah comes.

These two periods are often added together to total 69 weeks which is one week short of the seventy. Daniel 9: 27 is then taken as a reference to a final week in which the antichrist will make a covenant with Israel. After three and a half years the antichrist will break his covenant and persecute both Israel and the followers of Christ.

But should the two periods be added together? The punctuation added later to the Hebrew Scriptures says no. The 7 weeks and 62 weeks are separate periods each of which has to elapse before the coming of the Messiah. The one who confirms the covenant and causes sacrifice and offering to cease is Jesus. His death on the cross was in the middle of a week.

## **The number Seven**

Seven in scripture represents fullness or completion. The first example being found in Genesis when God rested from His work on the seventh day. The number seven is woven into scripture in such a way that it has been described as the DNA of the Bible.

Seven occurs in Revelation more times than in any other book of the Bible. Its occurrence so permeates this book that it is clearly intentional and therefore meaningful. In Revelation there are seven churches, seven Spirits of God, seven golden lampstands, seven stars, seven lamps of fire, seven seals on the scroll. The Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes. There are seven angels who stand before God with seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven thousand killed in the earthquake, seven heads with seven crowns on the dragon, seven angels with seven bowls of wrath and seven plagues, seven kings and seven mountains.

Besides the above there are seven mentions of each of the following; God's prophets, the earthquake, those who are blessed, Christ's sword, Christ's blood, MY name, the Book of Life, prophecy, 'this book', judgment, right hand, the saints, God Almighty, the bottomless pit, 'come quickly' and Jesus lives. I leave readers to check out the above for themselves.

God has a plan for redeeming mankind which one day will come to completion. The great events which will close the present age are under His control. Once complete, a new chapter for mankind will begin. Seven in Revelation assures us that God will bring His plans to completion.

There is one seven missing from Revelation. The missing seven is reference to a seven year tribulation.

### **Three and a half years**

There are several references to three and a half years, based on the pre-flood 360 day year with 12 months of 30 days. The gentiles will tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months (3.5 x 12 months) Revelation 11: 2. The two witnesses will minister for 1260 days (3.5 x 360 days) Revelation 11: 3. The woman will flee into the wilderness for 1260 days and be nourished there for time, times and half a time normally understood to be a period of 3.5 years, Revelation 12: 6, 14. The beast will blaspheme for 42 months Revelation 13: 5. This last one ties in with Daniel 7: 25 where the little horn who blasphemes persecutes the Saints for time, times and half a time.

Jesus warned us not to set dates for His return. Caution over date setting extends to caution over interpretations of prophecy. I believe that the final tribulation will only last three and a half years. But it may last seven.

## Daniel the prophecy of the weeks

**First 490 year period**  
the failed kingdom

1006

establishment  
of David's  
kingdom

586

destruction of  
Jerusalem

2nd  
Temple

516

Dedication of the  
second Temple

**2 Chronicles 36: 21**

the land would be allowed to enjoy 70 Sabbath years to make up for the previous 420 years when the commandment had been ignored

**Daniel 9: 2**

It is the 70 years for the destruction of Jerusalem which prompted Daniel to pray.

31 AD

the Cross

**The second chance, 70 weeks**

- 490 years to complete God's work in Israel

All that is promised in Daniel 9: 24 was accomplished on the cross. Sadly Israel did not receive either her Messiah or the promise

457

Ezra returns to  
Jerusalem

34 AD

the stoning of  
Stephen signals  
the rejection of the  
Messiah by the  
nation

**62 weeks**

434 years before the Messiah will come.

### Notes

Daniel 9: 27a. After three and a half years of ministry (middle of the week) Jesus brings the need for sacrifice and offering to an end with His death on the cross.

Daniel 9: 26. The people of the Prince who is to come refers to the gentiles. Israel having been temporarily set aside. The Prince who is the subject of the prophecy is Jesus. Confirmed in Matthew 22: 7.

The penalties in Daniel 9: 26 and Daniel 27b flow from the rejection by Israel of her Messiah.

444 BC

Nehemiah  
returns with  
permission to  
reconstruct  
Jerusalem

10 BC

A date of no significance other than waiting time for the Messiah is now complete. The birth of Jesus was sometime in the following 7 years.

**7 weeks - 49 years** until the time when the Messiah may return.

**1980** Start date ?

## Unbelief in the world

The world will increase in its rebellion against God until the time when Jesus returns in glory.

The confusion which exists among Christians with regard to prophecy relating to the 'Second Coming' causes many to dismiss the study as irrelevant. But should we be confused? This is the third in a series of articles looking at whether the 'Prophetic Creed of J C Ryle could be used as a basis for agreement and as a help to clear the fog. Without venturing into more controversial topics Ryle in his creed sets out some basics regarding our expectation of how this present age will close.

The last article looked at how many or few will be saved. This time we move on to the state of the world at the time of Christ's return. The second statement from Ryle's creed is as follows:

"I BELIEVE that the widespread unbelief, indifference, formalism and wickedness, which are to be seen throughout Christendom, are only what we ought to expect in God's Word. Troublous times, departures from the faith, evil men waxing worse and worse, love waxing cold, are things distinctly predicted. So far from making me doubt the truth of Christianity, they help to confirm my faith. Melancholy and sorrowful as the sight is, if I did not see it I should think the Bible was not true (Matthew 24:12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1 - 4, 13)."

Ryle lists unbelief, indifference, formalism and wickedness as marks of the end of the age. I have taken the four scriptures which he uses to support his creed and given them slightly different headings.

### 1. Lawlessness

Matthew 24: 12 *"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold."* Lawlessness is the result of unbelief. The abandonment of belief in a creator God allows man to elevate himself into the arbitrator of right and wrong. Deny that there is a God and any laws which claim divine inspiration can be abandoned. Lawlessness is not an absence of law. It can lead to the imposition of many more laws. Satan's alternative to the freedom which exists under godly laws is to bring greater and greater control.

Issachar Ministries prepared a leaflet, available on their website, with the heading "Laws that reshaped Britain since 1950". The leaflet lists the laws enacted since that time which contravene God's laws. In parallel with the destruction of the godly laws, on which our nation was founded, we witness that the love of many for the Lord has grown cold. As self becomes the centre people become a law unto themselves.

Recounting the history of Israel, the Bible tells a sorry story of times when men have thrown off the restraint of godly laws. We see in that nation's history a warning that when a society rejects God's guidance it quickly descends into evil. There will be nothing new in the behaviour of people at the end of this age. If we reject God's law the alternative is lawlessness.

Praise God that there is a remedy. *"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."* Romans 4: 7. We can be forgiven and restored to fellowship with God.

## **2. Apostasy**

1 Timothy 4:1 *"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,"* Apostasy is defined as a departure from the faith. It results from an indifference to God's word. In these last days indifference to the authority of God's word began with doubt over reliability of the creation accounts at the beginning of Genesis. This led to challenging the truth of other accounts in the Bible. Eventually little or nothing is accepted as truth. Many have listened to the voice of deceiving spirits and not the Holy Spirit who is able to lead us into all truth. The present day church in Britain is testimony to how the doctrines of demons are quick to fill the vacuum left by apostasy.

The following item was included in an 'Intercessors for Britain' newsletter a little while ago. "The Bishop of Reading, Olivia Graham released a video on "the environment and how we understand our relationship with the created world". In it she talks about an incarnation, but not as we know it. Incarnation, she says, began 14 billion years ago with the 'Big Bang', when "God poured God's self into the emerging universe". From this she posits that "the whole earth is God's body", and "everything, every person, all that happens is created, sustained and sanctified: every act of evolving nature is the self-expression of God". She concludes: "Evolution is not only of God, but is God incarnate." - Not only is she wrong on evolution, this teaching is Pantheism."

Apostasy such as that voiced by the Bishop of Reading is widespread in the church. The worship of the creation rather than the creator provokes God's anger. Referring to false gods the Ten Commandments state, *"you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God,"* Exodus 20: 5.

## **3. Deceivers**

2 Timothy 3: 13 *"But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."* The rejection of God's word and the rejection of His laws is the recipe for an empty formal religion. This is fertile ground for deceivers who have a form of godliness but have abandoned the truth that

comes from Christ. But false prophets only survive when they have an audience for their lies.

2 Timothy 4: 3 – 4. *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.* The Bible foresees that at the end of the age such an audience will exist.

In an age of instant everything there is an eagerness for quick fix spirituality. In the past Bible teachers understood that the growth of a soul into the likeness of Christ was a lifetime's work. Godliness is formed by patient endurance in the trials of life. Today, techniques are on offer which are supposed to bring instant transport into the world of the spirit. We cannot wait for God to do His slow precise remodelling of our lives. Instead, there are many advocates of methods such as contemplative prayer, which are supposed to bring us nearer to God.

The bestselling Christian books and most popular seminars are those which deal with personal development. Ear tickling messages on how to be a success are in high demand. God is looking for holiness not empty success.

#### **4. Wickedness**

2 Timothy 3: 1 – 4 *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,”* This time I have not changed the heading for wickedness is wickedness. These verses give us a biblical definition of what God regards as wicked. This is where it ends up when people have abandoned God's law and His word. They listen instead to those who speak only what they want to hear. The list can be summed up in just three assessments of the character of the wicked. They are lovers of themselves, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure. This can be simplified again into the modern mantra, 'it's all about me'.

#### **Conclusion**

Ryle rightly understood from the study of the Bible that the church is not going to establish the kingdom of God on earth. We pray for the will of God to be done on earth but the establishing of His global kingdom we will leave to Jesus when He returns. At the end of the age the world will be in rebellion against God. Lawlessness will prevail both inside and outside the church. There will be many deceiving false prophets leading people into apostasy and wickedness. All that is good will be hated and those who are faithful to God will be persecuted.

None of this should surprise us. As Ryle wrote; “troubled times, departures from the faith, evil men waxing worse and worse, love waxing cold, are things distinctly predicted.” He added, “So far from making me doubt the truth of Christianity, they help to confirm my faith. Melancholy and sorrowful as the sight is, if I did not see it I should think the Bible was not true.”

I will go a step further than Ryle. Not only will the world descend into lawlessness, it is my belief that we are heading for a time when all Christians’ witness will be silenced. Immediately before the return of Christ there will be a greater fulfilment of the word, “*the night is coming when no one can work.*” John 9:4. It is represented in Revelation by the death of the two witnesses which leads to a short lived time of celebration by those who hate God (Revelation 11:10). The celebrations will be cut short and replaced by terror when the world sees Jesus coming in glory.

## Vaccines

I like this video (link below) because it puts into terms I can largely understand how the Covid Vaccines harm natural immunity. This especially applies to the booster vaccine which will be available this autumn. It confirms what I have observed, that it is the heavily vaccinated who are repeatedly contracting Covid. They are also the prime source of the new variants. Natural immunity gained by contracting the virus (not by taking the vaccine) lasts 14 months.

Quoting the Epoch TV Website, “There’s a known phenomenon within the vaccine scientific community called “[immune](#) imprinting,” where it’s understood that frequent vaccinations can push out existing immunity within people. This has become a growing concern among experts with the COVID-19 vaccines, since people are being mass vaccinated for virus strains that are largely defunct; and as the virus continues to mutate, the vaccine is becoming less effective.”

“According to Dr. Robert Malone, inventor of [mRNA](#) vaccine technology, the current situation where the efficacy of vaccines is fading should have been expected. He also warns that the next wave of vaccinations, planned for Omicron and new variants around August or September, should sound alarm bells over the phenomena of immune imprinting.”

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/vaccines-are-destroying-peoples-immunity-through-immune-imprinting-dr-robert-malone\\_4610641.html?utm\\_source=Enews&utm\\_campaign=etv-2022-07-21-2&utm\\_medium=email&est=VXWkJHABEIDcGtsdOlomH8QYZU3r7CUYq8wX21rM4oFhAIA3i%2FpwCrIiyVPPrg%3D%3D](https://www.theepochtimes.com/vaccines-are-destroying-peoples-immunity-through-immune-imprinting-dr-robert-malone_4610641.html?utm_source=Enews&utm_campaign=etv-2022-07-21-2&utm_medium=email&est=VXWkJHABEIDcGtsdOlomH8QYZU3r7CUYq8wX21rM4oFhAIA3i%2FpwCrIiyVPPrg%3D%3D)

## **World Council of Churches**

The next General Secretary of the World Council of Churches is to be Rev. Professor Dr. Jerry Pillay. He will take up office in 2023.

According to a JNS report (21/06/22) in 2016, Pillay compared Israel and the alleged "exclusionary and violent character of the Israeli Zionist project," to South Africa's racial apartheid. He supports the BDS movement, accusing a conspiratorial Jewish leadership of influencing European colonisation, with a common desire for the State of Israel on the land of Palestine.

Pillay rejects the Biblical and historical connection between the Jews and the land. He accuses Jewish settlers of abusing the indigenous people's land.

In response to Pillay's election, Dr. Warren Goldstein, the Chief Rabbi of The Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa, called on him to "retract statements accusing Israel of apartheid and calling for a boycott of the Jewish state."

Goldstein went on, "I further call on Rev Pillay to engage honestly with the issues affecting this conflict in the same spirit of open dialogue and tolerance with which we engaged with each other and our fellow members of the National Religious Leaders Council in South Africa."

## **Wesley's New Room**

The Christian LGBTQ community is celebrating after the world's oldest Methodist building announced it will be officiating same-sex marriages. In a Facebook post, the church said: "We are delighted to announce that John Wesley's New Room is now available to host, officiate, and celebrate same-sex weddings! "John Wesley believed in sharing God's Love with everybody and we hope that this step brings Wesley's message of inclusivity into this century. Rev Mandy Briggs from New Room described the decision as a "natural step." "The chapel has been a venue for services organised by Christians at Bristol Pride since 2018 and so this registration feels like the natural next step." She also said the move was "the latest step in our journey of allyship with the LGBTQIA+ community." (source Premier).

As a former Methodist, with a very high regard for John Wesley, I am grieved by this announcement. John Wesley did share Gods love with everybody. But it was the love which God extends to repentant sinners. He called on people to flee the wrath to come and live a life of holiness. He preached separation from the world not inclusivity. He believed in the final judgment and the terror of Hell from which he sought to rescue people.

## Darwin's Conundrum

"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down". 'On the Origin of Species' by Charles Darwin.

With the advance of science the statement should be rephrased. **There is no living organism which could possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications therefore Darwin's theory absolutely breaks down.**

Examples of irreducible complexity are to be found even in the living cell. An irreducibly complex system is one which is composed of multiple parts all of which are necessary for the system to function. As every part is integral to the function, the system could not have evolved piece by piece. Molecular biology has found that even in a single cell there are thousands of molecular machines comprising many parts. These machines have been described as far more complicated than any machinery built by man.

On a human scale we also observe many examples of irreducible complexity. Numerous, successive, slight modifications could not possibly achieve functioning results.

It is a great tragedy that many scientists who seek knowledge of the natural world will never hear the Creator fill in the detail of how He conceived the design of these things. They are so blinded by their atheistic interpretation of science that they are unable to recognise the handiwork of a master craftsmen which runs through all creation.

For my part I am looking forward to the Creator revealing these mysteries and for us to witness many new wonders of His creation.

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