



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 2 , Part 4 (8:1-12) - Seal 7, Trumpets 1-4

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# SEALS 5-6 REVIEW



- Seal #5 - The persecution of the church under Diocletian
- Seal #6
  - Christianity replaces paganism as the state religion
  - Preparation for the time of persecution ahead

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“Jesus answered [Pilate], ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’”

– *John 18:36*

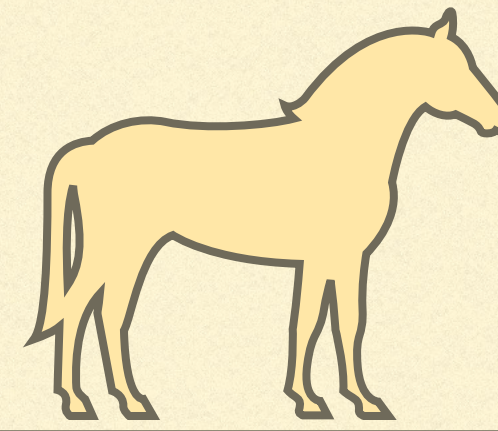
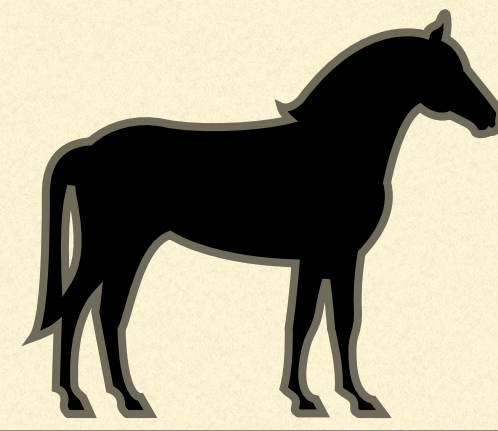
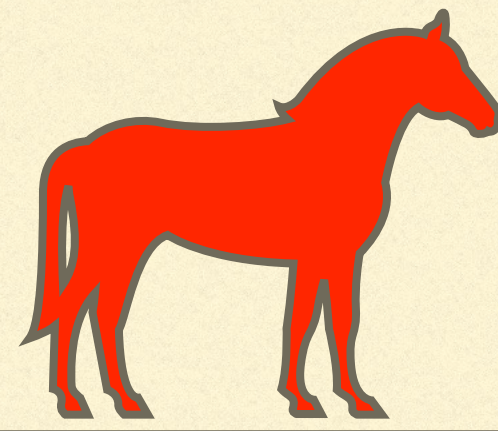
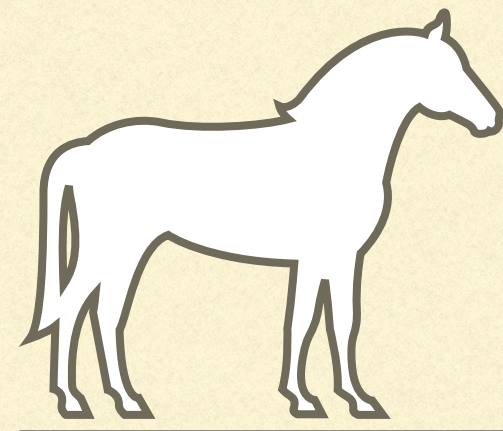
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“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition...And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”

*—2 Thessalonians 2:3, 6-7*

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96 A.D.

51-52 A.D.

144,000 Sealed  
Belong to God  
Keep themselves from idolatry  
The remnant who keep the faith during the apostasy

“...the falling away comes first”

“...the mystery of lawlessness is already at work...”

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SEAL #7 — AN INTERLUDE BETWEEN THE  
SEALS AND THE TRUMPETS

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# SEAL #7 — WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “silence” - the calm before the storm
  - “half an hour” - represents a very short period of time
  - “seven angels” - seven is the number of maturity, completion, perfection
  - “trumpets” - symbols of warfare, used in communication during warfare
  - “the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth” - Day of Atonement, Ezekiel 10:1-2, Revelation 6:10-11
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# SEAL 7 AND THE TRUMPETS

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- Short time between Seal #6 and Trumpet #1
    - 325-396: seventy years from Council of Nicaea to Goth invasion of Greece
  - Six trumpets call invaders to gradually destroy the Roman Empire
  - Trumpet 7 represents the judgment day — signals the end of God's judgment against Rome
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# THE “BARBARIAN” INVASIONS

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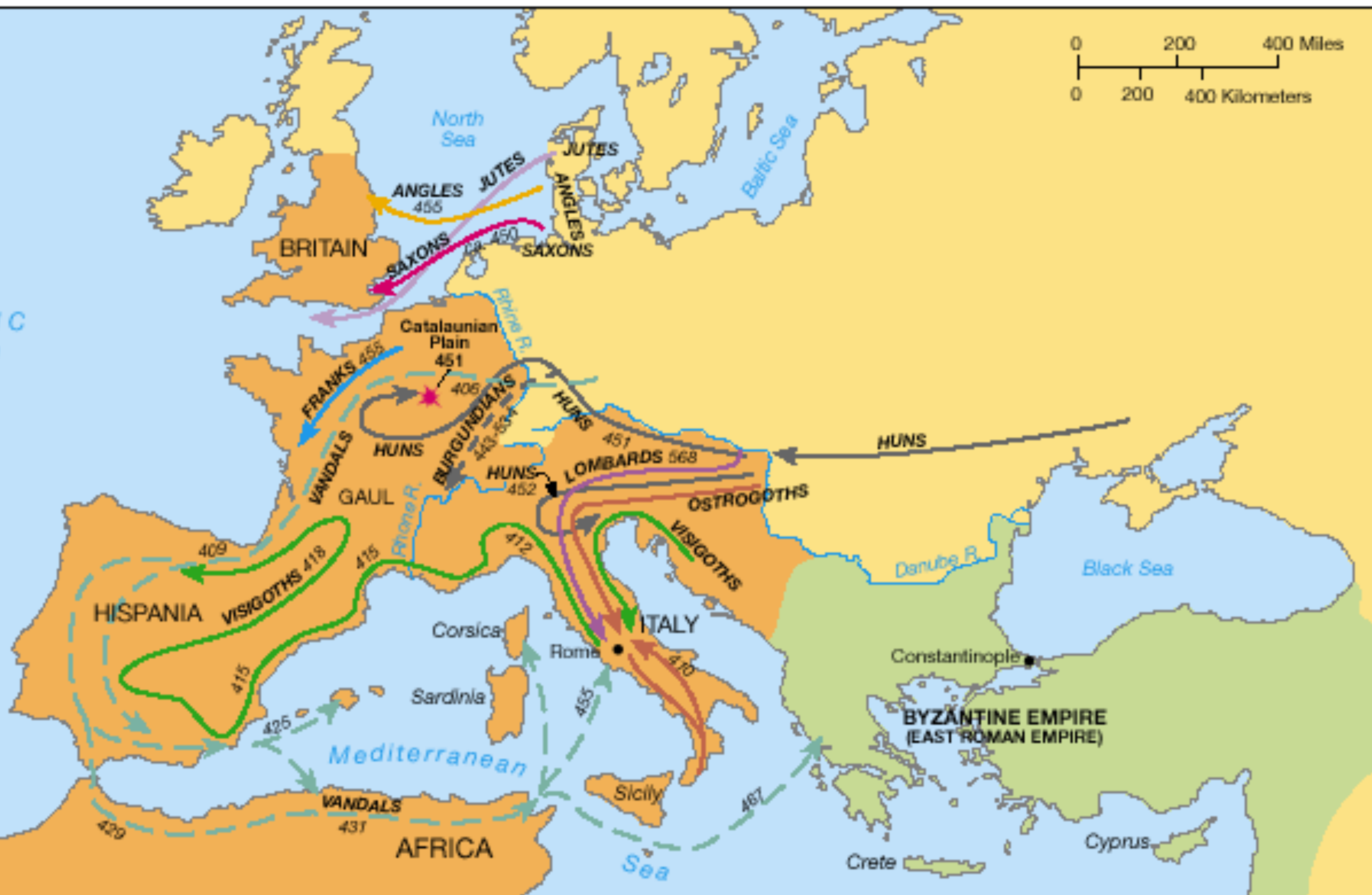
Trumpets 1-4

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400–526

0 200 400 Miles  
0 200 400 Kilometers

ATLANTIC OCEAN



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TRUMPET #1 — THE GOTHS SACK ROME

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# TRUMPET #1 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “hail” - ravages and destruction
  - “fire” - fierce destruction
  - “mingled with blood” - carnage, war
  - “third of the earth” - one-third of the Roman Empire
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# THE GOTHS SACK ROME

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- Goths pushed westward by the advance of the Huns
  - Alaric
    - Laid siege to Rome in 408
    - Sacks Rome in 410 AD — first time Rome sacked since 390
  - Used “scorched earth” policy
  - Cannibalism used during siege
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# SUMMARY OF TRUMPET # 1

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- Begins God's answer to the martyrs' prayer, "How long, O Lord?"
  - Goths invade Italy, lay siege to Rome, used scorched earth
  - The first time in 800 years Rome is sacked
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# TRUMPET #2 — THE VANDALS SACK ROME

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# TRUMPET #2 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “mountain” - a nation (see Jer. 51:24-25)
  - “sea” - points to naval combat and maritime-minded people
  - “one third” - one-third of the Roman Empire
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# THE VANDALS SACK ROME



- 409 - invaded Spain with 100,000 troops
- 429 - crossed into North Africa
- 435 - Rome recognizes Vandal supremacy in Africa
- 455 - invaded Rome from the sea

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# SUMMARY OF TRUMPET #2

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- Vandals ended Rome's dominance of the sea
  - “Gaiseric was still young. Though a capable administrator who reorganized Africa into a lucrative state, he was happiest when engaged in war. Building a great fleet, he ravaged with it the coasts of Spain, Italy, and Greece. No one could tell where his cavalry-laden ships would land next; never in Roman history had such unhindered piracy prevailed in the western Mediterranean” (Durant, *The Age of Faith*, p. 38).
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# TRUMPET #3 - THE HUNS INVADE

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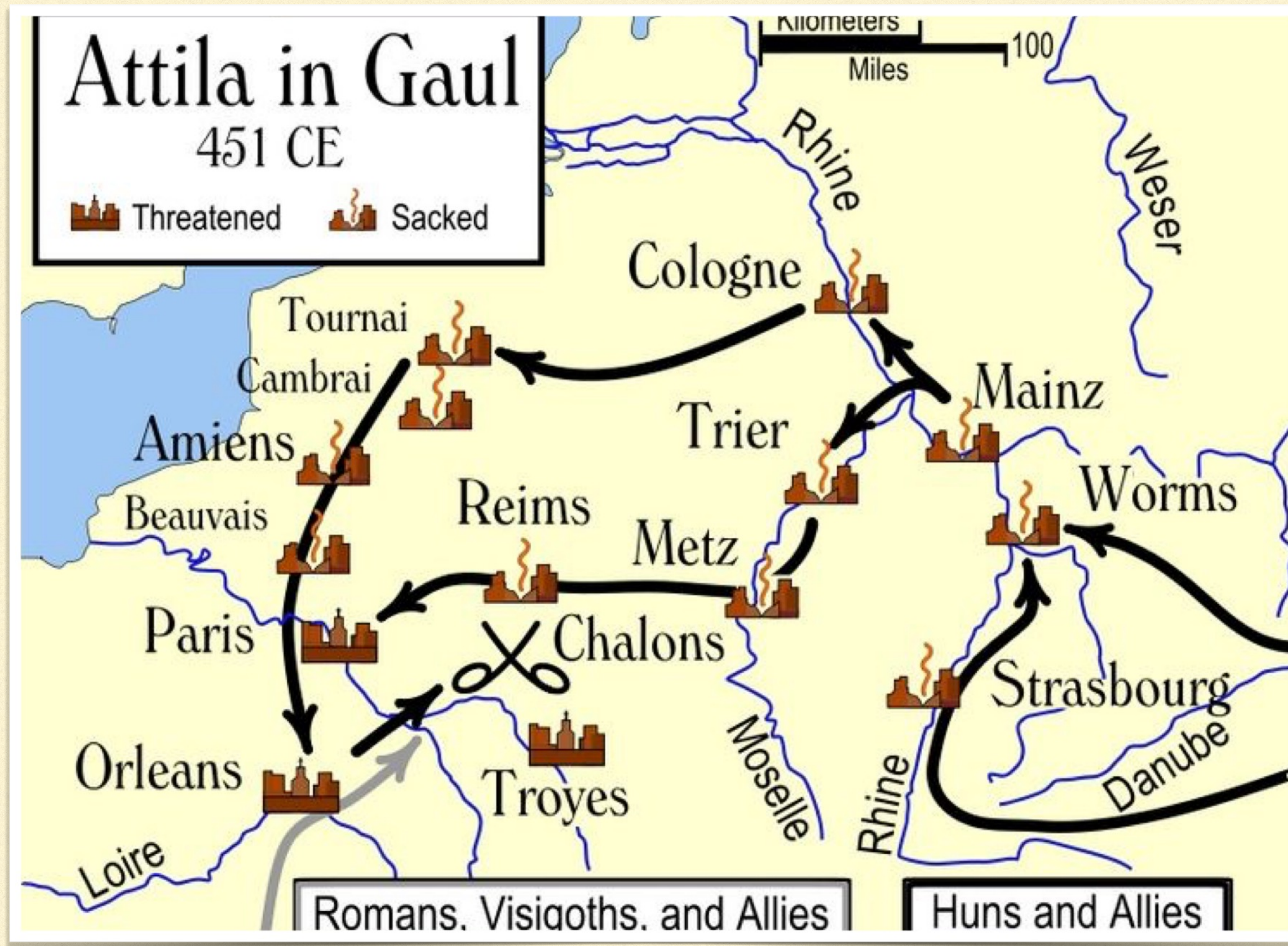
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# TRUMPET #3 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “star” - symbolic of an important man
  - “Wormwood” - literally “bitterness”
  - “rivers....springs of water” – point to the use of rivers by this conqueror
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# ATTILA THE HUN



- The “Scourge of God”
- Many battles fought beside rivers
- 452 - Invades Italy; Pope Leo negotiates on behalf of the city of Rome
- Attila buried by his men in the Danube

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# SUMMARY OF TRUMPET #3

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- Attila and the Huns conquered the region of Central Europe that is geographically dominated by rivers.
  - Attila was the driving force behind the Huns' success.
  - The Huns' victories over Rome began and ended with Attila – once he died, their campaigns were concluded.
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TRUMPET #4 — WESTERN EMPIRE FALLS

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# TRUMPET #4 — WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “third of the sun...moon...stars” - remember the imagery in Seal #6
  - “A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night” - not an all-encompassing darkness; it only affects part of the Empire
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# ODOACER AND THE FALL OF ROME

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- 473 - conglomeration of tribes invade Italy
  - 476 - city of Rome falls
  - 493 - Italy becomes the kingdom of the Ostrogoths
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“In 400 Alaric led the **Visigoths** over the Alps into Italy, and in 410 they took and sacked Rome. In 429 Gaiseric led the **Vandals** to the conquest of Spain and Africa, and in 455 they took and sacked Rome. In 451 Attila led the **Huns** in an attack upon Gaul and Italy; he was defeated at Chalons, but overran Lombardy. In 472 a Pannonian general, Orestes, made his son emperor under the name of Romulus Augustulus. Four years later the barbarian mercenaries who dominated the Roman army deposed this "little Augustus," and named their leader **Odoacer** king of Italy.

Odoacer recognized the supremacy of the Roman emperor at Constantinople, and was accepted by him as a vassal king. The Roman Empire in the East would go on until 1453; in the West it had come to an end.”

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