



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 2 , Part 5 (8:13-9:11) - Trumpet 5

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# The Roman Empire

in 117 AD, at its greatest extent

Seal #1 - The Age of the Antonines



# Seal #6



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# SEAL 7: ~70 YEAR INTERLUDE

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- Revelation 8:3-5, “Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. [4] And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. [5] Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.”
  - Seal 5, 6:10, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”
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# TRUMPETS 1-4

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- Trumpet 1 — Goths under Alaric besiege and sack Rome (410 A.D.)
  - Trumpet 2 — Vandals under Gaeseric sack Rome (455 A.D.)
  - Trumpet 3 — Huns under Attila ravage the Empire
  - Trumpet 4
    - Odoacer leads a coalition of “barbarian” tribes against Rome
    - City of Rome falls in 476; all of the Empire except for Italy is given to Eastern Roman Empire
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1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 1/3

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- Trumpet #1 — 1/3 of the trees were burned up
  - Trumpet #2 — 1/3 of the sea becomes like blood
  - Trumpet #3 — 1/3 of the rivers and springs of water become bitter
  - Trumpet #4 — 1/3 of the sun, 1/3 of the moon, 1/3 of the stars
  - Only parts of the Empire are affected by each trumpet
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And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

– *Revelation 8:13*

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# THREE WOES

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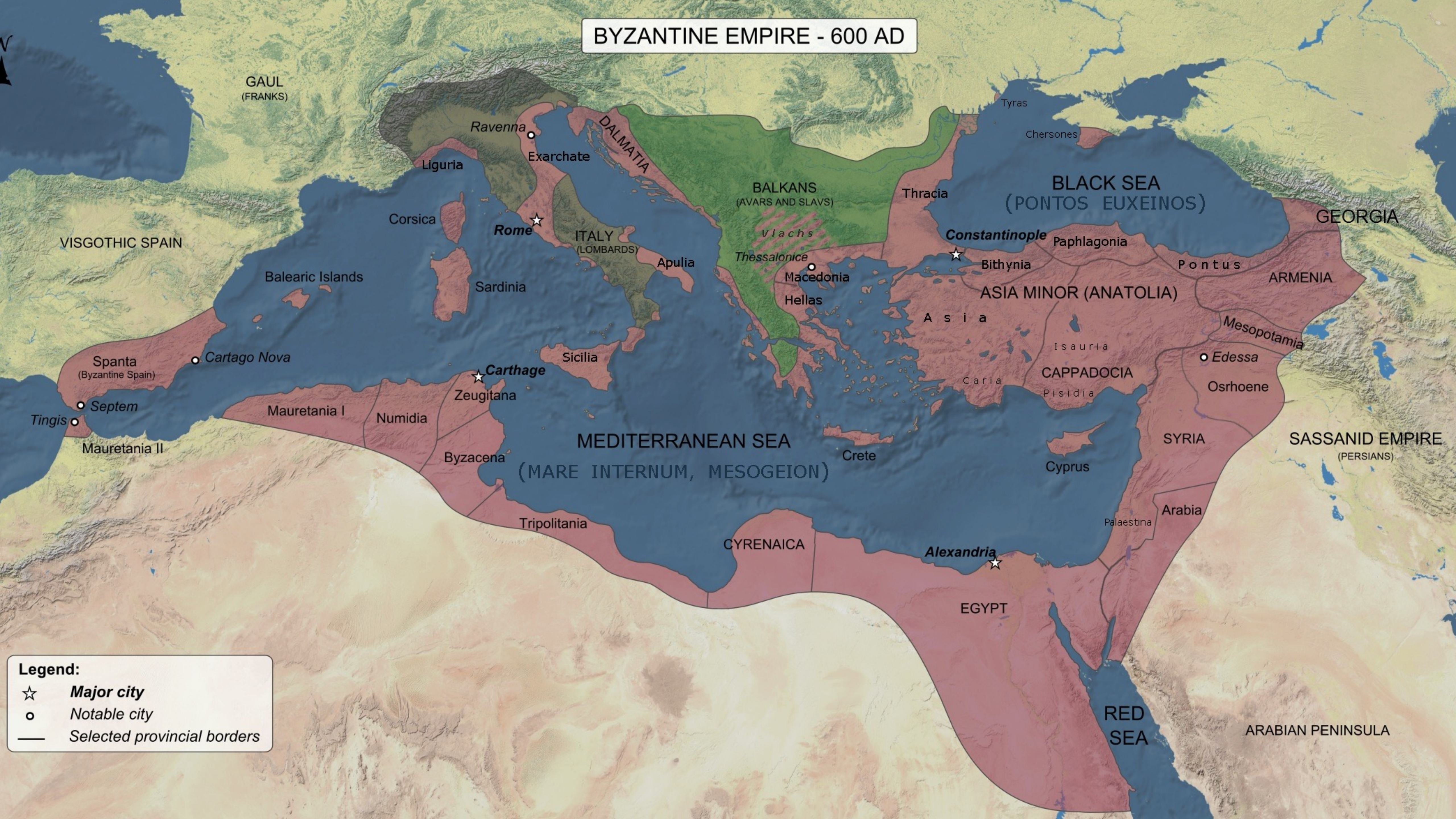
- The appearance of the angel signal a conclusion of the four trumpets
    - Remember 7:1, “After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.”
    - Four trumpets = four winds
  - Three woes, three trumpets remain
  - “to the inhabitants of the earth” — the world as opposed to the church (see 12:12 and 17:2)
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# THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE EAST

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# BYZANTINE EMPIRE - 600 AD



**Legend:**

- ☆ **Major city**
- **Notable city**
- **Selected provincial borders**

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# THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE AND EASTERN CHURCH

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- Eastern (Byzantium) Empire endures for nearly 1,000 years
    - 476: Rome falls (Trumpet #4)
    - 1453: Constantinople falls (Trumpet #6)
  - Schism of 1054
    - Latin church in the West
    - Greek church in the East
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# TRUMPETS 5-6 JUDGE THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

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- Trumpet #5 - the rise of Islam and the Arab opposition to Byzantium (9:12: “One woe is past...”)
  - Trumpet #6 - the rise of the Turkish power, Constantinople falls, Byzantine Empire ends
    - 11:14: “The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”
    - “...coming quickly”: catchphrase for the return of Jesus (Trumpet #7)
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6, 6, 6

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- Sixth seal prepares God's people for the tribulation to come — see Revelation 7:1-8
  - Sixth trumpet signals that the end of the world approaches —see Revelation 9:20-21, 7:13-17
  - Sixth bowl warns God's people to prepare — see Revelation 16:15
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# TRUMPET #7 - DAY OF JUDGMENT

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- Proleptic: to see something in the future as if it is happening in the present
    - 11:18, “The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”
  - The seventh trumpet is the last trumpet in Revelation: “...in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at *the last trumpet...*” (1 Corinthians 15:52)
  - Trumpet #7 is the third and final woe; it concludes God’s judgment of the Roman Empire
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TRUMPET #5 - THE RISE OF THE ARAB  
POWER AND THE CONQUERING OF ISLAM

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# TRUMPET #5 - WHAT JOHN SAW

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- “star” - a great or notable man
  - “the bottomless pit” - the abyss, Tartarus, where demons have been chained to await judgment
  - “To him was given the key to the bottomless pit” - given authority to open up the bottomless pit.
  - “smoke arose” - false doctrine, an obscuring faith
  - “locust” - warriors, a consuming army that follows after the emergence of the false teaching
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# MORE OF WHAT JOHN SAW

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- “they were commanded not to harm...” - preservation of nature; no slash and burn strategies
  - “torment...for five months” - 5 months = 150 days using a lunar calendar
    - In prophecy, a day can equal a year — see Leviticus 25:4, Numbers 14:34, and Ezekiel 4:4-6
    - 150 days = 150 years
  - “shape of the locusts”
  - Verse 11: these events under the influence of the demonic realm
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# ARABS RAISED TO OPPOSE BYZANTIUM

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- “the star” - Mohammed
  - “smoke arose out of the pit” - the false teaching
  - “they were commanded not to harm” - early Muslim policies for conquering
    - “Be just...be valiant; die rather than yield; be merciful; slay neither old men, nor women, nor children, Destroy no fruit trees, grain, or cattle. Keep your word, even to your enemies. Molest not those religious persons who live retired from the world, but compel the rest of mankind to become Moslems or pay us tribute. If they refuse these terms, slay them” (Abu-Bekr, first Caliph and successor to Mohammed).
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# “TORMENT FOR FIVE MONTHS” = 150 YEARS

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- 612 - Mohammed begins preaching (the smoke rose out of the bottomless pit)
  - 622 - moves to Medina, begins fighting (out of the smoke come locusts prepared for battle)
  - 632 - Mohammed dies, Abu-Bekr succeeds him
  - 632-732 - Arabs conquer Middle East, North Africa, Spain, and are stopped by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in France
  - 762 - Founding of Baghdad on the site Qasr al-Salam; marks the beginning of the Golden Age of Islam.
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# BYZANTINE EMPIRE - 600 AD



**Legend:**

- ☆ Major city
- Notable city
- Selected provincial borders



**Byzantine Empire**  
mid-8th century

● **Constantinople**  
Byzantine capital  
from 330 C.E.

**Umayyad  
Caliphate**

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# GOD'S TOOL OF JUDGMENT

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- “they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months”
    - Byzantium’s power significantly reduced, but the Empire remained intact
  - “And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.”
    - The rise of the Arab power shook European Christendom to its core
  - “The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle” (see quote on next slide)
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“The Arabs who invaded the (Byzantine and Sassanid) empires were not a tribal horde but an organized force, some of whose members had acquired military skill and experience in the service of the empires or in the fighting after the death of the Prophet.”

—Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples*, p. 23

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# WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

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- Revelation 7:3, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”
  - Greek church suffered from numerous disputes and sects
  - Byzantine Empire persecuted minority sects; Arabs ended this persecution
  - Arab rule was welcomed by Christian sects throughout the Middle East
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“The God of vengeance . . . seeing the wickedness of the Romans who, wherever they ruled, cruelly robbed our churches and monasteries and condemned us without pity, raised from the region of the south the children of Ishmael to deliver us by them from the hands of the Romans ... it was no light advantage for us to be delivered from the cruelty of the Romans.”

*—Michael the Syrian, a 12th century Jacobite*

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# SUMMARY OF TRUMPET #5

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- Mohammed claims to receive a series of visions
  - Mohammed begins preaching, unites the Arab tribes under the banner of Islam
  - The Arab power conquers much of Byzantium and into territories of the old Western Empire
  - If Arab rule benefitted these sects, then surely it benefitted those Christians who were closer to the Bible's pattern for the church.
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