



# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 2 , Part 8 (11:7-11:18) - Trumpet 6, Part 3 and Trumpet 7

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# SUMMARY OF 10:5-11:6

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- God's judgment of the Roman Empire will end with trumpet #7, but there is more for John to prophesy (10:11, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.")
  - The measuring of the temple represents a time when some will judge the church according to the standard of the word of God — John Wycliffe is one example
  - The two witnesses represent Daniel and John who, in turn, represent the Old and New Testaments
  - They are clothed in sackcloth because the word of God is suppressed — Latin was the only Bible translation sanctioned by the church of Rome
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11:7-10: THE BEAST FROM THE ABYSS

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# 11:7-10 - WHAT JOHN SEES

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- “...when they finish their testimony” - at the conclusion of the 1,260 years
  - “...the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit” - a kingdom antagonistic toward the people of God
  - “...the great city” - the rebellious spirit of mankind; apostasy, spiritual adultery
  - “...three and a half days” - a length of time to ensure one is dead (e.g. Lazarus, Jesus)
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# THE BEAST

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- Described in greater detail in 13:1
    - Seven heads = Rome in its various phases of its power
    - Ten horns = the European kingdoms that emerged out of Rome (more on this later)
  - Caesaropapism: combining secular authority with religious authority
  - The beast morphs into a loose coalition of kingdoms bound together by their allegiance to the church of Rome
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“If one were writing the history of Western Europe in the period from about 330-700 AD, there would, inevitably be two major themes. The first would tell of the late Roman empire and its fate after the reorganization by the Emperors Diocletian and Constantine, until most of its Western provinces were superseded by barbarian kingdoms. The second theme would be the story of these new nations, the Germanic kingdoms whose foundations were laid during the years from about 400-600 AD.”

*–The Oxford Illustrated History of Christianity, p. 62*

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# IT ASCENDS FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

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- A manifestation of Satan's power
    - 12:3 — the dragon has seven heads and ten horns
    - 13:1 — the beast has seven heads and ten horns
  - Satan is the ruler of this world — Luke 4:5-7, John 12:31
  - He influences nations — 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9 and 20:3
  - Satan behind persecution of the church — Revelation 2:10, Ephesians 6:11-12
  - Satan continues to use the beast against **the** church — Revelation 12:17 and 13:7
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# THE GREAT CITY = ROME

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- God vs. evil comparisons — e.g. the “great city” (11:8) vs. the “holy city” (11:2)
  - Great city found 8 times; refers to spiritual Babylon — Genesis 10:8-12 and 11:1-9; Revelation 17:5
  - A tale of two cities — Babylon and Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 14:33)
  - “which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt” — two places that resisted God’s will
  - “where also our Lord was crucified” -- physical Jerusalem (see Luke 19:41-44)
  - Great city = rebellion against God manifested across the centuries
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# THE WITNESSES KILLED

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- Witnesses = Daniel and John; the Old and New Testaments
  - Any groups who appealed to the Scriptures and rejected the authority of the Roman church were actively persecuted.
    - “Heresy” was punishable by death, usually by burning alive
    - “Heretics” were denied “Christian burial”
  - Roman church attempted to coerce secular authorities to root out heresy
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# THE WALDENSIANS

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- One of the first efforts to translate the Bible into a local dialect
  - Endeavored to publicly preach the gospel to people in their native tongues
  - Identified with the poor and chose an impoverished lifestyle
  - Believed in following the teachings and example of Jesus and His disciples
  - Excommunicated by Pope Lucius III in 1184 and targeted for extermination
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# COUNCIL OF VERONA, 1184, THE INQUISITION

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“All the archbishops and bishops shall visit once or twice a year in person, or by their archdeacons, or by other honourable persons, the places in their diocese where the presence of heretics may be indicated by popular rumor. Upon arriving there they shall apply to three or four men of good reputation, or, if it appears necessary, to all the inhabitants of the place, and shall command them to engage themselves by oath...to denounce after diligent search those whom they know to be heretics, those who frequent secret meetings, those whose manner of life is peculiar. The bishops or their archdeacons shall cause the accused to appear, who shall be punished if they fail to exculpate themselves.”

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“...to check [the Waldenses'] increase, a Council of Toulouse in 1229 decreed that no lay folk should possess scriptural books except the Psalter and the Hours (which were chiefly Psalms); nor should they read these except in Latin, for no vernacular translation had yet been examined and guaranteed by the church.”

*–Durant, Age of Faith, p. 770*

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“...that no one in the future will translate any text of Scripture into English or into any other text than book, scripture or tract, or that such a book, scripture or tract be read, whether new in the time of said John Wycliffe written or written in the future, whether in part or as a whole, public or hidden. This is under the punishment of the greater excommunication until the bishop of the place or, if necessary, a provincial council approves the said translation. But those who act against it should be punished like a heretic and false teacher..”

*–Arundel Constitution Condemnation of Wycliffe*

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# FIFTH LATERAN COUNCIL - 1512-1517

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- An attempt to re-consolidate papal power
  - Ottoman Empire threatened Hungary – the pope called for another crusade.
  - A sect known as the Bohemian brethren were invited to plead their case before the Pope.
    - It was declared on May 5, 1514, “Now all Christendom sees that it is subjected to one head, that is, to thee [the pope].”
    - “And those who dwell on earth will rejoice over them...”
  - Centuries of rooting out heresy managed to quiet all objections to the supremacy of the pope.
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# INDULGENCES

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- March 15, 1517: Pope Leo X authorizes the sale of indulgences to complete St. Peter's Basilica in Rome
  - Indulgences: for a price, one could secure the forgiveness of sins for oneself and those who have died.
  - “Lo, the heavens are open: if you enter not now, when will you enter? For twelve pence you may redeem the soul of your father out of purgatory; and are you so ungrateful that you will not rescue the soul of your parent from torment? If you had but one coat, you ought to strip yourself instantly, and sell it, in order to purchase such benefit...”
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11:11-13: THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE

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# 11:11-13 - WHAT JOHN SAW

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- “the breath of life from God” - a resurrection from the dead
  - “they ascended to heaven in a cloud” - given divine protection
  - “a great earthquake” - great social, political, and cultural upheaval.
  - “a tenth of the city fell” - 10 kingdoms emerged from the Roman Empire, 1 of which fell because of the earthquake.
  - “seven thousand people were killed” - 1000 is a definite number with an indefinite meaning (Ps. 90:4, II Pet. 3:8); many would die as a consequence of the earthquake
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# THE WITNESSES REVIVED

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- 1456: Gutenberg Bible published with movable type press
  - March 1, 1516: Erasmus publishes first complete NT in Greek
  - William Tyndale followed the tradition of Wycliffe
    - “It would be better to be without God's law than without the pope's.”
    - “If God spare me life, ere many years I will cause the boy that driveth the plow to know more of the Scripture than you do.”
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# CAUGHT UP TO HEAVEN

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- 1456-1506: an estimated 15 million books printed in Europe, majority of which were Bibles
  - 1815: estimated 1.3 billion Bibles printed
  - 1815-1975: estimated 2.5 billion printed
  - 21st century: 80 million Bibles printed per year
  - 2021: estimated that 5-7 billion Bibles have been printed since 1456
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“...there was a great popular hunger to encounter the book on which the faith and worship of the Church was based – the Bible...the increase in Bibles created the Reformation rather than being created to by it, and it is notable how many of these Bibles were translations from Latin into local languages...[the mass proliferation of Bibles created] the worry...that the laity would spend too much time reading and not listening to sermons.”

–MacCulloch, *The Reformation*, pp. 72-73

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“The fear which this Islamic aggression engendered in Europe was an essential background to the Reformation, convincing many on both sides that God’s anger was poised to strike down the Christian world, and so making it all the more essential to please God by affirming the right form of Christian belief against other Christians. It is impossible to understand the mood of sixteenth-century Europe without bearing in mind the deep anxiety inspired by the Ottoman Empire.”

– MacCullough, *The Reformation*, p. 57

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“At all social levels, people were expecting something dramatic and decisive to happen... They were terrified of the Turks, and believed that God had sent the Sultan for a purpose, to show his wrath and proclaim the Last Days...’At the beginning of the sixteenth century, everyone that mattered in the Western Church was crying out for reformation”

–MacCulloch, *The Reformation*, p. 153

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# A GROWING SENSE OF THE LAST DAYS

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- Johann Hilten, German Franciscan, 1485
  - Girolamo Savonarola, Dominican friar, 1490's
  - 1513: Fifth Lateran Council forbids preaching on apocalyptic subjects
    - Remember Revelation 9:20-10:2
    - They did not repent, they resisted the message, the seven thunders sounded
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# MARTIN LUTHER, 1483-1546

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- Believed the Bible was the final authority
  - Translated the Bible into German
  - Argued that baptism and the Lord's Supper were the only sacraments instituted by Jesus
  - Attacked monastic vows, pilgrimages, and works of merit as un-biblical
  - Objected to the sale of indulgences - 95 Theses
  - Sought to restore the church to its original state
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# TEN HORNS = TEN KINGDOMS

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- Revelation 13:1, “a beast...having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”
  - Revelation 17:12, “The ten horns which you saw are ten kings...”
  - Three significant early conversions: Franks, Visigoths, Anglo-Saxons
  - One tenth of the city = one horn or one kingdom
    - England is the first major European power to break from the church
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# HENRY VIII OF ENGLAND

1491-1547

- England was a Catholic country when his reign began
- Sought a divorce from his first wife, pope refused
- Broke away from the Catholic Church, formed the Anglican Church
- King replaces the pope as the head of the church

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“...the Reformation...broke the authority of dogma, generated a hundred sects that would formerly have died at the stake, and allowed among them such virile debate that reason was finally recognized as the bar before which all sects had to plead their cause unless they were armed with irresistible physical force.”

–Durant, *The Reformation*, pp. 939-40

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# SUMMARY OF 11:7-18

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- For a millennium, Latin was the only language permitted for Bible translations
  - The Roman church used the secular powers of Europe to suppress minority sects who appealed to the Bible as their authority
  - With the invention of the printing press and the growth of translations into other languages, God freed and preserved the Bible
  - The widespread availability of the Bible led to the Reformation which shook the apostate church and broke its hegemony in Europe
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"Christian" Rome	Trumpet 5	9:1-12	"Golden Age"	512-702
	Trumpet 6	9:13-21	Judgment against Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire); successive bids to conquer Constantinople by Muslim powers; Byzantine Empire falls in 1453 to the Ottoman Empire	1056-1453
		10	More prophecy to come – this is not the end	N/A
		11:1-14	Word of God testifies for a period of 1,260 years; French Age of Reason and attempt to "kill" the Bible	536-1796
Trumpet 7	11:15-19	Final Judgment, Conclusion of Vision #2	?	

- Change to "Word of God testifies for a period of 1,260 years; the suppression of the Bible by the church of Rome which led to the Reformation."
- ~ Mid 3rd Century - Early 16th century