

TRUMPETS ----- NUKES AND A LITTLE BOOK

(Revelation 8 - 10)

SESSION #6 – WORKBOOK
Intended For
“KINGDOM WARRIORS IN THE ARMY OF GOD”

Unveiling Mysteries in the “Book of Revelation”

Based upon the Book:
GOD’S ANOINTED WARRIORS
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(Slides # 2 thru 5)

THE DAWNING OF THE “DAY OF THE LORD”

The opening of the “sixth seal” appears to be the launching of the Day of the Lord;

- This is not a twenty-four hour day.
- It is a period of time when the Lord will continually manifest Himself through His people in the midst of the greatest devastation in the history of mankind

But **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 2 Peter 3:10

Another example in Acts 2:19-21

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:19-21

(Slides # 6 & 7)

THE DAWNING OF THE “DAY OF THE LORD”

The Day of the Lord

Key Points:

- It is a day when the “sixth seal,” the seven trumpets” and the “seven bowls of wrath” will successively alter world events and usurp the world’s vision of peace and brotherhood without God.
- It is a day when plagues will fall directly on mankind who do not have the “seal of God” on their foreheads.
- It is a day when the “trumpet events” will cause the powers of unbelief and hostility toward God to break into the open in the person of the Antichrist and then, every person’s loyalty will become plain.
- It is a day when both forces of righteousness and evil will be so open and clear that every person must declare themselves: either for Christ or for Antichrist.

These plagues being poured out upon the earth are not simply judgments of wrath, but also have a merciful purpose:

- They are designed to turn men, women, and children to God by harsh experiences while the time for decision remains.

Notes:

(Slides # 8 - 9)

THE 6TH SEAL – IS IT NUCLEAR?

Note the repercussions from the 6th seal event:

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the **sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,** and the **stars of the sky fell to the earth** as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. **The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up,** and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

Revelation 6:12-14

Key Points:

These characteristics of the 6th seal sound like the after-effects of a nuclear holocaust.

- Smoke from a nuclear blasts would certainly cause the **blackening of the sun during the day and the moon to become red** during the night.
- **“Falling stars”** could be nuclear hail also known as **“fallout.”**
- **“Sky vanishing like a scroll being rolled up”** may represent a mushroom-shaped cloud that is an after-effect of a tremendous nuclear blast.

It is possible that this “great earthquake” initiated by opening the “sixth seal” is the very same earthquake that will destroy the coalition of armies descending upon Israel in the great war described in Ezekiel 38-39.¹

This 6th seal event may provide us with foresight as to the time of the coming “trumpet judgments.”

Notes:

(Slide # 10)

THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH SEAL

When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.
Revelation 8:1

Key Points:

It appears that with the opening of this final seal, the entire prophetic Book of Revelation is opened for all to see.

- And when the Book of Revelation was opened to their understanding, they were speechless; for it reveals that the devastations that are released with the opening of the 6th seal is merely a glimpse of greater events to come.

This “seventh seal” has no plague or judgment content, but its opening actually launches the sounding of the seven trumpets. In summary:

- The first six seals relate to forces leading up to the time of that period known as the Great Tribulation,
- While the seven trumpets actually launch the beginning of these Great Tribulation events.

¹ Ezekiel 38:19

Notes:

(Slides # 11 & 12)

SILENCE IN HEAVEN AND THE PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

(Revelation 8:1-5)

During this silence in heaven, seven angels are standing before the throne of God and they receive seven trumpets.

Key Points:

- They do not immediately commence blowing these trumpets, but they reverently keep silent until something else has been finished.
- Then another angel approaches the altar, receives incense along with the prayers of the saints, and then kindles the incense with the fire from the altar, he stands before the Throne of God and causes the incense and the prayers of the saints to ascend up to the Lord Almighty.
- It is very evident that the all-important elements to this period of silence are the prayers of the saints rising up before the Lord. What is the object of these prayers?

“Our Father, who art in heaven; blessed be thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done upon earth as it is in heaven.”

- This is the cry of God’s beloved sons and daughters who have been calling for His Kingdom to come for more than four thousand years.

The time has now come for the launching of judgments that will prepare the world for the second coming of our Lord to set up His Kingdom across the entire earth. ²

Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. *Revelation 8:5*

Notes:

BREAK-TIME (Slides # 13 - 14)

(Slides # 15 - 16)

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS – AN OVERVIEW (Revelation 8:6-12)

Trumpets are used in Scripture to awaken people to matters of extreme importance or summon them to war against an approaching enemy.

Listen to the prophecy of Joel concerning this time:

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! *Joel 2:1-2*

Now there is a symbolic parallelism between the trumpet events that we are now addressing and the plagues that God rained down on Egypt in the days of Moses.

- Certainly plagues from heaven could occur again within these trumpet series of events, but the symbolism of the devastations this trumpets series are very descriptive of a nuclear holocaust.
- Either way, the challenges which the world, as well as the church, will soon face will be just as difficult, if not worse than the chaotic events addressed in this session.

² Herman Hoeksema. *Behold, He Cometh* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Assn, 1969) p.296-297.

- Thus, I am using a nuclear scenario which will bring much clearer understanding of these devastating events for our 21st century culture.

Key Points:

It seems probable that the first six trumpet prophecies foretell all the major events that will occur in the aftermath of a single nuclear war - a war that destroys much of the environment as well as numerous human lives.

- Collectively, the first “six trumpets” document the ferocity of a nuclear war and the war’s immediate aftermath.
- While the “7th trumpet” deals with ongoing, long-term repercussions following this nuclear war.

These seven trumpet plagues fall into two separate groups:

- The first four are directed against the elements of nature and the heavenlies.
- The last three, which are called “woes,” show their effect upon mankind.

(Slides # 17 - 18)

The First Trumpet Sounds = A Burning of the Land

The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. *Revelation 8:7*

Key Points:

Nuclear hail is formed when large quantities of earth and water are sucked into the fireball and become vaporized.

- They gradually descend to earth in what we call fallout. John appears to describe this nuclear fallout as hail since it does look like ordinary hailstones.
- The fallout of hail that falls quickly back to earth, within one day, is generally the size of a marble. Lighter particles continue to fall like dusty snow, and eventually invisibly, for weeks afterwards.
- This affects the food crops that are subjected to severe contamination and they cannot be harvested for decades.

- Now a single megaton bomb can set ninety-five square miles on fire at the same time – but this is so much more devastating.

“Mixed with blood” could possibly be vaporized remains of humans and animals falling back to earth following the blast.

- Those in the vicinity of an air-burst nuclear explosion would be instantly reduced to super-heated gases and would eventually fall to the earth as vaporized blood along with other burning debris.

Finally, note also the parallelism of the 1st trumpet with the 7th Egyptian plague during the days of Moses when thunder, heavy hail, and fire fell upon the land of Egypt.

- This hail struck down every plant of the field and broke every tree.
- Only in the land of Goshen, where the people of Israel were, was there no hail.

Notes:

(Slide # 19)

Second Trumpet Sounds = Burning of the Sea & Marine Life

The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. *Revelation 8:8-9*

Key Points:

- The great mountain burning with fire is not easy to identify. Some commentators believe that it may be a fiery meteor. This is certainly possible, but also this could well be the naval part of this war.
- Nuclear submarines will undoubtedly be part of this war and therefore, the naval vessels at sea will be under attack since that is where the large portion of nuclear weaponry is launched.
- Like the land masses, a one-third of the seas will be destroyed with much death.

Again, note also that the parallel of the 2nd trumpet with the 1st Egyptian plague during the days of Moses when the Egyptian waters were struck and turned into blood.³

(Slides # 20 - 21)

The Third Trumpet Sounds = A Burning of the Fresh Water

The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is **Wormwood**. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. *Revelation 8:10-11*

Key Points:

- Wormwood is a bitter herb that Scripture employs as a symbol of bitterness and sorrow which God gives to them who forsake Him.⁴
- Here it is probably used to describe extreme bitterness in the fresh waters caused by radioactive fallout. This certainly identifies the nuclear radiation effect upon the interior of the continents where the world's rivers and lakes are found.
- Drinking of poisonous waters will result in a slow, painful death from radiation sickness.
- Starting with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, victims will experience internal bleeding, ulcerations of the lips, and loss of hair within 2 weeks.
- Many will undoubtedly die from these embittered waters.

Notes:

(Slide # 22)

The Fourth Trumpet Sounds = A Darkening of the Heavens

³ Exodus 7:20-21

⁴ Jeremiah 9:15

The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night. **Revelation 8:12**

Key Points:

- The incineration of one-third of the earth will not be the result of a detonation of a few nuclear bombs. Even the ten kiloton atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki in 1945 blocked the sun's rays for a short period of time.
- Once high altitude nuclear smoke clouds encircle the earth they will become a miles thick, dark curtain throughout the skies. These thick clouds will block the sun and the moon which will shorten the length of daylight as well as the night-lights.
- Studies of the post-effect of nuclear warfare reveal that the lands would experience sub-freezing temperatures over most of the northern hemisphere.
- These temperatures could remain below freezing for months resulting in a **severe "nuclear winter."**⁵

Note also the parallel of the 4th trumpet with the 9th Egyptian plague during the days of Moses which caused darkness throughout the land for three days. However, all the people of Israel had light where they lived.⁶

Notes:

(Slides # 23 - 24)

THE EAGLE'S WARNING – "WOE, WOE, WOE"

Key Points:

At the completion of events emanating from the first four trumpets, one-third of mankind's entire physical universe has been decimated.

⁵ Charles W. Miller, *Today's Technology in Bible Prophecy* (Lansing, MI: TIP, 1990) p.178-182

⁶ Exodus 10:20-23

(Revelation 9:3-10)

Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, **but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.** They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. *Revelation 9:3-5*

Revelation 9:3-5 - Summary

- Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and
- They were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.
- They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree,
- But only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
- They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them,
- Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.

Key Points:

Now, out of the aftermath of a nuclear strike, something will arise to attempt to control and then later - take advantage of this catastrophic situation:

The Bible has previously referred to locusts as vast destructive armies.⁷ It is conceivable that these locusts are representative of a vast, perhaps global, military force.

Thus, our “fifth trumpet” scenario is designed to reveal what this event will look like from a worldly perspective in the twenty-first century.

- Which tells us that “locusts” are symbolic of a vast military force.

Notes:

⁷ Judges 6:3-5

(Slide # 29)

FIFTH TRUMPET WOE - THE NEED FOR MARTIAL LAW

The typical survivor's first reaction to these events will be panic, but this will eventually be replaced by anger.

Key Points:

- There will undoubtedly be a huge outbreak of crime including robbery and murder, especially in the urban areas.
- Food and water will be scarce: supplies, transportation, fuel will be nonexistent. There will be a frantic hoarding of food; neighborhood homes will be attacked by gangs and small groups of criminal bands seeking food and other goods.
- This will eventually be organized by gang leadership who will recruit these bands to steal for them in order to gain items to sell on the black market.
- Crops will be highly valued for food and trees will be highly prized for heating, cooking, and building shelters.

Thus, martial law would be the initial measure taken by an existing government to protect the food supplies and to restore order among the survivors to insure their nation's survival.

Key Points:

- This army will not be sent to destroy, but to protect environmental property like the trees and crops that survived the nuclear strike.
- Their supposed mission is to establish law and order in those communities struggling to survive the chaotic aftermath of the nuclear war.
- Their initial orders are not to kill anyone which is a typical order given to combat troops sent to restore order during national emergencies.
- This command is important in preventing an armed revolt from arising among the masses. However, concentration camps will certainly be employed.

Notes:

(Slides # 30 & 31)

FIFTH TRUMPET WOE - THE APPEARANCE OF THE LOCUSTS

In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their **heads were what looked like crowns of gold**; their **faces were like human faces**, their hair like women's hair, and their **teeth like lions' teeth**; they had **breastplates like breastplates of iron**, and the **noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle**. *Revelation 9:7-9*

The appearance of these “5th trumpet” locusts appears similar to helicopter gun-ship’s which would certainly be utilized by this peace-keeping force.

Key Points:

- The “**crown**” of rotor blades, the “**faces of men**” in the cockpit, the **locust-shaped body of the chopper**, the “**lion’s teeth**” armament; all this appears to identify the use of numerous helicopter gun-ship’s, tanks, and vehicles to police the countryside and provide support for the ground troops, and to transport prisoners to concentration camps.
- The whirring noise of the rotor blades could be identified with the sound of **locust wings**
- The thump, thump, thump sound of a chopper passing overhead could be identified with **chariots of many horses running to battle**.
- Looking upward at whirling helicopter blades resemble a woman’ dark hair blowing in the wind.

Notes:

(Slides # 32 thru 34)

FIFTH TRUMPET WOE - THE APPEARANCE OF THE LOCUSTS

They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails. *Revelation 9:10*

Key Points:

What this is saying is that these military forces will be characteristic of a “scorpion army.”

- Scorpions are so bad-tempered that they will lash out at anyone or anything that dare to cross their path. The weaponry used by this peace-keeping force will be like the tail of a scorpion.
- Although they were ordered not to kill the masses, they will certainly inflict pain and torment and thus, it appears as if **taser-gun weaponry** will be involved. This is weaponry that will inflict pain like a sting of a scorpion, but will not cause death.

The “sealed ones” of God will be exempt from being harmed by this force.

Notes:

(Slide # 35)

FIFTH TRUMPET WOE – NUCLEAR WINTER

They were allowed to **torment them for five months**, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone. And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them. *Revelation 9:5-6*

These peace-keeping efforts will last for five months which seems to coincide with the length of a nuclear winter; a period of time when temperatures are below freezing and a third of the light from the sun and moon has been darkened.

Key Points:

- Tests reveal that in a ten thousand-megaton yield exchange, which is enough firepower to burn up a third of the earth, sub-freezing temperatures could last almost six months.
- John is describing five months of wide-spread famine and political upheaval in the midst of arctic-type temperatures; a period of time of such grief and hopelessness for the world citizenry that many will seek death, but death will flee from them and they will have to continue in their deep suffering for a time.⁸

Five dreadful months is emphasized: Why?

- It would be wise to make the preparations and commitment necessary to survive a nuclear winter. We definitely should store up food and water and other provisions that will last for at least, five months during a time of freezing weather.

Notes:

(Slide # 36)

FIFTH TRUMPET WOE – THE ARRIVAL OF APOLLYON

They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon. *Revelation 9:11*

- Both Abaddon and Apollyon means “**destruction**” or “**to destroy**”.

⁸ Charles W. Miller, *Today's Technology in Bible Prophecy* (Lansing, MI: TIP, 1990) p.196-213

(Revelation 9:13-21)

Key Points:

With the sounding of the sixth trumpet, demonic forces are released that will mobilize a murderous “demonic” army numbering 200 million with a mission of killing approximately two billion of the world’s inhabitants.

- Many commentators believe this to be an organized army from the east, perhaps from China, that rises up out of the turmoil in order to conquer and control the remainder of the earth.
- Another possibility: Cells of organized Islamic terrorists, who reside in countries around the world, may believe that this long-awaited “great earthquake” launches the coming of their Mahdi, and thus they may launch a worldwide war for their god, Allah.

Key Points to Consider:

However - Do these terrorists really number 200 million? Think about this: - The actual number of men composing this murderous army may be far less than 200 million.

- This vision describes 200 million demonic horsemen. It is quite possible that these are actual demons which possess members of a smaller size army of Muslim terrorists.
- Remember the “legion” of demons that possessed one man that Jesus released into a herd of pigs – they were 2,000 demons within the soul of that one man.⁹
- Likewise, it could be that similar demonic “legions” occupy each member of a terrorist army with a tremendous murderous agenda. (Perhaps a 100,000 man army possessed by 200 million demons.).
- This may also be a time of destruction of Islamic terrorism.

Notes:

⁹ Mark 5:1-13

(Slides # 42 & 43)

SIXTH TRUMPET WOE – A 200 MILLION DEMONIC ARMY (Revelation 9:13-21)

Regardless of the identity of this army which will kill one-third of mankind, it does have the characteristics of a nuclear onslaught:

And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and **fire** and **smoke** and **sulfur** came out of their mouths. *Revelation 9:17*

Key Points:

The three plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur certainly sound like the three devastating effects of nuclear devices. For example:

- Fire = Blast from being in proximity of explosion.
- Smoke = A visible manifestation of heat which travels much further out than the blast
- Sulfur = Radiation which travels great distances from the initial explosion.

This certainly appears to describe a nuclear war that kills 1/3 of the world's population.

Consider this Scenario of the Trumpet Series:

If the trumpet series is indeed nuclear as previously described, and a third of the earth will be destroyed or polluted, then surely it will result in a tremendous loss of lives which may be included within the “6th trumpet” scenario.

If this is correct, then the six trumpets that sounded are not successive but symbolic of the respective devastations that occur in the different elements of the earth following a world-wide nuclear war. That is, how the nuclear war devastates the land, the seas, the fresh water, the atmosphere, and its effect upon mankind.

One can only speculate concerning the specifics of this destructive scenario; however it is a certainty that these plagues are a supernatural force led by the four demonic angels who have been waiting for centuries for this murderous opportunity to unleash their hatred against humanity.

- A very clear description of this breathtaking demonic army and its destructive intent is very similar to what is also described by the prophets, Joel and Isaiah.¹⁰

¹⁰ Joel 2:1-11 and Isaiah 24:1-15

Notes:

(Slides # 44 thru 47)

THE TRUMPET SERIES – ITS EFFECT UPON MANKIND

Key Points:

These devastating events are obviously punitive in nature, but they are also intended to bring many to repentance.

- Yet the great majority of the world’s population will not repent. They may even be more deeply embittered toward God and the church, who they will blame for the devastation.
- However, like the Israelites who were protected against the plagues that came upon their Egyptian captors, those who are sealed will also be protected.
- Nevertheless, they too will be indirectly affected by these plagues, as hardships abound worldwide and unsealed members of their family and friends become victims.
- Yet, the ones who are “sealed” will not fear and will continually praise the Lord in their circumstances.¹¹

As a result, the light of Jesus will shine mightily through them which will create an astounding, dual effect upon mankind.

- That is, many will repent and turn to the Lord who will protect and provide for them.
- But the large majority will be more deeply embittered toward God and the church, who they will blame for the devastation.

Much fear and confusion will be present among the majority of the Christian world throughout this period of the trumpets.

¹¹ Psalm 23; Job 1:21

- Such gloom and doubt will cause many to begin to lose sight of their Lord and His revelation as they begin to cry out, “Why does God allow this to happen?”

It is at this point that John witnesses the coming of a mighty angel into the midst of this devastation who will equip His army for upcoming events.

Notes:

BREAK-TIME

(Slides # 48 & 49)

(Slide # 50)

A MIGHTY ANGEL BRINGS A LITTLE BOOK (Revelation 10:1-11)

Here we have the symbolic significance of the preparation of John and every true witness of Christ in the world as a prophet. The message that he was to bring was not going to be sweet to the taste of the world, but one of tremendous difficulty and sorrow and judgment.

- Because of this it will be contradicted and opposed, not only by the wicked world of Antichrist but also by much of the church as it currently exists.
- For many who do not truly belong to Christ, but are in the church will hate and deny and oppose the message of tribulation and judgment. They will shout “Peace, peace when there is no peace.”¹²
- It may also be opposed by many of the true people of God; those who do not always see and understand that in this world the church must expect tribulation and judgment in order for the kingdom to come. Tribulation brings separation between God’s people & the world’s.
- It takes spiritual courage, the courage of a warrior with great faith, to be a messenger during these times. And in order to stand against this opposition, the prophet of this message must **“eat” the book** of this prophecy.

It must become part of their very being.

¹² Jeremiah 6:14

(Slides # 51 & 52)

A MIGHTY ANGEL BRINGS A LITTLE BOOK

(Revelation 10:1-11)

What is the content of this book?

It appears to be the message of the Seventh Trumpet. A message revealing:

- (1) Severe battles, destruction, persecution and vengeance
- (2) The fate of Jerusalem and the temple
- (3) The ministry and fate of the two witnesses who are killed for their testimony
- (4) The conflict between Woman and Dragon who attempts to destroy her Child
- (5) The Beast which arises out of the sea and the Beast that arises out of the earth
- (6) The overwhelming power of Antichrist and his war upon the people of God
- (7) Tribulation and oppression for the sake of Christ's kingdom
- (8) Mystery Babylon and her greatness as well as her destruction

A MIGHTY ANGEL BRINGS A LITTLE BOOK

(Revelation 10:1-11)

It appears to be the message of the Seventh Trumpet. A message revealing:

- (9) The pouring out of seven vials of wrath which devastate the entire earth
- (10) The coming of the Lord Jesus with his army of holy warriors
- (11) The establishment of a millennial kingdom on this earth
- (12) The binding and subsequent loosing of Satan
- (13) The great Day of Judgment before the Throne of our Lord
- (14) The coming down from heaven of the new Jerusalem
- (15) The restoration of new heavens and new earth where righteousness reigns forever

Thus, this little book contains a tremendous, terrible message that has a glorious finale; at least for the people of God.

(Slide # 53)

A MIGHTY ANGEL BRINGS A LITTLE BOOK

(Revelation 10:1-11)

He also provides His 'witnesses' with their mission assignment:

- **That is, this little book must not be merely read; it must be eaten!**

The prophet Ezekiel had a very similar experience for he also had to “eat” the scroll before he was prepared to proclaim God’s message of tribulation and mourning upon the house of Israel.

- He was told that the house of Israel is stiff necked and rebellious, so he must expect opposition, **and in order to stand for the Lord with this message, it must be part of his very system.**¹³

Notes:

(Slides # 54 & 55)

WARRIORS OF THE MESSAGE MUST “EAT THIS BOOK”

If John had simply read the little book, its contents would have still remained outside of him and would not have influenced his heart and mind.

- Thus, he would not have been a strong prophet of this message who could passionately stand for the truth of God in the midst of opposition and suffering and tribulation.

Key Points:

The message of this book:

- Must become part of his flesh and blood, his soul and spirit.
- Must transform him, change him, and make a different man out of him.
- Its truth must so dominate him that he can never believe anything else and can never be silenced about it.

Now, this was not merely revealed to John, so that the passage would have no significance for us. It teaches what we must do with the testimony of God in general, but especially with the Book of Revelation.

¹³ Ezekiel 2:8 through 3:3

- We can study the book and listen to various interpretations and we might find intellectual enjoyment in its interpretation. Perhaps our curiosity is somewhat satisfied, but that is not sufficient. **The message of this book demands a positive stand.**

The question is: Do we believe these things? Is it really true that:

- The world is in iniquity and will fight to the last against Christ and His kingdom?
- There is an apostate part of the church which will align itself with the Antichrist?
- That the kingdom of Christ will come in no other way except through world wide wars, judgments, and tribulations?

If you believe these things, the book of this prophecy will determine your stand against the world and prepare you for opposition within the church and for a great falling away.

Are you ready?

- If so, you must eat it, appropriate it; it must become part of your entire system and control the direction of your life, so that you only know one life, the Kingdom of God.

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. **Revelation 1:3***

(Slide # 56)

WARRIORS OF THE MESSAGE MUST “EAT THIS BOOK”

Key Points:

The little book speaks of joy, peace, and everlasting life, but it also speaks many woes and tribulations.

- Commitment to “eat” this little book does not mean that the Word of God has no bitter after-effects when it reaches the belly.
- The process of assimilation and digestion is often painful for the Word of God has to battle against the influence of the flesh and its lusts; and this battle, however sweet it was when first eaten, is a painful one.
- It causes bitterness and struggle until the medicine of the Word of God has done its work and transformed us.

This is especially true in the book of Revelation for this little book speaks of redemption, salvation, heavenly glory, and a new creation where our tears are wiped away, of highest joy and eternal life.

- This is the also the popular, continuing message of the church. **But**, the little book speaks of this only after self-denial and suffering and great personal sacrifice has occurred.
- The eating of this book is not simply studying and reading it; but it requires continuous fasting and praying for spiritual insight - for a life of continuous prayer and fasting is needed for those who desire to be prophetic messengers.
- It holds before us the glory of the future, **but** only at the end of a dark and challenging road to travel. This is not a popular message in most of today's churches.

Notes – Consider the changes & self-discipline that is required to “eat” this little book.

(Slides # 57 & 58)

WARRIORS OF THE MESSAGE MUST “EAT THIS BOOK”

Key Points:

It is a road of battle for the Kingdom of God. It is a road of persecution and mockery on the part of the world.

Suffering As a Christian

Beloved, do not be surprised at the **fiery trial** when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **1 Peter 4:12-13**

Jesus Himself tells us, “He that shall save his life will lose it, but he that shall lose his life for My sake shall save it.”

- That is hard. That is not according to the flesh, but as it begins its work of transformation, the truth of the book may at first seem painful as it mortifies the old man, but more and more leave nothing but one desire, the coming Kingdom of God. ¹⁴

¹⁴ Herman Hoeksema. *Behold, He Cometh* (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformed Free Publishing Association, 1969) c.23

“COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF”

The days are rapidly approaching when a tremendous separation will take place among mankind.

Yet, during this present era of warfare, He reigns as our Commander-in-Chief and His Name continues to be the battle cry for those warriors who fight daily for righteousness and truth.

His name is Jesus, Our Lord, Our King, Our Commander-in-Chief

- **A truly mighty Leader who would never delegate assignments to His people that He Himself wouldn't readily embrace.**
- **A Commander that Christian warriors will readily follow not matter the danger or what costs have to be paid.**
- **These are warriors whose deepest desire is to hear Jesus welcome them with the following words when they enter into His presence:**

..... 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' *Matthew 25:21*