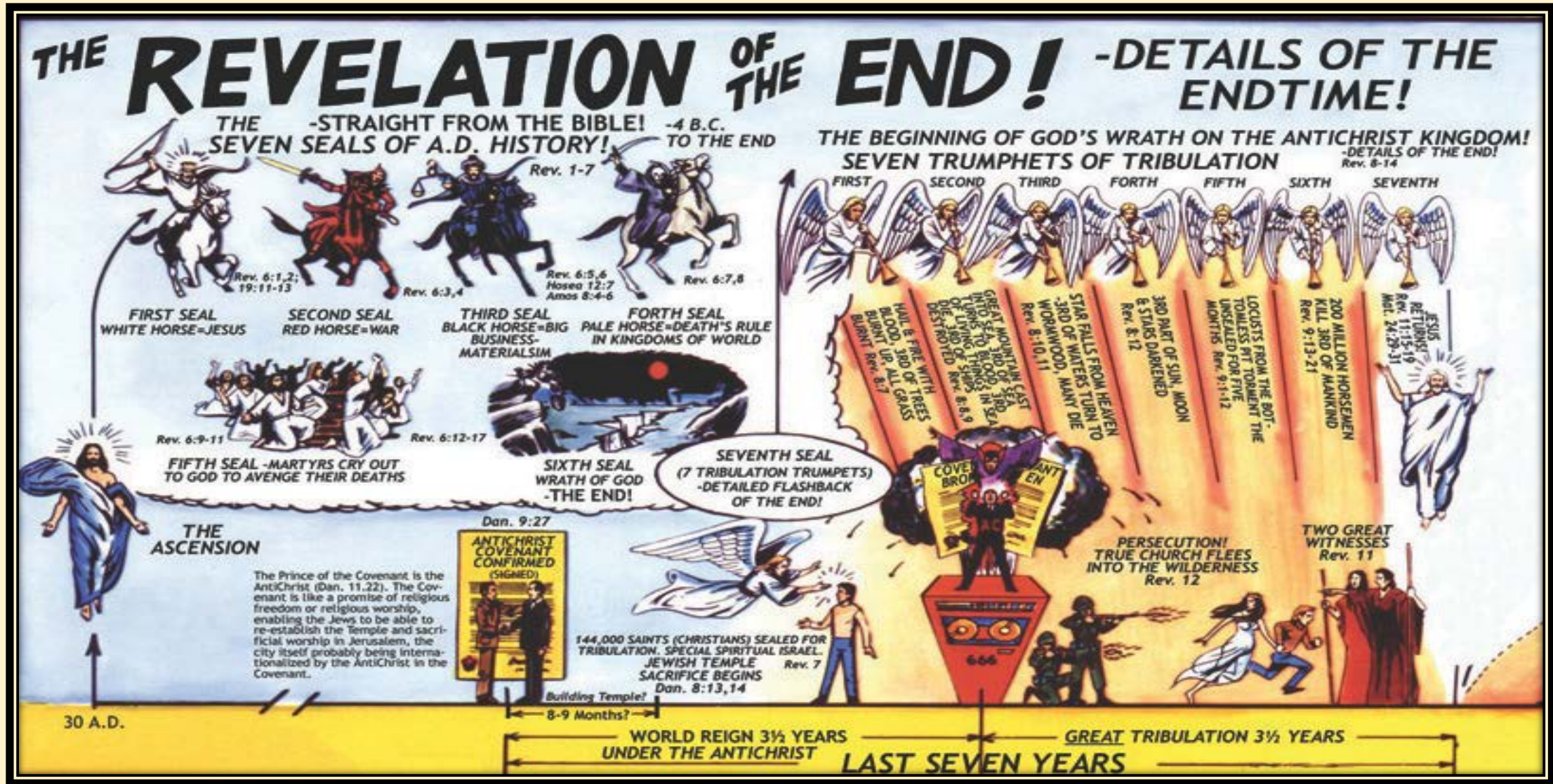


REVELATION CHAPTER 8 Basic and General Study of Revelation compiled by Gaetan

The Book of Revelation follows a beautiful, harmonious, almost mathematical design – a pattern of three sevens. The first seven chapters give an overall view of the New Testament era. They include an introduction, the letters to the Churches and the first Six Seals, history in advance.





The next seven chapters zero in on the Seven Trumpets of the Tribulation.

And the last seven chapters (plus one extra, the 22nd chapter) focus on the complete end of the empires of this “*present evil world*”, which makes way for the arrival of God’s Kingdom on Earth. (*Galatians 1:4*)

The first seven chapters have given us a resume of world history from the time of John unto Heaven itself. Now, as the Lord opens the Seventh Seal, we’re going to zoom in for a bird’s-eye view of what happens specifically at the very End, just before the Rapture of the saints.

These are called the seven trumpets of the Tribulation, that final 3½-year period of man's history, the last half of the Antichrist's reign of terror against all religions, all faiths, all gods, in which he tries to set himself up as if he were God Himself and abolish all religions except the worship of himself and/or his own Image! And he sits in the Temple of God pretending, even claiming that he is God! (*2Thes.2:4*)

This is the last horrendous tribulation period of which the Scriptures have spoken for generations, yea, for millenniums! For thousands of years, God by His prophets, has predicted this last terrible period of Earth's torment, Jacob's trouble, the Gentiles' trouble, tribulation, a terrible period, and the worst in all the Earth's history! As Jesus Himself said, *“then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”* (Mt.24:21.) --The end of the rule of evil men in the Earth!

REV.8:1. And when he had opened the **seventh seal**, there was **silence** in heaven about the space of **half an hour**.

When Jesus opens this seventh seal to reveal to us what is going to happen, it is so awesome, dreadful that a stunned silence overwhelms Heaven for a full half-hour before anything else happens, before anything else is said, before anything else is shown! Before John hears anything else, there is an eerie half-hour of stunned silence, as though all Heaven and Earth were overcome with awe at the magnitude of the catastrophes that are about to be revealed and let loose! That's the scene that's being set.



REV.8:2 And I saw the **seven angels** which stood before God; and to them were given **seven trumpets**.

These Seven Trumpets bring on the catastrophes that are featured in that fearsome era of the Great Tribulation which Jesus said would come just before His Second Coming.

"For then shall be Great Tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be," and "immediately after the tribulation of those days ... they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory." (Mt.24:21, 29-31)



REV.8:3 And **another angel** came and stood at the altar, having a **golden censer**; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with **the prayers** of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

REV.8:4 And the smoke of **the incense**, which came with the **prayers of the saints**, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

**** PSA.141:2** *Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

**** REV.5:8** *And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.*

The smoke rises, flows, just like a beautiful stream. It revolves around and around while it goes up. The Lord takes a deep breath and it smells so good like flowers, like incense. It's our prayers! It's just like smoke, the incense of the sacrifice and the offerings that rise to God. We burn, we consume, we pour out our heart and it pours up to Him.



REV.8:5 And the angel took **the censer**, and filled it with fire of the altar, and **cast it into the earth**: and there were **voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake**.



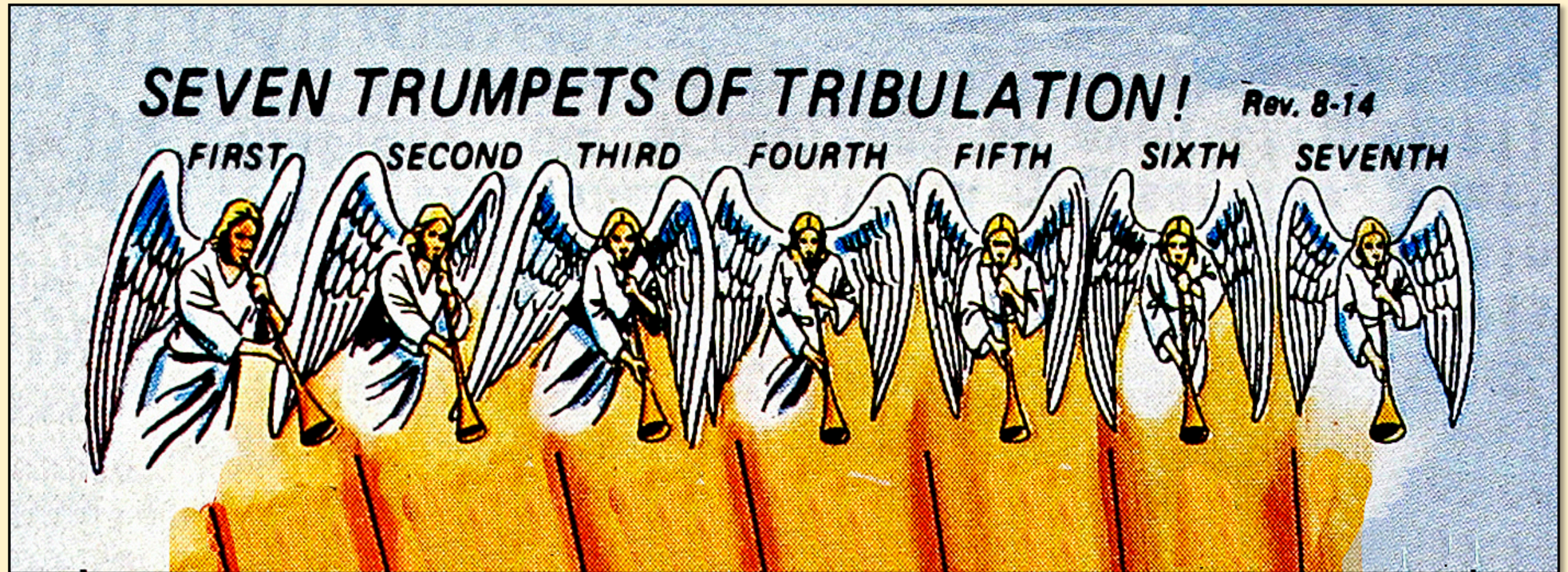
All Heaven and Earth await in awed silence in anticipation of this climactic and catastrophic period in human history. And to announce this final era, with all its dread and suffering, an angel takes the incense holder from the Throne of God and casts it down into the Earth, and there are voices, thunderings and lightnings--symbolic of the judgements of God, symbolic of the horrors to come! Some very supernatural things are about to take place. The final days of human history will try men's souls, and this censer cast into the Earth serves as an indication of the dreadful things that are about to come.

But at the same time, the prayers of the saints are ascending unto the Lord! --An encouragement, a brief glimpse of the efficacy of our prayers, that God is listening. And though we're suffering through this period, the Lord hears our cries, He hears our prayers, He's not deaf, He will help us through this terrible period of the last 3½ years of man's history, the Great Tribulation!

REV.8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

(It is important to note here that the explanations we will provide for the different plagues that occur when each trumpet sounds are hypotheses – speculations. They are educated guesses based on Scripture and the events that seem likely to occur. Only when that time comes will we get a fully accurate understanding of these Scriptures.)

REV.8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.



Possible explanation:

People used to say, *"Oh, how could that ever happen--a third of the trees and all the earth's grass burnt up--how could that happen?"* But now we know that it is certainly possible for atomic, hydrogen and cobalt bombs to do this!



If a multi-megaton bomb was to explode just over New York City or Chicago or any major city, it would literally suck up hundreds of thousands of tons of debris, including thousands of bodies, into its raging inferno, casting them back on the earth as debris and fallout, many of the heavier pieces of concrete falling as gigantic hail stones as written here:

"hail and fire mingled with blood were cast upon the earth."

REV.8:8 And the **second angel sounded**, and as it were a **great mountain burning with fire** was **cast into the sea**: and the third part of the **sea became blood**;

REV.8:9 And the **third part** of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the **third part of the ships** were destroyed.

Possible explanation:

This great mountain could be the literal sinking of some great land mass into the ocean (such as Southern California falling in the ocean?)

This second trumpet could trigger massive earthquakes such as this world has never seen! Where there are earthquakes these days, there's always fire from bursting gas mains, etc., and one on such a scale as this may even result in volcanic activity.





"And the third part of the sea became blood." How could a great land mass falling into the ocean turn a third part of it into blood, causing many creatures in the sea to die and destroying a third of the ships? The huge tidal waves resulting from such a catastrophe - over two and three hundred feet high - could do that for sure.

About the water turning to blood, something similar happened in Egypt, at the time Israel was being released from slavery. The streams and rivers of Egypt were turned to ***"blood"*** and became undrinkable (***Ex.7:1-25***). Not all of the water was affected, however, because they were able to access drinkable water by digging under the ground near the river. And with this 2nd trumpet there is a similarity; for two thirds of the Earth's waters remain unaffected.

The intention of the Exodus plagues was

- 1) To rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt,
- 2) To show the sovereignty of God and
- 3) To reveal His love to a people in need.

Something similar to what happened then will happen once more, on a much grander scale, during the Great Tribulation.

REV.8:10 And the **third angel sounded**, and there **fell a great star from heaven**, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and **upon the fountains of waters**;

REV.8:11 and the name of the star is called **Wormwood**: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because **they were made bitter**.

Two possible interpretations:

(1) It is likely that much of the description of what these trumpets bring is symbolic: it is wise to let Scripture interpret Scripture, and in this case, Stars often symbolize angels. (*Rev.1:16, 20*) The falling star here may be Satan himself.

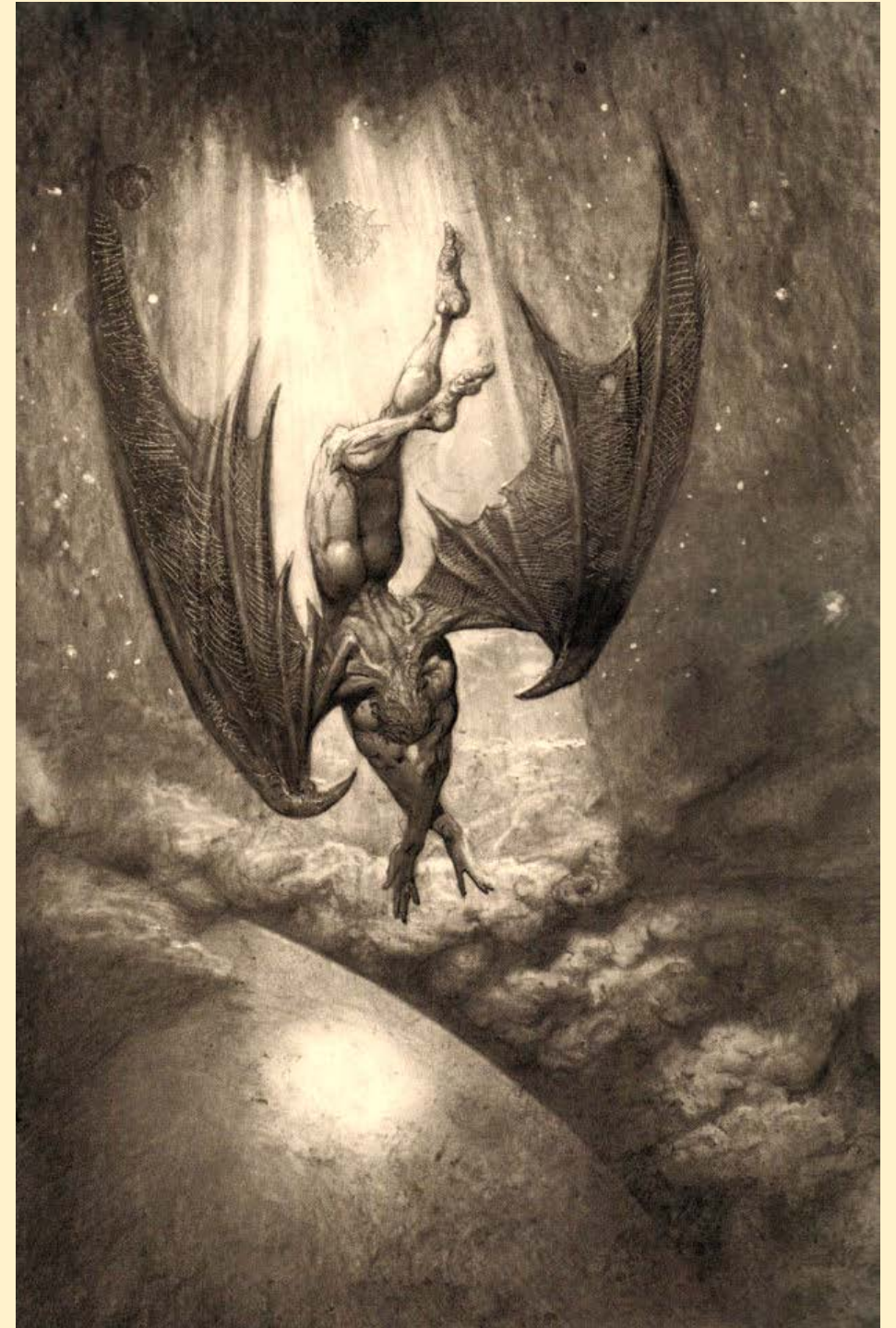
**** ISA.14:12. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!**

Satan's expulsion from the **Celestial Domain** is described in another chapter and seems to happen at this particular time. (*Rev.9:1, Rev.12:3, 4, 7-9*)



“...and many men died of the waters because they were made bitter.” —Could this be poison of the Serpent? You might understand that Satan’s fall would cause a physical poisoning of the world’s sources of water, but we are inclined to believe that, if the “Star” is Satan, then his fall would have a spiritual effect in the Earth – opposite to the effect that Jesus and His **“living water”** have:

**** John.4:10, 14** *Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee **living water**. But whosoever drinketh **of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst**; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a **well of water springing up into everlasting life**.*

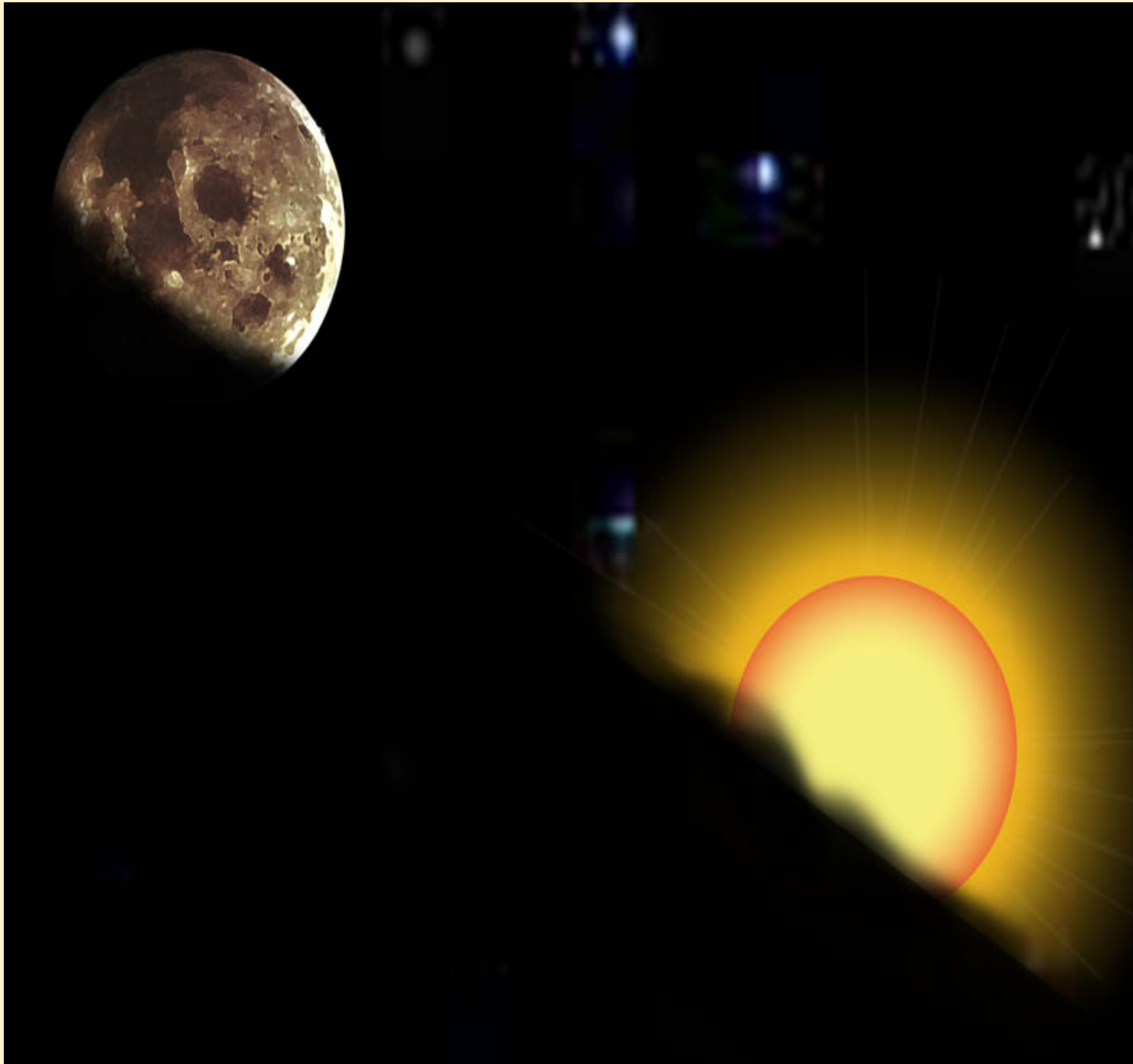




Satan, on the other hand, poisons the sources of information, causing rivers of propaganda to flow, falsifying historical truth. He distorts through the media; Satan poisons humanity through his bitter waters. And multitudes die spiritually, if not physically, as a result of being poisoned with his propaganda, his lies, his half-truths, his distortions, his deceits, "*with lying wonders*", as God's word refers to it in **2Thes.2:9**. Which water are you choosing and drinking?

(2) We can also take this literally: the "*star*" could simply be a comet or a meteor falling on the earth, causing the waters to be poisoned (perhaps by the gases of its tail?)

REV.8:12 And the **fourth angel sounded**, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the **third part of them was darkened**, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. (see also **EZE.32:7, 8**)



Possible Explanation

In a world where tons of debris have been sucked up into the atmosphere by atomic blasts, and in a world where all the *"green grass is burnt up"* (or parched brown by the intense heat), the resulting gigantic, worldwide dust storms might cause the type of visibility and darkness that is the main feature of this fourth trumpet.

Science realised, only at the beginning of the atomic age in 1945, that this type of global destruction was possible. But John saw it nearly 2,000 years ago--and other Prophets envisioned it before him! Two passages in the Old Testament predict something like an atomic war as one of the signs to occur before or at the *"Day of the Lord."*

**** ZEC.14:12** *And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; their **flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.***

This is exactly what happened to the poor, innocent civilians at Nagasaki and Hiroshima: thousands vaporized on the spot as they stood upon their feet. Hundreds more were permanently blinded, even at considerable distance from the blast, as the prisms of their eyes focusing on the fireball acted like tiny magnifying glasses, so intensifying the heat that their eyeballs literally cooked in their sockets, or as the Prophet said, "consumed away in their holes!**"**

****JOEL 2:30-33** *And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, **blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD** come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered...*



What's the result of all of this? --Darkness! What's the result, whether you think it's literal or symbolic, of this poisoning of the rivers and the waters, or the sources of information, the sources of propaganda, the media information of the world? --Darkness!



****ISA.13:10** For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: **the sun shall be darkened** in his going forth, and **the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

Further thoughts on the subject of disinformation and the spiritual Darkness it leads to:

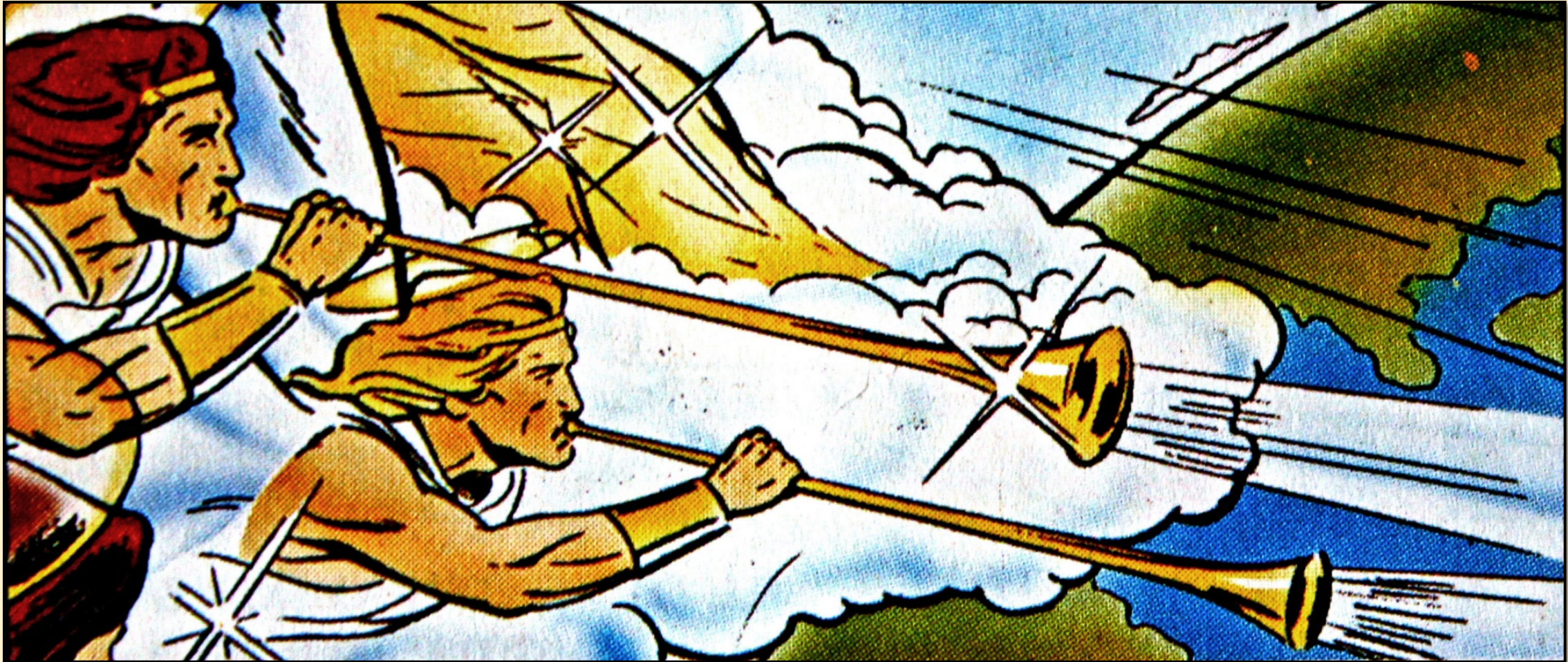
As people are fed poison water, poison disinformation, poison news, their minds and hearts are darkened, just as the apostle Paul explains: if we stray away from Him, we become *“darkened in our understanding, alienated from the life of God and past feeling”!* (Eph.4:18) Those committed

to their evil ways in these Last Days of the terrible Tribulation period, will not turn to God. In spite of all the catastrophes and horrors, most of the Earth’s population, it seems, will not turn to God!

They will believe the lies of the Devil and this Devil-man, Satan incarnate in the flesh, the Antichrist, and as he poisons the waters of information and propaganda, their hearts will become more darkened, their minds even more lacking in understanding as he darkens the world! Or if you want to take it literally, the very heavens are darkened, the skies are darkened, and the sun and moon are darkened. Either way, it sounds pretty bad.



REV.8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of **the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!**



These first four trumpets mainly show the effect of God's judgments on nature, though, of course, many men die as a result. In order, the Trumpets affected: 1) the earth, 2) the sea, 3) the rivers, and 4) the heavens.

Each of these trumpets is like a herald; one by one, the angels sound, heralding a new stage of this terrible era of the Tribulation. If you're here and still alive then, you'll know exactly the progress of the Tribulation period by what's happening, whether you're under the first trumpet, the second, the third, the fourth, and so on. You'll know and understand clearly then and will be prepared and will be glad you have studied the Scriptures.

(Rev.1:3)

**** DAN.12:9-10** *And he said, go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed **till the time of the end**. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: **and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.***

**** Rev.3:10.** *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, **I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation**, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*



Be ready for these events. You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. He says: *"Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hears my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* (Rev.3:20)

Please pray this simple prayer:

"Jesus, please forgive all my faults. I want to know You personally, so I invite You to come into my life, into my heart. Thank you for giving Your life for me so I could be forgiven of my sins, find peace of heart and mind here and now and receive God's gift of eternal life. Amen."

Designed, compiled and edited by Gaetan from multiple sources.

gaetan.goye@gmail.com

