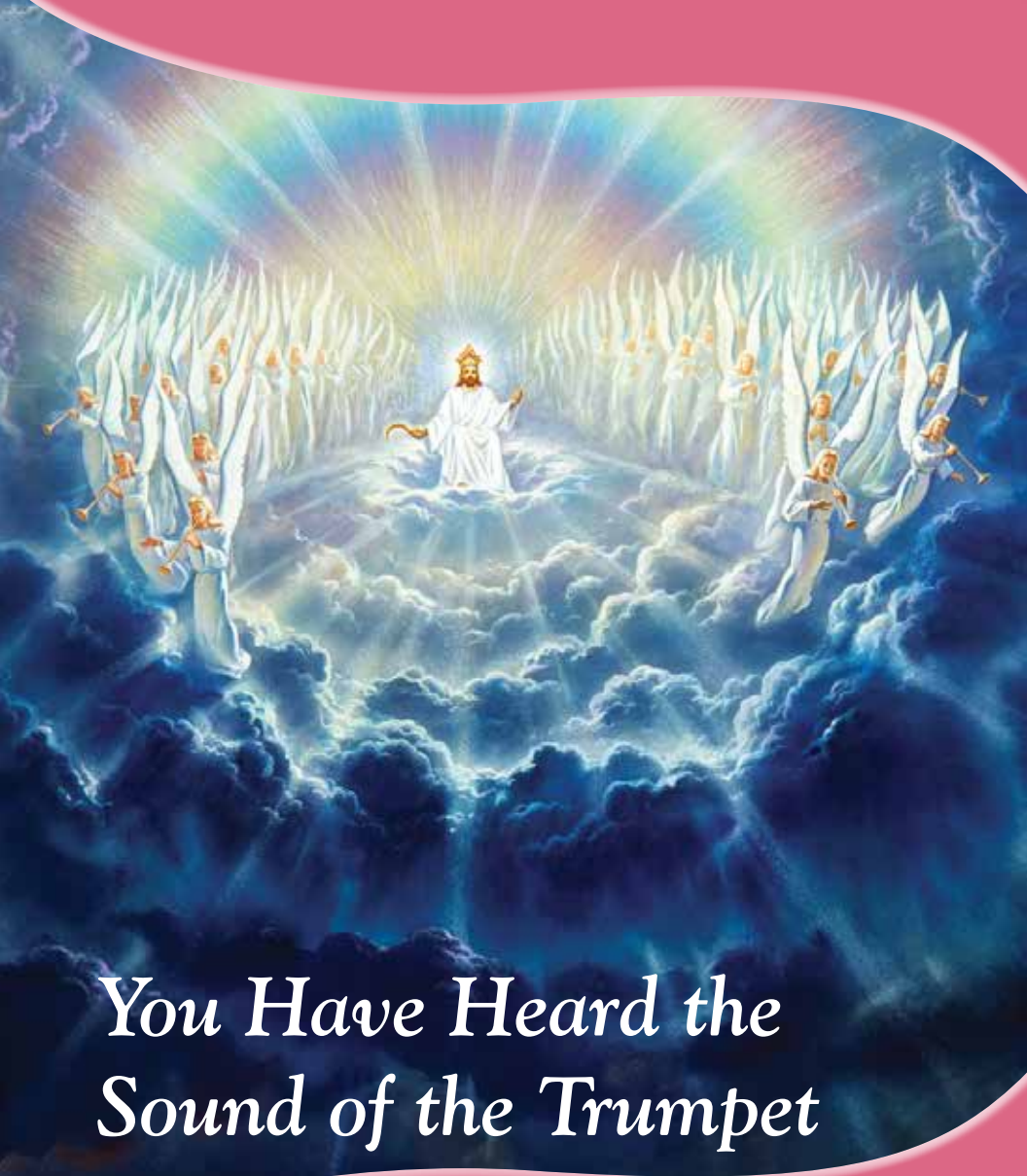


“Prepare to Meet Thy God!”



*You Have Heard the
Sound of the Trumpet*

**Sealing Truths
Study Guide**

4

Sealing Truths Study Guide

The Sealing Truths Study Guides have been designed for those who are part of the remnant church, but they are especially for those who sense their calling to be part of the 144,000—that final group of people who will vindicate the character of God before the universe.

When Jesus entered upon His final work of redemption in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, He anticipated that His work, in cooperation with His people, would produce a cleansed remnant whose lives would reflect the beauty of holiness. They would love Jesus supremely and would desire to live every moment of their lives to please, honor and glorify Him. These will walk with Him in white, for they are worthy. (Rev. 3:4)

Mountain Refuge Ministries

www.mountainrefugeministries.com

Introduction



Throughout the history of the great controversy, God has consistently given mankind ample warning of coming judgments. It is not His purpose to catch His people unawares by not giving them sufficient time to understand His message and how to prepare for the coming events. God longs to protect His creation from destruction and gather each one into the safety of His sanctuary. This is indeed the message of the trumpets of Revelation, chapters eight and nine. As history has indicated, the Lord has raised up faithful men and women—those open to His voice—to preach a message

to their generation about to experience the judgments of God. Each individual, upon hearing the truth, would then have to decide how to relate to the message being presented.

So it is with the final generation. In our day, as the trumpets have been sounding a warning to the world that time is running out, our very lives depend upon the acceptance or rejection of the true meaning of the trumpets. Those who hear the message and discern its importance will seek God to learn how to prepare for the coming judgments. These faithful ones will be safely hidden in His pavilion. To come into the shelter of His sanctuary—this is the invitation that all of Heaven is now extending to you and me!

1 Why do the Scriptures need to especially apply to the last generation?

“Each of the ancient prophets spoke less for their own time than for ours, so that their prophesying is in force for us. . . . The Bible has accumulated and bound up together its treasures for this last generation. All the great events and solemn transactions of Old Testament history have been, and are, repeating themselves in the church in these last days. . .” (3SM 338, 339)

“For His church in every generation God has a special truth and a special work” (COL 78). “In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation.” (COL 127)

Note: We are living in a time when prophecies leading up to the second coming of Christ are finding their swift fulfillment; therefore, it is of greatest importance that we understand what Jesus is saying. We need to recognize how prophecies are being fulfilled so that we might rightly interpret the events that are happening in the world. As God’s Word speaks to us, the Holy Spirit applies its truths to our hearts. It would be to the peril of our souls not to comprehend the messages that Jesus is sending today.

2

What was the meaning of the trumpets during the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites?

“Make two silver trumpets for yourself . . . you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps” (Num. 10:2). “When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.” (Num. 10:9)

“The Levites were designated by the Lord as the tribe in the midst of whom the sacred ark was to be borne, Moses and Aaron marching just in front of the ark, and the sons of Aaron following near them, each bearing trumpets. They were to receive directions from Moses, which they were to signify to the people by speaking through the trumpets. These trumpets gave special sounds which the people understood, and directed their movements accordingly.

“. . . None who gave attention were left in ignorance of what they were to do. If any failed to comply with the requirements given by the Lord . . . they were punished with death . . . for they would only prove themselves willingly ignorant. . . If they did not know the will of God concerning them, it was their own fault. They had the same opportunities to obtain the knowledge imparted as others of the people had, therefore their sin of not knowing, not understanding, was as great in the sight of God as if they had heard and then transgressed.” (1T 651)

Note: For the Israelites to have remained ignorant of the meaning of the trumpets would have been fatal. It was important not only to hear the sound of the trumpet but also to correctly interpret its significance directing them what to do. At times the trumpets were sounded because they were to prepare for war; other times they were the signal to continue their wilderness journey or to prepare for a special convocation. “The sound of a trumpet summoned Israel to meet with God” (PP 339). The Feast of Trumpets celebrated by the Jewish nation each year heralded a solemn time of preparation for the Day of Atonement.

3

Has Jesus graciously promised to send His Holy Spirit to tell us of things yet to come?

“. . . For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done . . .” (Isa. 46:9, 10)

Jesus said in John 14:29, “I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.”

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:12, 13)

Note: Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus reveals the future to those who are listening to His voice and interprets present events in light of Bible prophecy.

“. . . In the providence of God the light of truth has been shining everywhere. . . . Light has increased and has become widespread. While the people who are anxious for truth have been calling, ‘Watchman, what of the night?’ the answer has been given intelligently, ‘The morning cometh, and also the night.’ By a thorough investigation of the prophecies we understand where we are in this world’s history; and we know for a certainty that the second coming of Christ is near.” (4T 591, 592)

4

Is it the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal the application of a prophecy to the generation which is experiencing the fulfillment of that prophecy?

“Those who are watching for the Lord are purifying their souls by obedience to the truth. . . . As Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Moses each declared the truth for his time. So will God’s servants now give the special warning for their generation.” (DA 634)

Note: Throughout the history of the world, God has drawn a veil over the future by inspiring the prophets to pen the prophecies in such a way that it is difficult to understand the future by just studying their predictions. The prophets were not privy to understand some of the things they wrote because the fulfillment of those prophecies were intended for a future generation. The discernment of the Holy Spirit is necessary to open up the understanding of the generation that is experiencing its fulfillment. Many are not seeking for more light; therefore, it is revealed only to those who have a close walk with Jesus and are accustomed to hearing His still, small voice speak to them. Only by seeing and connecting with present truth can we preach a message that will prepare a people to meet their God, thus fulfilling our mission as a church.

5

What are some of Satan's favorite methods to derail God's people from connecting with present truth?

Individuals throughout the history of the world have been challenged with truth applicable to their generation. Satan is quite content when we place prophecies in the past or in the future; therefore, He puts forth every effort so that present truth is not seen or understood. Thus he lulls God's people to sleep by putting off the necessary heart preparation vital to the present time. We have seen that Satan's deceptive lies have been successful in deceiving the masses by using the theories of preterism and futurism as a method of interpreting prophecy. We see Jesus facing this challenge as He stood up to read the Scriptures in His hometown one Sabbath morning when He stated, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). The people of Nazareth would not tolerate the application of these Scriptures to Jesus and proceeded to attempt to throw Him over the cliff.

6

What is the synopsis of the historicist view of the trumpets portrayed in Revelation 8 and 9, as delineated in the SDA Bible Commentary?

The First Trumpet: The invasion of the Roman Empire by the Visigoths played an important part in its final downfall.

The Second Trumpet: The sea, with the life in it and upon it, is shown as the special object of this judgment. The depredations of the Vandals, who dominated the western Mediterranean with a navy of pirates, pillaged the coasts of Spain, Italy and Greece, and preyed upon Roman shipping.

The Third Trumpet: Portrayed as the ravages of the Huns under the leadership of their king Attila in the fifth century, they raised havoc in various regions of the tottering Roman Empire.

The Fourth Trumpet: The sun, moon, and stars have been interpreted to represent the great luminaries of the Western Roman government—its emperors, senators and consuls. With the extinction of Western Rome, the last of its emperors ceased to reign.

The Fifth and Sixth Trumpet: The Textual evidence favors the reading “an eagle” (7 BC 789). The eagle may be thought of as an omen of doom (see Matt. 24:28, Deut. 28:49, Hos. 8:1). This warning of doom is specifically for the unrighteous inhabitants of earth. The fallen star occurs in Jewish apocalyptic literature to describe Satan as a star fallen from heaven. A number of commentators have identified the fifth and sixth trumpets with the ravages of the Saracens and the Turks, thus preparing the way for the Muslim conquest. Some who apply the fifth and sixth trumpets to the Muslims, Arabs and Turks see in the king (Rev. 9:11) a reference to Osman, the traditional founder of the Ottoman Empire. Most commentators who interpret the fifth trumpet as applying to the Saracens have seen the Turks in the sixth trumpet.

The Seventh Trumpet: Seventh-day Adventists date its beginning as 1844 (7 BC 804–806). It was then that Jesus moved into the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary and began the work of judgment, by which He takes back the kingdoms of earth and prepares to reign

forever and ever. This, of course, becomes a complete reality at His second coming when “the kingdoms of this world . . . become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ.” (Rev. 11:15)

7 **Is the historicist interpretation of the trumpets the only view of Revelation 8 and 9? Could there possibly be another view more relevant to this generation?**

“Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’” (Jer. 6:17)

Note: We are neither opposed to nor are we discrediting the historicist interpretation of the trumpets; however, through a careful study of God’s Word, observation of current events over the last 17 years as noted by thousands all over the world and from the impressions of the Spirit of God, we have come to the conclusion that there is also a present-day application of the trumpets. We invite you to carefully consider this view of the trumpets and study for yourselves as to whether this is present truth for our generation.

We have heard the voice of trumpet and we cannot remain silent. God has given us the responsibility to share with all who are honest in heart and are willing to examine the evidence presented that the trumpets are a prophetic countdown to eternity. Time is running out and Jesus is about to come. “The days of our probation are fast closing and the end is near” (COL 319). To neglect our duty at this crucial time would be irresponsible and neglectful of being a faithful watchman.

“Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God’s people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot

remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God." (GC 609, 610)

8 Is there a repeat of the trumpets for the final generation?

"Study Revelation in connection with Daniel, for history will be repeated. . . . As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament Scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand." (TM 116)

"The perils of the last days are upon us, and in our work we are to warn the people of the danger they are in. Let not the solemn scenes which prophecy has revealed be left untouched. If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message." (TM 118)

"In the final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit and work for the same end, as in all preceding ages. That which has been will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed." (GC xi)

9 Can we know the meaning of the trumpets for our generation?

Through careful study and observation, this is our conclusion as to the meaning of the trumpets for our generation:

The First Trumpet: Falling of the New York Towers—September 11, 2001. This was the first present-day attack on the mainland of America

The Second Trumpet: Natural disasters—Two tsunamis, occurring on Christmas, 2004, and Easter, 2005, followed by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, plus many other disasters around the globe

The Third Trumpet: Fall of the US economy—September 14, 15, 2008

The Fourth Trumpet: Escalation of papal power and popularity—May/June 2012; movement toward Catholics and Protestants coming together

The Fifth Trumpet: Muslim invasion; movement toward world domination announced by Isis in 2015; the sealing of God’s people

The Sixth Trumpet: Close of probation as the four angels are released; plagues begin; Armageddon

The Seventh Trumpet: Christ’s second coming

Note: The very fact that there is a regularity of time periods between the trumpets tells us that these are not just random, accidental happenings on planet earth. The timing means that there is a Divine Designer with a message. What is God trying to say through these events?

Approximately every 3½ years we have heard another trumpet sounding. According to our best reckoning, we note that we are now in the 5th trumpet. This trumpet, as already noted, portrays the Muslim invasions of the world and the time when God’s people are sealed. This is followed by the 6th trumpet, when the four winds are released and probation closes. If we are among the faithful watchmen, we will not fail of giving “the trumpet a certain sound” to warn the world that we are standing on the brink of eternity.

10 Is there a comparison of the historicist interpretation of the seven trumpets and the repeat of the trumpets for the final generation?

Historically, our forefathers clearly and accurately concluded that the first six trumpets had reached their fulfillment. The fifth trumpet of Revelation 9 depicted the Muslims and the Ottoman Empire coming down. This gave the advent movement in 1844 great impetus.

Note: The first four historical trumpets were attacks on the mainland of Rome and in four stages the Roman Empire met its demise, preparatory to the rise of the little horn power depicted in Daniel 7. As we look back in

history, we find that when the Roman Empire came to an end, the nation broke up into 10 tribes which eventually became the kingdoms of Europe. Out of the ruins of political Rome arose the Roman Church. After exercising its authority for 1260 years, in 1798 this power received a fatal wound. Prophecy tells us that this deadly wound would be healed. The resurgence of this power is the repeat of the beast exercising its authority in the world, as we read in Revelation 13.

As history established the fall of the Roman Empire giving rise to the papacy, so we are now seeing this same pattern repeated in America. The first four trumpets have been sounding; events and calamities that have transpired since 9/11 are also bringing about the demise of this great country. We have observed Protestant America likewise making great strides toward courting the papacy. The end result will be papal supremacy as it was in the Dark Ages. America gives rise to the beast power as the Roman Empire gave rise to the papal power. We are seeing history repeated before our very eyes.

11

Why are God's people commanded to prophesy again?

“And he said to me, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.’” (Rev. 10:11)

Note: Upon seeing that Jesus had begun His final work in the most holy place of the sanctuary in 1844, God's people fearlessly preached the truths about the Investigative Judgment. We read in Revelation 14:6, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.” 1844 marked the beginning of the judgment of those who had fallen asleep in Jesus; now, we must prophesy again. We are presenting the closing of Christ's work in the most holy place, which is judgment of the living, the blotting out of sin and the sealing. The final generation living to see Jesus come must be judged just prior to that event. (See Study Guide 5)

The midnight cry is sounding again. “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’” (Matt. 25:6). This was the good news so enthusiastically and powerfully preached by our forefathers in 1844. Can we do any less at this time? This time there will be no disappointment, for we will see Christ coming in all His glory and the holy angels with Him. With greater confidence than ever we must look up, for our redemption is drawing nigh. Will you be among those who will go forth to meet Him?

12 Why is it imperative for God to sound the warnings again through the events of the trumpets?

God in His mercy is sounding warnings through the events of the trumpets, prior to the final judgments falling upon the impenitent.

This principle is illustrated by Jesus when He said to His generation, “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore the wisdom of God also said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,’ that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who perished between the altar and the temple. Yes, I say to you, it shall be required of this generation.” (Luke 11:47-51)

Note: God is obligated by the virtue of His character not to bring judgments upon a generation until He first brings warnings to them, so they can make intelligent decisions. Since the Jewish leaders said they would not do what their forefathers did to the prophets of old, God gave them the opportunity to demonstrate what was in their hearts. They proved by killing the Son of God that their hearts were no different than their forefathers. Though God extended His grace to the succeeding generation by extending their probation as a nation, they still persecuted the disciples and other Christians.

In the same way, through God's chosen remnant He is sending His messengers to the world to warn its inhabitants of coming judgments. It will soon be evident how they will be treated. The world will demonstrate the same character as those in Christ's day in persecuting His people. God will then have the right to bring judgments upon them and sadly, they will be destroyed.

According to the principles of the great controversy, God has always warned the inhabitants of the earth before sending destructive judgments. When a generation fills up its cup of iniquity, destruction will fall upon its people. For the generation who reaches this climax of history, God will send warnings of coming destruction. The trumpets of Revelation are the warnings that God is sounding for this generation to hear and respond, inviting everyone to come into the safety of His hiding place and be protected.

13 Is it dangerous, even fatal, to believe that there is no repeat of the trumpets?

As a Review: We have already noted the parallel between the Roman Empire and the United States. The events and catastrophes depicted by the first four historical trumpets brought down the Roman Empire, giving rise to the papacy. The disasters and financial debacle observed during the sounding of the first four trumpets in our generation are rapidly ushering in the decline of America.

Note: Since trumpets are typically to warn of coming judgments, the historicist view of the trumpets does not meet this criteria, as historical trumpets do not sound a warning for the last generation about to experience the full judgments of God. Furthermore and most importantly, in the historicist view of the trumpets there is no trumpet signifying the close of probation. This is a key point that must not be overlooked. The Seventh-day Adventist commentaries, which uphold the historicist view only, portray that we have been in the time of the seventh trumpet since 1844.

The historicist view is certainly precious truth pertinent to that time in history but it is not relevant, present truth that speaks to our generation—a warning that probation is about to close and Jesus is coming very soon.

Since the seventh trumpet is the second coming of Christ, there has to be an application of the first six trumpets for the final generation who will see His coming. The trumpets specifically are given to prepare God's people and announce that His coming is near.

14 How is the voice of God speaking to the world through the trumpets?

“The LORD will cause men to hear His majestic voice, and will make them see His arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.” (Isa. 30:30, NIV)

“God is speaking to us in these last days. We hear His voice in the storm, in the rolling thunder. We hear of the calamities He permits in the earthquakes, the breaking forth of waters, and the destructive elements sweeping all before them. . . . God speaks to families who have refused to recognize Him, sometimes in the whirlwind and storm, sometimes face to face as He talked with Moses. . . . When the still small voice which succeeds the whirlwind and the tempest . . . is heard, let all cover their faces, for God is very near. Let them hide themselves in Jesus Christ, for He is their hiding place.” (2 SM 315, 316)

“Already the judgments of God are in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand?” (5T 136)

“Those who place themselves under God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of events ordained by Him to take place.” (7T 14)

Note: Can you see that the seven trumpets are God's voice speaking to the world, to prepare everyone who will listen and understand to come into the refuge of the sanctuary? This is the only place of safety as the seven

last plagues are poured out. God is speaking through the trumpets to many individuals who would otherwise have no chance to get ready for Jesus to come. He will speak to every individual who has spiritual ears to hear and perceive the messages spoken by the “majestic voice” of the trumpets.

15

Where in time does Ellen G. White place the seven trumpets?

“The seven angels stood before God to receive their commission. To them was given seven trumpets. The Lord was going forth to punish the inhabitants of the earth.” (Mar 284) Then Ellen White continues with a description of the plagues.

Note: The text quoted above is taken from Isaiah 26:21. Ellen White is addressing the final outpouring of God’s wrath and His invitation to come into the safety of the hiding place. Here we see a clue that the trumpets are directly connected with the preparation to escape the plagues. These trumpets are warnings to God’s people to escape a danger which is imminent, as well as to give instructions regarding preparation for that event.

“. . . What shall I profit you unless I speak to you either by revelation, by knowledge, by prophesying, or by teaching? . . . For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?” (1 Cor. 14:6, 8)

16

Are there others who have noted the events that have been transpiring in America as a fulfillment of Bible prophecy?

We quote an excerpt from a newsletter published by the Hope Channel in August, 2009:

“The past decade has been traumatic. One crisis after another has assaulted our peace and security. First, it was the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Then in 2005, the most devastating hurricane season in recorded history wipe out New Orleans and numerous other cities. Next the housing bubble erupted sending shock waves through the economy.

“Our world is going through change of prophetic proportions. World leaders recognize something unusual is happening. Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom said, ‘Historians will look back and say this was not ordinary time, but a defining moment: an unprecedented period of global change a time when one chapter ended and another began.’

“What Mr. Gordon probably can’t appreciate is that this new chapter that has begun is found in Revelation 13. This predicts a time when global crisis prompts church and state to unite in a tragic union.”

17 What is God’s invitation to His people in order to be protected in the great time of trouble which commences after the close of probation?

A Refuge from the Coming Judgments: “Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.” (Is. 26:20, 21)

“To us has been entrusted the work of proclaiming the last message of mercy to be given to our world—the message that is to prepare a people to stand in the day of God. Do we realize our accountability? Are we acting our part in the proclamation of the message? The present time is burdened with eternal interests. We are to unfurl the standard of truth before a world perishing in error.” (OHC 197)

Note: The events depicted by the trumpets as coming upon the earth are the result of the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit. We would like to suggest that the trumpets are sounding for the purpose of warning the world that probation’s door is about to close; therefore, we must heed the call to come into the hiding place.

The trumpets are God’s voice giving the last call. Now is the time to let the people of earth know where we are in earth’s history and explain the meaning of the events that are happening around the world. Now is the time to come into the hiding place of the sanctuary in order to

go through the perils of the end securely hidden under the shadow of His wings. “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Ps. 91:1). Will you join us in making that commitment?

Your Commitment to Jesus

Recognizing that the trumpets have been and are continuing to sound, and that probation is about to close, are you willing to be among the faithful watchmen that sound the warning for all to come into the safety of the sanctuary?

Your Response

For a more detailed study on this subject, see the book *Countdown—Seven Trumpets for Today* by Carol Zarska, available through TEACH Services, 800-367-1844.

For a chart delineating the seven trumpets of Revelation 8 & 9, you can order from Dr. Negley. See contact information on the back of the Study Guide.

Key to Abbreviations of E. G. White Book Titles

COL	Christ's Object Lessons
DA.....	The Desire of Ages
GC.....	The Great Controversy
Mar	Maranatha
OHC	Our High Calling
PP	Patriarchs and Prophets
TM.....	Testimonies to Ministers
7BC	Seventh-Day Adventist Bible Commentary, Volume 7
2SM.....	Selected Messages, Volume 2
3SM.....	Selected Messages, Volume 3
1T	Testimonies to the Church, Volume 1
4T	Testimonies to the Church, Volume 4
5T	Testimonies to the Church, Volume 5
7T	Testimonies to the Church, Volume 7

“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!”

This Study Guide is number four in a series of twelve.

Study Guide 1—“Watchman, What of the Night?”

Study Guide 2—“For Such a Time as This”

Study Guide 3—“My Sheep Hear My Voice”

Study Guide 4—“You Have Heard the Sound of the Trumpet”

Study Guide 5—“The Hour of His Judgment Has Come”

Study Guide 6—“Then Shall the Sanctuary be Cleansed”

Study Guide 7—“Holy, Harmless [and] undefiled”

Study Guide 8—“That Your Sins May Be Blotted Out”

Study Guide 9—“And the Earth Was Illuminated with His Glory”

Study Guide 10—“These Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes”

Study Guide 11—“He Who is Holy, Let Him Be Holy Still”

Study Guide 12—“You Are My Hiding Place”

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