Empire’s independence to the Turks at the conclusion of the 150 years of torment in 1449. Then, the Ottoman Muslim Empire continued its reign for 391 years. Bible students of the 1800s figured the beginning date of this 150-year period to be July 27, 1299. Moving forward 150 years they came to July 27, 1449. Moving forward in time another 391 years and 15 days brought them to August 11, 1834. It is here that they expected to witness the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Just as they had figured, after a 391-year rule, on August 11, 1840, the Muslim Empire surrendered its independence to the European nations, just as the Eastern Roman Empire surrendered to its power 391 years earlier.

Fire, Smoke and Sulphur

The army of horsemen brought to view in the sixth trumpet conduct their warfare with fire and smoke and brimstone, which is sulphur. The Muslim armies were the first to use gunpowder and fireworks in war. It is this last part of this key that is what John was trying to describe from what he saw in vision.

The Seventh Trumpet

“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets” (Revelation 10:7).

“And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever: and the four and twenty elders, which sat before God, saying, we give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because Thou hast taken to Thee Thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and Thou shalt destroy them which destroy the earth. And great and mighty are thy deeds, and just and true is thy ways, thou King of kings, and Lord of lords” (Revelation 11:15-19).

When the seventh trumpet sounds, the mystery of God’s will is accomplished. According to John, the nature of this mystery was declared to the prophets of old.

As a golden thread of hope, the prophets foretold a time when the glory of God’s character would illuminate the earth: “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Numbers 14:21).

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall rise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thee, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Isaiah 60:1-3).

“Afterward He brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward east. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the east: and His voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth was shined with his glory” (Ezekiel 43:1-2). John echoed the same hope:

“And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory” (Revelation 18:1). The glory of God is His beautiful character of love, holding in perfect balance justice and mercy. It is the misrepresentation of God’s character of love, darkness and pain. The Savior came to this world to reveal God’s true character, to manifest His glory. After He demonstrated God’s love, He ascended to heaven and committed to His church on earth the sacred mission of spreading the light of God’s love throughout the world. This is what Paul calls “the mystery” of God, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:26-27).

“When people of the world understand the gospel and experience His love as a reality in their hearts, the character of His love will shine to the world in clear rays that will bring salvation within the reach of all earth’s inhabitants.” Then it will be closing time for this present evil world. Christ will take possession of the kingdom and establish His eternal reign of peace and love.

The underlying Spiritual Significance

The trumpets vision opens with a revelation of Christ ministering as our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary. He stands before the great altar of incense. The incense is His righteousness (symbolized by the incense) with the prayers of the saints (see Revelation 8:1-3). Our prayers arise seeking forgiveness for our sins, confessing our wrongs, pleading for acceptance with God. The incense that Jesus mingles with our prayers represents His personal righteousness. Incense is intended to mask disagreeable odors. In this case the incense of Christ’s righteousness covers the foul aroma of our sinful lives. He continually applies the worthy merits of His own sinless life to the bankrupt accounts of His people. We are wholly dependent on Him for right standing with God. Our salvation is secure by virtue of His grace alone. God saves us because He is good, not because we are good.

In contrast to the reality of our total dependence on the righteousness of Christ for salvation, the trumpets bring to view the rise and fall of false systems of worship

Harm Not Those With the Seal of God

The history written by Ibn El Atheer entitled El Kamal Fu El Tariq (Islam in Africa and the Near East) tells of a command given by Abu Bekr that fulfills the prophecy. In this historical account it says that when their ranks were complete, he gave his particular instruction or command to Usama, son of Abu Sulaym, whom he had appointed General of the Forces. It said: “To avoid injustice and oppression to soldiers; to deserve the love and confidence of the troops; to accustom themselves like man fighting the battles of the Lord; to spare fruit trees, cattle and cornfields; to stand to their engagements and never to stain their victory with the blood of women and children. As you go on, you will find some religious persons that live retired in monasteries who purposed to themselves to serve God in that way. Let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their buildings. And you will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns. Be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Muslim or pay tribute.”

So the apostacy of papal Rome gave birth to the Muslim power in the East as it did to Protestantism in the West. Protestant leaders recognized the advantages to be gained from Ottoman imperialism. The Turks repeatedly drew the attention of the papal persecution away from the Muslim forces. Five months are equal to 150 days, each month being thirty days, which is symbolic of a year (Numbers 13:4; Ezekiel 4:6). The five months are, therefore, 150 literal years. According to this prophecy, the Muslim armies, swarming like locusts, would war against the Eastern Roman Empire for a 150-year period without total conquest, for they would be given power to “torment,” but not to “kill.”

Bible students have been attentive at the accuracy of this prophecy. Just as predicted, Ottoman, the first king of the Muslim, made his initial attack against the Eastern Roman Empire in 1299 A.D. July 27 of that year (see Edward Gibbons, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, vol. 5, chapter 64). From that date the Ottoman Turks did “torment” the Eastern Roman Empire for 150 years without complete victory until 1449.

The Sixth Trumpet

“One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels bound, which are in the presence of God, and of the great temple, and let them prepare the way for the reign of God’s righteous kingdom.

In exact fulfillment of this prophecy, the Emperor of Constantinople yielded the Inhabitats of the Earth, saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, “Loose the four angels bound.” This happened on July 27, 1299. This date coincides with the beginning of the 150-year period of torment predicted in the sixth trumpet. In 1449, the Ottoman Muslim Empire continued its reign for 391 years. Bible students of the 1800s figured the beginning date of this 150-year period to be July 27, 1299. Moving forward 150 years they came to July 27, 1449. Moving forward in time another 391 years and 15 days brought them to August 11, 1834. It is here that they expected to witness the fall of the Ottoman Empire. Just as they had figured, after a 391-year rule, on August 11, 1840, the Muslim Empire surrendered its independence to the European nations, just as the Eastern Roman Empire surrendered to its power 391 years earlier.

A Voice from the Heavenly Temple

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The first trumpet

“And 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 the earth was burnt up, and all the trees of the field were burnt up” (Revelation 8:7).

The Second Trumpet

“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; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea died; and极大的 number of them were slain” (Revelation 8:9).

The Third Trumpet

“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 springs of water; and the third part of them became wormwood” (Revelation 8:10).

The Fourth Trumpet

“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; and the third part of the sea was Become blood...” (Revelation 8:11).