

15. Who will escape the plague of the fifth trumpet? (Rev. 9:4)
- Those who have God's seal on their foreheads
 - Those who have the mark of the beast on their foreheads
 - Those who had the protection of icons in their homes
16. With what were God's people sealed on their foreheads in the OT? (Deut. 6:6–8; 11:18; Isa. 8:16; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Ex. 31:13, 16-17)
- The Ten Commandments, including the Sabbath
 - A visible tattoo
 - A microchip implanted under the skin
17. Muhammad died in 632 and never saw Islam become an empire. Abu Bakr, his successor, launched a Jihad by commanding his soldiers: "let not your victory be stained with the blood of women and children. Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit-trees... as you go, you will find some religious persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to serve God that way; let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries. And you will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan... be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mohammedans or pay tribute" (Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. 5, ch. 51, pp. 189–190). Persecuted proto-protestant groups like the Paulicians received protection under the Islamic caliph for centuries.
18. The sixth trumpet describes the same religion at a later stage. The Islamic Ottoman Turks were renowned for their use of gunpowder and cannons. In 1453, through fire, sulfur and smoke, the Turks conquered Constantinople and brought an end to the Eastern Roman Empire. One of the three main branches of Christianity thus perished as a political power. The Turks were only halted at Vienna. What did God want Christianity to do as He allowed Islam to defeat them? (Rev. 9:17-21; Joel 2:12–14)
- Adorn their churches with more icons
 - Repent with fasting and mourning and get rid of idols
 - Call for crusades against the heretics of the church

The Apocalypse

The Seven Trumpets

8-9

Please circle your answers based on Bible texts in brackets.

- In the Jewish sanctuary, incense was burned daily on a golden altar. This represented the prayers of the saints (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 5:8; 8:3) The incense had to be salted (Exod. 30:35; Lev. 2:13), a symbol of the righteousness of Christ (Mark 9:50; Col. 4:6). Even our good works and prayers are not pure enough in the sight of a holy God (Isa. 64:6; Job 15:14-16). Only Christ's merits suffice. In Rev. 8:3-5, John sees an angel mingling incense with the prayers of the saints. Who is the Angel? (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34)
 - One of the four living creatures (cherubs)
 - Gabriel
 - Jesus Christ
- The word "angel" means messenger and does not have to mean a created being (see Zech. 3:1-5; Mal. 3:1). In Rev. 8:3-5 we see what Christ is doing in Heaven while the 7 trumpets affect the earth. What were trumpets associated with in the Bible? (1 Cor. 14:8; Jer. 4:19-21; Ezek. 7:14; Zeph. 1:15-16; Amos 2:2)
 - Festivity and joy
 - War, terror and calamity
 - Business and trade
- The trumpets remind us of the ten plagues of Egypt (Ex. 6:6). They are God's responses to spiritual Babylon's apostasy and persecution of the saints, covering the same time as the 7 churches and 7 seals.
- What is scourged when the first trumpet sounds? (Rev. 8:7)
 - The earth
 - The sea
 - The springs of water

5. In the OT, hailstorm could represent an invading army (Isa. 25:4; 28:2, 17; 32:19; Ezek. 13:11-13; 38:9). Some have seen in this trumpet a prediction of the barbaric invasions that led to the downfall of Rome (cf. Dan. 7:24). These invasions began with the Visigoths in 395-410 AD, and continue with Attila the Hun, 434-453 AD, who boasted that grass never grew where his horse had trod. What is scourged when the second trumpet sounds? (Rev. 8:8-9)
 - a. The springs of water
 - b. The earth
 - c. The sea
6. What does a burning mountain in the sea mean? (Jer. 51:24-25, 42)
 - a. Babylon's fall
 - b. Attila the Hun
 - c. Volcanic eruption
7. Spiritual Babylon is a codename for Rome (1 Pet. 5:13). Some have seen this trumpet as a prediction of the Vandal pirate invasion of Rome in 455 AD. The Roman fleet of 1113 ships with 100 000 men were burned by the Vandal fire ships at Kap Bon in 468 AD. What is scourged when the third trumpet sounds? (Rev. 8:10-11)
 - a. The sky
 - b. The sea
 - c. The springs of water
8. Why does God give people wormwood to drink? (Jer. 9:13-15; 8:14; 23:15; Deut. 29:18; Hos. 10:4)
 - a. Because humans pollute the environment
 - b. Because wormwood is healthy for the body
 - c. Because they have sinned against His Law
9. "Springs of water" often symbolize the gospel (Rev. 21:6; Isa. 12:3; Jer. 2:13; John 7:37-39). And the fallen star called Wormwood could in this context symbolize a fallen angel (cf. Rev. 12:4, 9; Isa. 14:12) poisoning the gospel through false doctrines in the church, as they abandoned God's law (Amos 5:7, 6:12, Deut. 29:18). What is scourged when the fourth trumpet sounds? (Rev. 8:12)
 - a. The earth
 - b. The sea
 - c. The sky
10. The fourth trumpet brings Europe into the Dark Ages (cf. Rev 12:1). John then sees an "eagle" (ESV) flying overhead, crying out three woes (corresponding to the next three trumpets – Rev 8:13). Why does God send an eagle? (Hos 8:1; Jer 48:40; Rev 9:20–21)
 - a. Because people have too much wealth
 - b. Because people have rejected His Law
 - c. Because people do not pray enough
11. The fifth trumpet describes how the fallen star (angel – Rev. 1:20) opens the bottomless pit (the realm of the forces of evil – 2 Pet. 2:4, Luke 8:31) and releases smoke that darkens the sun and unleashes locusts resembling war horses with lion's teeth, women's hair and scorpion stings. What do swarms of locusts symbolise in Bible prophecy? (Joel 1:4–6; 2:1–2, 4–6; Jer. 51:27; Nah. 3:17)
 - a. A pagan nation armed for battle
 - b. Famine and drought
 - c. Helicopters carrying nuclear weapons during Armageddon
12. Which specific people are compared to locusts? (Judg. 7:12; 6:5)
 - a. The Midianites & the people of the East (Arabs)
 - b. The Babylonians
 - c. The Russians
13. Who were the forefathers of the Arabs? (Gen. 25:2-6; 21:13-21)
 - a. The Chinese & Russians
 - b. Abraham's sons Ishmael and Midian
 - c. The Persian kings Cyrus and Darius
14. Today, the Muslims consider themselves heirs of Ishmael. In 610 AD, a certain Muhammad received revelations from an angel, which were written down in the Quran. Islam united the Arab Bedouins and set off a worldwide revolution that shook the very foundations of Europe. Swift as the wind, Islam's 'locusts' spread and formed an empire larger in size than the Roman Empire.