

First Part



The Trumpets of Revelation

HISTORICAL-PROPHETIC PERSPECTIVE

THE SEVEN SEALS

Revelation 6, 8:1

DATE	SEAL	PERIOD
31 a.C.	White horse	Purity of early Christianity
100 a.C.	Red horse	Bloody persecutions of Christians
323 a.C.	Black horse	Rise of errors in the church
538 a.C.	Yellow horse	Spiritually "dead" church
1.517 a.C.	Souls under the altar	The Reformation recognizes the blood of the martyrs
1.755 a.C.	Signs of the times	1755 Lisbon earthquake 1780 "Dark day" 1832-33 "Starfall"
?	Second coming of Christ	Ascent of the faithful to heaven

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

Revelation 8:2 - 13; 9, 10, 11

DATE	TROMPET	EVENT
395 a.C.	Goths: Alaric	Invasion of the Western Roman Empire
428 a.C.	Vandals: Genseric	Conquering Expansion
468 a.C.	Huns: Attila	Devastation of the Western Roman Empire
479 a.C.	Heruls: Odoacer	Ruin of the Western Roman Empire
620 a.C.	Saracens	Initiation of Islam
1.299 a.C.	King Othman's invasion of Nicomedia, a province of the Roman Empire	Exactly 150 years after the aforementioned invasion. (In the prophecy 5 months are 5X30=150 prophetic days)

THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Revelations 2, 3

DATE	CHURCH	CONDITION
27 a.C.	Ephesus	Pure
Apostolic church		
100 a.C.	Smyrna	Persecuted
cruel persecution of christians		
323 a.C.	Pergamus	Popular
Constantine the Great proclaims Christianity as the "national church" Sunday Law		
538 a.C.	Thyatira	Worldly Politics
The "bishop of Rome", due to political influences, becomes the "pontiff" of all the churches. (Popery)		



There were two silver trumpets for the use of the priests, instructions being given to issue different calls to summon the princes, the whole congregation, or to raise the alarm for battle (Numbers 10:1) "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying" . (Numbers 10:10) "And in the day of your rejoicing, and in your solemnities, and in the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the peace offerings, and they shall be a memorial to you before your eyes. God. I am the LORD your God." (1 Corinthians 14:8) "And if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?"




CONVOCAATION



WAR



TIMES



Verse 6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

- ◆ *The Seven Trumpets.--The subject of the seven trumpets is resumed. These trumpets occupy the rest of this chapter and all of Revelation 9. The blowing of the trumpets by the seven angels comes as a complement to the prophecy of Daniel 2 and 7, beginning with the breaking up of the old Roman Empire into its ten divisions. In the first four trumpets, we have a description of the special events which marked Rome's fall.*

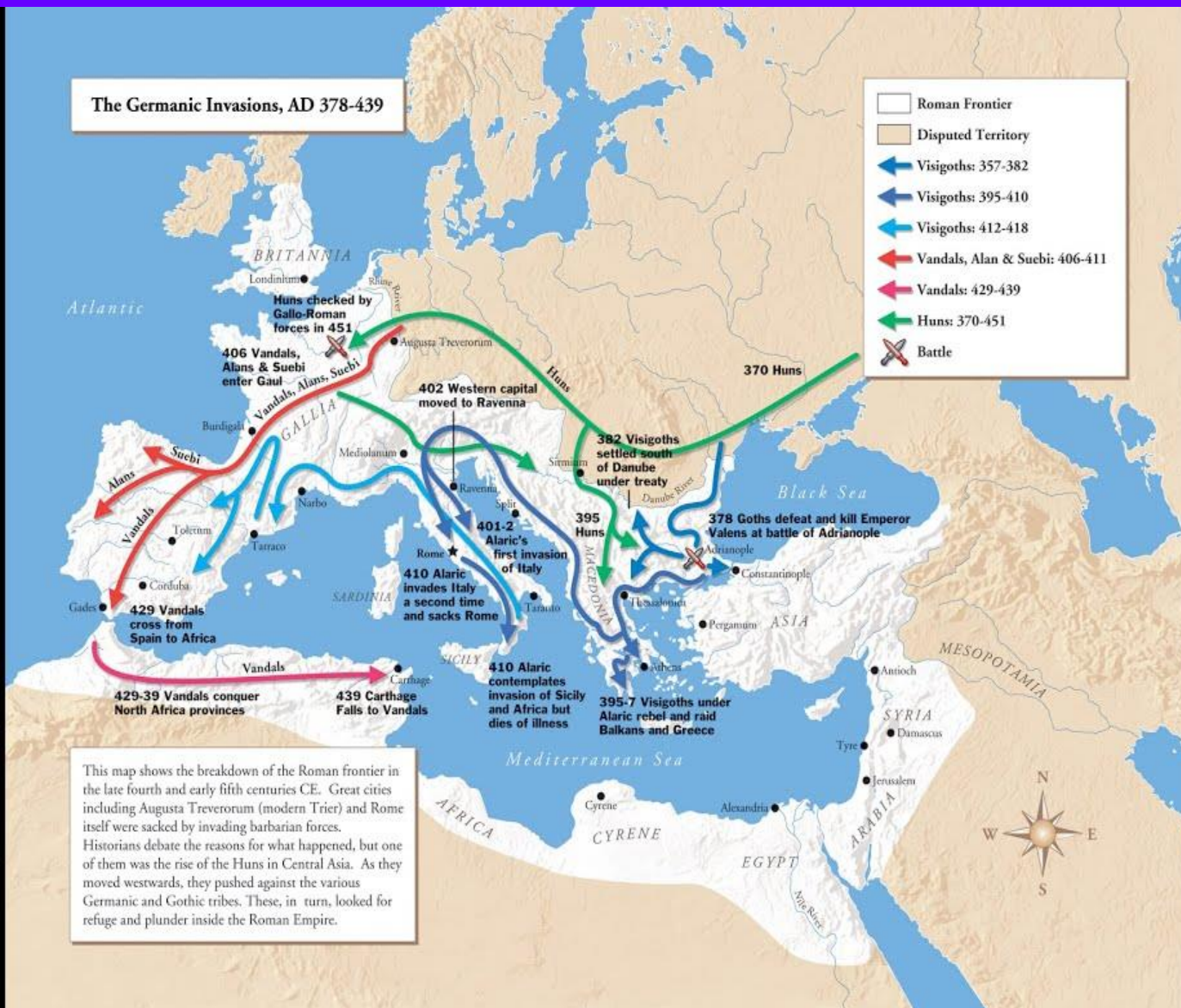



Verse 7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

The first sore and heavy judgement which fell on Western Rome in its downward course, was the war with the Goths under Alaric, who opened the way for later inroads. The death of Theodosius the Roman emperor, occurred in January, A.D. 395, and before the end of the winter the Goths under Alaric were in arms against the empire.

The first invasion under Alaric ravaged the Eastern Empire. He captured the famous cities and enslaved many of the inhabitants. Thrace, Macedonia, Attica, and the Peloponnesus, were conquered, but he did not reach the city of Rome. Later, the Gothic chieftain crossed the Alps and Apennines and appeared before the walls of the Eternal City, which fell a prey to the fury of the barbarians in A.D. 410.


The Germanic Invasions, AD 378-439





The First Trumpet.--The blast of the first trumpet has its location about the close of the fourth century and onward, and refers to these desolating invasions of the Roman Empire under the Goths.

- ◆ "Hail and fire mingled with blood!" were cast upon the earth. The terrible effects of this Gothic invasion are represented as "hail," from the northern origin of the invaders; "fire," from the destruction by flame of both city and country; and "blood," from the terrible slaughter of the citizens of the empire by the bold and intrepid warriors.



Verse 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; 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.

The Second Trumpet.--The Roman Empire, after Constantine the Great, was divided into three parts. Hence the frequent remark, "a third part of men," is an allusion to the third part of the empire which was under the scourge. This division of the Roman kingdom was made at the death of Constantine, among his three sons, Constantius, Constantine II, and Constans. Constantius possessed the East, and fixed his residence at Constantinople, the metropolis of the empire. Constantine II held Britain, Gaul, and Spain. Constans held Illyricum, Africa, and Italy.

Migrations and Conquests of Germanic "Vandals"





The sounding of the second trumpet evidently relates to the invasion and conquest of Africa, and afterward of Italy, by Gaiseric (Genseric), king of the Vandals. His conquests were for the most part naval, and his triumphs were "as it were a great mountain burning with fire, cast into the sea."

- ◆ If the sounding of the first four trumpets relates to four remarkable events which contributed to the downfall of the Roman Empire, and the first trumpet refers to the ravages of the Goths under Alaric, in this we naturally look for the next succeeding act of invasion which shook the Roman power and conducted to its fall. The next great invasion was that of Genseric, at the head of the Vandals. His career reached its The sounding of the second trumpet evidently relates to the invasion and conquest of Africa, and afterward of Italy, by Gaiseric (Genseric), king of the Vandals.



Verse 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; 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.



The Third Trumpet

- ◆ This trumpet alludes to the devastating wars and furious invasions that Attila, King of the Huns, led against the Roman power. Speaking of this warrior, and particularly his personal appearance, Barnes says: "In his appearance, he was much like a brilliant meteor flashing across the sky. He came from the East, gathering his Huns, and, as we shall see, overturned them suddenly over the empire, with the swiftness of a blazing meteor. He considered himself sacred to Mars, the god of war, and used to dress himself in a peculiarly ornate manner..."

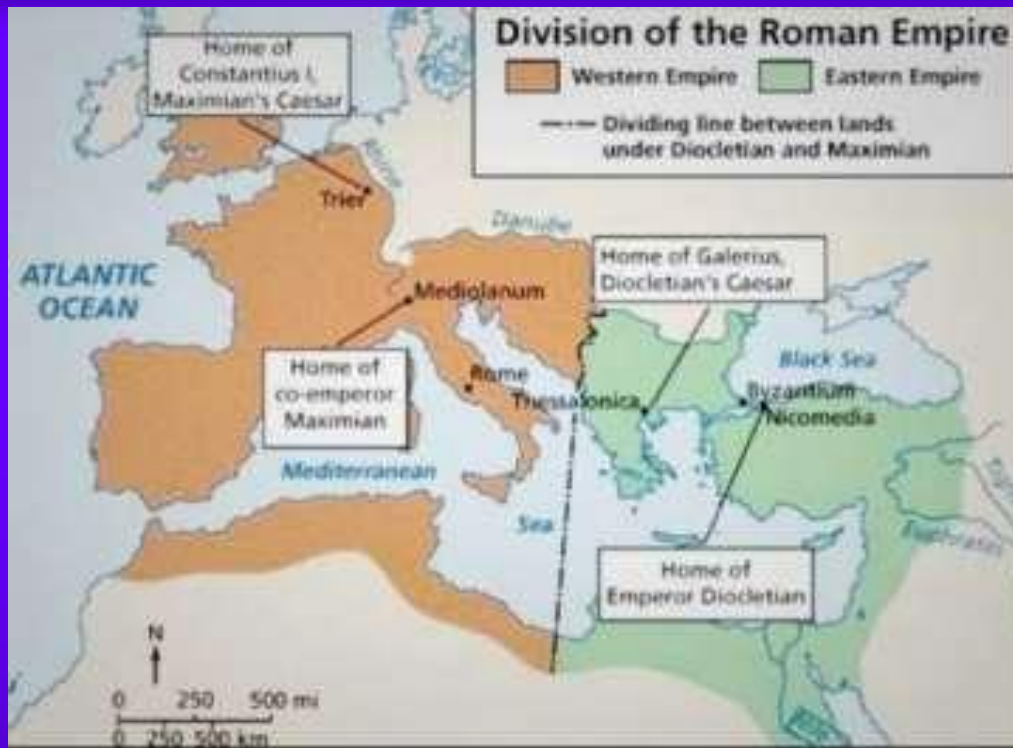


- ◆ Las principales operaciones de Atila fueron en las regiones de los Alpes, y en aquellas porciones del imperio de donde los ríos descienden a Italia. Gibbon describe así en forma general la invasión de Atila: 'Toda la anchura de Europa, en lo que se extiende por más de ochocientos kilómetros desde el Euxino al Adriático, fué invadido de una vez, ocupado y asolado por las miríadas de bárbaros que Atila llevó al campo.'

The Name of the Star Is Called Wormwood

- ◆ The word "wormwood" denotes bitter consequences. "These words--which are more intimately connected with the preceding verse, as even the punctuation in our version denotes--recall us for a moment to the character of Attila, to the misery of which he was the author or the instrument, and to the terror that was inspired by his name.
- ◆ " 'La extirpación total y la supresión,' son los términos que mejor definen las calamidades que él infligía. . . .
- ◆ "Atila se jactaba de que la hierba no volvía a crecer donde había pisado su caballo. 'El azote de Dios' fué el nombre que se atribuyó, y lo insertó entre sus títulos reales. Fué 'el azote de sus enemigos, y el terror del mundo.' El emperador occidental, el senado y el pueblo de Roma, con humildad y temor, procuraron






In 284 AD, General Diocletian became emperor. Some form of stability was restored during his reign. He divided the Roman Empire into two for easier governance, the Eastern and Western Empires. Each emperor had a junior co-emperor.



In 395 AD, after Theodosius' death, the division of the Roman Empire became final. His sons, Arcadius and Honorius, ruled the East and West respectively.



Verse 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.

The Fourth Trumpet.--We understand that this trumpet symbolises the career of Odoacer, the first barbarian ruler of Italy, who was so intimately connected with the downfall of Western Rome. The symbols sun, moon, and stars--for they are undoubtedly here used as symbols--evidently denote the great luminaries of the Roman government, its emperors, senators, and consuls. The last emperor of Western Rome was Romulus, who in derision was called Augustulus, or the "diminutive Augustus." Western Rome fell in A.D. 476. Still, however, though the Roman sun was extinguished, its subordinate luminaries shone faintly while the senate and consuls continued. But after many civil reverses and changes of political fortune, at length the whole form of the ancient government was subverted, and Rome itself was reduced from being the empress of the world to a poor dukedom tributary to the Exarch of Ravenna.

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The Roman Empire in 475 AD

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