

We concluded the last study with the sounding of the first four of *Seven Trumpets* of God, signaling the collapse of the Western Roman Empire. The Roman Empire, which ruled the world for 360-years from the seven-hilled city bearing its name, began its fateful decline with the passage of a Sunday Law in A.D.321 by Emperor Constantine I. Rome's cup of abominations overflowed with this decree, calling forth God's final judgment upon the Empire.

We also saw the rise of the Catholic Church in the midst of the declining Roman Empire, as it deftly tied its allegiances to the victors in Roman conflicts, both internal political wrangling and against the marauding barbarian tribes from without. It boosted its appeal to the masses and its wealth by integrating popular pagan rituals into the Christian faith, a practice called **fornication** (Rev 2:20). We also saw the early workings of the spirit actuating the Roman Church as it began persecuting sincere Christians as early as A.D.393 who upheld truths of the Bible, particularly the seventh-day Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment. As we conclude the Revelation Chapter 8, The Lord reveals yet another scourge upon the earth, arising to punish the Church of Rome and the monarchs that supported its enforcement of a *Sunday Law* (Rev 2:22); but like the Church of Rome, this power would become another source of darkness among men.

"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!" Rev 8:13

The verse identifies **Three Woos** that accompany the last three of the *Seven Trumpets*, but are not the trumpets themselves. These lamentations of anguish, fear, and pain are associated with the workings of another world religion to be introduced upon the earth.

With the sounding of the **Fifth Trumpet** in A.D.628, we see a star fall from heaven to which keys are given to unlock the *bottomless pit*. Recall the prophetic description given for Attila and the Huns of Asian origin, as a *"star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp"* Revelation 8:10. We therefore, conclude that the Bible presents another power, whose appearances, language, and customs were seemingly as distant as the stars. The star that descended was said to open the **Bottomless Pit** from which *"smoke as a furnace"* escaped, darkening the sun and the air. From the smoke, emerged locusts upon the earth having power to cause pain as scorpions. The Bible uses the term Bottomless Pit (*Grk. - abyssos*) four times in the Revelation, each time having different application, but all commonly symbolizing a place of barrenness, darkness, confusion, and perdition. The appearance of the moon and the stars are the result of the sun and the sky being darkened as shown in the illustration. Similarly, the crescent moon and the star are symbols found upon the flags of several modern nations, some claiming **Islam** as the national religion. The Saracens, a people originating from Arabia, a desert land,



who were followers of Mohammed, fits the symbolism provided here in the Bible. We reason then that the star that descended would be Mohammed himself, who in A.D.612 is claimed to have founded the religion.

Q: *Consider the origin and works of the locusts found in the following verses: Exodus 10:12-15?*

A: *The Bible describes a plague of desolating locusts upon the rebellious land of Egypt. Brought by an east wind, the locust darkened (covered) the earth, causing the land to become barren and thus breaking the economic strength of the nation.*

The imagery of a swarm of locusts is appropriate in illustrating the spread of Islam under Mohammed. By A.D.632, he had united the Arabian Peninsula under Islam's banner. By A.D.732, Islam had nearly over-run the world, subduing much of Western Europe. Fortunately, Islam had been checked at the Battle of Tours, France. Said to arise from the *Bottomless Pit* and to darken the sun and air, Islam denies the divinity of Jesus Christ and therefore, darkens knowledge of the **Sun of Righteousness**, Who offers healing and salvation in His wings to all who believe (Malachi 4:2).

The Bible gives detail in describing the Arabian forces characterized as locusts upon the earth. The locusts are said to have the shapes of *"horses, prepared unto battle, and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings [was] as the sound of chariots of many*

horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power [was] to hurt men five months." Revelation 9:7-10. The Arabians were known for their skillfulness in horse riding and their mounted armies. Described as men having long hair as women and having crowns upon their heads, traditionally, Arab men were forbidden to shave their heads and therefore, wore turbans. Their colorful coverings and breastplates, matched by a scimitar, often worn along their backs as a scorpion's sting, made them a formidable foe. With ferocity as a lion in battle, descending upon their victims with great speed, lopping-off enemy heads was their preferred method of attack.

The power given to strike the earth as a scorpion denotes the menacing and deadly attacks upon "infidels", those who refused to worship Allah and acknowledge Mohammed as a prophet. Unlike typical locusts, the command *"not to hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree"* (verse 4) demonstrates Islam's regard for nature as the creation of God and something to be used for man's benefit. Yet, the grass, the trees, and the green things are also symbols of commandment-keeping people [*"...trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord..."* - Isaiah 61:3], both Christian and Jew, who preserved a particular characteristic of true Bible faith (Psalm 1:1-3, 52:8; Jeremiah 17:7, 8; Luke 23:31). These too, were to be spared the destruction of Islamic forces, provided they agree to pay tribute where required. In contrast, the Islamic forces were commanded to

Islam in Bible Prophecy

Supplemental Study 14 [Based on Revelation 8:13, 9:1-21]



Lesson 49

“hurt... those men which have not the **seal of God** in their foreheads” Revelation 9:4. We see the future fate of those who have the *Seal of God* versus the *Mark of the Beast* prefigured through the experience of the Saracen Turks upon the inhabitants of the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine Empire). We identified the [Seal of God](#) applied to the forehead as symbolic of the reverence of the seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord, the token of His Creatorship. The seal similarly symbolizes God's righteous character, borne by those who honor and keep His commandments [See [Lesson 35](#) for more details]. Therefore, it was upon the workers of iniquity, those who pridefully contrasted the meek and humble life of Christ, and kept the spurious Sabbath, Sunday, that the Islamic Arabian forces were commanded to hurt.

The Bible states in the Revelation 9:5, 10 that the Arab forces were to hurt the inhabitants of the earth without the Seal of God for five months, or 150 literal years. Fulfillment of this prophecy started on July 27, 1299 with the *Battle of Nicomedia*, commencing the **first woe**. Turkish Muslims began a series of persistent assaults upon the Eastern Roman Empire lasting 150 years, when on July 27, 1449, the Byzantine Empire became a vassal state of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. This historic event was confirmed as Constantine XI, in seeking the throne as emperor, sought the permission and backing of the Ottoman Sultan Murad II, to outmaneuver other claimants to the throne.

With the sounding of the **Sixth Trumpet**, coincident with the **second woe**, the Bible describes the loosening of four angels,

“bound in the great river Euphrates which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month and a year, for to slay the third part of men.” Revelation 9:14, 15. This prophetic period, reckoned from July 27, 1449, the conclusion of the prior 150-year prophecy, and extending 391-years and 15-days until August 11, 1840, denotes the time of the Ottoman Empire's assault against papal dominated Europe. The four angels loosed from the Euphrates represented the four sultans [kingdoms] of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, Aleppo, Iconium, Damascus and Baghdad, each of which rained destructive forces upon the western world.

Again, Islam is clearly portrayed in the vision as a swift moving cavalry of men, so innumerable it was likened to 200 million, having breastplates of fire [red], jacinth [blue], and brimstone [yellow]; standard colors of the modern [Turkish uniform](#) (Revelation 9:16-18). Fire and brimstone, typically denoting judgment in the Bible, that proceeded from the mouth of the lion-like horses, speak of their ferocity in battle and the use of gunpowder and firearms, first introduced by the Arabs in warfare. In fact, in May A.D.1453, the city of Constantinople was toppled by the Ottoman Turks under the Sultan Mehmed II, who utilized guns and a cannon branded the “Basilica” that could hurl a 600lb stone ball over 1 mile.

The Ottoman Turk invasions upon Europe during the era of the *Protestant Reformation* benefited the movement as it served as a distraction for the papal armies' assaults upon the reformers. In many instances, it actively held papal attacks upon Protestants in check, allowing the movement to

progress. In speaking of the object of the Turkish forces' attacks, the Bible states: “*And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts*” Rev 9:20, 21. The references to the worship of devils, idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood speak of the idolatry prevalent within the Roman Church; as well as its brazen murders, fornications, sorceries, and thefts of which it, to this day has repented not (see Rev 2:20, 21).

The 391-year 15-day conflict providentially met its end as the four Christian European Super Powers of the time, (England, Russia, Prussia, and Austria) in order to prop-up the declining Ottoman Empire on the verge of overthrow by Egypt, intervened with aid to the Turkish State. The western powers established ultimatums with Egypt, reducing the boundaries of Egyptian rule, and forced the Pasha of Egypt, Mehemet Ali, to return the captured Turkish fleet to the Turkish Sultan. With the execution and hand-delivery of the ultimatum to the Egyptians on [August 11, 1840](#), the weakened Ottoman Empire legally admitted that their existence depended on the support of the Christian nations. The *restraint placed upon warring Islam* in 1840 by Christian forces, signaling the end of the *second woe*, would be mirrored in time with the arrival of the **third woe**.