

## THE SEVEN TRUMPETS – THE FALL OF ROME PART 2

1. To what point did the close of the fourth trumpet bring us? — To the extinction of Western Rome. Henceforward the empire was perpetuated only in the eastern division, to which our attention is now turned.
2. Calamitous as were the times under the first four trumpets, what is said of those to follow? Rev. 8:13.
3. Shortly after the closing events of the fourth trumpet, what power began to gather strength as a scourge upon the remaining or eastern portion of the empire? — Mohammedianism. Note 1.
4. Describe the view as the fifth trumpet sounded. Rev. 9:1-3. Note 2.
5. What was the command to these forces? Verse 4. Note 3.
6. What development was seen in the organization of Mohammedanism? Verse 11 (first part). What foreboding of doom to the remaining, or Eastern, empire of Rome is implied in the name given this

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organized force? Verse 11 (last part). See margin, "a destroyer." Note 4.

7. What definite prophetic period is here assigned to this power? Verse 10 (last part). What literal time? The five months — 150 days; prophetic 150 years.

8. Dating from the invasion of Roman territory by Othman, to what time and event does the period reach? Note 5.

9. What word is spoken at the close of the sounding of this fifth trumpet? Verse 12.

10. What was let loose when the sixth trumpet began to sound? Verses 13, 14. Note 6.

11. What general view of the conflict was given the prophet? Verses 16-19. Note 7.

12. How long a period of supremacy was assigned to this power? Verse 15. "An hour" (one-twenty-fourth of a prophetic day, or literal year) = 15 days literal time; "a day"=1 year; "a month"= 30 years; "a year" = 360 years; total 391 years and 15 days, time of Turkish supremacy, from 1449, when that supremacy was acknowledged.

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13. To what date are we brought by the two prophetic periods of this chapter? Ans: —

Date of Othman's invasion (accurately preserved),	July 27, 1299.	} 1st Period. Verse 10.
"Five months,"	150 years, July 27, 1449.	
"An hour,"	15 days	} 2d Period. Verse 15.
"A day,"	1 year	
"A month,"	30 years	
"A year,"	360 years	
Total,	<u>391 years, 15 days, added</u> to July 27, 1449 = August 11, 1840.	} Supremacy lost.

14. What occurred at the ending of the period? — Ottoman supremacy and independence ceased. Note 8.

15. Has the world learned the lesson of history? Verses 20, 21.

16. What follows after the closing of the sixth trumpet on August 11, 1840? Rev. 11:14.

## NOTES

1. The very next century, after the events growing out of the fourth trumpet, the rise of Mohammedanism began to prepare the forces that brought ruin upon Eastern Rome. Mohammed was recognized as a prophet, and entered Medina as prince in the year 622. In the next ten years he gathered nearly all Arabia to his standard, and, following his death (in 632), the fanatical warriors were ready to burst forth from the Arabian deserts.

2. The word translated "bottomless pit" means a waste or desert region. How graphically the figures of speech describe the swarming forth of the Mohammedan forces, like clouds of locusts from the desert of Arabia darkening the sky.

3. When Abubeker, who succeeded Mohammed, sent forth his followers against Syria, he issued the command: "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." He said they would find certain ones living retired lives in the service of God who were to be let alone and not harmed. But of those with "shaven crowns," of "the synagogue of Satan," he said, "be sure you cleave their skulls and give them no quarter till they

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either turn Mohammedan or pay tribute."— *Gibbon's Decline and Fall of Rome, chap. 51, par. 10.*

4. Othman founded the empire which was used as the agency for the overthrow of the Eastern Empire of Rome. His name gave to this empire its title, Ottoman or Turkish Empire. From his time the fanatical Moslem forces were thrown directly against the Eastern Empire to destroy it. "It was on the 27th day of July, 1299 of the Christian era, that Othman first invaded the territory of Nicomedia; and the singular accuracy of the date seems to disclose some foresight of the rapid and destructive growth of the monster."— *Gibbon, chap. 64, par. 14.*

5. One hundred and fifty years from July 27, 1299, the date, the preservation of which the historian regarded as significant (though he little knew the prophetic significance of it), brings us to July 27, 1449. Through all the 150 years the Moslem forces had harassed and destroyed, until, in 1449, the emperor succeeding to the throne of Constantinople took the office only by permission of the Turkish sultan, who thus, says Gibbon, "announced his supremacy, and the approaching downfall of the Eastern Empire."

6. The Mohammedan government was composed, at that time, of the four great provinces, or sultanies, of Bagdad, Damascus, Iconium, and Aleppo. All the

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Moslem forces were now to be let loose upon the Eastern Empire for its final destruction.

7. Gibbon tells of the "myriads of Turkish horse" engaged. The discovery of gunpowder and its adaptation to war in firearms, which the Turks made use of in the siege of Constantinople for the first time in history (the Greek inventor having deserted to their side), answers exactly to the view the prophet had of battle attended by puffs of smoke and blazing brimstone.

8. By accepting intervention from the powers, prescribing a settlement with its own vassal, Egypt (which had revolted and seemed about to establish its independence) the Turkish Government acknowledged its dependence upon the great powers. A report from Constantinople, published in the London morning Chronicle, Sept. 18, 1840, states that an ultimatum was officially placed in the hands of Mohemet Ali, of Egypt, so completing the arrangement of the powers, on the 11th day of August, 1840, and the Turkish sultan's independence was gone, inasmuch as it was the powers, and not the sultan, that were responsible to maintain the terms of settlement. Since then he has been helped to stand by the intervention and the jealousies of the powers, and the Eastern Question has constituted a perpetual menace to the peace of the world.

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The Advent Movement was well under way at this time, and in 1838, Josiah Litch, an associate of William Miller, had published the announcement that some event marking the close of Turkish supremacy was to be looked for on August 11, 1840. Hearts were stirred to new energy in preaching the advent warning by this fulfilment of prophecy before their very eyes.