**Thursday Bible Class** **27th August 2026**

**Fourth Trumpet** **Revelation 8: 12,13**

**Verses for Consideration:**

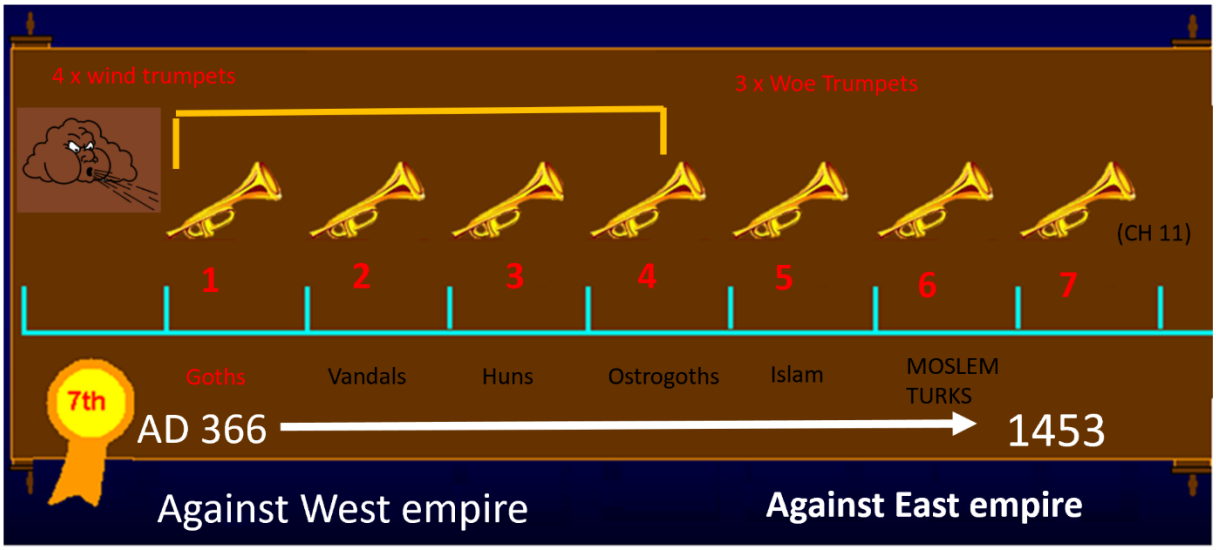
*12:And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.*

*13: And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*

**Reminder:**

This class is about the fourth trumpet shown here:

Invasions against Roman Empire




It is seen above chart as the fourth of what is known as the wind trumpets, and is labelled the Ostrogoths. The first wind trumpets were judgements against the western Roman empire, whilst the last three trumpets – known as Woe trumpets were judgements against the eastern Roman empire, as we will go on to see.

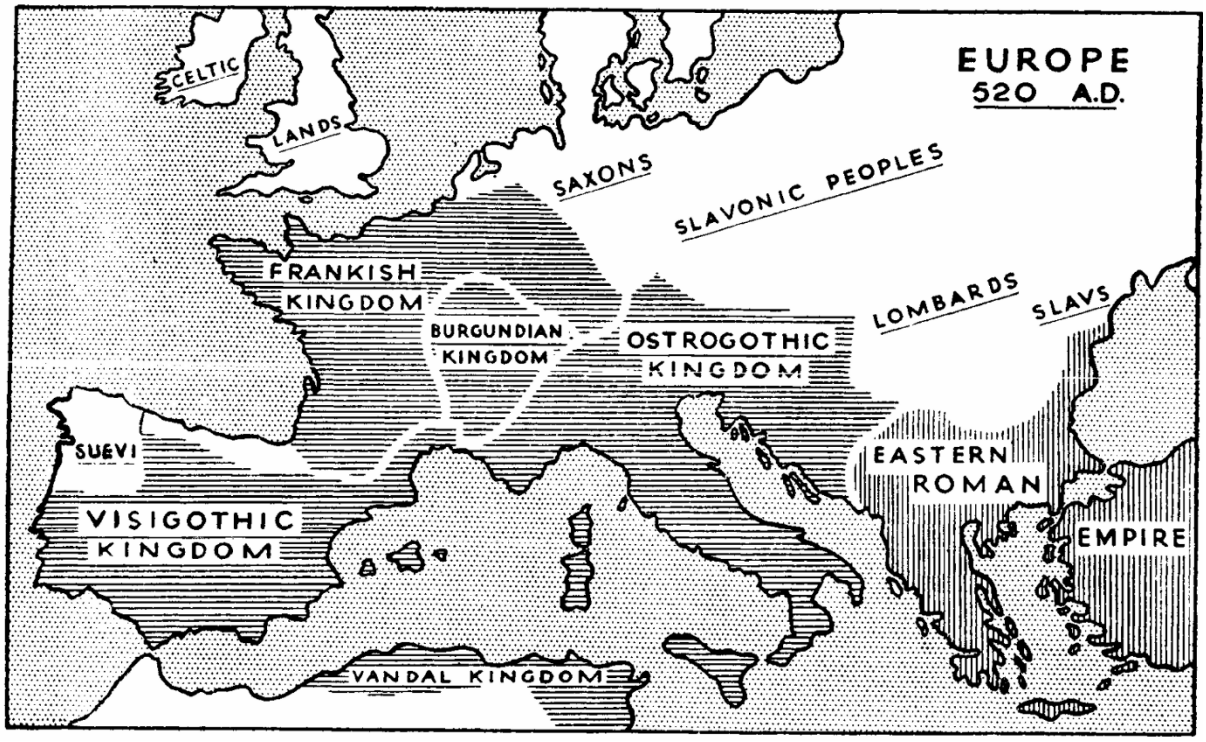
Looking at verse 12, the consequences of the fourth trumpet sounding are that the third of the sun, moon and stars were darkened. It is not talking about a natural phenomenon, as such would be impossible with the order of the heavens which God Himself has put in motion, and has promised to maintain (see Genesis 8:22) No, these are symbols.




Just as under the first trumpet a third of the trees and grass were burnt up, and under the second trumpet, a third of the ships and sea were affected, and under the third trumpet a third of the waters and rivers – all of which were symbols of various sections of the Roman political system, geography and society, so it is in this case. The sun, moon and stars are specifically speaking of the ruling elite. As history shows, the various invasions we have discussed all fell on specific geographical areas, and at that time the Western roman empire was effectively divided into three parts.

The various symbols showing how significant proportions of the Roman empire were attacked, show a progressive and systematic weakening to the eventual downfall of the empire. Why was this? It enabled a breakup, and loosening of central corporate control, allowing protest movements to flourish, and for the survival of the True and Original Christians. (For a comparison of destruction of thirds to permit the repentance of others check Zechariah 13:8&9)

At this point in history, God permitted the Gothic people again to rise up and overflow into the empire. The Visogoths under Alaric had invaded 80 years before, (as well as the Huns and Vandals) but now Odoacer head of the powerful Ostrogoths brought about the final demise of the Western Roman empire.







This map shows also the final political arrangement of Europe 476 -493., whereby the western Roman empire as a military and political system, was replaced by a patchwork of tribes.

Bearing in mind the prophecy of the Apocalypse predicted a darkening of the sun, moon and stars, - thereby describing the weakening of political rulers, and leaders of Rome, and the Western Empire, one would expect such a thing to have happened. Indeed it did.

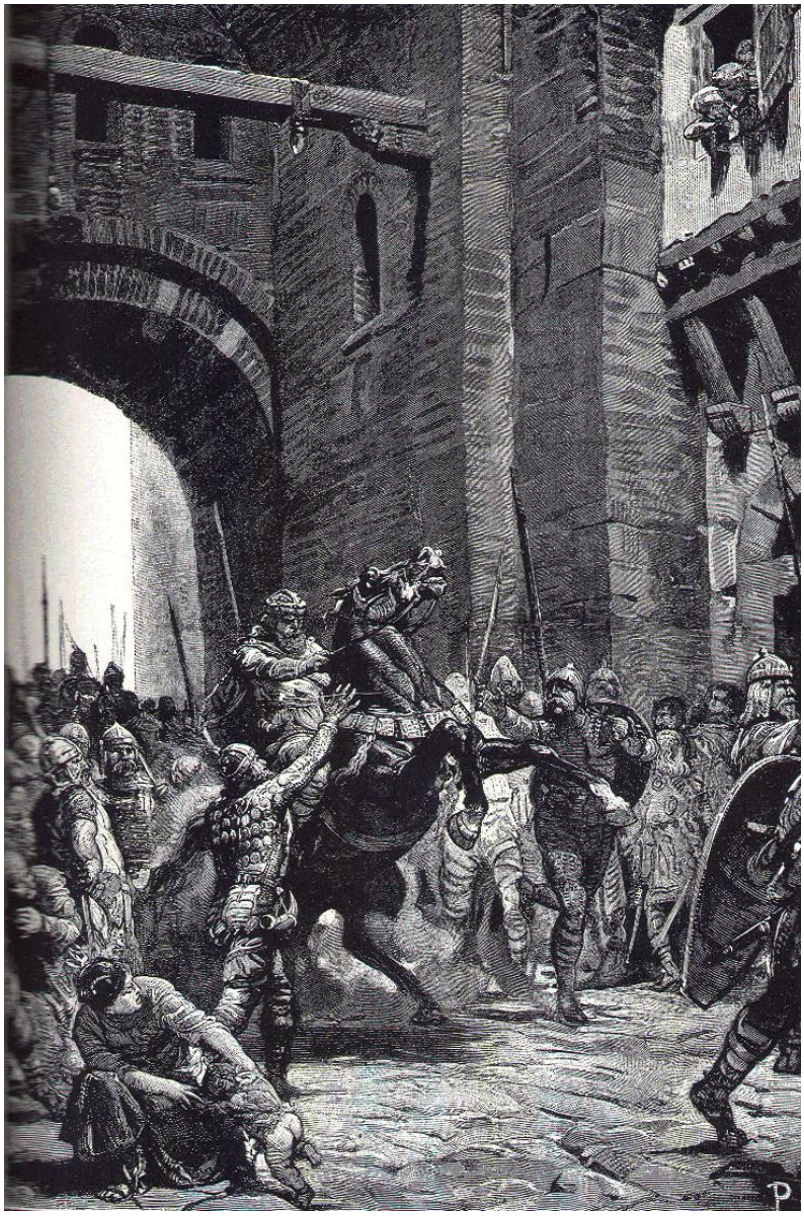
After After Attila the Hun (decribed under the third trumpet), died in 453 the Western Roman Empire rapidly collapsed through rapid political instability, loss of territory, and dominance by barbarian generals. But the stars being darkened – saw a period of weak leadership - a revolving door of weak emperors (such as Avitus, Majorian, Libius Severus, Anthemius, and Olybrius) who held little real power.

Gradually the political heaven;y lightgs grew dimmer -just two years after Attila died, the Vandals sailed from North Africa and brutally sacked the city of Rome for two weeks, stripping it of wealth and monuments. Meanwhile central Roman authority shrank mostly to Italy and parts of Gaul. The Visigoths and Franks settled in Gaul, the Vandals in North Africa, the Suebi in Spain, and various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms formed in Britain.

The final “sun” of the western Roman empire was Romulus Augustulus, who was placed on the throne as a teenager, by his father the Roman general Orestes. Thinking he was all powerful, this Orestes refused to grant land in Italy to the Germanic mercenary troops, so the soldiers elected the chieftain Odoacer as their leader. Odoacer defeated and killed Orestes, deposed young Romulus Augustulus, and chose not to appoint a new puppet emperor. Instead, he refused the purple and sent the imperial insignia to the Eastern Roman Emperor in Constantinople and declared himself King of Italy. With that the empire came to an end. (and the start of the Middle Ages began.)

The sun moon and stars of the Roman western empire were darkened. But not entirely put out.

The next picture depicts the entry of Odoacer into Rome.

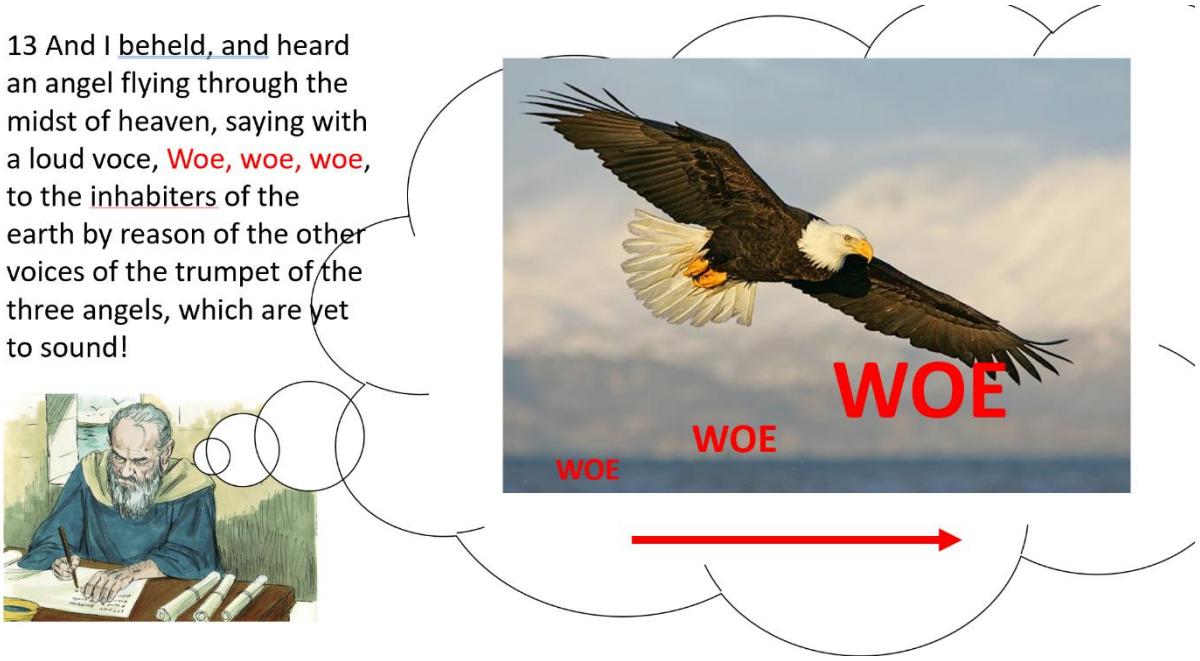


Odoacer won the fierce loyalty of his mercenary soldiers by dividing and distributing one-third of Italian lands to them. (Note thirds again)

The light of Rome was still flickering on. Though eclipsed, the lights of the Roman sun, moon and stars would soon come back again, the same, but with different names. As it happened even while Odoacer was King in Rome, the Roman Senate still continued to assemble, and Roman adminsiration and laws contiued. Odoacer continued to respect the aithority of the emperor of the Eatern Roman Empire – Zeno – as shown when he sent the imperial insignia to him. However Zeno was not enamoured by him, and he sent Theodoric who murdered Odoacer, and took the throne, and proclaimed himsefl Patrician (hereditary title of Father) showing that of course the eclipse of the Sun was now over. But still the western empire was now only a small rump kingdom, completely controlled by the Eastern Roman empire.

This brings us to Verse 13.

Now the Western Empire had been punished, subdued and brought into line with God's will, attention is now turned to the Eastern Roman empire now the puppet master of the West. Constantinople was now the official centre of empire.




In the picture above , we see an eagle in John's vision. This is because the word for angel in the Greek is in fact *aetos* which is eagle (see Diaglott) Notice how in Hosea 8:1, Deuteronomy 28:49, Jeremiah 48:40, and Obadiah 4, all show the eagle as being associated with impending judgement and a certain and sudden downfall. The Revelation always uses Old Testament prophetic language to describe the events which would come, so that those with ears to hear will understand. Only those familiar with the Word of God would see the secrets being revealed.

Thus, this verse 13 describes three further trumpets which would be blown, which would bring a time of woe to the Eastern Roman empire, also known as the Byzantine empire shown below in Orange.




More next time….

Brother Terry