

Questions About What Are the 6th and 7th Trumpets of Revelation

By Pastor Ed Anderson

What are the 6th and 7th trumpet?

Answer:

Great question! The **6th and 7th trumpets** are part of the series of **Seven Trumpets** in the book of **Revelation**, which describe a sequence of end-time events in symbolic language. These last two trumpets are the most climactic and significant, especially in the **historicist** and **Adventist** interpretations of prophecy.

The 6th Trumpet — The Second Woe

Revelation 9:13–21

What happens:

- The sixth angel sounds his trumpet.
- Four angels bound at the great river **Euphrates** are released.
- A massive army of **200 million** is unleashed.
- A **third of mankind is killed** by fire, smoke, and sulfur.
- Despite the devastation, humanity **refuses to repent** of idolatry, murders, sorcery, and sexual immorality.

Adventist & Historicist Interpretation:

- The 6th trumpet is interpreted as representing the rise and advance of the **Ottoman Empire**, especially their conquests in the eastern Roman Empire.
- The “four angels” symbolize the **four leading sultanies** of the Turks, bound at the Euphrates until released.
- The time prophecy in Revelation 9:15 (an hour, a day, a month, and a year = **391 years and 15 days**) is believed by historicists like Uriah Smith to point to the **end of Ottoman military dominance in 1840**, when control was lost through European intervention.

The 7th Trumpet — The Third Woe

Revelation 11:15–19

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” — Revelation 11:15

What happens:

- Heaven announces the final and **eternal reign of Christ**.
- The **temple of God** in heaven is opened.
- The **ark of His covenant** is seen.
- There are **lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail**—symbols of final judgment.

Adventist Understanding:

- The **7th trumpet marks the beginning of the investigative judgment** (linked to **Daniel 7:9–14** and **Revelation 11:19**) and points to the **1844 heavenly sanctuary opening**.
- It ushers in the **final phase of Christ’s ministry** in the heavenly sanctuary before the Second Coming.
- This trumpet parallels the **third woe**, which includes the final conflict between good and evil (Revelation 12–14) and culminates in Christ’s return (Revelation 19–22).

Summary Chart:

Trumpet	Description	Historicist View	Prophetic Milestone
6th	Euphrates loosed, war, death	Rise of Ottoman Empire	Ends in 1840
7th	Christ’s reign announced, temple opened	Judgment begins in Heaven	Starts 1844

Key Takeaway:

- The **6th Trumpet** points to **woes through war and spiritual blindness**, while the **7th Trumpet** announces **God’s final triumph and judgment**.

- They are not just historical, but deeply **spiritual warnings and calls** to be sealed with the character of Christ before the close of probation.