

## **Constant Overtures (Seven Trumpets)**

Revelation 8:2 – 11:19

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In another series of visions, John was shown again, in more detail, what he had just seen.

The powers of evil had their way with the earth and its inhabitants. For a short time and with strict limitations, God allowed them to inflict intense emotional trauma on anyone without the protection of the Holy Spirit.

Wars broke out. The corrupt governments of the world took whatever they needed to feed the opulence of their leaders and the power of their military machines. Lack of food and water, poverty, and despair were widespread. Trusted political leaders proved to be merely self-serving. Reputable financial institutions collapsed in the midst of worldwide economic instability. Deception was rampant.

All the while, through devoted followers, God made constant overtures for repentance that were completely ignored. God provided faithful believers with protection against spiritual harm regardless of any physical persecution they encountered. Satan, supported by demonic forces, seemed to defeat them. The ungodly world mocked, gloated, even celebrated. But their sense of victory was short-lived, as God's Spirit revitalized the faithful believers.

The entire world was thrown into tremendous economic, political, and social upheaval. Many lost all they had; many despaired; many feared for their very lives and finally acknowledged the authority of God over everything.

Then John saw the awesome power of God fully revealed. God extended a covenant relationship to every individual from every nation who loved and trusted in Jesus. And the heavens and the earth trembled with excitement.