

# Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



Today 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019

This morning - talk by Chris Fry on the resurrection

Plus - talk on the trumpets of Revelation - speaker Philip Wells,  
Minister.

*[www.calvary-brighton.org.uk](http://www.calvary-brighton.org.uk)*

*[calvary-brighton.sermon.net](http://calvary-brighton.sermon.net)*



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4. The historical reality of Jesus bodily resurrection is KEY
5. If Jesus did NOT rise from the dead – neither will anyone else and we'll remain 'in our sins' and 'lost'
6. If Jesus DID rise from the dead – we all have the possibility of being forgiven and enjoying eternal life as we trust in Jesus

# 1 Corinthians 15 vs 3 to 8

*'For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:*

- that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*
- that he was buried*
- that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and*
- that he appeared to Peter , and then to the Twelve.*

*After that , he appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.*

*Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.'*

# *Welcome to this meeting of Calvary Church!*

*Revelation 4:1-2*

*Song "Who has held the oceans in his hand ...?"*

*Prayer*

*For the children -*

*Song 480 Crown him with many crowns ...*

*Talk by Chris Fry and prayer*

*Reading Revelation 8:1-7 + 13-21*

*Song - 477 All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord*

*Talk - John Humphrys and the trumpets of book of Revelation*

*Song 779 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness*

In 2006 one of the presenters of the "Today" radio programme - John Humphrys - invited leaders of various faiths to try to persuade him to become a believer.

The representative of Christianity was the then Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams.

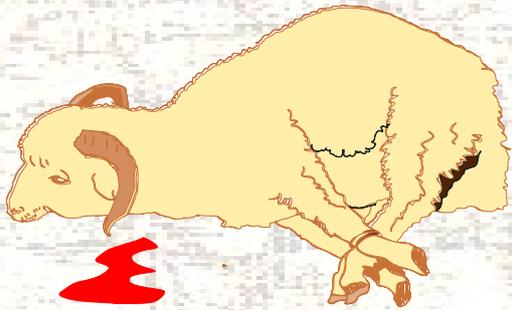
... Humphrys began like this:

*I'm inviting them one at a time to convert me, to persuade me, if you like, that God does in fact exist. I believed that once, but for nearly fifty years I've been a journalist and I've seen perhaps too much suffering, too many children dying, too much wanton savagery to continue to believe it. A God of mercy, any God, seems out of the question ...*

*This is one of the most common challenges to faith in the Christian God which we will face head-on today.*

*We will do so continuing our study of the book of Revelation*

# Brief introduction to the "book of Revelation"



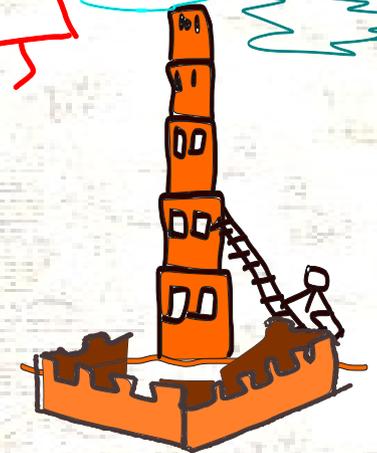
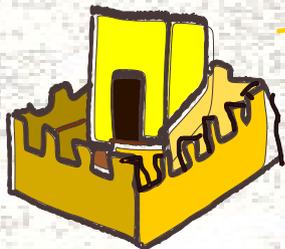
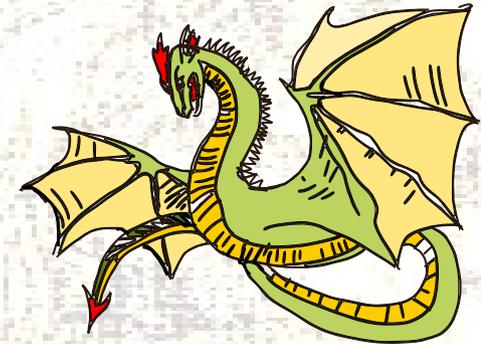
1. It is the last book in the Christian Bible

2. It is famous for its visionary depictions

- The Lamb and dragons and beasts
- Armies and battles
- Women - a bride and a prostitute
- The city of God and Babylon
- Over all is the throne in heaven

These all are symbols, designed to show the reality behind the everyday appearances! (

N.B. APOKALYPSE = REVELATION)

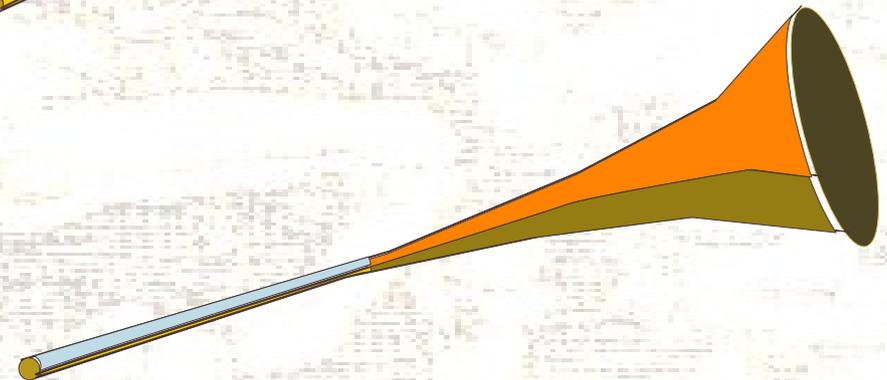
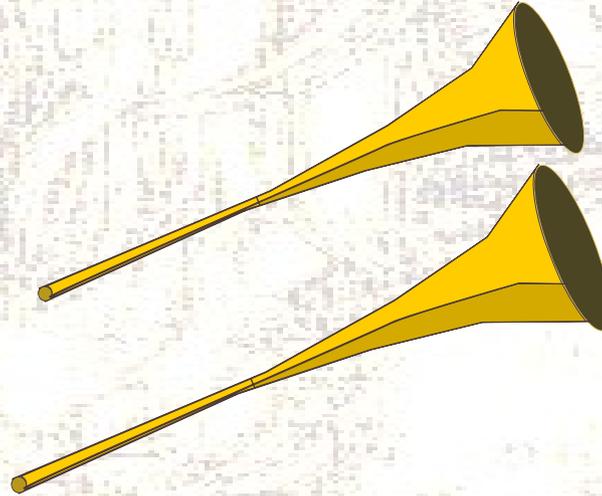
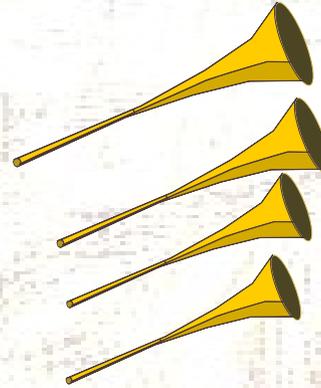


# *Section for today's study is the trumpets*

*There are sections in "7s" e.g. 7 churches*

*Today we look at the trumpets sounded by angels!*

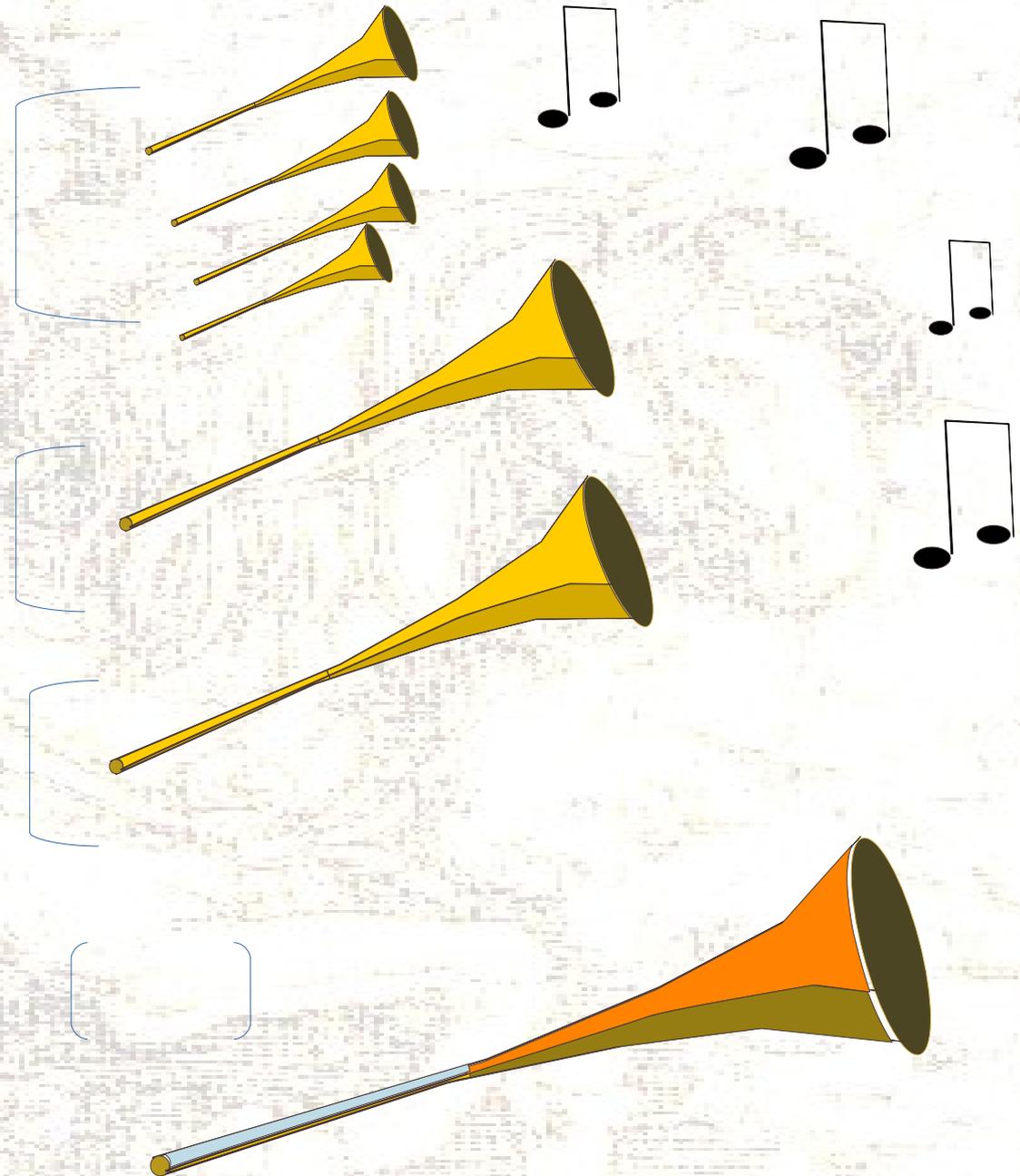
- X7*
- 7 = Symbolic number of completeness*



# *Section for today's study is the trumpets*

## *Quick Overview:*

- 8:2,6,*
- 7=#1,8=#2,  
10=#3,12=#4,*
- 9:1=#5 (bigger),*
- 9:13=#6 (bigger),*
- [long interlude  
with announcing  
angel + trampled  
temple],*
- 11:15 =#7 = last  
trumpet*
- ==> look briefly at  
this vision*



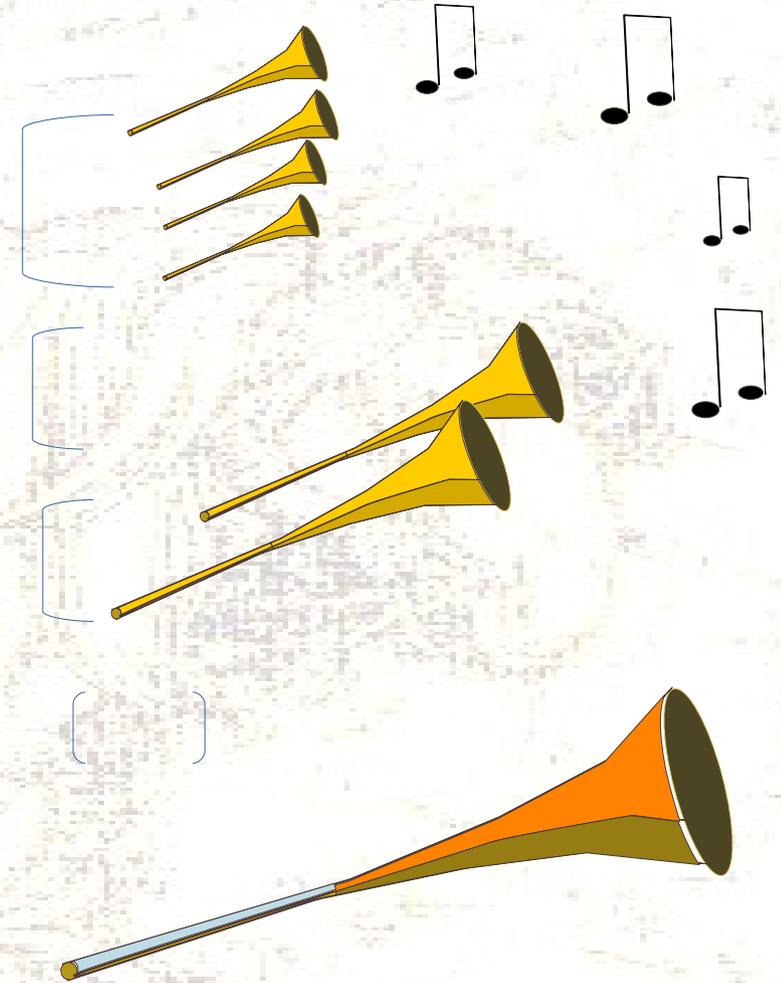
# Questions:

1. *What do the trumpets do?*

– *action*

2. *Why do they do it?*

– *Interpretation, motivation*



# 1. What do the trumpets do?

*A1 - they each announce disasters*

*First four go together*

*v.5 1/3 on earth*

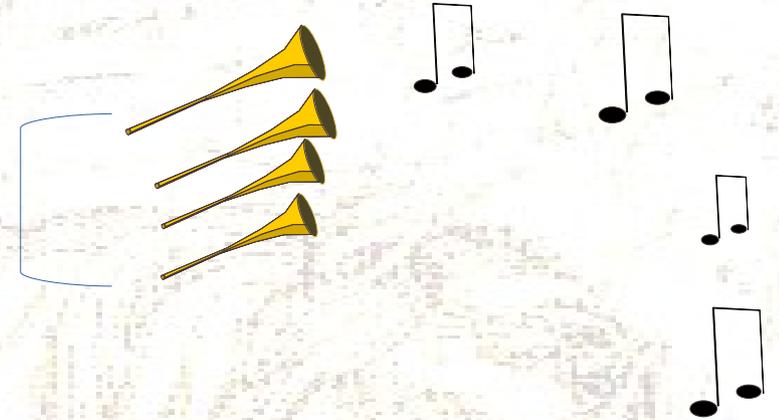
*v.8 1/3 in sea*

*v.10 1/3 in fresh water*

*v.12 1/3 in the sky*

*v.13 "woe to inhabitants of the earth"*

- Carefully covers whole eco-system with woe*
- Proportionately not completely*
- ==> seems very relevant to today's concerns*
- Pollution of the earth*
- Spoiling of the sea*
- Stress to the water system*
- Threat from the air itself*
- Natural disasters ... man-made destruction of planet*
- = involvement of angels ... hand of God*



# 1. What do the trumpets do?

*A1 - they each announce disasters  
... continued*

## **Trumpet #5**

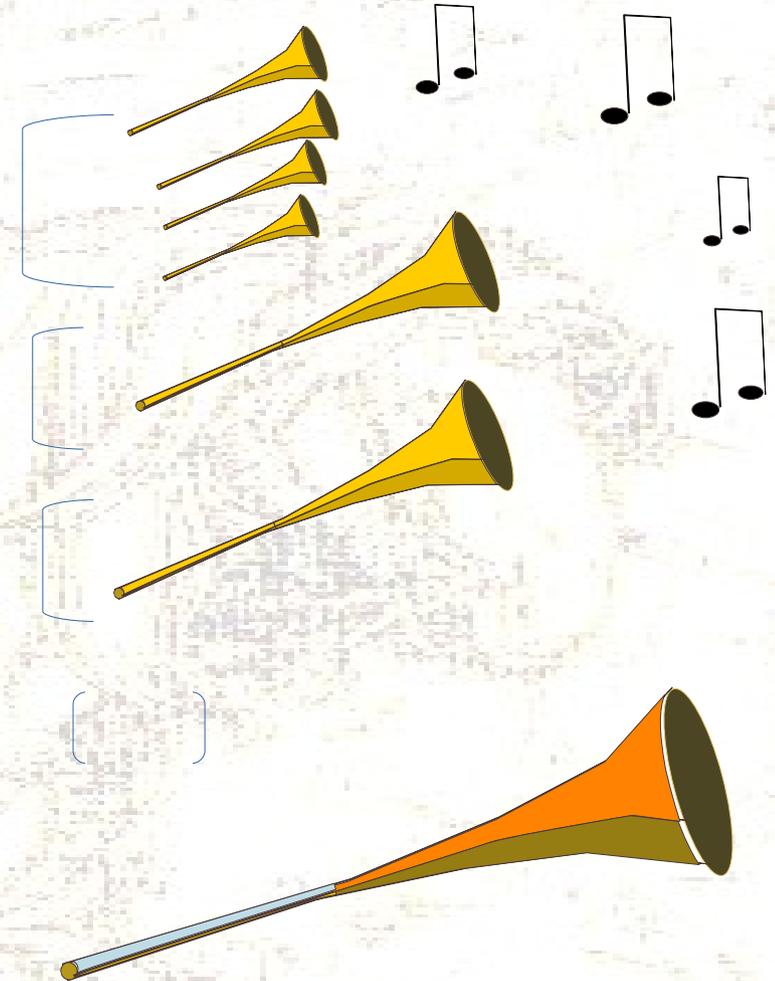
- *Angel trumpet*
- *Spiritual evil ("from abyss"  
v.2)*
- *9:5 plague with power to make  
life unbearable, but not kill*

## **Trumpet #6**

- *Pre-arranged (v.15)*
- *Overwhelming numbers (v.16)*
- *But still only proportionate*
- *Lethal*

## **Trumpet #7**

- *The final day of judgment*



# Q1. What do the trumpets do? = action

## Answer:

- They announce a comprehensive set of plagues and troubles
- Affect the eco-system
- Affect humanity
  - Bringing non-lethal suffering
  - Bringing deadly disaster
- NOT the final end - BUT instead proportional (e.g. 1/3)
- Active agents
  - God in heaven
  - Spiritual power from hell
  - Various non-human agencies
- e.g. Jesus - when a tower in Siloam fell on some people
- e.g. addictions, sexually transmitted diseases, wars, destruction, diseases
- John Humphrys: the Bible speaks about such awful things - war, non-lethal suffering, lethal suffering.
- The Bible has no embarrassment about this - but rather declares it
- "innocent suffering" ... not quite the same

*Q2: Why do the trumpets do this?*

***Answer 1***

- This happens without God's knowledge or input - i.e. despite him*
- NO: the angels come from God's throne*

***Answer 2***

- v.20-21 "the rest of mankind that were not killed still did not repent of the work of their hands*
- N.B. repent = turn round 180 degrees*
  - Worshipping demons*
  - Idols of silver, gold ... that cannot see or hear or walk*
  - Not repent of murders, magic, sexual immorality, theft*
- They were supposed to hear the trumpets and repent!*

## Q2: Why do the trumpets do this?

*"still did not repent"*

- *This is all very severe ...*
- *The hint that God had tried all sorts of less severe methods to bring people to himself, but was forced to try this ... and they still didn't repent!*
- *"Yet he has not left himself without testimony. He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy" Paul - Acts 14:16*  
*"turn from worthless idols to the living God ...!"*
- *C.S. Lewis: "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

*Q2: Why do the trumpets do this?*

*"did not repent of ..."*

- This is not suffering within an innocent world, but within a deeply perverse world*
- "the work of their hands" - exchange glory of Creator for glory of creation. Worship of human constructs: metal, mental*
- Worshipping demons: spiritual forces other than / less than the Creator Himself*
  - Unfaithfulness of a cheating husband*
  - A huge insult to the Creator*

## Q2: Why do the trumpets do this?

**"did not repent of murders, magic, immorality"**

- *i.e. lifestyle,*
- *Murders = violence and hatred of fellow human being - made in the image of God*
  - *Jesus: insult ~ murder*
- *Magic*
  - *Impersonal relationship to God's power*
  - *Magic spells, superstitions (faith in nonsense), lucky numbers, rituals, relics, St Christopher, kissing icons*
- *Immorality*
  - *Sexual relations <> model the love of Jesus Christ for his church. Two unlike agents. Sacrificial self-giving - not just selfish pleasure - impersonal - without commitment*

# Answers

**1. What do the trumpets do?**

- *A: They fill our world with the sound of pain*

**2. Why do they do it?**

- *A: Because God so loves people and wants them to turn wholeheartedly to him that he will even inflict pain to call them to do so.*

**Q: have you listened to the trumpets?**

