1. **How can we reconcile the apparent discrepancy in the Scriptures...Jesus being crucified and Stephen being stoned to death for the same apparent "crime" of Blasphemy?**

The Roman Government took away the powers of passing death sentences from the Jewish Sanhedrin in 28 A.D. Hence they could not stone Jesus to death, which is the original punishment (as per the Mosaic Law) for the alleged crime of blasphemy by Jesus. We can see the invisible hand of God in fulfilling the prophecies and bringing salvation by the very tree which brought sin when Adam disobeyed. ****

However, Stephen came on the scene after the death of Jesus and was charged with blasphemy in 33 A.D. But for the same sin, the Jews stoned him to death. The Romans had not given back the Sanhedrin their power to sentence and execute a blasphemer. The reason they gave was public outrage, in which no one can be pointed out and charged, similar to arson and violence erupting during modern day protests.

2. How can we sum up the vision concerning the Tribulation Martyrs of Chapter 7 of the Book of Revelation using the following sub-headings...

The Book of Revelation Chapter 7: 9 – 17 depicts the vision of John of the Tribulation martyrs described as the following -****

(i) O......tion – Origination – John sees so many martyrs, and he is confused as to their origination, as to from where they have come. The Angel says that they are the ones coming out of the Great Tribulation. They accepted the Lord Jesus subsequent to the Rapture. They are the ones who must have heard the Gospel before the Rapture but did not accept Jesus. Subsequently they accept Christ and they are targeted, victimised by the proponents of the One world religion along with the antichrist and they are treated as anti-socials and put to death. Antichrist and one world religion will be giving tacit support to all those **who are anti-Christians** **to kill Christians as they are not accepting the one world religion.** Also among them will be the martyrs who hear the Gospel during the tribulation and die for their faith.

(ii) P.......tion - Purification – These martyrs accepted Jesus’s atoning death on the Cross, have suffered persecution and death in the hands of the antichrist and his new world religion. These saints have been purified, they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and they have been given new life, their names have been registered in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (Rev 7: 14) ****

(iii) L.....tion – Location – These martyrs are before the throne of God, which is a privilege given to these **tribulation martyrs.** Their location in heaven is that they are standing in front of God’s throne. (Rev 7: 9) ****

(iv) F.....tion Function – These tribulation saints are serving day in and day out in the temple of God, glorifying God, praising and worshipping God. (Rev 7: 10-12) ****

 (v) P.......tion Provision – They have God’s provision, as they shall neither hunger nor thirst anymore, they are protected from the heat of the sun and no other heat can strike them, for the Lamb will be their Shepherd and will lead them to living waters. (Rev 7: 16 - 17) ****

3. Who are other contrite ones' in the Scriptures who repented in the nick of the moment and eventually went to Heaven?

Other than the tribulation martyrs who repented in the nick of the moment and eventually went to Heaven are the following –

1. The criminal who was crucified on the right hand side of Jesus repented at the last minute and Jesus promised that he will be with Him in Paradise (Luke 23:40 - 43) ****
2. Samson, who was imprisoned because of his obvious weakness toward women, finally cries out to the Lord for mercy and God restores him to his original strength and on his death he is able to kill more Philistines than when he was alive. (Judges 16:30) His name is mentioned among the heroes of faith in the book of Hebrews 11: 32****
3. The brothers of Noah, the other sons of Lamech, who mocked Noah when he was warning them about the flood, cried out to the Lord when they saw the flood and everything happening exactly as Noah predicted, many repented. 1Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water. 1 Peter 4:6 “For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

Thus, the brothers of Noah along **with many who had not originally heeded the warning of the imminent floods also repented** and wanted to set their lives right with the Lord. So the Lord preached the gospel to them when He died and went down to the dead and when he ascended, He took them all to heaven. ****

4. What ought to be our warning to those who want to seek the Lord only in the "eleventh hour"?

When we share the gospel with our friends and acquaintances, the most common thing excuse is to say that they will accept Jesus LATER. This “later” indicates that the person is postponing his acceptance of Jesus to a hypothetical future that may never come. Our warning to such a person who is waiting for the “eleventh hour” is, do not wait for the 11th hour, you may die at 10.30 or even 10.55. This indicates that the right time to accept Jesus as Lord is TODAY. There may be some people who were lucky enough to repent at the 11th hour, but this opportunity is not available for the majority. For the Bible says, today is the day of salvation, a person who waits for the eleventh hour will definitely miss the opportunity for salvation **and end up receiving the Lord’s Judgment. **

5. What are the 2 distinctive/unique features of the Trumpets judgment?

The two distinctive features of the Trumpets judgement are as follows –

1. The disasters that are announced by the trumpet judgements are going to affect ONE THIRD of any area wherever they are targeted. ****
2. First four trumpet judgements affect the nature and the remaining three trumpet judgements will affect mankind. ****

**The first four judgements will affect the nature and then mankind and the 4th and 5th will affect mankind directly whereas 7th is a natural calamity (Earthquake) which also affects mankind subsequently.**

Thus what is unique is that, when we come to the bowl judgements that follow the trumpet, it is seen that the bowl judgements affect the whole area of whatever they target, but in case of trumpet judgement, they affect only One Third. ****

6. What happens when the First Trumpet judgment takes place?

**First Trumpet: Vegetation Struck**

When the First Angel sounded the Trumpet, hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up and all green grass was burned up. (Rev 8: 7) This will aggravate the food scarcity and pollute the atmosphere severely. ****

7. What happens when the Second Trumpet judgment takes place?

**Rev 8:8 Second Trumpet: The Seas Struck**

**8**Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. **9**And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Thus the second trumpet will destroy one third of the sea and one third of all the sea creatures and one third of ships through will crude oil is transported is destroyed. This will result in severe fuel shortage world over besides further aggravating food shortage (**as the population of the fish to be taken is also reduced**). ****

8. What happens when the Third Trumpet judgment takes place?

**Rev 8: 10-11 Third Trumpet: The Waters Struck**

**10**Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. **11**The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

Thus the third trumpet judgement will bring about severe shortage of drinking water and one third of rivers and springs of water drying up and many people will die of severe drought. ****

9. How would the Trumpet Judgments contribute to further conversion of souls?

9. How would the Trumpet Judgments contribute to further conversion of souls?

**Ans:** God is a great timer and by the time Jesus came, the Greeks have united the world by one common language, and the Romans have united the world by excellent roads, so by the time Jesus came, road was paved as it were for the preaching of the gospel.

 The satellite tracking technology and data base. Now with these tracking technology, the media will be reporting the actual and exact happenings of the events taking place within minutes. Now those who did not accept Jesus before the Rapture, when they take their Bibles and see the prophecies in the Bible that are being fulfilled, they will 1/3 of the sea will be wiped out, 1/3rd of rivers poisoned etc. when the see exactly the news report matching Biblical prophecies, their hearts would be touched and many will accept the Lord. God will bring the Trumpet Judgments at the exact time when people can collate what has been prophesied.

If the Trumpet judgements had taken place 200 years back, we would not even have known what the level of destruction is, but now if one third of nature, forests, seas, rivers are destroyed, all this is documented and it will be known to all. So, when these Bible Prophecies about these judgements are read by people who are in the Tribulation, many will accept Jesus as their Lord when they see these things come to pass as people will correlate these happenings with the prophecies in the Book of Revelation. Thus this will lead to conversion of more souls. ****

10. What happens when the 4th Judgment takes place? Is the cosmic phenomenon real or an optical illusion? Why is the Eagle flying through the sky heralding..."Woe... Woe...Woe" (3 times)?

**Rev 8:12When the Fourth Trumpet is sounded, the Heavens are struck**

**12**Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night. The fourth Trumpet reveals that the sun is one third black and so also the moon and the day and night were destroyed by one third. This is an optical illusion, when the earth is covered with smoke from all the destruction of nature. As one third of the forests will be burned, all the smoke from this will darken the whole atmosphere and it will appear that the sun is covered with black soot. This happened in the past, when the people in Nampalli, Andhra Pradesh had the Dunlop Tyre storage depot catching fire and the smoke from the burnt tyres went up making the sun appear black. This is an optical illusion that John sees due to the process of refraction caused by smoke pollution. ****

In Verse 13 John says“And I looked, and I heard an Eagle flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!” This Angel is crying Woe, woe, woe three times as there are three more Trumpet judgements to follow each one is more severe than the one before it. ****

11. When in the OT section of The Bible do you see our Lord using the principle "cut diamond with the diamond"? How is this principle connected to the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments?

### God uses evil to punish evil, or cuts diamond with a diamond. The Old Testament narratives where God uses this principle is in1 Samuel16:14 where a Distressing Spirit Troubles Saul 14But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. King Saul disobeyed the Lord and God allowed the tormenting spirit to punish him and trouble him. So God uses evil to punish evil. Checkmark

### God took Ahab to the battle to be killed through the lying spirits in the mouths of the prophets. When King Ahab enquired of the 400 prophets whether he should go against the Syrians in Ramoth Gilead to fight or not, they all said to Ahab “Go up for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king”. 1Kings 22:6, 10-11; Prophet Micaiah speaks the truth and tells King Ahab not to go to war and that “The Lord had put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours and the Lord has declared disaster against you” 1Kings 22:23. However Ahab believes the lying prophets and gets killed in the battle. God used evil to punish wicked king Ahab. Even though King Jehoshaphat, dressed in royal robes was surrounded by the enemy soldiers, when he cried to the Lord, the Lord saved him and made the soldiers turn back from pursuing him. However, Ahab, though disguised as an ordinary man was killed by a stray arrow at random which struck Ahab between the joints of his armour, and the king of Israel and he died. Checkmark

### Even in the New Testament, God delivers a man guilty of incest to satan. Thus we see God who does not change, always using evil to punish evil. Checkmark

12. What happens when the fifth Trumpet is blown? Why are "locusts" portrayed as wearing "breastplates"?

Rev 9 When the fifth angel sounded the Trumpet, John saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. **2**And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. **3**Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. **4**They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. **5**And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. **6**In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. These scorpions would torment the people for five months but not kill them

**7**The shape of these locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. **8**They had hair like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. **9**And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots thundering with many horses running into battle. **10**They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. **11**And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. These locusts come to torment all the people who by now have taken the microchip on their foreheads and hands. God is using these demonic locusts to punish the wicked, evil to punish evil.

When people are tormented by these locusts, they will use pesticides to kill them, they will also try to kill them with guns with bullets, but they have breastplates of iron, so nothing is going to kill these locusts nor exterminate them. This is figurative language, the iron breastplates imply that they are well guarded, they will not get killed inspite of bullets or pesticide sprays to kill them. They will continue to torment people for five months, that is when people will want death because of sheer agony and excruciating pain caused by the sting of these locusts, but death will not come to them.

13. What happens when the 6th Trumpet is blown? What is the difference between the 5th and the 6th Trumpet judgements...though in both the cases..."agents of judgment" are the same?

Ans: When the 6th Trumpet is blown, John saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone. The heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.  The third part of humanity was killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. The power of the horses were in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

The difference between the 5th and the 6th Trumpet Judgements, even though in both the cases, the "agents of judgment" are the same, is that in the 5th Trumpet Judgement, the people are experiencing excruciating suffering in pain due to the sting of the locust, but death will not come even though the people desire it (Revelation 9:6). For 5 months, the demonic forces will torture the people but there is no death. Whilst in the 6th Trumpet Judgement, we read that one third of humanity was killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. ****

We noticed that when the 4th Seal Judgement takes place, 25% of the world population is wiped out. Assuming the world population at the time of Rapture is 8 billion, 25% of 8 billion is 2 billion wiped out. Which leaves another 6 billion people on earth. When the 6th Trumpet Judgement takes place, a third of humanity is wiped out by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.  So, another 2 billion people are wiped out leaving only 4 billion people on earth. Many who will die are tribulation martyrs and many will remain as tribulation saints and they are going to enter into millennium.

14. Describe the vision of a huge angel in Chapter 10 of the Book of Revelation using the abbreviations

Before the 7th Trumpet, there is an interlude and other events take place. In Rev 10, John sees the huge angel who had the following characteristics understood in the vitamin terminology -

A) UA – Unusual Angel – This Angel was glorious described as clothed with a cloud, with a rainbow on his head; his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. His right foot was on the sea and his left foot was on the land, indicating that he was huge. He was magnificent to see and he swore by the name of God and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars and it sounded as if seven thunders were heard. Though some scholars interpret that this Angel is Jesus Christ Himself, it cannot be true as this Angel is swearing in the name of God above whom there is no one else. The fact that he is swearing in the name of God indicates that he is below God. ****

B) UB – Unusual Book – The Angel had a little book or scroll which was open in his hand. The book is defined as a little book, totally disproportionate to the size of the mighty Angel. This book was open and the Angel says that it will be sweet as honey in John’s mouth and bitter in his stomach. ****

C) UC – Unusual Command – The Angel tells John to take and eat the book/scroll. ****

D) UD – Unusual Digestion process – As the Angel had spoken, when John ate the book, it was as sweet as honey in his mouth but after he had eaten it, his stomach became bitter. In the scroll are all the judgements, John finds it sweet initially, but it becomes bitter later. Righteous good people also have weaknesses, in that when the enemies persecute them, they feel that the Lord should intervene and **settle scores** with the wicked who are tormenting them. When the Lord actually does come into the picture and when our enemies are reeling under God’s judgement, the righteous cry to the Lord for mercy on their enemies. ****

14. Give example of an OT character who also experienced UD process?

Righteous people in the Old Testament who cry out to the Lord to save them from the torture of the wicked, then cry to the Lord when they see the hand of the Lord admonishing their enemies. The main person who is seen to be experiencing this unusual digestion process is David in the Old Testament. He cries to the Lord when his enemies tormented him and suffered when Saul tries to kill him for years together, but when Saul dies, David is the one who is totally crestfallen. 2 Samuel 1: 11-12. David even puts to death the Amelekite **who claimed to have to have killed Saul,** **even though Saul as per the Amalekite was in great pain leaning on his spear, asked to be killed to shorten his anguish.** ****

Again after the death of Saul, Abner took ten tribes with him and he ruled using a proxy king, son of Saul called Hishbosheth and he deprived David of ruling over the entire land of Israel even though he was the anointed King. When Abner died, David mourns for his death and cried the most. 2Sam 3: 31-34****

Absalom was the rebellious son of David who wanted to take away his father’s kingdom from David and wanted him to die. Finally after much struggle, Joab, his commander and the soldiers of David risk their lives and Absalom is killed. Instead of being relieved at the death of his rebellious son, David mourns in his experience of unusual digestion process in 2 Sam 18: 33, wishing that he had died in the place of his son Absalom. ****

Thus David is the OT character who being very kind hearted and good natured experiences the UD process many times in his life and John experiences the same bitterness when he sees the unrighteous suffering.

15. What would happen to the Jewish Temple the Jews would construct during the Tribulation period and why so?

Ans.: Anti-Christ will temporarily facilitate construction of Jewish temple. However, Lord Jesus will facilitate permanent construction during the Millennium rule. AC will show them a ‘miracle’ of dying and coming back to life like Christ and require the World to worship him. While most in the World would obey the Jews will rebel and will be persecuted on account of which they would flee Jerusalem. Now as a result of absence of any Jewish resistance, gentiles siding with AC will enter Jerusalem and trample on the holy city for 42 months. The temple court also will be defiled by the gentiles.

16. Whom do the 2 witnesses of 11th Chapter of the Book of Revelation resemble? By resembling "them" what impact they would have on the Jews? Why the Lord is using 2 witnesses instead of 1?

The two witnesses of the 11th Chapter of the Book of Revelation resemble Moses and Elijah. The two witnesses are mainly going to preach the gospel to the Jews and for the Jews, the Law is represented by Moses and the Prophets are represented by Elijah as they are regarded as the greatest of all times. The Jews regard as the Word of God, the Law, which includes the first five books of our Bible, Genesis to Deuteronomy which was given to them by God through Moses. The second is the books of the Prophets which the Jews consider as most sacred after the Law. The Psalms and other books are considered as writings in the third category and are not read on important occasions. The sequencing is seen in Luke 24:44 “ Then He(Jesus) said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” Again Jesus goes on to emphasise the supremacy of the Law and the Prophets. The following verses emphasize the importance and exclusivity that the Book of the Law and the Book of Prophets was for the Jews.

1. Jesus says in Matthew 7: 12 “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets”.
2. The Apostles and early Christians met in the synagogue on the Sabbath day and read the Law and the Prophets in Acts 13:15 which says “And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, “Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.”
3. The witness of two people is emphasized in the Book of Deuteronomy again necessitating the witness of two Tribulation prophets in Deut 19: 15 “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established”… **the fact reminded by our Lord in John 8:17.**

Thus the importance of two witnesses is necessary even during the time of Tribulation. The two witnesses are prophets resembling Moses and Elijah because their ministry will be among the Jews and for them, when it comes to Law, there is no prophet greater than Moses and when it comes to prophets, there is no prophet greater than Elijah. These two prophets will do those type of miracles that will remind the Jews about Moses and Elijah like turning water into blood (as Moses did), they will bring fire from heaven (as Elijah did). It is for this reason that God sends two witnesses to win over the Jews with the Gospel.