

## Historical Narratives

Careful observation is an overlooked skill in reading. You can test your skills of observation here. In this example, most commentaries understand Ananias and Sapphira as Believers. What do you see in this passage of Acts 4:32-5:2? Mark up the text if it would help!

**4:32)** And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. **4:33)** And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. **4:34)** For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales **4:35)** and lay them at the apostles' feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need. **4:36)** Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement), **4:37)** and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. **5:1)** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **5:2)** and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet.

What does this reveal about your observation skills? How can you improve your reading ability?

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As you improve your observation skills in reading, you'll gain a better understanding of the historical narrative. Using a challenging narrative in this example, notice some of the methods used to make the narrative easier to read and observe.

Where are the various angels located?

What are their roles?

What does it tell you about the 30 minutes?

Mark the text up! Would a chart help?

### Revelation 7:1-3

**1)** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. **2)** And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, **3)** saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

### Revelation 8:1-12

**1)** When the Lamb broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. **2)** And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.

**3)** Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. **4)** And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. **5)** Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

**6)** And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them.

**7)** The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

**8)** 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 creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

**10)** 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 waters. **11)** The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

**12)** The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

You can see my work using charts at: [www.Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/1God/WorksJudgmentTrumpets1-4.aspx](http://www.Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/1God/WorksJudgmentTrumpets1-4.aspx)