



The Third Trumpet Judgment



Star called Wormwood

1/3 of the Rivers mad bitter



Revelation 8: 10-11(NASB), 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.



he third trumpet judgment is like the second, except it affects the world's freshwater lakes and rivers instead of the oceans. Specifically, "a great star, blazing like a torch" falls from the sky and poisons a third of the water supply.

The name of the star is called Wormwood, this is a unique phrase. There is no historical evidence that a star by this name existed in the ancient world. *Wormwood* is a medicinal herb of antiquity used to dispel worms from the intestines. It is very bitter. The fact that many men will die from the water is the natural result of fresh water made bitter. Wormwood is known for its bitterness; however, death is not normally associated with this herb but because they were made bitter indicates the reason for the death of many people. Dehydration is not the cause of death, it is drinking the water that kills people.

The world's worst ever nuclear meltdown occurred in 1986 at Chernobyl in Ukraine, at that time one of the states of the Soviet Union. Incredibly, Chernobyl is the Russian word for wormwood! There are some who want to see this event as the fulfillment of this third Trumpet judgment. However this judgment happens well into the tribulation week and though similar, cannot be a fulfillment of the prophecy but rather a prelude to what is coming.

The Three **WOE**'s of Revelation 9

(Rev.8:13, 9:1-12, 11:15-20:3)



Revelation 8:13 (NASB), Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in mid heaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”

The word “*Woe*” means “grief, anguish, and affliction.”

The three woes come during the Trumpet Judgments. The fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpet judgments are the **THREE WOES** as we are told in Rev. 8:13. Notice in the v13 it says “the remaining” blast of the trumpets. These three woes are the announcement of God’s great judgments on the evil inhabitants of the earth in order to spur them to repentance (Rev.9:20). The three woes are, indeed, a time of great anguish, affliction and death for those who have pledged their allegiance to the Antichrist during the end times.

There has never been, or will there ever be such a time as these three Woe’s will bring, for the worst of the worst is about to come down on the unrighteous as it has never been seen in human history.

The three woes:



Locust
out of
the pit

The **FIRST **WOE**** is the events of c9:1-12, mainly the locust from out of the pit of hell, the **FIFTH TRUMPET**. This woe involves something that looks like locusts, but they are not for they come out of the smoke of the pit. They have the ability to sting like a scorpion. Generally, these are not accepted as literal locusts because of their description and because they come from the Abyss and have a demonic overlord (c9:3, 7-8, 11). These creatures are permitted to harm only those people who **DO NOT** have the “**SEAL of GOD** on their forehead” (c9:4). Those bearing God’s seal are the 144,000 (c7:3-4) or, possibly, all believers during that time (Eph. 4:30). These demonic locusts are allowed to torment unbelievers for five months (c9:5) with painful stings. Although victims will long for death (c9: 6), they will not be granted that release.



1/3 all
Mankind
Killed

The **SECOND WOE** is the **SIXTH TRUMPET** judgment. This woe begins when a voice commands, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates” (c9:14). These four angels are demons who were cast from heaven along with Satan. God is right now keeping them imprisoned until the appointed time (c9:15; cf. Jude 1:6; 2 Peter 2:4). These angels and their armies, numbering two hundred million, are released to kill a third of all mankind (c9:15). And as the scripture tells us in c9:20-21 the unrighteous still do not repent of their sin.

The rest of chapter 10 and most of chapter eleven John tells us of the interval between the sixth and seventh trumpets involving the little book and the two witnesses.



Prophecy
Announcement
of the coming
Kingdom
of Jesus Christ

The **THIRD WOE** (Rev. 11:15 – 20:3). The **SEVENTH TRUMPET** begins with a voice from heaven that makes an astounding announcement to the world.

“THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD AND HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER” (c11:15).

At this point in the sequence of events we are at the last trumpet judgment with the bowl judgments still waiting to be poured out onto the world, so we know the tribulation is not over and Jesus has not defeated the Antichrist at Armageddon yet (c19). Jesus doesn’t sit on the throne of His kingdom at this point.

What is being proclaimed is a prophetic event of the not too distant future; it is forward looking as was the 6th Seal Judgment. The passage is anticipative of what is coming upon the earth. This is also the beginning of the third Woe, which runs the rest of the way through the Great Tribulation, including the Bowl Judgments and the Battle of Armageddon and Satan, that dragon and serpent is thrown into the bottomless pit.

This third woe is parallel to the trumpet that sounds in Joel 2 and signals the consummation of God’s plan for the entire world. This third woe marks the finishing of God’s judgment on sin; it occupies the book of Revelation through the 20th chapter, when Christ’s Kingdom is established on earth (c20:4-5).