



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 51: The Trumpet Judgements, Part 3
May 28, 2023
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Review:

- A. We are in the middle of studying the Trumpet Judgements of **Revelation**, and thus far we have looked at the first two of those.
- B. These Trumpet Judgements have been the source of much debate among scholars, and I would note two specific matters of debate here:
 1. There is the discussion of whether or not these judgments are literal or symbolic – that’s one issue of debate
 2. The other is whether or not these judgments are some sort of supernatural event – or if they can be explained another way.
- C. I’ve shared my personal view that these Trumpet Judgments are meant to be taken literally. I view most of the prophetic texts of **Revelation** as information to be taken literally. I believe that is the best and the most responsible view to take.
- D. Additionally, I’ve also shared that, and I cannot be dogmatic about this, I believe Dr. Thomas Horn’s view that Trumpet Judgements #1 - #4 describe the events of a major asteroid striking the earth are the best explanation we have.
- E. Towards that end, I’ve given you some of the details Dr. Thomas Horn’s two books, *The Wormwood Prophecy*, and *The Messenger*. In these books he documents the following:
 1. NASA has already determined that a major asteroid named Apophis that is four football fields wide, is likely to strike the earth on Friday, April 13, 2029.
 2. All of NASA’s information and experts initially confirmed this view, but they have since engaged in a cover-up scheme to suppress this information.
 3. That is likely due to their concerns about how to let the global population know of their concerns. They want to avoid worldwide panic.
 4. However, besides Dr. Thomas Horn, other scientific experts have confirmed his conclusions and have also claimed NASA is trying to deflect from the things they have learned about Apophis.
 5. I am not here to say Dr. Thomas Horn is correct, but as I’ve already shared, he has an impressive track record of making startling predictions against all conventional systems of thought.
 6. Dr. Horn – like other Bible prophecy scholars – believes that the Seal Judgments take place WITHIN the seven years of the Tribulation.
 7. I do not hold that view, and I believe that if most of these prophecy scholars objectively studied this particular matter as we have done in this class, many of them would arrive at the same conclusions we have come to.
 8. We have carefully studied the Seal Judgments, and I have shared with you my careful conclusions from God’s Word that Seal Judgments #1 - #5, at least, take place PRIOR to the onset of The Tribulation.
 9. If this is the case, it means that the onset of the Trumpet Judgments align with the onset of The Tribulation, and if the concerns about Apophis come to pass as Dr.

Horn has described, then that ALSO means The Tribulation would begin sometime around the earlier part of 2029.

10. This timing, by the way, would conform well to the dispensational ages which the Bible lays out. It would also conform well to the timing of the end of the Church Age and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.
 11. Please keep in mind, I am not a date-setter. I refuse to play that game. I will not have it said that I am one of those kinds of folk.
 12. However, we are indeed called to *“know the times and seasons” (Cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:1, et Al.)*, and while we cannot know certain prophetic details down to *“the day or the hour,”* I believe the Scriptures teach that the faithful believer is to be *“awake and watchful” (Cf. Matthew 24:42, et Al.)*.
 13. That implies we should be able to understand a good deal of information about what is coming. We are instructed to be people who are not caught unawares.
 14. There is a balance here that we need to pursue, and that balance means we need to keep an open mind, we need to take in all available information, and we need to process everything by the standards and declarations of the Scriptures.
- F. As a result of all this, I have largely focused on what I believe Trumpet Judgments #1-#4 are telling us: that these four judgments DO INDEED describe the details of a major asteroid striking the earth.
- G. Whether or not that is Apophis or another asteroid – I cannot say. But, I believe these passages describing the first four Trumpet Judgments conform well to this scenario, and so I am providing you with some information that aligns with this premise.
- H. With that said, the first Trumpet Judgment describes a storm of fiery projectiles entering the earth’s atmosphere, showering the planet, causing all sorts of environmental disruptions, and initiating fires over one-third of the planet.
1. This conforms well to the scientific assessment that any major asteroid event would be preceded by a shower of small burning fragments.
- I. The second Trumpet Judgment describes what would happen if a large chunk of the primary asteroid struck the earth in advance of the main asteroid body. It would be a major catastrophe all of its own.
1. This appears to be the case with something *“like a huge mountain all ablaze being thrown into the sea”* in **Revelation 8:8**.
 2. It’s interesting that NASA scientists have calculated that Apophis is most likely to hit the Pacific Ocean right around the juncture of Mexico and southern CA.
 3. And the second Trumpet Judgment describes what the results would be if that did happen: a third of the sea creatures die and a third of the ships are destroyed.
 4. We cannot imagine the devastation an event like this would cause, but the Bible appears to lay out a scenario which most experts, even those who are not Biblical scholars, are predicting.

- I. That brings us to Trumpet Judgment #3 and that text is found in *Revelation 8:10-11*.
- A. Again, let's begin with some high-altitude observations about what is being said here, and then we'll ease into some of the details.
 1. Again, we have an angel, commissioned by God, bringing about this particular judgment.
 - a. Angels will do this for each of the judgments to come, just as they have done with the first two Trumpet Judgments.
 - b. This angelic role is unique to the Trumpet Judgments and to the final seven Bowl Judgments. This is different than how the Seal Judgments were administered.
 2. The text says, "*a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky.*"
 - a. The Greek term used here for "star" is **aster**, and we can clearly see that we get our own word "asteroid" from this Greek term - - so there is an interesting connection being made here.
 - b. It's the same root word as the "stars of heaven" which fell to earth at the opening of the sixth seal (***Cf. Revelation 6:13+***).
 - c. This would seem to lend credibility to Dr. Thomas Horn's conclusions about a large asteroid striking the earth.
 - d. It's an inanimate celestial body – not an angelic figure, or Satan, such as some scholars want to claim. It's a big chunk of space rock, in other words.
 - e. We see it is "blazing," and that is not hard to understand. Meteors and asteroids which enter the earth's atmosphere are burning as they enter.
 - f. The word "*torch*" here is the Greek word **lampas**, which was used in ancient times to describe meteors and comets. We get our word "lamp" from it.
 3. This asteroid, however it takes place, somehow "*falls on a third of the rivers and springs of water.*" Here are my conclusions with this statement:
 - a. Unlike the prior chunk of the asteroid which fell into the sea in Trumpet Judgment #2, this main body of the asteroid falls on the land mass, on earth proper.
 - b. That's where the rivers are. That's where the springs of water originate from.
 - c. Somehow this large physical object rains down upon a wide area of the globe, or somehow impacts a wide area of the globe, causing the waters to become polluted, unfit for drinking.
 - d. "*Springs*" is also called "*fountains*" in other translations. The emphasis here is on water as a life-giving source. That's a details we need to pick up on: this asteroid impacts the SOURCES of water which enable life to be sustained.
 - e. Perhaps this asteroid strikes a part of earth in such a way, and in a specific place, that it affects much of the earth's fresh water supply.

- f. Many scientists have made the claim that far beneath us there are essentially rivers which flow underground and have a network all over the planet. It is possible this asteroid interferes with a key element of this natural feature.
- g. Regardless, when humanity must exist without food or drink, it is the lack of water which first leads to death.
- h. INTERESTING NOTE: (***Cf. Rev. 14:7***)
 - In the angel's appeal to depraved humanity to give glory to God, he states that it is God who made these *springs of water* to maintain physical life.
 - Back here in ***Revelation 8:10***, in the third Trumpet Judgment, God now destroys those springs of water to demonstrate the dependence of all life upon Him.
 - As we've noted before, God is systematically removing all the means, and he is destroying all the theories by which the earth dwellers have chosen to imagine there is no God.
 - The depraved earth dwellers have obstinately clung to the fantasy that they can control the earth and its climate, and God is obliterating this ridiculous fiction.

B. "The name of the star is Wormwood..." (it is here we need to step back and take in several points of consideration).

1. We're having a bit of a Greek lesson today, and the Greek word for Wormwood is "*Apsinthos*." In various places in Scripture, the term "gall" is used to describe it.
 - a. We get the word "*absinthe*," from it. Absinthe is a greenish-colored spirit or liquor of extremely high alcoholic content, sufficiently so that it is considered a dangerous drink, illegal in some places.
 - b. It's interesting to note that absinthe is made from a plant called "Grand Wormwood," from which is derived a bitter, dark green oil.
 - c. It is described as being "a very unpleasant substance to consume, which may make one extremely sick."
2. In the Scriptures, there are several relevant references to these things:
 - a. Some commentators make a connection between ***Deuteronomy 29:18*** and Wormwood, that it is a poison derived from a root.
 - b. ***Proverbs 5:4*** says it is "very bitter," and ***Lamentations 3:15*** says the same thing.
 - c. This gall, this substance, was used to produce a drink for Christ on the cross to alleviate pain and to cause a state of stupor ("wine mixed with gall;" ***Cf. Psalms 69:21 and Matthew 27:34***). Jesus refused to drink it.
 - d. It is significant (especially with our ***Revelation*** texts in view) that God describes idolatry as "*a root bearing bitterness of wormwood*" (in ***Deuteronomy 29:18***).

- e. As we have learned in previous lessons, idolatry is a prevalent sin of the earth dwellers during this time of Tribulation judgment. They worship the earth, its creatures, the cosmos, the antichrist, and so on....
- f. So there is a direct connection here in that God judges their *“bitterness of wormwood”* by giving them Wormwood to drink.
- g. This is the same judgment which God gave Israel when she rejected Him and pursued false Gods (**Cf. Jeremiah 9:14-15**). This passage reads as follows:

“Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of their hearts and gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. Therefore this is what the LORD of Hosts, the God of Israel, says: “Behold, I will feed this people wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink....”

- h. In these passages of Scripture, and in other ones like them, there is a consistent pattern which emerges.
 - i. Where there is a rejection of a proper relationship with God, where there is idolatry and paganism, God gives people bitter and poisonous Wormwood to drink which brings death rather than life.
 - j. And here in the third Trumpet Judgment, God causes the sources of life-giving water on earth to become bitter, and to cause men to die.
 - k. The agent of this judgment, once again, in a pattern consistent throughout God’s Word - is called *“Wormwood.”*
 - l. When we take the full counsel of the Bible into proper perspective, we can clearly see that this is a judgment against mankind’s idolatry of that future time.
 - m. It is an idolatry that we see taking shape right now in our own times, as depraved and deluded masses of people worship the climate, worship the earth and its creatures, and pursue any humanistic belief system BUT a right relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Question: *“What specifically is the reason that mankind dies from this Wormwood?”* NOTE: Various theories put out there, and at this point in time, they are only theories.
- a. Dr. Horn has advanced the idea that Apophis might introduce a dangerous virus from space into the earth’s water system.
 - b. Other people have postulated that the impact of an asteroid might expose some sort of bacteria, virus, or poisonous compound underground that has long been dormant and quarantined from humanity.
 - c. Some suggest that the asteroid itself may be comprised of some poisonous elements, or that a major impact might result in the mass release of hydrogen sulfide or various radioactive compounds
 - d. The bottom line is we do not know. We are only told that the effect of this huge cosmic body striking the earth will be to embitter the waters of the earth, so much so that the water is undrinkable.
 - e. It’s not JUST a bitterness issue – we need to be clear here. It will literally result in the water becoming poisonous.

- f. If one-third of the drinking water is suddenly unavailable to the earth's population, it's easy to see how chaos, desperation, and terror will result.
 - g. Humans can only survive a few days without water, and the inhabitants of the affected areas will become so desperate that they will try to drink the poisoned water. This will result in the mass death of many thousands, if not millions of people.
- C. The fourth Trumpet Judgment – the dimming of the sun, moon, and stars (**Cf. Revelation 8:12-13**). **NOTE:** I think the logical thing to do here is to stay with the premise of a major asteroid striking the earth and understanding the events and scientific processes around that, such as we have done with Trumpet Judgments #1-#3.
1. The text says, *“a third of the sun, moon, and stars were struck so that both day and night were dimmed.”*
 - a. Again, some scholars attempt at this point to shift their focus from issues on earth to issues that are now many hundreds of millions of miles away from earth.
 - b. They lay out various theories that suggest God somehow reduces the light-emitting nature of the sun and stars, etc.
 - c. I'm not saying that's not possible, God could certainly do that. But, I think it is more responsible to see the light from these celestial bodies being dimmed as a result of all the smoke, vapor, and atmospheric dust and debris that has resulted from Trumpet Judgments #1-#3.
 - d. Most of us have experienced large wildfires, and we know how dark and hazy a day can become if a nearby fire is clouding the region with heavy smoke.
 - e. If you've ever experienced a major dust storm, you know the effect of dimming the sun is the same.
 - f. I think that's what we have going on here: the effect of the judgments to this point has dimmed the light (both in day and in night) by 33%.

NOTE: All life on earth depends on the sun, either directly or indirectly –

The Earth is located exactly the right distance from the sun. Consider the temperature swings we encounter, roughly -50 degrees to +120 degrees.

If the Earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze. Any closer and we would burn up. Even a fractional variance in the Earth's position to the sun would make life on Earth impossible.

Reducing the sun's radiance by 1/3 will have a great impact on life. Again, this is a reminder to the earth-dwellers that they are not in control of the cosmos, the earth, or the climate.

- g. There will be a thick blanket of atmospheric debris. Simply put, the light from the sun and stars is there, but it cannot penetrate this envelope of debris as it had before.
2. The prophet, Isaiah, foretold the darkening of all three of these sources of light during the Day of the LORD – AKA The Tribulation: **(Cf. Isaiah 13:9-10)**. It says,

*“Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it. For the **stars** of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the **sun** will be darkened in its going forth, and the **moon** will not cause its light to shine.”*

- a. Personally, I don’t think there is much more to discern here than this. It is certainly possible that God will reduce the luminary ability of the sun and stars by a third (remember, the moon only reflects the sun), but I think the larger context here tells us rather plainly what is going on.
3. In **vs. 13 of Revelation Ch. 8**, we see an eagle flying through the air calling out in a loud voice and warning of the three Trumpet Judgments yet to come. (A few comments here as we wind down).
- a. Most translations say “eagle,” while a few say “angel.”
 - b. My personal conclusion here is this is probably an angelic figure with the appearance of an eagle **(Cf. Revelation 4:7)**. In fact, some early translations put it this way: *“an angel like an eagle.”*
4. *“Woe, woe, woe...”*
- a. This eagle-angel, probably not one of the seven that have been given trumpets, loudly announces that the next three judgments are going to be especially severe. There are three “woes” stated, one for each of the three to come.
 - b. This language of repetition emphasizes the completeness of the calamity and tragedy to follow.
 - c. As one commentator puts it, *“One reason for using [the word woe] which usually refers to great calamity is that these [judgments] will have people, not objects of nature, as their direct objects.”*
 - d. It’s a good point to make. The first four Trumpet Judgments impacted the earth, the sea, vegetation, drinking water, and light sources.
 - e. But the next three Trumpet Judgments directly impact mankind – as we will see. They will directly affect their bodies and their very lives in some way.

NEXT WEEK: The fifth Trumpet Judgment.

