

EP66 Revelation 8 verses 10-13

In our last podcast we covered the opening of the first 2 of the 7-trumpet judgments. With the blowing of the 1st-trumpet, there is depicted a unity amongst all those who have **NOT** been washed in the blood of the Lamb, for they are sanctified by the blood of judgment, they are set apart, such that their practical life is severely damaged, and their spiritual life is shattered and burned up in agony and pain.

With the blowing of the 2nd-trumpet judgment, we saw the spiritual division that is caused as the kingdom of the Beast divides humanity between those who are dead and marked for destruction and those who have some life remaining within their being. The witness is clear, if you choose to be marked with blood, you will be destroyed. With that, let's pick up with the 3rd-trumpet judgment.

Trumpet Number 3

Given that according to the **Code** the number 3 signifies perfection, we should expect to see something that brings forth or addresses the issue of "perfection."

Revelation 8:10-11

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, that is even now caused to be burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is even now being called Wormwood; and a third of the waters chose to and became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

The False Prophet

Like so many tyrants who are supported by a propaganda minister who produces a vast array of publicity, that is what or who we see in this image—the propaganda minister of the Beast. He is a demonic spirit referred to as the False Prophet.¹

Like the kingdom of the Beast, this star is also great (*mega*) and is even now being made to be burning, just like it is even now being called "wormwood."² So this star exists and is active. However, this burning is not like the volcanic flame of a mountain ready to spew hot fire destroying all in its path, rather, it is more akin to a lamp—a burning torch. In other words, this flame illuminates.

Stars

As we have studied, according to the **Code**, stars have various meanings. We have seen them used in reference to the offspring of Jacob, the tribal leaders of Israel, with the offspring being a reference to both Christianity and all the off shots of Judaism.³ Accordingly, the **Codex** even speaks of the Messiah as a star, or an offspring of Jacob.⁴ In **Jude**, wandering stars referred to apostates for whom black darkness has been

¹ **Revelation 16:13, 19:20, 20:20**

² "burning" is rendered in the *present passive participle* and "called" is rendered in the *present passive indicative*

³ **Revelation 12:1; Genesis 37:9; Revelation 6:13**

⁴ **Numbers 24:1; 2 Peter 1:19**

reserved forever; and in **Daniel** it refers to prominent world rulers who oppose God, or the angelic (demonic) spirit behind those powerful rulers.⁵

Stars are most often referred to in connection with the angelic (whether good or bad). For instance, seven stars were used to refer to the angels of the seven churches. In **Judges**, stars are symbolic of angels who helped Deborah and Barak defeat Sisera.⁶ In **Amos**, stars are the demonic spirits behind the “so-called” gods worshiped by men.⁷ And in **Job**, stars refer to angels who rejoiced at God’s creation.⁸

The **Codex** tells us that the angels are ministers, a flame of fire, which would fit the description of a star blazing like a torch.⁹ And God even counts the stars and calls them by name, in this instance, “Wormwood”.¹⁰

The Fall

We are told that this star fell from heaven. This is our clue that this is a demonic angelic spirit and not one of the good angels. This angel fell from its rightful place in the heavenly realms and is now occupied with matters of this earth. This reference is not unlike the way the Spirit speaks of Lucifer and his fall from the heavens.¹¹

Wormwood

As far as the name, wormwood is an herb that is extremely bitter in its taste. The Greek word that is translated “wormwood” is “*apsinthos*” and it means undrinkable (the alcohol absinthe is distilled from a species of this plant). With that said, wormwood is used as **Code** indicating bitter sorrow and calamity. For example, **Amos** speaks of those who pervert justice into “wormwood” and in effect casts righteousness down to the ground.¹²

Therefore, by his name alone, we can understand that this demon, this beast who has fallen from heaven, but which arises from the earth, will cast righteousness down to the ground. He will be responsible for the systematic removal, all throughout the earth, of all that comes forth from **Yahweh**. And since he is imaged as a star, we know that he is intimately connected with religion (the religions which stem from Judaism, including the religion of Christianity), and he perverts justice and invokes apostasy.

And being a star that is burning like a torch, he is the one who illuminates the greatness of the Beast. He is perhaps the behind-the-scenes PR agent.

We will find that the False Prophet exercises all the power of the Beast and establishes the religion of the Beast. In fact, the False Prophet causes men, and women across the world to bow down and worship an image of the Beast and to be marked with the number of the Beast’s name (**666**). Surprisingly, this is happening even now. This star Wormwood also does amazing miracles and even makes fire flash down

⁵ **Daniel 8:10**

⁶ **Judges 5:20**

⁷ **Amos 5:26**

⁸ **Job 38:7**

⁹ See **Hebrews 1:7**

¹⁰ **Psalms 147:4**

¹¹ **Isaiah 14:12**

¹² **Amos 5:7, 6:12**

from heaven to the earth.¹³ We will find that this too is happening even now. But we will have to wait until we get to **Revelation 13** to unpack all of this.

Rivers & Springs

Fresh water (not salt water as in the oceans) is symbolic of the Spirit of God and the Word of God.¹⁴ Therefore, in this image we see the corruption or the poisoning of the fresh water resulting in the apostasy of so called “believers” who drink the water of false religion offered by the False Prophet who casts righteousness down.

According to the **Codex**, “*the fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life and wisdom is like a bubbling brook*”.¹⁵ Thus, this star will launch a spiritual assault on wisdom, understanding, and on the fear of **Yahweh**. As a result, many will be poisoned, embittered, and in a very real/spiritual sense lose their life. Again, it is important to note that wormwood, or “*apsinthos*” speaks of such great sorrow and calamity that one literally is caused to be made bitter.

Consider that there will be so many of the Called of God (who never chose to become the Chosen of God) who are beat up by the hail and their spiritual life is burned up by the fire, and it is not hard to imagine that bitterness is the natural next step toward apostasy. They will feel misled by the religion of Christianity and confused over the incongruity of what they had been taught and what they are experiencing, and they will become bitter.

So many people have been told that if they said the “sinner’s prayer” they will not only be guaranteed a ticket to heaven, but they will be protected from all this terror by the pre-tribulation rapture. Over-and-over they have been pummeled with this **fiction**, and they have bet their lives upon this **fiction**. And when it is readily apparent that this **fiction** was nothing more than lies built on *instinctual religious wisdom* spoken by men of licentiousness, they will feel betrayed by those upon whom they depended on to give them the truth. As a result, they will become bitter beyond description.

The bondservants of God will however persevere, but those who have a reputation for being alive, but are dead and dying, will lose their lives (spiritually speaking). And as we know from the letter to Sardis, many will die in this manner for only a few will refuse to soil their garments with evil.

“... and a third of the waters chose to and became wormwood...”¹⁶ Many (one third) will be seduced by the power, miracles, and message of the False Prophet. They will make a choice and they will follow this false religion and swallow its poison all the while thinking that they drink to save their lives. The terrible irony is that they are destroying their lives and their choice has eternal consequences. But it is their choice, no one is making it for them.

Like the third of the sea creatures that were alive but die, a third of those who had rivers of life sourced from springs of life (those within the realm of Christianity), will die because they were made bitter. In effect, this imagery is the same as the 5-virgins who ran out of oil in their lamps and were not allowed into the marriage feast.¹⁷

¹³ See **Revelation 13:11-18**

¹⁴ **John 4:10-15; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 5:6, 8; Psalm 107:35; Isaiah 12:3, 49:10; Jeremiah 17:13**

¹⁵ **Proverbs 14:27, 16:22, 18:4**

¹⁶ “chose” is rendered in the *aorist middle indicative*

¹⁷ **Matthew 25:1-13**

Think of how easy it is to live like a victim and become bitter towards God and towards others when the things of this life do not turn out as we have hoped, when people we trusted have failed, hurt, betrayed, and abandoned us, when our suffering is more than we can bear, when the pulverizing hail is relentless and destroys all that is good in our lives, and we see the best parts of our life go up in flames. It is easy to fall into bitterness when we do not get what we believe God has promised, when we do not understand why God would do such terrible things to our lives.

And then add to our own struggles with bitterness and victimhood the scary truth that there is a powerful demonic spirit whose task is to poison (with false teaching) the sources of fresh water that once brought us life and refreshment, and it is no wonder that his influence will bring forth, in **many**, a deep root of bitterness. The book of **Hebrews** warns us of this dynamic.

Hebrews 12:15-17

Now be seeing to it that no one is now coming short of the grace of God; that no **root of bitterness** is now springing up trouble, **and by it many caused to be defiled**; that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who chose to sell his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he is now desiring to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he had been seeking for it with tears.

A third of the sources (**many**) that once brought spiritual life and refreshment, be it churches, relationships, ministries, fellowships, prayer meetings, Sunday school, and so on become defiled by bitterness, and bitterness will flow from them impacting all who come to them thinking they are getting a drink of fresh water.

This is one of the reasons Jesus started off the **Revelation** with personal letters to the churches. He was in effect pleading with those in His household to repent, to completely change what they believe, and to trust Him regardless of what they experience in this life, believing they have a glorious future.

He wants His bondservants to understand that though it may not feel like it, being one who is now believing and now overcoming is worth more than they can imagine and will be worth all the struggles they endure. But they must continue in their active choice of faith, betting their lives on the name of **Yahweh**.

Those who do not continually abide in that choice will find that they will be targeted by the Beast and the False Prophet and **many**, yes **many**, will be overcome by the bitterness that spews from the mouth of this demon whose name is Wormwood and in bitterness they many even now have gone apostate. Those who once called upon the name of **Yahweh** and did many things for Him, will find themselves a new messiah.

Religious Institutions & People

It is important to remember that when we talk about the False Prophet, we are talking about a demonic spirit, a fallen angel. The False Prophet has always fascinated me in that unlike the Beast, according to the **Codex** there is no individual human counterpart through which he works. The Beast will possess the man we call the Antichrist, but the False Prophet works not through one man, but through the system,

institutions, and the people of religion (the rivers and streams—the sources of fresh water). Again, one third of those who were purposed to bring refreshing water to the souls of men will bring them bitterness as this spirit turns them bitter against **Yahweh** and they in turn pass that bitterness on to all who would drink of their waters. And those who drink will be (and are) **many** and the **many** will die in their apostasy.

Trumpet Number 3 Revisited

Given that according to the **Code** the number 3 signifies perfection, with the entry of the False Prophet, we have the completion of what will be the unholy trinity: Lucifer (who likens himself to the Father and is imaged as a dragon), the Beast (who likens himself to the Son—the Messiah), and the False Prophet (who likens himself to the Spirit of God). This perfect unholy union will be the principal players in the **End Times** narrative.

Trumpet Number 4

Given that according to the **Code** the number 4 signifies God's creative works from one end of creation to the other, from the four corners of the earth, we should expect to see something impacting God's creative works.

Revelation 8:12

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck (or literally flattened or pounded), 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.

Religious Institutions Fail

With the rising of the kingdom of the Beast and the religion of the Beast brought forth by the False Prophet poisoning one third of the religious institutions, it makes sense, metaphorically speaking, that one third of the sun, moon, and stars were **struck**, flattened, or pounded so that their light might be darkened, such that even the darkness of their night would be darkened. With the sounding of this fourth trumpet, we are shown the effects on the sun, moon, and stars as they are literally pounded, smitten, or inflicted with calamity.

Wormwood first poisons the rivers and streams, such that one-third of the sources of spiritual refreshment in this world (including the religion of Christianity) become bitter and those who traverse the seas for ministry become in a word, worthless. Next, these same religious institutions are pounded, with the result being darkness such that even the night is darkened.

This picture captures the crushing of a significant portion of Judaism, Islam, the religion of Christianity (the Sun and the Moon), and the stars, the other religions of the world that are rooted in darkness and the worship of the demonic, as they tumble into the hands of the False Prophet and the Beast.¹⁸ This is the beginning of the domino effect that will eventually take over far more than a third of mankind.

¹⁸ See **1 Corinthians 10:20-21**

Once poisoned with bitterness, this judgment literally pounds the light out of these institutions of religion, and they become dark. It might be hard to imagine that the pagan religions who worship demons could get any darker, but they do. Even they experience a scary darkness that they have not known.

The Fear of Darkness

Clearly the image of darkness is meant to terrify and instill fear into all. Every one of us has tasted of the fear that looms in darkness, but this will be altogether something beyond imagination. When those who are alive are pummeled by the hail, consumed by the fire, when the green grass is burned up, and many of the fish in the sea die (those involved in governmental, political and military ventures), and the ships on the sea (various ministries) are rotted out, and a third of our great religious institutions that used to instill a sense of morality and hope in our culture are given over to darkness, and even those who were in steeped in darkness are plunged even deeper into a darkness they had not known, **FEAR WILL GROW!**

*“And at that time **many will fall away** and will betray one another and hate one another. Many False Prophets will arise and mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s agape love will grow cold.”*¹⁹ And without the light of love in this world, there is darkness.

With the whole third of the sun, the moon, and the stars being pounded and darkened, it is hard to imagine this as a literal physical judgment. But it is always good to note of instances in the **Codex** that are somewhat similar. God has used darkness in the past to judge the world and it was terrifying. In the 9th judgment upon Egypt, **Yahweh** brought a 3-day plague of darkness that terrified Pharaoh and the Egyptians.²⁰ He also brought a deep darkness the day Jesus was crucified.

In writing to Emperor Tiberius giving an account of the events of that day, Pontius Pilot wrote: *“And him, Herod, and Archelaus and Philip, Annas, and Caiphas, with all the people, delivered to me, making a great uproar against me that I should try Him (Christ). I, therefore, ordered Him to be crucified, having first scourged Him, and having found against Him no cause of evil accusations or deeds. At the time he was crucified, there was darkness over all the world, the sun being darkened at midday, and the stars appearing, but in them there appeared no luster; and the moon, as if turned into blood, failed in her light.”*

Along with this judgment relating to the religions of the world, perhaps God will bring a literal darkness lasting 120-days and nights.

Trumpet Number 4 Revisited

Given that according to the **Code** the number 4 signifies God’s creative works from one end of creation to the other, it is a not surprise that we saw the sun and the moon, and the stars impacted so that they would be darkened and not shine for one third of both day and night.

¹⁹ **Matthew 24:10-12**

²⁰ **Exodus 10:21-29**

Woe, Woe, Woe

Revelation 8:13

Then I looked, and I heard an eagle now flying in midheaven, now saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to those who are now dwelling on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are now being about to now sound!"

In this passage, the **WARNING** is rendered entirely in the *present* tense. This angelic eagle is even now and continually warning those who are now making their permanent abode in the earth because the other three angels with the trumpets who are even now ready to blast their horns. They are ready.²¹

The Eagle

We have only two other references to an eagle in **Revelation**. The first is to one of the Four, that one who has a face like an eagle, and the second is to an eagle that carries Israel away on its two wings to protect Israel from Satan's attempts to destroy it.²² We also discussed the intimate connection in the book of **Job** between the Eagle and the narrative of the Beast.²³

This picture however is like what **Yahweh** declared about the exodus, "*You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.*"²⁴ This imagery spoke of a supernatural angelic enabled rescue.

Regardless, this picture describes an angelic being in the form of an eagle, and with a loud voice it is even now uttering 3 woes—a **perfect warning**—one woe for each of the last 3 trumpets yet to be blown. The idea is that this eagle has chosen to now be flying in mid-heaven, or in our spatial realm, and warning all of humanity.²⁵

The first 4 trumpet judgments were all connected in message and impact. In a like manner, the final 3 trumpet judgments are also all connected in their own unique character. As such, we will see a shift from a spiritual impact to a very real literal impact involving damage, destruction, and death.

The hail pulverized and destroyed, the fire burned up many, the blood marks people for death, many who were alive died spiritually, the sun, moon, and the stars will have proven worthless (much like the rocks and mountains which were inadequate to hide the people of this earth), and many were made to be embittered in their soul and plunged into darkness. And after all that has happened, can you imagine how horrific it will be to receive this warning?

²¹ "flying," is rendered in the *present middle participle*; "saying," "dwell," and "about" are all rendered in the *present active participle*; "sound" is rendered in the *present active infinitive*.

²² **Revelation 12:4**

²³ **Revelation 4:7**

²⁴ **Exodus 19:4**

²⁵ "flying" is rendered in the *present middle participle*; hence, this eagle has chosen to now be flying.

WOE, WOE, WOE!

Clearly, things get far worse than anyone could ever imagine.