

Revelation Lesson 95
The Third Trumpet: A Watery Wormwood

Revelation 8:10-11 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; 11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Previously we were reminded of 2 Peter 1:20 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” We noted the danger of merely following man's ideas and how we must abide by the Golden Rule of Bible Interpretation: “When the plain sense of the Scripture makes Common Sense, seek no other sense.” While noting these things we saw (possibly) the Pacific Ocean will be supernaturally turned to Blood thus killing 1/3 of sea life and destroying 1/3 of the ships as well as their area economies. Tonight we see that God is not finished judging the waters.

And the third angel sounded, - Here again the 3rd angel (in line with the others lined up before God's throne) sounded his trumpet in Heaven.

and there fell a great star from heaven, - Again when you read some commentaries you gotta think that these men have lost their minds – and yes I include John Gill and Matthew Henry among them! I've read accounts where some have said this “great star” was Mohammed, the Vandals sacking Rome (there we go with that again!) while some have said this represented anyone and anything: from the army of the Huns as led by king Attila, to Arius, the emperor Constantine, Origen or the ascetic monk Pelagius, who denied the doctrine of Original sin. Again folks I'm telling you that when you have to stretch the imagination to hinge upon a man's private interpretation which cannot be supported by the clear teaching of the Scriptures there is not just a problem with the interpretation but more than likely also there's a problem with the interpretator also.

See and listen to what the TEXT says: “there fell a great star from heaven.” Sounds to me and looks to me as if something fell from the sky! Now two theories are presented to the literal interpretation of this text in that the “great star from heaven” is either: 1.) A Meteor or 2.) A Comet.

Furthermore, this thing is described as “great” and that word in the Greek is MEGAS (G3173) and yes you guessed right – that is where we get our word MEGA as in LARGE IN SIZE from. We have already noted “Star” in the past and this is a light in the sky, or Outer space, not necessarily a ball of flaming gases. We are told that this star fell “from heaven” and there is no implication in the text to imply this “falling star” is in the heaven of Outer Space when John describes it. The lit up light “star” seems to be within the heaven of the sky or atmosphere wherein it then is described in our next verse as not only making a light but that it is burning. How is it burning? Let's see.

burning as it were a lamp, - This object whether a meteor or a comet is “burning” the word has the notion of kindled and burning. Thus we can surmise that this object may not have been a large light in the 2nd Heaven, but did light up in the 1st Heaven whereupon it began not to merely shine but began burning just as a lamp would.

Now Comets don't whiz through the night sky, they hang in a place (tail pointing away from the sun) and on the following night, it will have “moved” a bit further. But it was in July 1994 that the Astronomical community held their breath (I was one of them) as the Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 had exploded (due to what is called tidal pressure) into 21 separate parts and were on a collision

course with the planet Jupiter. Astronomers held many theories about what would happen as the comet's fragments impacted the planet, however what they did NOT predict was that these “dirty snowballs” turned into fireballs as they made their descent one by one over the course of a few days. Consider the following from Wikipedia: “A few minutes after the impact fireball was detected, *Galileo* measured renewed heating, probably due to ejected material falling back onto the planet. Earth-based observers detected the fireball rising over the limb of the planet shortly after the initial impact. Despite published predictions, astronomers had not expected to see the fireballs from the impacts and did not have any idea in advance how visible the other atmospheric effects of the impacts would be from Earth.” So we know that a comet CAN light up upon entry into the atmosphere of a celestial body as it descends.

Shooting stars (as in Meteors) when exceptionally large and when they burn so bright they are called Bolides. When the light from one is exceptionally high they call it a Superbolide. I've seen two bolides. If you saw the news around February 2013 there was a SUPERBOLLIDE captured on film that exploded and struck in Russia. At other times many people call such phenomena – fireballs. Some Bible commentators state that this great star, burning like a lamp will be a meteor that will explode.

A final consideration is that the object may be a NEO or NEA (Near-Earth Object or Near-Earth Asteroid) that could be discovered and then be found to have a trajectory to hit Earth. But notice what happens to this object:

and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; - Notice where this “thing” falls – the Scripture does NOT say “the earth” but rather the “rivers and fountains of waters.” Specifically it states 1/3 of the Rivers and Fountains of waters will be effected by this “thing.” So when I read that it hits the *waters* I am more inclined to lean

Please note here that fountains refers to the fountains of wells or deep areas where water is stored or comes from for consumption. Another way to refer to this is basins. Now guys take a look at this (show article) – it popped up when I googled: one-third of Earth's rivers!!

And the name of the star is called Wormwood: - Herein is partly why I hold to the idea that the “star” is going to be a comet. Rarely are Meteors named. Meteorites usually are named by the location where they fell. But this is going to hit the waters.

But, NEOs or NEAs do get named. Consider the saga of 99942 – Apophis: When first discovered, the object received the provisional designation 2004 MN4, and news and scientific articles about it referred to it by that name. When its orbit was sufficiently well calculated, it received the permanent number 99942 (on June 24, 2005). Receiving a permanent number made it eligible for naming, and it received the name "Apophis" on July 19, 2005.

As of December 2015 there are 455,144 numbered minor planets, and 246,516 unnumbered. Most are not particularly noteworthy; only 19,712 minor planets have been given names! Now I searched the database and found no Wormwood. The closest thing I found was that in Russian, Wormwood is translated as Chernobyl and then I found the Minor Planet 21454 which is named: Chernoby (1998 HE40) and is a main-belt asteroid discovered on April 20, 1998 by the Lincoln Laboratory Near-Earth Asteroid Research Team at Socorro, New Mexico.

While this was intriguing I still felt that his object must be a comet. Brother Gerardus Bouw of the Biblical Astronomical Society (of which I am a member) and the Editor in chief of the *Biblical Astronomer* pointed out that Wormwood must be a comet (Pgs. 120-125 in B.A. 119 Winter 2007). He said: “Of all the natural phenomena, a comet appears most likely. First, it is not as solid as an asteroid. Second, it has volatile materials embedded throughout it, material that may react to the

heat of hitting the earth's atmosphere in such a way as to make a bitterly, rather poisonous, alkaline substance akin to absinthe or Belladonna. Third, in order to fall on deep sources of water and rivers, the object cannot be in one piece when it arrives in the atmosphere. The earth's gravitational field, or the bombs of men, for that matter, could disrupt and scatter its pieces enough to spread the plague, as it were. Thus it would affect a third of what appears to be all fresh water. Scripturally speaking, the star fulfills directly the prophecy of Jeremiah 9:15."

Until 1994, comets were first given a provisional designation consisting of the year of their discovery followed by a lowercase letter indicating its order of discovery in that year (for example, Comet 1969i (Bennett) was the 9th comet discovered in 1969). Increasing numbers of comet discoveries made this procedure awkward, as did the delay between discovery and perihelion passage before the permanent name could be assigned. As a result, in 1994 the International Astronomical Union approved a new naming system. Comets are now designated by the year of their discovery followed by a letter indicating the half-month of the discovery and a number indicating the order of discovery (a system similar to that already used for asteroids), so that the fourth comet discovered in the second half of February 2006, for example, would be designated 2006 D4.

While that system is used in the Astronomical world in our popular culture, comets are known and called usually by the discoverers. The first comet to be named after the person who discovered it, rather than the one who calculated its orbit, was Comet Faye— discovered by Hervé Faye in 1843. However, this convention did not become widespread until the early 20th century. It remains common today. A comet can be named after up to three discoverers, either working together as a team or making independent discoveries (without knowledge of the other investigator's work). For example, Comet Swift–Tuttle was first found by Lewis Swift and then by Horace Parnell Tuttle a few days later; the discoveries were made independently and so both are honoured in the name.

For example Comet 1P/Halley is known as Halley's Comet. Which I saw in February 1986 and I hope to be alive on July 28, 2061 to see it again – that is unless the Lord comes back!

So I looked up Wormwood as a last name and found they are found in the US and that there were even 34 men who had the surname Wormwood who served in the US army during the Civil War (nope there were no Confederate Wormwoods!). I found people with the Italian surname Vermut (or Vermouth – also is a wine) which is how Wormwood appears to them. I already mentioned Chernobyl -also found as a surname in Ukraine – in Germany we find Wermut as Wormwood. So again I think there will be an Astronomer named Wormwood (regardless of language) and as such this comet will be so named after him.

As it approaches earth, and it encounters the Electro-magnetic field it will burst apart into sections and then one by one will rain down into the 1st Heaven – from the 2nd Heaven and as it does it will ignite as a fireball – as such it will be observable in the morning and evening.

As it moves through the atmosphere some of the dirty snowball will turn into gas, as such some will no doubt mix with moisture and form poisonous, toxic clouds and then rain will fall upon some rivers and go into the groundwater basins (or fountains or wells). Other sections of this comet will strike the waters and melt into those waters and thus effect the contents of the waters as we shall see in our next point.

and the third part of the waters became wormwood; - Now this portion of the verse plainly states that the 1/3 part of the waters became wormwood. Now again, we recall that wormwood has a meaning of bitter (that is actually defined for us in our King James Bible at the end of this verse) hence this is telling us that due to the great star that fell upon the waters and

fountains – the waters became bitter or that were altered to taste bitter.

So I researched what chemicals (or chemical compounds) have been known to be part of the composition or make-up of a comet. The following is what I found: (Remember chemistry acid is 1-6, neutral is 7 and a base is 7 - 14)

1. Carbon Dioxide – when in liquid form becomes a weak acid (6.3) or a strong base (10.3)
2. Carbon Monoxide – neutral gas.
3. Methane – very weak acid.
4. Methanol – Neutral solution.
5. Ammonia – is a base (11)
6. Hydrogen Cyanide – strong base (9.2)
7. Formaldehyde (Interstellar) -
8. Ethanol – considered by many to be neutral but registers 15 is extremely bitter, thus it is a super-Deluxe strong base.
9. Ethane – neutral.
10. Glycine – In amino form it has a ph of (9.6) and hence is a base.

As I researched this topic I found that there is quite possibly a link in the effects of the 1st and 2nd Trumpets to the effects of this the 3rd Trumpet. Allow me to explain in the next point.

and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. – The Revelation Online Commentary states: “the natural result of fresh water made bitter. Wormwood is known for its bitterness, however, death is not normally associated with this herb (called wormwood).” So how then could “many – not 1/3rd of the remaining population” die from drinking “bitter waters?” First off I asked myself “what makes something bitter?” the answer is TASTE. So I wondered what besides being born with a lessened sense of taste could contribute to a person overriding the area of something being bitter?

Some wonder why bother? Consider that Aristotle stated in c. 350 BC that the two most basic tastes were sweet and bitter and that Bitterness is the most sensitive of the tastes. Now to those that believe the myth of Evolution, Bitterness is of interest since a large number of natural bitter compounds are known to be toxic or poisonous, hence they feel that the ability to detect bitter-tasting, toxic compounds would provide an important protective function. Or if you believe the Bible, you can understand that God put the ability to taste bitterness as a warning.

But if something tastes bitter and our warning-bells go off in our head “don't eat or drink it!” what would lead to a breakdown of this taste? It is then I happened upon a usually temporary effect called dysgeusia (distortion in sense of taste)

I found that a primary cause of dysgeusia is zinc deficiency. While the exact role of zinc in dysgeusia is unknown, it has been cited that zinc is partly responsible for the repair and production of taste buds.” and I'll spare yall the scientific mumbo-jumbo but that's the idea. So then I started trying to find sources for zinc and what I found floored me! Again guys what you're getting did NOT come from a Commentary! This is FRESH Biblical meat!

I found that the BEST sources (worldwide) for zinc is in Beef (not just ANY beef but GRASS-FED BEEF), then Lamb and then Oysters, Scallops, Shrimp and Quinoa and Oats (two types of Grain or as they were classified in biblical days Grasses). What got burned up in the 1st Trumpet? The Americas where you have HIGH concentrations of the World's supply of Beef (and Grass-fed beeves) and then the grains like Oats. Then in the 2nd Trumpet with the (possibly) Pacific Ocean destroyed and turned into blood there you have a loss of billions of dollars of Oysters, Scallops and Shrimp which would lead to a dearth of these zinc-supplying products in the world market and in turn would lead to a temporary loss of the ability to taste something bitter!

If all this isn't bad enough, just wait until God pours out His judgment in the 4th Trumpet Judgment – The Dimmer and The Woes coming up next week!