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The Third Trumpet: The Name of the Star is Wormwood 8: 10-11

The third trumpet: the name of the star is Wormwood DIG: Who is this third angel named Wormwood? What does he do on the earth? How much of the earth is affected? How does mankind react?

REFLECT: How has bitterness affected your life? Or the life of those close to you? What have you discovered as an antidote for bitterness? What is the alternative to bitterness?

Like birth pangs, one after another, before the people can recover from the poisoning of the sea, all of the fresh **waters** on the earth will also be **poisoned**. Scientists will follow the flaming object as it hurtles toward the earth. Instead of falling to their knees in repentance, however, the people of the earth continue to harden their hearts.



The third angel sounded his shofar, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky. Whenever the word **star** is used symbolically, it is always the symbol for an **angel** and this is the case here. Because of **his** deadly effects, **the name of the angel is Wormwood**, showing **him** to be a fallen **one**. **He** causes **one-third** of the sweet **water** on the earth to turn **bitter**. Fallen angels will be used on several occasions to render judgment on the earth, and this is one such time.²⁵³

Wormwood translates *apsinthos*, a word used only here in the New Covenant. However, it is used eight times in the TaNaKh where it is the translation of the Hebrew word *laanah*. It is associated with bitterness, poison and death (**Deuteronomy 29:18; Proverbs 5:4; Lamentations 3:19; Amos 5:7 and 6:12**). In three of those uses, **wormwood** is connected with **poisoned water**. In **Jeremiah 9:15 CJB**, for example, **ADONAI, the God of heavens armies** said to the rebellious southern kingdom of Judah: **See, I will make this people eat bitter food and drink poisoned water** (also see **Jeremiah 23:15 and Lamentations 3:15**).²⁵⁴

A third of the rivers of waters turned bitter, and many people died. This fallen **angel** is named for **his** effect on **the waters**. Therefore, the **angel** named **Wormwood** caused the fresh **waters** of the earth to **become** as **bitter** as the plant **wormwood**, with one exception. **He** will cause the fresh **waters** to become so poisonous that **many people** will die. The Bible doesn't tell us how **he** will do it, all we know is the result.

It will be the reversal of the miracle at **Marah**, where Moses threw a branch of a tree into **the bitter water** there and it became sweet (see my commentary on **Exodus, to see link click Cn - When They Came to Marah the Water was Bitter**). Although the Bible does not say, it is reasonable to assume that many others will die from thirst. With **one-third** of the fresh **waters** tainted, most **people** will be unable to obtain drinkable **water** before extreme thirst sets in. Adults will survive without **water** for about three days while the sick and infants won't last that long.²⁵⁵

The world media will notice the "coincidence" that **a third** of the rivers and their **waters** were **poisoned**. The recurring **one-third** proportion, experienced through several of the phenomena already, should have given **the inhabitants of the earth** some clue that these calamities were not random events, but controlled by **the Lord**. **They** will fail to see the connection. Human nature is curious. When we don't want to see something, we can look the other way. But calamity and sorrow are the natural consequences of our rebellion against **God** and the result will be no different during the Great Tribulation. **He** would continue to get **their** attention.

*Dear Heavenly Father, Praise **You** for your great love. Praise **You** for rapturing to heaven all those who love **You** before this awful Tribulation. **For this we tell you, by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord shall in no way precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the blast of God's shofar, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. Then we who are***



alive, who are left behind, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air - and so we shall always be with the Lord. (First Thessalonians 4:15-17). May **You** open the hearts of our families and friends who know about you, to decide to love and follow you now, before the Tribulation begins. Please encourage those who are still here in the Tribulation to turn to you-even if it costs them their lives. Let them not fear death, but focus on the eternal joy of living in heaven with **You** forever. Do not let them get confused by thinking they can live for themselves on earth and go to heaven later. Please let them realize only one life t'will soon be past - only what's done for **Messiah** will last! **You** are wonderful! In **Your** Holy **Son's** power of resurrection. Amen