

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? Romans 2:4 NLT

God isn't trying to break you down; He's trying to bring you to breakthrough

When we **finally surrender**, **peace** replaces turmoil, and **purpose** replaces confusion and chaos

Mercy before judgment; The angel proclaiming the everlasting gospel, Revelation 14:6. This is mercy literally preached from heaven, offering one last invitation to turn to Christ

God is actively pursuing people through the power of the Holy Spirit, not passively!

Trumpet Judgements affect **1/3** of everything, **Seal judgments** affected **1/4** of the world, killing 1/4 of the population, the **Bowl judgments**, everything in the sea dies

Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died Revelation 16:3 NKJV

Revelation 8:8–13 Progression of Judgment: sea, rivers, and heavens, demonstrating that sin disrupts every layer of creation

God is giving humanity time to turn back before the full weight of His wrath is revealed

Vegetation - The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up revelation 8:7 NKJV

Sea - Then the **second angel** sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood Revelation 8:8 NKJV

John sees "*something like a great mountain burning with fire*" The phrase "*something like*" signals that it's symbolic imagery, not a literal description

What does the fiery mountain represent?

A volcanic eruption or celestial impact (meteor or asteroid-like event) a missile with a warhead

In prophetic language, "**mountain**" represents kingdom, empire or great power

"Behold, I *am* against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys all the earth," says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, Roll you down from the rocks, And make you a burnt mountain Jeremiah 51:25 NKJV

God's judgments strike **both creation and human systems**

"**the sea**" - It could be referring to all the oceans

It could be referring to a specific body of water, like the Mediterranean Sea or the Red Sea

"**became blood**" – This could refer to the living things that will be killed

It could be referring to literal blood

It could be referring to something that looks like blood, whether it be an oil spill, or the "red tide" caused by plankton

A red tide can produce toxins, deplete oxygen, and kill fish and plant life

And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed
Revelation 8:9 NKJV

"**And a third of the living creatures in the sea died**"

Just as the plague on the Nile killed fish, this judgment devastates marine life **Exodus 7**, signifies:

Ecological collapse, the created order groaning under sin **Romans 8:22 NKJV**

Economic disruption, especially for coastal communities dependent on fishing

"**And a third of the ships were destroyed**"

In John's Day, ships represented **commerce, exploration, and empire**, so, this judgment affects...

Global trade, an economic catastrophe

Military power, naval strength symbolized dominance

Water: Then 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 water Revelation 8:10 NKJV

The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter Revelation 8:11 NKJV

This star may symbolize = A **celestial body** (meteor, comet, missile or asteroid) that contaminates water sources

The term "**Wormwood**" refers to a **bitter plant** known in the Old Testament for its association with **sorrow, judgment, and poison**

The Greek word used here is *apsinthos*, (SP) (absent-thos) which translates directly to “**wormwood**”, a shrub from the *Artemisia* family

Its extreme bitterness made it a symbol of **spiritual and moral corruption leading to death**

Literal view: A real celestial object (like a meteor or comet) falls to earth, contaminating freshwater sources

Symbolic view: Represents a powerful leader, false prophet, or ideology that brings moral and spiritual decay to humanity

Prophetic view: Some see Wormwood as a divine act of judgment, showing that when people reject God, even the natural world becomes an instrument of their judgment

There is a significant spiritual application

“**Wormwood’s**” bitterness reminds us how easily truth can be changed or diluted

When believers begin to **compromise, softening the Word to fit culture, or mixing truth with worldly reasoning**, the living water of the Gospel becomes polluted

Over time, what once brought life, now brings confusion, division, and spiritual deadness

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers 2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV

and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables 2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV

This challenges believers to **guard the purity of their hearts, motives, and intake**

The Heavens: Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night Revelation 8:12 NKJV

Now the judgments move upward, from earth to sky

- The light sources **are darkened by one-third**, again, partial, not total, destruction
- This recalls **Exodus 10:21–23**, the **plague of darkness in Egypt**

The darkening of celestial lights signifies **the removal of God’s natural blessings, order, and stability**

It also symbolizes **spiritual darkness**, because humanity is continually drifting further from God's truth

God's creation, which once declared His glory **Psalm 19:1**, now bears witness to His judgment

The loss of light anticipates the **spiritual blindness** that will deepen as the world resists

This also speaks powerfully to the believer's world today: **when we drift from God, the light in our own lives begins to fade**

This passage urges us to **walk in the light intentionally**, through daily fellowship with Christ, time in His Word, and the guidance of His Spirit

And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" Revelation 8:13 NKJV

This verse shifts from **destruction to declaration**

An angel cries out, not in triumph, but in **warning**. Before the next judgments fall

God Himself gives people a chance to listen, repent, and return. **Even in wrath, God extends mercy**

God's warnings are expressions of His love, grace, and mercy, not cruelty

He doesn't delight in judgment; He delights and desires repentance

Also, His love, mercy, and grace still stand open before the door closes

Theological Summary

- **Pattern of Partial Judgment:** Each event affects one-third, symbolizing restraint. God's wrath is measured, not reckless, because of His mercy
- **Progression of Judgment:** Sea, rivers, heavens, demonstrating that sin disrupts every layer of creation
- **Call to Repentance:** Before greater judgment comes, God warns humanity through His Word, His Spirit, and His messengers
- **Christological Hope:** While the world darkens, believers are reminded that **Jesus is the Light of the world John 8:12**, and the only source of true hope