

The Three Great Woes

The seven trumpets of Revelation are great “road markers” which tell us where we are in the prophecies of the Bible. The fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpets are identified as three great “woes” to all who dwell on earth, with each increasing in horror and devastation.

The First Great Woe

“And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.” Revelation 9:1-4

I have often taught that the fifth trumpet began to sound on 9-11 with the attack on America. I now believe I was mistaken. On February 11, 1979, the Shah of Iran was overthrown and driven out by a revolution led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. This date seems to mark better than any other, the sounding of the fifth trumpet, and the beginning of the first great “woe.” Khomeini immediately revealed his hatred for America and contempt for President Carter when he captured the American embassy, and held over sixty American's hostage for 444 days. After Khomeini's death, he was succeeded by Iran's present ruler, Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, a man who is also driven by hatred for Israel and America. He has labeled Israel the “little Satan,” and America “the great Satan.”

As I write this article, Israel and Iran are at war. The issue is Khamenei's efforts to build a nuclear weapon. He needs only one, because, as he says, “Israel is a one bomb nation.” President Trump has sent B2 stealth bombers with bunker buster bombs to destroy three underground weapons sites. What the future holds, we do not know.

The Second Great Woe

“One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.” Revelation 9:12-15

The second “great woe” brings the death of one third of all living. This must speak of World War III. We know by the scriptures it is coming, even though we do not know when. It could be upon us by the time you read this article, I do not know when, but we do know it is the next prophetic event to be fulfilled. The fifth angel began to sound his trumpet forty six years ago, and according to all we can see and understand, the sixth angel must be preparing to sound his trumpet, which will bring us into World War III with the loss of one third of all living. How close are we to that? It must coincide with the Prophet Zechariah's prophecy concerning Jerusalem.

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” Zechariah 13:8-9

World war III will be centered around Jerusalem. God said, *“I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...”* Zechariah 14:2. God also said, *“And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem”* Zechariah 12:9. These nations are named by the prophet Ezekiel; *“Persia (Iran), Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee”* Ezekiel 38:5-6. All these nations, with the possible exception of “Gomer,” are Muslim nations. They will cover the land of Israel like a cloud Ezekiel 38:16, only to be destroyed by God when His fury comes up in His face Ezekiel 38:18.

The Third Great Woe

“The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. ...And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged...” Revelation 11:14-18.

The third and greatest woe to come upon the inhabitants of earth is the return of Jesus Christ to earth. He came the first time in mercy as our savior, but He comes the second time in wrath as our judge. While every sign is pointing to the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is still time to repent, and trust in Him to take your sin away. He died as *“The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* John 1:29.

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