



The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

14. The third section – the seven trumpets

Is this book
a blessing
to me?

Blessed is he who reads
and those who hear
the words of this prophecy,
and keep those things
which are written in it;
for the time is near.

(Revelation 1:3)

What is Revelation about?

From the Prologue...

To Him

- who loves us
- and has freed us from our sins by **His blood**
- and has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father,
to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Behold,

- **He is coming with the clouds,**
- and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him,
- and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him.

Even so. **Amen.**

(Revelation 1:5-7)

Revelation so far...

1:1-8

Prologue

Behold, He is
coming with clouds
(Revelation 1:7)

The first section...

I know your works...

1:9 – 3:22

The vision of Christ, then His messages to the seven churches

The second section...

War, suffering, martyrdom, victory...

4:1 – 8:1

The vision of God's throne and of the Lamb and the opening of the seven seals



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The third section...

8:2 – 11:19

The seven trumpets, seven thunders, the little book, the two witnesses...



But before going on...

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A few thoughts...

1. Some foundational ideas...
2. How should we understand the visions?
3. Comparing Old and New Testament prophecy...
4. The focus of New Testament teaching on the end times.
5. What should we expect as we read Revelation?

But before going on...

1. Some foundational ideas...

- ✓ This book is an **unveiling** of things we might not otherwise know
- ✓ The Lord Jesus gave John these visions while **John was on Patmos**
- ✓ A blessing is promised when the book is read (or listened to) and **obeyed**
- ✓ John saw visions that included **symbols** – representations of realities
- ✓ The visions reveal spiritual truths about **real situations and coming events**
- ✓ The focus of the prophecy is not chronology but **spiritual reality**
- ✓ The prophecy is to **encourage** and **help** believers during their earthly trials

But before going on...

2. How should we understand the visions?

- Does John see the person or thing itself, or a spiritual representation only?
 - The vision of Christ in chapter 1
 - The vision of the Lamb in chapter 5

- Does the sequence of the visions reveal the chronological sequence of future events?
 - The sixth seal – the great day of God's wrath
 - The seventh trumpet – the kingdom proclaimed

But before going on...

3. Comparing Old and New Testament prophecy...

- Did prophecy enable people to predict the life of the Lord Jesus?
 - John the Baptist – “*the axe is laid to the root of the trees*” (Matthew 3:10)
 - The cross – the unthinkable climax

- Is New Testament prophecy different?
 - Is a detailed timeline the goal?
 - Why are there so many different views?

But before going on...

4. The focus of New Testament teaching on the end times.

➤ By the Lord Jesus

- *“Be ready”* (Matthew 24:44)
- *“Watch therefore”* (Matthew 25:13)
- *“I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”* (John 16:4)

➤ By Paul

- *“Comfort one another”* (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- *“Watch and be sober”* (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

➤ By Peter

- *“Be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish”* (2 Peter 3:14)

➤ By John

- *“Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself”* (1 John 3:3)

But before going on...

5. What should we expect as we read Revelation?

- **To see that God is sovereign**
 - In world events
 - In building the church
 - In our experience
- **To see that Christ has been glorified and that He reigns**
- **To be encouraged**
 - To face hardship
 - To live righteously
 - To persevere to the end

Active faith
Living hope
Fervent love

But before going on...

5. What should we expect as we read Revelation?

The First Section (Ch 1-3)

- An arresting vision of Christ
- Stern challenges to the churches
- Great promises in victory

The Second Section (Ch 4-7)

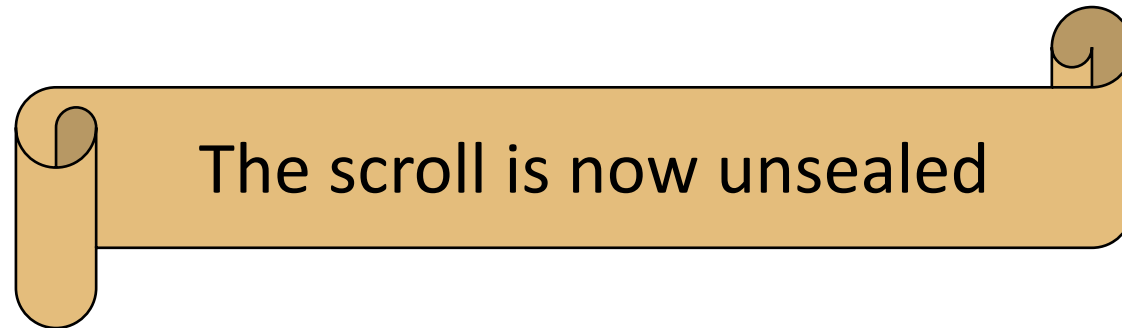
- Dangerous times – the horsemen
- Difficult ways – the martyrs
- A glorious destiny – at the throne



The seventh seal...

When He opened **the seventh seal**,
there was **silence** in heaven
for about half an hour.

(Revelation 8:1)



Prelude to the third section...

Then I saw **the seven angels who stand before God**, and seven trumpets were given to them.

And **another angel** came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, **with the prayers of the saints**, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

(Revelation 8:2-4)



(See Leviticus 16:12-13)

Prelude to the third section...

Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

(Revelation 8:5)

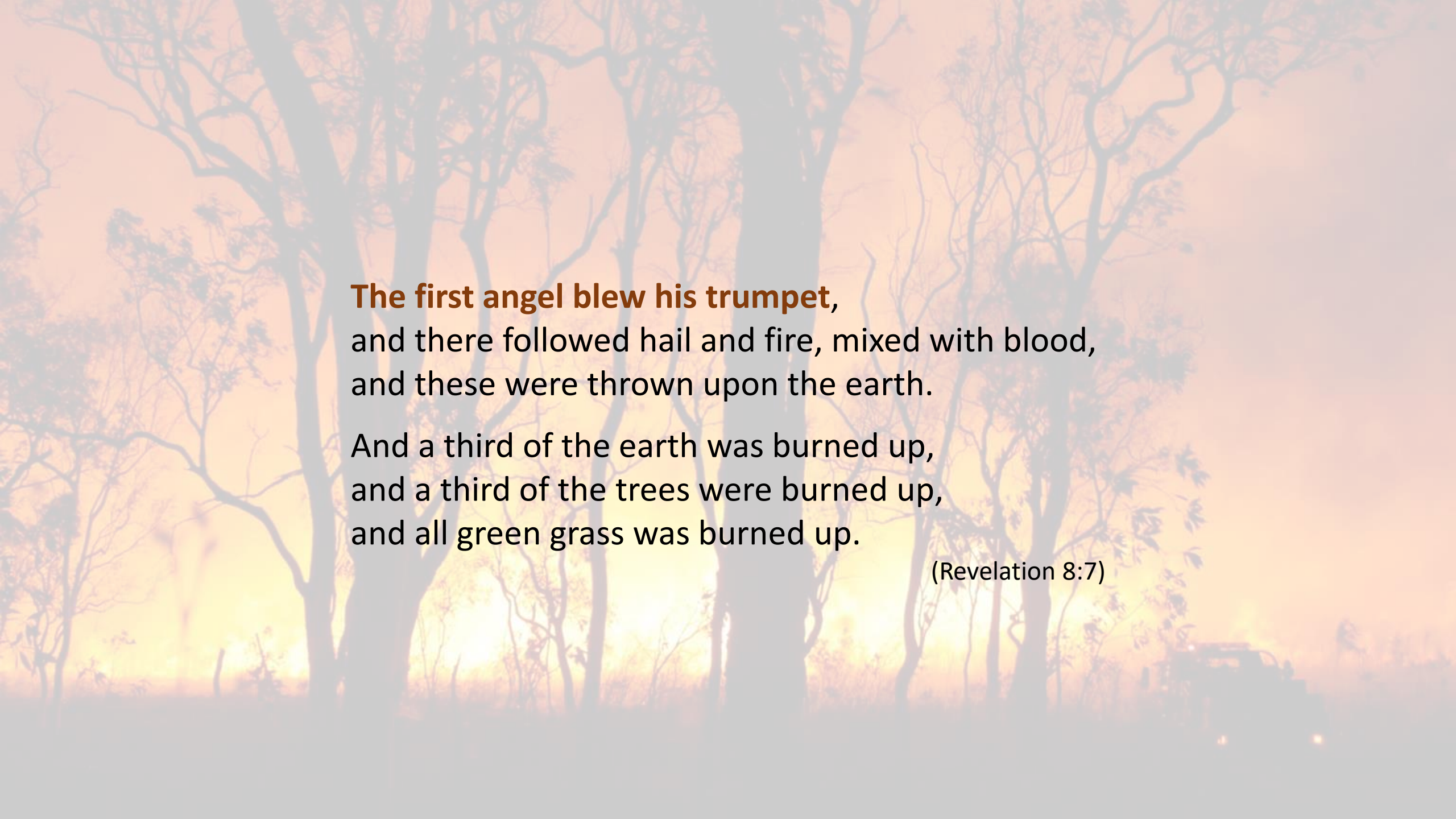
Revelation 11:19 – The seventh trumpet
Revelation 16:17-18 – The seventh bowl



(See Leviticus 16:12-13)

**So the seven angels
who had the seven trumpets
prepared themselves to sound.**

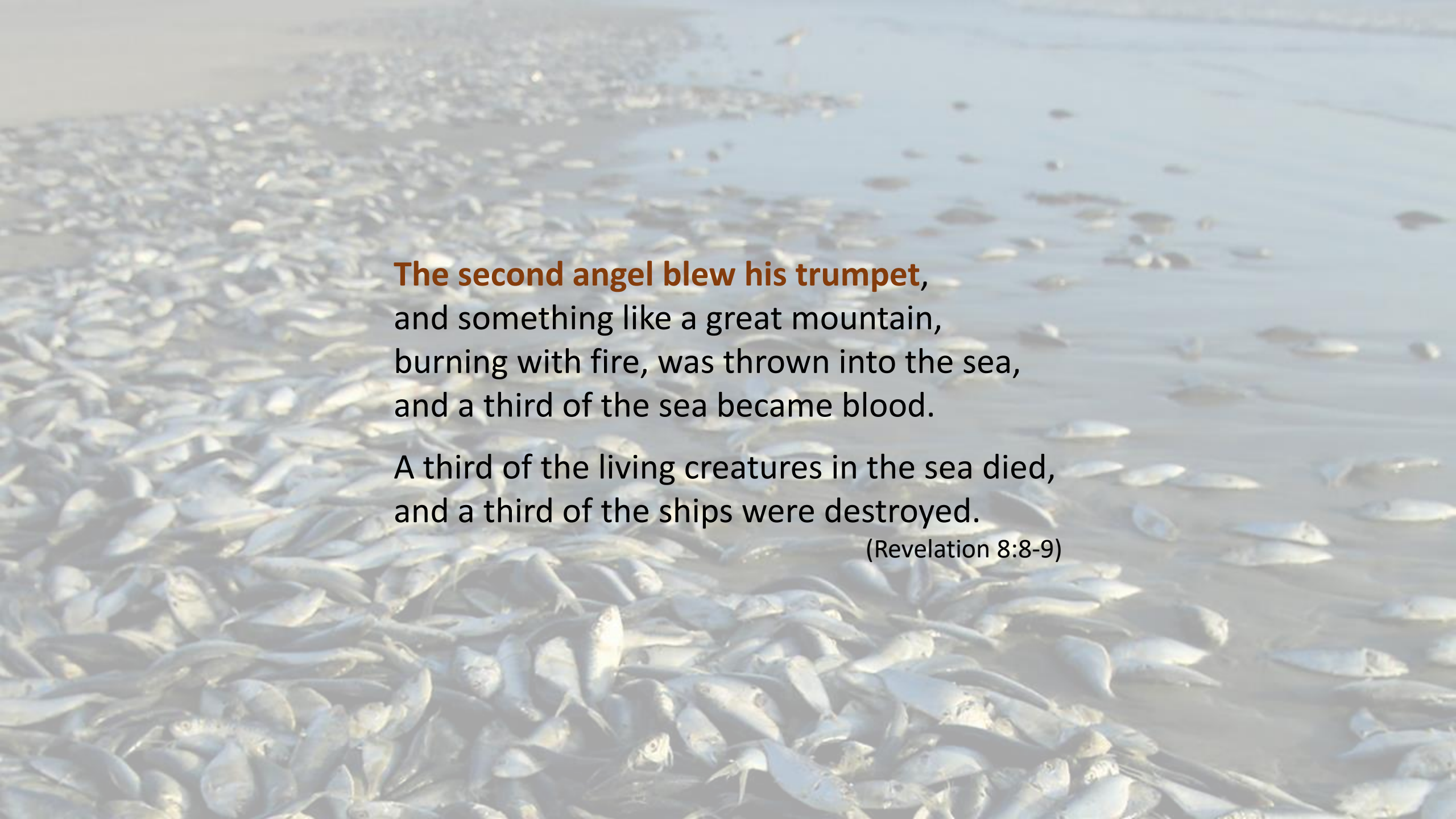
(Revelation 8:6)



The first angel blew his trumpet,
and there followed hail and fire, mixed with blood,
and these were thrown upon the earth.

And a third of the earth was burned up,
and a third of the trees were burned up,
and all green grass was burned up.

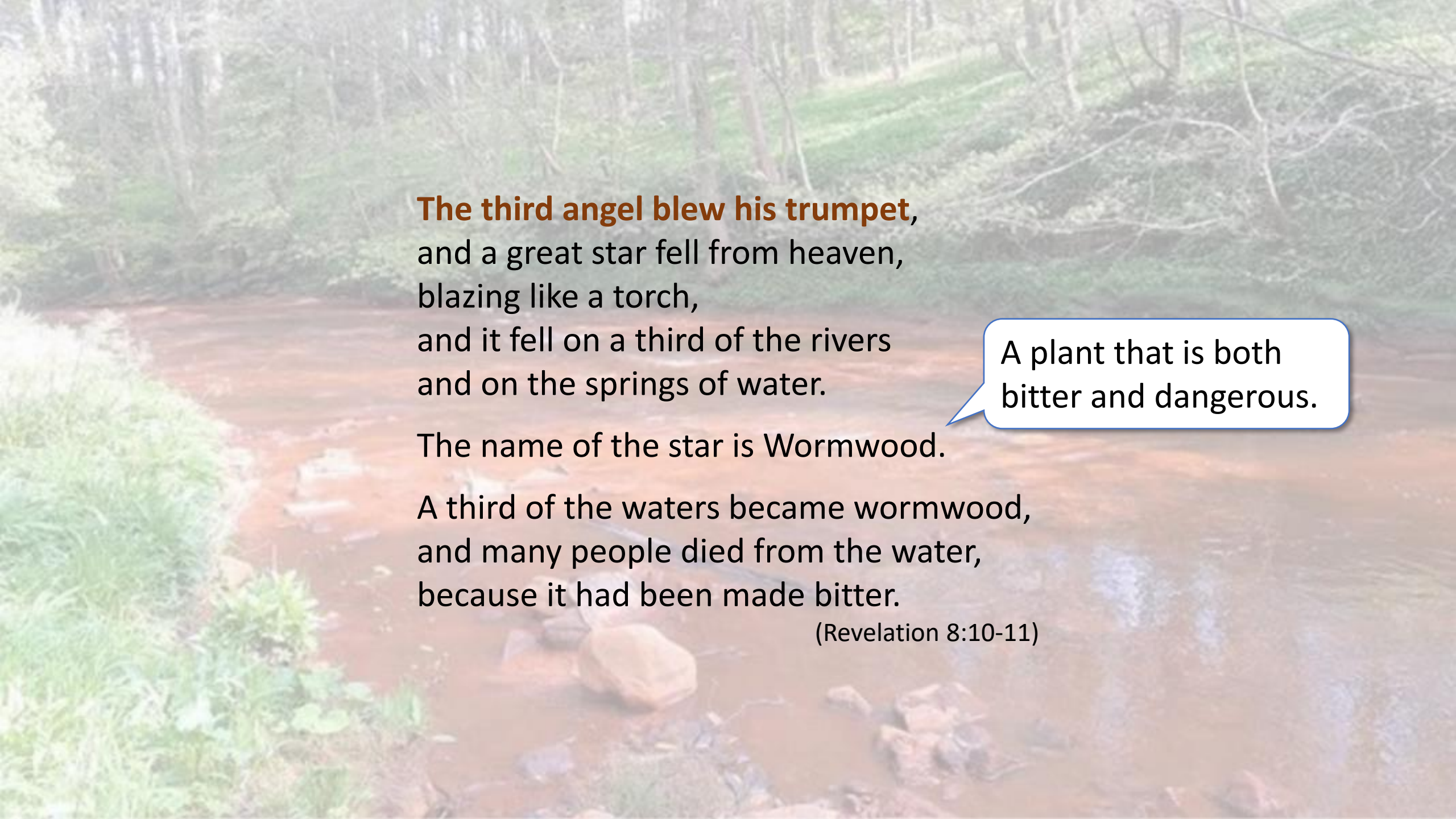
(Revelation 8:7)



The second angel blew his trumpet,
and something like a great mountain,
burning with fire, was thrown into the sea,
and a third of the sea became blood.

A third of the living creatures in the sea died,
and a third of the ships were destroyed.

(Revelation 8:8-9)

A photograph of a river with reddish-brown water, likely due to iron deposits, flowing through a forest. The water is turbulent as it flows over rocks. The surrounding area is lush with green grass and trees.

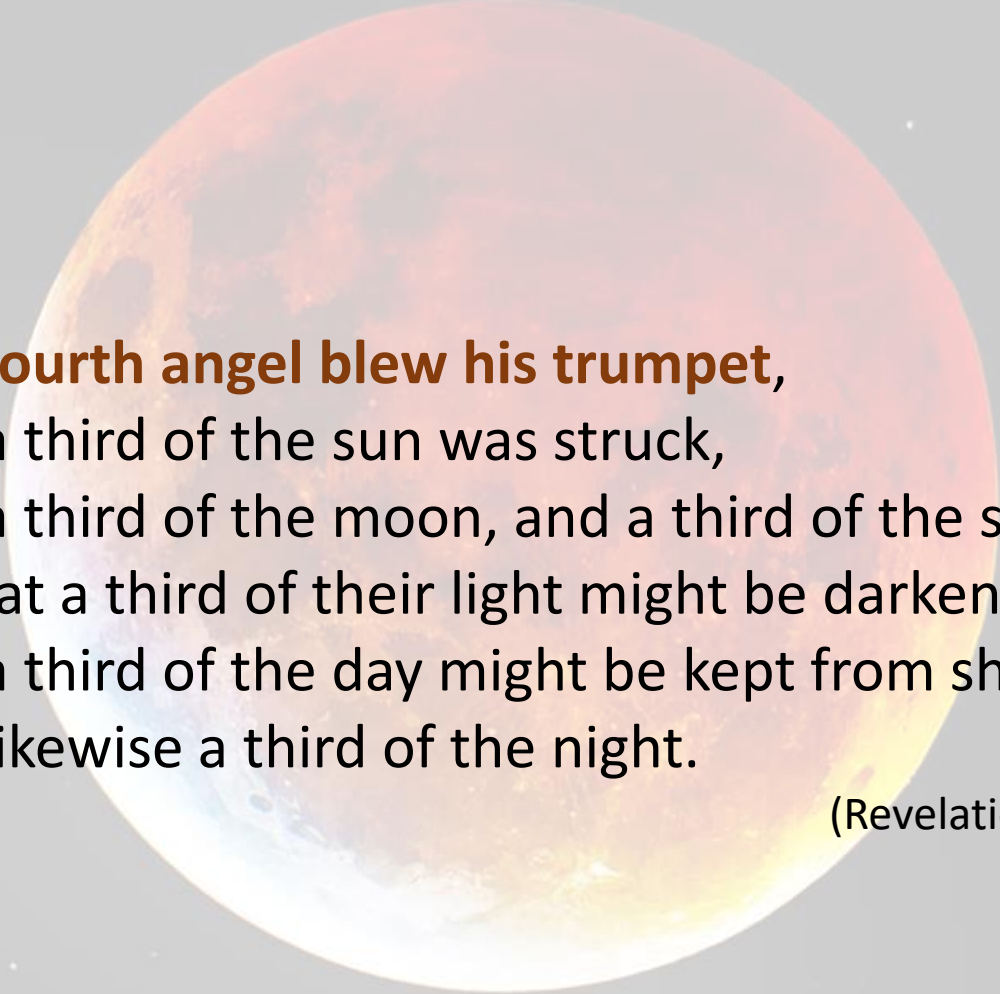
The third angel blew his trumpet,
and a great star fell from heaven,
blazing like a torch,
and it fell on a third of the rivers
and on the springs of water.

A plant that is both
bitter and dangerous.

The name of the star is Wormwood.

A third of the waters became wormwood,
and many people died from the water,
because it had been made bitter.

(Revelation 8:10-11)



The fourth angel blew his trumpet,
and a third of the sun was struck,
and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars,
so that a third of their light might be darkened,
and a third of the day might be kept from shining,
and likewise a third of the night.

(Revelation 8:12)

The first four trumpets...

- Literal or symbolic?
- Why one third?
- Plants, seas, rivers, heavens...?
- Past, present or future?



Then I looked, and I heard an eagle
crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead,

***Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth,
at the blasts of the remaining trumpets
that the three angels are about to sound!***

(Revelation 8:13)





Revelation Chapter 8

What have we seen so far?

- ✓ God hears the prayers of His people.
- ✓ The trumpets indicate both warning and the judgment of the world.
- ✓ The world has rebelled against its Creator.

*The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein.*

(Psalm 24:1)