

The Voice of Truth # 498

God Breaking the Dominion of Sin

Now open your Bibles at the 8th chapter of Revelation and hold there, will you? In our last study, we showed you from God's Word the result of the sounding of the first trumpet judgment, which was hail and fire mingled in blood poured out upon the trees and green grass. And one third of the trees were destroyed and all the grass was burned up. This increased the famine that came about under the first seals. God here is using the same method to break the power and dominion of sin over the hearts of men by bringing to pass that which will produce a famine, the water and food that brings men to the point of starvation. We know that man is brought under the control of the federal authorities when they control his breadbasket.

We come now to the sounding of the second trumpet and we find that judgment is poured out upon the waters of commerce and transportation, in which they are affected, so as to heighten a world famine. Now let's turn to Revelation 8:8 and read.

And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

What a judgment! When the second angel sounded forth a trumpet judgment, John said, I saw a great burning or a blazing object which was cast into the sea. He likened it unto a mountain. It is not called a mountain. Neither can we suppose that it was a volcanic eruption. The Scripture says, "as it were" a mountain, or it looked like a mountain. Let me call your attention to this fact, The Holy Spirit, with divine care, guards all the words of the Holy Scriptures. We are not to take this as a literal mountain, but as a mountain. This was the only way John could describe it. It looked like a mountain. That is, the great burning mass had the

appearance of a mountain. It was a literal object that actually fell into the sea, and it affected one third of the sea, turning it into blood. And let me say that this was a literal burning mass. We are not to spiritualize it. This is yet to happen in the future.

Now let me read those words again. Listen. **And as it were, a great mountain, burning with fire, was cast into the sea. And the third part of the sea,** what? Listen, get it? **Became blood.** What we see here is a great mountainous mass of matter falling from the sky, clothed in seething, thundering, flashing flames, and dashed into the ocean. As the result of this awful fiery mass plunging into the sea, the water is turned into blood, **and the third part of the sea became blood.** It doesn't say that the water was turned into bloody appearance, or "as it were" blood. No, it said, and **the sea became blood.** That is a factual declarative statement of very truth. The word that came here is the same word and has the same force as it has in John 1:14. Listen. And the word became flesh and dwelt among us. The water became actual blood. That means that one third of all the salty waters of the earth became actual blood. It means that something radically happened to the water. It was turned into blood. Now, you get that statement!

As we stated in our last study, when the Scripture says hail and fire mingled with blood, it did not mean a bloody substance, but it was a rain of blood upon the earth. And blood here was the vehicle that carried the fire and hail to the earth's surface. Here God is extending that judgment of blood over a third part of the surface of the waters of the sea. If you'll turn to Exodus 7:20, you'll find that one of the ten plagues of Egypt was all the waters of Egypt being turned to blood. **And Moses and Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded. And he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.** The river here referred to is the Sacred River Nile. And the chances are it was at the time of the overflow of the river, because it was due to the overflow of that river, that the land was not only enriched, but watered, to produce the abundance of food to feed the inhabitants of Egypt. And when Pharaoh looked out upon the waters of the Nile, he saw nothing but the waves of blood. There are none but modernists who doubt it. Pharaoh believed it. The waters of the Nile were turned to blood. It was literal. Everyone in Egypt believed it.

Then we read in Psalm 105 that he turned their waters into blood. The psalmist believed it. As we said in our last study, Egypt is a type of the world. Then in this second trumpet judgment, a third of the waters of the earth, excluding the fountains and rivers, were turned into actual blood, a fulfillment of the prophetic type in Exodus, when the Nile was turned into blood. The scripture says, **and the fish that were in the river died, and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the waters of the river, and there was blood throughout all the land.**

Just as the turning of the waters of Nile in the blood affected the life of the fish, so the turning of one-third of the waters of the sea in the blood will severely affect sea life. Because the Scripture says, listen, hold it, get it, one-third part of the creatures in the sea died. I wish you'd listen to the impact of this Scripture, Revelation 8:9, and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea died. We know that the least disturbance of the waters effects the sea life. Then just to think that the water turning to blood will affect all the creatures in that part of the sea. And the scripture says, **they died.** This of itself will have a tremendous effect upon the food supply of the inhabitants of the world. What a basin of stinking fish and disease. This destruction of fish in the sea adds to the famine of the first trumpet. In the judgment of the first trumpet, one third of the fruit trees and all the grass were cut off. Now, one third of all the creatures of the sea are cut off in death. My friend, can't you see what judgment this brings upon a Christless, godless world? A world that has rejected God's word, a world that has laughed and scoffed at the Bible, cried it down in our schools, universities, churches, on the streets, in the alleys, in the quagmires of the world? Can't you see what a judgment from the hand of God upon the world that says, **There is no God**; that Christ is not the Son of God; and says, we'll not have this man to reign over us. You cannot win against the judgment of God. This judgment shall come to pass. Now, you get that. If God could work such changes by the staff of Moses, what is to hinder him from producing the changes in the day of judgment. If he could turn the waters of the Nile into blood, it's no great wonder to me he could turn one-third of all the waters of the ocean into blood by means of this fiery mass, which John says, as it were, a burning mountain.

My friends, listen, can you imagine standing on the seashore of the great oceans of the world and see nothing but waves of blood come rolling up on the beaches?

Then to think that all sea life in that one part of the world's salty water, caught in that blood, unable to escape, should be turned into death. Millions upon millions of tons of sea creatures would come floating to the top of the ocean of blood and wash to the shore by the waves of blood. What an awful scene. What a carnage. What disease would follow! What famine would stalk the land! You may ask the question, how long will this last? It'll last, I think, through the tribulation period. This is a prophecy which follows immediately after the tribulation days.

Let me call your attention to this fact. The Lord God of heaven, who filled the waters of the sea at creation, Genesis 1:1, will destroy them in the tribulation, Revelation 8:9. But he will restore them in the days of regeneration, Ezekiel 47:8-10. It is the fact of God in every instance, for his own glory and for the breaking of the dominion of sin in his destruction. Under this second trumpet judgment, not only was the third part of the waters turned to blood and a third of the sea creatures killed, but John said, one third of the ships were destroyed. This burning mass plunging into the sea not only turned the waters to blood, but brought about a tempestuous commotion of the elements until one third of the ships were destroyed. That is, they were burned or sunk or dashed ashore.

Today, the whole world is almost entirely dependent upon its fleet of ships transporting foodstuff and other commodities from one nation to another. What a judgment for all those ships to be destroyed in the moment of time. Consider not only the loss of ships, but the loss of lives that will run into tens of thousands, besides cutting off the source of supplies, which would add greatly to the famine and throw the whole world into a panic. No one can imagine how a catastrophe like that falling upon the nations of the world would disrupt all commerce and trade between nations. You see, the spirit that dominates commerce is the spirit of greed and gain and the love of money, and this is God's stroke to begin the breaking of the dominion of sin over the hearts of the industrialists, the capitalists and the rulers of the nations.

My friends, our only hope to escape these coming judgments is to be ready for the coming of the Lord. I won't be here when these trumpet judgments are poured out upon this Christless world. Will you? No, I won't.

Now, remember one thing. These judgments are for one purpose, to break the dominion of sin over this earth. Now you put it down. You put it down. God's going to break the dominion of sin over this earth. And that's what he's telling us here in the book of Revelation. Let's read Revelation. This brings us into the sounding of the third trumpet. Let's read 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, upon the fountains of water. 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 bitter.

Just as the judgments that fell upon Egypt, under the rod of Moses, one following the other. So, these trumpet judgments will fall upon the world, one following the other in succession. Here God is still saying, let my people go. The meek must inherit the earth. So, the design of this judgment also is for the purpose of breaking the dominion of sin over the earth.

Here we see a great star fall from heaven. It is not a nameless star. Get it now, it is not a nameless or wandering star, because the scripture says its name is called Wormwood. Now you listen.

We are told in the scriptures that **the Lord numbereth the stars and he calleth them all by their names.** God the Creator made these stars in the beginning and placed them in their heavenly orbits and he holds them there by the word of his power. In Matthew 2:2 we find a brilliant star appeared over the birthplace of him who made the stars. It was a literal star which led the wise men to the birthplace of our Lord. So also, this is a literal star, and as we said, its name is Wormwood. Its name and its nature agree. The word Wormwood is the Greek word absinthe, from which is extracted one of the chief ingredients of intoxicating liquor, and it refers to the bitter qualities of the object to which it is applied. The star of Wormwood is catalogued among the stars, but depend upon the veracity of God's eternal word, one day this star will visit the earth, just as the book of Revelations describes it, and this prophecy shall come to pass. The scripture says, 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.

In the second trumpet judgment, we found that the third part of the sea, or salt waters, was turned into blood, and as a result, all the living creatures in those areas died. All the ships were destroyed. Get it now! Here we find that this star, named Wormwood, meaning bitter, burning as it were a lamp, fell upon the third part of the rivers, upon the fountains of waters. This is the water supply for the human race, for drinking, cooking, and commercial use. And remember the scripture says the third part of the waters became absinthe, that is, the bitter, poisonous essence itself. Absinthe is the name of a medical plant, and when used in large quantities is intoxicating and poisonous, affecting the central nervous system, and causing convulsions, paralysis, and finally death. Wouldn't it be something if you wake up some morning during those days, if you're here, and turn on the water faucet to draw water for your morning bath, and cook breakfast, and then stand there beholding a stream of intoxicating liquor? Now you listen. You may ask the question, why will there be such a judgment as this upon the human race? What are the outstanding prevalent sins of the human race now? The foremost is drunkenness. We have a drunken nation from the White House on out. Someone has said there are at least 500 cocktail parties daily at our White House among the personnel of our government. Here in New Orleans, there's one saloon to every thousand people, besides a whole assortment of dealers in packaged liquors. Here in the old historical part of our city is the famous Old Absinthe House, a national known attraction as a liquor house, which the elite of the underworld and the so-called upper crust patronizes lavishly.

One day, A liquor truck was wrecked and whiskey was flowing on the streets into the gutters. They had to call the police to keep the people back. They were just like a bunch of hogs running to the slop trough, drinking it up with our hands from the gutters. Now just to think that God is going to give you all you want when this star named Wormwood touches this earth during the tribulation period.

Then the next sin, in connection with drunkenness is sorcery, which includes the widespread use of narcotics. These two sins have led to mass fornication, as well as a flood tide of wickedness and crime in high places, because they release all the beastly, brutal passions of the human heart and life. The cry of humanity today is drink, narcotics, fornication, theft, murder. So here God is saying to the

human race, as he said to the Jews, when they murmured against him and cried for flesh to eat. And God gave them flesh until they cried to him to take it away.

Yes, God is here turning one third of the drinking waters into intoxicating drink and saying to the human race, if that's what you want, here's the answer to your prayers. Isn't that an awful judgment? Oh, my Lord, my Lord, have mercy. My friends, just to think that one-third of all the fresh water of this earth will be turned into liquor or intoxicating waters. You say, "I don't believe it". Go read the second chapter of John, which tells us that our Lord turned the water into wine and then stand in the face of God Almighty and tell Him He doesn't have power to turn one-third of all the fresh waters of the earth into intoxicating drink. He sits in the heavens and laughs and holds the world in derision, and says, now for centuries, you've wanted to give vent to all the beastly, hellish passions of your heart and life, go drink to your fill, and as a result, you'll see one drunken world of humanity starving to death because of the mighty famine, yet intoxicated. What a judgment! My friends, but for the grace of the living God, man would literally destroy himself, and here God is letting man worldwide, for the first time, literally destroy himself of his own will and volition for one purpose, to break the dominion of sin over the human race.

The old prophet foresaw this day, listen, **Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; but have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Balaam, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.**

Then the prophet brings the same truth out in Jeremiah, **Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: For from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.** Then Lamentations brought out the effect of wormwood in these words, **He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood.**

Here we see a world of mankind, unwilling to face realities, unwilling to face their real condition out of Christ, in the midst of judgment, waters turned to blood. The

whole commerce of the world shattered to pieces. Millions starving for the lack of food. Instead of repenting, they are turning on the Lord God of heaven, blaspheming his holy name, cursing him for the day they were born, never taking any responsibility for their condition, but every moment blaming God for the judgments they've brought upon themselves. So, he turns the drinking waters into intoxicating liquors and says to the Christ-rejecting, God-dishonoring, sin and pleasure-mad world, "Here's what you have wanted, drink to your fill". As a result, we will see a world stupefied with drink, trying to drown their troubles. Here we see the judgment of a righteous and holy God taking away the wholesome drink and giving mankind embittering waters to drink. Can you imagine such a thing? Nothing to drink but intoxicating liquors and the water of gall, which is nothing less than opium. Liquor and dope and no water to drink. What a judgment! What a judgment! Crying for water! Give me water! Everywhere they turn is nothing but intoxicating liquor and the waters of gall, which is opium.

Let's turn now to another scene. Walk with me to Golgotha's hill. And let's stand there and behold that middle cross on which hung the Son of God with the world at His feet crying, let His blood be on us and our children's children. In the midst of His suffering, when the dust of the battle became so thick, when Satan was charging with all of his might, calling forth all the reinforcements of hell, and sin was fiercely flinging its fiery darts, while every emissary of hell was laughing and joking and ridiculing and blaspheming and spitting upon Him. When He cried, I thirst, one of the soldiers ran and dipped his sponge into vinegar, mingled with gall, and offered it to him to drink, our Lord refused. The purpose of that drink of opium was to benumb the nervous system that he could not feel the pain so sharply. But our Lord was the sinner's substitute. Our Lord had become sin for us who knew no sin. Our Lord was suffering all the pangs and forces of hell for sinners. Our Lord was facing in reality the cup of damnation. He saw the depths of its bitter dregs. He was fighting for God's elect. He faced the reality of a God, angry at sin. He knew that sin must be punished. He knew God's hatred of sin, being the sinner's substitute. He is under the condemnation of sin because he becomes sin for us. He faced the reality of being separated from God. He saw the great and mighty gulf that separated the sinner from the Holy God, and seeing that mighty gulf, he cried, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? In the

midst of this suffering, giving his soul as an offering for sin, he dared not receive anything into his body that would benumb his mind, for his life could not be taken from him. He must lay down his life for his sheep, and he must do so in command of his every faculty. When he paid the utmost farthing unto justice in the sinner's stead, he cried, it's finished. It's finished! The scripture says, I gave my life for the sheep. No man taketh it from me.

What did the unsaved religious and political world give the Lord Jesus to drink? They gave him gall to drink. What a commentary on the depravity of the human race. Now, in this judgment, God gives the human race, religiously and politically, wormwood mixed with gall. The world today is clamoring for drink and dope. Here we see God letting them have what they want, what they deserve. Listen to God's Word. **They gave me also gall for my meat. In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.** Then listen to the answer, **For the Lord our God has put us to silence and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the Lord.** Water of gall comes from the juice of poppies, which is opium. Now, why is God going to give the human race wormwood and gall? It's because they will not face reality. Sitting there before your radio, preacher, have you ever faced the reality of your own heart and life? Has the Holy Spirit ever written the law of God in your mind, and in your heart? Have you ever been made to see the depths of your depravity and know the sharp sword of God's justice, cutting asunder your heart by the word of God and laying it bare? Do you know Him? Do you know Christ?