

## THE THIRD TRUMPET : The 'Great Star' burning as a lamp

v10 *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, and upon the fountains of waters;*

v11 *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 made **bitter**.*

**HISTORICAL FULFILMENT** : *The 'third trumpet' foretold the military campaigns of **Attila & the Huns** against the Roman Empire in the areas of the Rhine and Danube Rivers, and the Alpine districts of Europe from 433AD - 453AD*

Beyond the outworking in Roman times of the *third trumpet*, wherein Attila and the Huns ravaged the regions of southern Europe, these dramatic events of history foreshadowed a '*far greater fulfilment*' yet to come in the last days. The *third trumpet* is a preview of the terrible atrocities *Russia's Gog* will soon commit in this same area of Europe.

As the third angel sounds the trumpet (v.10) there is described a "**great star burning as a lamp**" that falls upon the rivers and fountains of waters. We know this was not a literal star, but rather a figurative symbol. In its primary application, it spoke of Attila the Hun (the most fearsome and successful of the Barbarian leaders to war against the Roman Empire). Yet beyond this, in its ultimate prophetic sense this trumpet pointed to the rise of another king of "**fierce countenance**" at the time of the end. This burning star is also a stunning '**double portrayal**' of the agency (ie. both '**the individual**' and '**the means**') through which the fountains of waters and the rivers of this region of Europe will in the latter days be once again "**made bitter**", such that "**many men died of the waters**" as Revelation tell us.

To **the individual** : - the symbol of '*a star*' is often used in God's Word to represent a '*prince*' or '*ruler*'. This image of a burning star speaks of a personage - an individual - one whose character, reputation and destiny is likened to a '*fiery meteor*' that shoots across the sky at great speed. More specifically in his vision, John describes this person as a '*great*' star indicating this *prince / ruler* must of necessity be a monumental figure of prophetic destiny. It would be the very same '*chief prince*' (of *Meshech and Tubal*) enshrined in the prophecy of Ezekiel chapter 38. It would *also* be the final ruler of the *kingdoms of men*, who in the very last days will set Nebuchadnezzar's image upon its feet... It will be the long-*prophesied* '*prince of this world*' (viz. John Ch's. 12, 14, 16 - See our PDF Link below)

❖ [THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD \[ JOHN 12, 14, 16 \]](#) -- *The true 'man of sin' and the calamitous events he will bring (Click Link)*

Even the many bible allusions to the '*Star out of the East*' (being symbolic of the Lord Jesus Christ) are entirely consistent with the coming of this end-times Gogian '*Prince*'. Not only is *he* the prophetic figure appointed to act on the Lord's behalf to '*thresh*' the kingdoms of men, but also in the context of this and the later judgments upon the nations of Europe, these divine punishments will '*geographically*' come *out of the East*... from Russia. (Note: the orientation changes in later judgments relative to the nations of the Middle East ie. "*from the north*")

To **the means** : - this same graphic imagery of a "**great star ... falling from heaven**" and "**burning as it were a lamp**" is also an incredibly accurate visual description of the use of a modern military '*missile*' as this fiery device rains down from the heavens upon its intended target. How remarkable, these missiles just happen to be the weapons of choice for Russia's Vladimir Putin. They are the same '*wicked devices*' he has used to wreak widespread havoc and destruction in Ukraine. They are also the very same devices he has repeatedly threatened to use to launch a nuclear attack against the western allied nations. They will be the principle instrument used to '*judge the nations*'.

❖ [MAN'S WICKED DEVICES](#) -- *Revealed: The bible truth concerning the TRUE NATURE of the divine judgments to come (Click Link)*



Is it plausible that both these two descriptive aspects of this *one vision* (1. "**A great star 'falling' from heaven** . . . 2. **burning as a lamp**") are simply inexplicable '*co-incidences*'? Or have they always been the intended meaning behind this vision? A profoundly mysterious vision - which in *pre-industrialised* ages was never able to be understood - but only in the very last days this one vision unmistakably revealing both this despotic man and his fearsome devices. (These trumpet prophecies and their symbolic visions were crafted of the Father for one singular, express purpose: to *fore-warn* his faithful servants living in the last days of the apocalyptic global events to come. Will we simply ignore them?)

When we consider the beginnings of the barbarian king, history records in his early days as 'co-ruler' of the Huns Attila murdered *his own brother* to ensure his ascension to sole ruler. It was a chilling predicate to the cold-blooded and ruthless tendencies of his modern day '*Gogian anti-type*' who has a long history of - not only murdering his own countrymen for political power and expediency - but more recently killing thousands of his *slavic brothers* in Ukraine. Such was Attila's infamy and brutality, he called himself '*the Scourge of God*'. A fitting title for the coming *Russian Gog*.

Further enhancing his fearsome reputation as '*the Scourge of God*' Attila the Hun was also the possessor of the mythical '*Sword of Mars*' (Sword of God). In entering any battle bearing this legendary weapon, Attila was convinced his supremacy and victory were assured. As such, he used this revered blade as a sceptre-like symbol of his divine and rightful claim to the dominion of the earth. The Roman historian *Jordanes* noted, Attila believed he had been appointed not only as '*ruler of the whole world*' but also as a '*divinely-appointed punisher*' (*the Scourge of God*). In both these aspects, Attila presented a precise and unmistakable prefigurement of his ultimate successor - the end-times '*sword of the LORD*' - Vladimir Putin.



Attila's highly skilled horsemen were both cruel and merciless and they brought widespread death and destruction to many nations and tribes throughout Europe. As his reign of terror spread across the continent, Attila gathered under his banner vast multitudes from the surrounding territories including Vandals, Ostrogoths, Gepids, Rugians and Franks. It's *as if* this was a projection into the distant future, for the prophet Habakkuk - in his vision of the time of the end - spoke of *him* who (at the appointed time) will be "*lifted up*" as he spoils "*many nations*" and in like-manner to Attila "*gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people*". Once again we find the acts of this ancient king - just like all four barbarian kings in the *four wind trumpets* are a reliable predictor to the '*future acts*' of the Russian autocrat.

In verse 10, this '*great star*' (or '*prince / ruler*') is described as falling from heaven upon "*the third part of the rivers and upon the mountains of waters*". In its historical fulfilment, this referred to the Alpine regions of southern Europe, where many of the rivers and fountains of Europe have their origin. While Attila and his *Huns* waged war against the Roman Empire over a 20 year period (433AD - 453AD) the most gruesome and devastating of his atrocities would soon come to this alpine region - at the hands of this vengeful barbarian - in the aftermath of his first defeat.

Attila's forces had swept all before them until a pivotal battle on the eastern frontiers of France where Roman and Gothic allied forces stopped Attila's rampaging hordes. It was the *Battle of Chalons* where an estimated 165,000 to 250,000 were slain in one day. In the wake of this stunning and unexpected defeat, Attila deemed the cost too high and ordered a measured retreat of his armies. Yet this defeat didn't stop Attila, it merely redirected him to other areas.

Could there be a predictive parallel here with Russia's faltering war in Ukraine? Having been frustrated and thwarted by Ukraine and the support of its western allies - and suffering unacceptably high casualties - Putin has likewise been forced into a measured retreat, yielding up many territorial gains including Kherson and areas of the Eastern Donbass. As a result of these losses, it's widely reported Vladimir Putin has set about recalibrating his armed forces, bolstering his military personnel through conscription (some reports by over 30%), ramping up production and priming his more advanced weapons systems in preparation for a massive military offensive against Ukraine (and perhaps even beyond).

*Will Roman history be a portent to an 'unforeseen development' coming in the near future?*

Just one year later - after his defeat at *Chalons* - Attila avenged himself with a devastating attack on Northern Italy, as he descended with his enormous army. The emperor Valentinian and his Roman troops were powerless before the onslaught of Attila's forces. As these vicious barbarians overwhelmed Italy, one historian recorded "*all was flight, de-population, slaughter, slavery and despair*" such was the savagery, misery and hopelessness the Huns brought. Ultimately, the city of Rome itself was only saved by the intervention of Pope Leo I who visited Attila and famously subdued the king's ferocity. Could a similar scenario be coming to this region of the '*rivers and fountains*' of Europe?

In 2023, while currently opposed to Russia's barbaric war against Ukraine, we know at the '*time of the end*' the nations of Europe ('*the Beast*') will largely be brought under the sway of the Russian Gog. More accurately, they will be '*allied with him*' and an integral part of his confederacy. Whether this seismic shift in Europe's geopolitical orientation happens through '*choice*' or by '*Russian force*' we're not clearly told. But maybe history provides a clue.

Like Europe, the Vatican has also decried and condemned Russia's atrocities in Ukraine. Yet we know '*at the end*' there will also be an unholy alliance between the Russian Autocrat and the Papacy. The role of the Catholic Pope as the False Prophet will be instrumental in Gog's aggregation of '*global power*' in the latter-days. Therefore in the near term, if we are to see a sudden act of Russian aggression against European states (as the acts of Attila would indicate)

then an intervention by the Pontiff ( *just like Pope Leo I* ) to mediate and placate the Russian Gog and his rampaging armies may well save these EU nations from further Russian ravages ; deliver to Putin a Catholic Europe sympathetic to his cause and elevate the Papacy into a true geopolitical force within the orbit of the emerging Gogian confederacy.

Like so many other examples in bible prophecy , the '*pattern of history*' continually proves to be a reliable guide for the unfolding of God's purposes upon the earth and among the kingdoms of men. We await to see . . . if it will yet again.

v11 *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 made **bitter**.*

For many years ( the world over ) this verse has been the subject of endless speculation and conjecture. The mystery of the star whose name is '**Wormwood**'. What is it ? Is it a toxic or chemical contamination ? Is it man-made ? Or is it a divine curse ? An extra-terrestrial asteroid, maybe ? A brief search on the internet will render an infinite number of theories and possibilities , many of which are entirely fictional , outlandish and devoid of any substantive evidence.

The term **Wormwood** comes from the Greek word '*apsinthos*' which has the meaning of '*bitterness*'. This name was derived from a plant in the river region of Illyria where Attila originated from. The plant itself ( '*Artemisia absinthium*' ) is also widely known in this region as *riverside wormwood* or *wild wormwood* ( '*Artemisia vulgaris*' lit. 'black herb' ) In its 'historical' context, this meaning of '*bitterness*' has often been used to characterise the terrible misery Attila and his barbarian hordes brought upon the people ( '*waters*' ) of the third part of the Roman Empire. These horrific atrocities and shocking destruction committed by Attila were a dark shadow of events still yet to come *in the last days*.

So in its 'end-times' context what does the name of this star '**Wormwood**' ( or '*bitterness*' ) speak to ? In asking this, it is critical to recall the overarching structure of all the first six trumpets which foretell the latter-day exploits of the Russian Gog. Having already established this '*star*' is a symbol denoting a great '*prince / ruler*', it's entirely logical the name bestowed on this star must also be descriptive of ( or connected with ) this emerging global tyrant, Vladimir Putin. As with the imagery of the "*great star falling from heaven . . burning as a lamp*" which revealed the '*dual aspects*' of both the man and the means, this symbol of '**Wormwood**' in the very same manner also provides two insights into this giant figure of end-time prophecy, revealing both the man and the effect he will have upon peoples and nations.

To the individual : - '**Bitterness**' is the very essence of Vladimir Putin. It describes the man and also the relentless force that drives him. Vladimir Putin once stated "*the greatest disaster of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was the collapse of the Soviet Union*" ( USSR ) which officially ceased to exist as a geopolitical union on the 31st December 1991. Significantly - exactly eight years later - on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999 and at 12:00 midnight ( *just as the clock moved to a new millenium* ) the former Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced Putin would be his '*chosen*' successor. Having appeared suddenly out of total obscurity ( '*like a meteor*' ) and since taking power, it has been Putin's burning determination and mission to rebuild the former Soviet Empire and restore its greatness and global power.

Beyond his deep personal sense of '*bitterness*' at the loss of the Soviet Empire , Putin also carries an intense resentment toward the Western nations who he believes were largely responsible for the collapse of the former Soviet Union. Being so aggrieved and embittered against the West has been the hallmark of Vladimir Putin throughout his 23 years in power and led to him being the representative leader of an '*anti-Western*' axis of powers ( *China / Iran / North Korea / Syria / Cuba / Venezuela* ) who have worked jointly and severally to subvert the strength of the West through their communist/socialist ideologies and other maligned activities.

Now as the West seeks to use Russia's war in Ukraine as a cudgell against Putin ( to '*push*' for regime change in Russia ) the president's resolve and sense of retribution is amplified to the point where he's openly and repeatedly threatened to unleash '*nuclear war*' upon the Western world. We see in both his character and in all his ways, Vladimir Putin is the living embodiment of '*bitterness*' ( *wormwood* ) leading us to '*the effect*' this man will soon have upon multitudes.



The image is a screenshot of a news article from 'The Mirror'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories: NEWS, POLITICS, FOOTBALL, CELEBS, TV, MONEY, ROYALS. The main headline reads: 'Bitter Vladimir Putin 'may strike Ukraine with nukes after crushing battlefield losses'. Below the headline, there is a sub-headline: 'NATO's former deputy secretary general Rose Gottemoeller hailed Ukraine's territorial gains while warning their crushing counteroffensive could trigger Vladimir Putin's nuclear vengeance'. The article is by Ryan Fahey, World News Reporter, and was updated on 10:19, 14 Sep 2022. There are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Telegram, along with a 'COMMENTS' button. A red arrow points to the author's name.

To **the effect** : - What could this 'effect' be , that renders this area of the rivers and fountains of waters of Europe as 'bitterness' such that many men will die of these waters? In verse 10, John states this star "**fell ... from heaven**" and also , it "**fell ... upon the third part of the rivers and fountains of waters**". If these prophetic details are accurate , the *double emphasis* on '**falling**' reveals this lethal blight of 'bitterness' originates from the skies above.

So what is this mysterious 'deadly effect' . . . which we're told is caused by a blazing star ( named 'Wormwood ' ) and will come from above ? The answer ( *verified by both etymology and recent history* ) is astonishing and troubling .

The word '**Wormwood**' together with a terrible event almost 40 years ago offer vital clues to this coming fulfilment.

In a strange but ominous twist , the Ukrainian translation for '**Wormwood**' ( *Artemisia vulgaris* ) is '**Chernobyl**' [ Ukrainian : чорно́биль , Romanized : *chernobyl* , lit. 'black herb' ]. It is exactly the same name as the city of Chernobyl and more acutely , the nearby ( Chernobyl ) Nuclear Power Plant , the site of the worst ever disaster in the history of nuclear power generation. In 1986 this dreadful incident in the former Soviet satellite state of Ukraine created a world-wide panic as a catastrophic meltdown of one of its reactors released a toxic cloud of nuclear radiation into the atmosphere. With uncertain weather patterns , this nuclear fallout threatened the entire European continent with an ecological and humanitarian catastrophe. Almost four decades after it happened , not only did this nightmarish event scar the region ( leaving large areas uninhabitable for generations ) but it has also remained hauntingly seared into the consciousness of the world. To this day there stands a '**Wormwood Star Memorial**' ( *above* ) enshrined in the town centre of Chernobyl which actually depicts '*an angel blowing a trumpet*' recalling this very bible prophecy.



Could all these remarkable parallels simply be co-incidences - OR - were the parallel names and circumstances of this apocalyptic event a prophetic insight ( and a dire warning ) to the true nature of this scourge ( 'Wormwood' ) soon to fall upon "**the third part of the rivers and fountains of waters**" of southern Europe ? The very same area terrorised by Vladimir Putin's barbarian predecessor '*Attila the Hun*'. History again is a predicate to future events.

NOW 37 YEARS LATER . . . it is no co-incidence this same region of Ukraine not only represents the very focal point of Vladimir Putin's brutal expansionist aggression but also the reason behind his continued threats to attack the West with nuclear weapons. The current war in Ukraine will be the '*starting point*' for Putin's coming global '*reign of terror*' .

When the time comes that Vladimir Putin does deploy his destructive "**rods of wickedness**" ( as he inevitably will ) these doomsday devices will unleash plumes of deadly nuclear radiation upon many peoples and nations. This effect is the true calamity of "**bitterness**" signified in the *third trumpet* that will soon bring death and suffering to '*the waters*' .

The *great star burning* was an apt symbol of both Attila and Putin. Meteors blazing across *the world* , burning intensely for a short while until their purpose is fulfilled. Their extinction comes suddenly and they flame out without a trace. As we ponder the end-times fulfilment of the *third trumpet* and this mysterious vision described by the apostle John , the symbol of 'wormwood' ( *bitterness* ) is the essential key to understanding the maligned future intentions of Vladimir Putin to inflict upon the nations the "**king of terrors**" in his brutal and lawless quest for world domination. It is therefore not at all surprising to find his full name ( from birth ) - Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin - is a revealing 'double confirmation' of the prophetic destiny of this coming global potentate . . . Vladimir means '*ruler of the world*' .

In Daniel's vision of the image empire , the final king who presides over the great and dreadful *fourth beast* of the last days will exceed all his predecessors in power and terror , and devour and tread down '*the whole earth*' . In the same manner that all the kings of Daniel's image were each a unique foreshadowing of that fierce king to come , so likewise many other mighty and powerful kings down through history were also '*types*' of the coming Gog ( ie. Antiochus Epiphanes, Napoleon, Alaric, Genseric . . and Attila ). All provide critical insights into the coming "**sword of the LORD**" and his terrible exploits during the first six '*trumpet judgments*' of Revelation , soon to be executed upon the nations.

Having followed the first three trumpet prophecies , we find chronicled the areas impacted by Vladimir Putin so far :

- 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet - Hail , Fire mingled with Blood --> ( Global conflict between the East & the West )
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet - Great Mountain burning with fire cast into sea --> ( China destroyed by Russian Gog )
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Trumpet - Burning Star falls upon rivers and fountains of waters --> ( Alpine Southern Europe ravaged by Gog )

Chernobyl ( ' *Wormwood* ' ) was a grim preview of the disaster to befall ' *the nations* ' in the latter days. It reveals the true nature of the plague soon to be rained upon them from ' *out of the heavens* ' by that " *great star* " ( *prince / ruler* ) who - just like Attila's ravaging of the Western Roman Empire ( *the then-known ' world '* ) - so also Vladimir Putin as the ' *divinely - appointed punisher* ' will prosecute God's righteous judgments as he threshes the nations ( ' *the world* ' ).

It is a dark and terrifying outlook for mankind. Yet by contrast, for the ' *faithful believers* ' in Christ there is great hope and encouragement. In His mercy, the Father has for the longest time - through His Word - forewarned His servants of these exact events to come in the last days. Furthermore, He has made provision for the preservation and ultimate deliverance of all His saints from out of this unprecedented time of trouble. It's ' *a blueprint* ' dating back to ancient times. It is ' **THE PASSOVER** '. It's why *the Passover* remains the most important of all the old testament observances and is still memorialised to this day. It is a preview of God's promise of deliverance out of the final ' *great tribulation* '.

❖ [THE DESTROYING ANGEL & THE COMING END-TIMES PASSOVER](#) -- *An ancient deliverance . . . soon to be fulfilled again* ( [Click Link](#) )

In the coming days , as we witness the nations plunge into unimaginable chaos and even nuclear destruction at the hands of this brutal end-times tyrant , may we each hold steadfastly to our faith . . . and trust in our God. We know *He* is faithful to His promises and will send His son at the appointed time [ Matt 24:29-31 / Daniel 12:1-2 ] to intervene and save all those that love and fear His name. Until that time , let us remain resolute and clear-eyed to the trials of faith that lay ahead ( detailed in *the Seven Trumpets* ) and patiently await the glorious appearing of our Lord from heaven.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES** ( ' [CLICK](#) ' on Blue Links )

### **' BIBLE EVIDENCE ONLY !! ' DOCUMENTS**

- [TIME OF TROUBLE - or - CHRIST'S RETURN \( Which comes first ? \)](#)
- [SAINTS ENDURE ' THE FINAL TRIBULATION '](#)
- [DIVINE JUDGMENT . . . THRO' MAN'S ' WICKED DEVICES '](#)
- [THE COMING ' END-TIMES ' PASSOVER](#)

### **FURTHER READING ( STRONGLY RECOMMENDED )**

1. [THE FINAL VISION . . . Where there is NO VISION the people perish](#)
2. [EXPECTING THE LORD'S RETURN . . . Why we are still here in 2023](#)
3. [THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE . . . Can we know " the day & hour " ??](#)
4. [THE LAST TRUMP . . . The Bible Truth about ' Our Calling Away '](#)
5. [THE SIGN OF OLIVET . . . Harbinger of ' judgment ' coming in 2023](#)
6. [THE TIME OF TROUBLE . . . We Are Here Until The End](#)
7. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST . . . The Need For Bible Truth](#)
8. [THE END OF THE WORLD . . . Parable Of The Wheat & Tares](#)
9. [REVELATION 12 \( Pt.1 \) . . . The Great Red Dragon](#)
10. [REVELATION 12 \( Pt.2 \) . . . The Dragon](#)
11. [THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD . . . Cometh](#)
12. [CLIMATE CHANGE . . . The ' Apocalyptic ' Bible Truth](#)
13. [THE DESTROYING ANGEL . . . & The Coming ' End-Times ' Passover](#)
14. [THE COMING JUDGMENTS OF FIRE . . . ' Pre-cursor ' to Armageddon](#)
15. [THE GREAT NOISE . . . Soon To Consume Both Heaven & Earth](#)
16. [THE BUYER & THE SELLER . . . The Rod of Wickedness revealed](#)
17. [THE 2020 PROPHECY . . . \( Job 20 \) A Warning For The Last Days](#)
18. [GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR . . . & The ' End-Times ' Passover](#)