

## THE SECOND TRUMPET : The 'Great Mountain' burning with fire

v8 *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 ;*

v9 *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.*

**HISTORICAL FULFILMENT :** *The 'second trumpet' foretold the exploits of Genseric & the Vandals against the Roman Empire , including his capture of the former great trading centre Carthage , the Empire's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city.*

The 'end-times' sounding of the second trumpet is a broad parallel to its fulfilment in the Roman era. At their centre , both events have "**a great mountain burning with fire**". In the first outworking involving Genseric and his Vandals we find among his greatest victories against the Roman Empire was his conquest of the ancient trading city of Carthage.

In times past , this great city Carthage ( *like its Phoenician predecessors* ) had been among the most important trading hubs of the Mediterranean region, famed for its precious metals ( gold, silver, tin, copper, lead, iron ), embroidered textiles ( incl. fine carpets and cushions ), animal skins, wool, amber, ivory, and incense. Even slaves were another valuable commodity that came and went through its ports. Carthage also had a powerful naval fleet, enabling it to maintain a stranglehold over many shipping routes, dealing ruthlessly with the trading ships of competing powers. Any foreign vessels ( or pirates ) found in waters deemed by Carthage to be in its jurisdiction were sunk. After centuries of dominating the western Mediterranean, Carthage's eventual demise and destruction came via the Romans in 146 BC.

Yet a century later , the city rose again and became an important trading and cultural centre *within* the Roman Empire until 439 AD , when on 19<sup>th</sup> October without any declaration of war , Genseric suddenly attacked Carthage and took it. The Romans were caught unaware by the Vandal forces , who captured a large part of the western Roman navy docked in the port of Carthage. Genseric had struck a devastating blow upon the Roman imperial power. The ensuing occupation of this great city - the third among the cities of the Roman Empire - would last for 94 years. Many a historian believe '*the fall of Carthage*' ominously presaged Rome's sacking later ( *by Genseric* ) and its ultimate collapse.

*So how do these events - both in Roman times and the latter days - relate to a "great mountain" burning with fire ?*

### A GREAT MOUNTAIN

Throughout scripture the word '*mountain*' is typically used to describe '*literal*' mountains. On many occasions these are allusions to the mountain of the LORD, Mount Zion. While not so common , there are a few instances where "*mountain*" is also used as a 'symbolic metaphor'. What is remarkable , is that in each of these four most notable instances ( Jer 51:25 / Dan 2:35 / Zec 4:7 / Rev 8:8 ) these mountains are characterised in almost identical terms.

In all these prophetic allusions to a figurative "*mountain*" , we find they speak of '**great , destroying kingdoms**' which not only include hostile , tyrannical powers . . . but also righteous , beneficent powers. Consider the passages :

- In Jeremiah 51:25 - the prophet declares God's judgment upon the evil , oppressing power of his day , the great Assyrian ruling city of Babylon , which he describes as "**O destroying mountain , which destroyest all the earth**"
- In Zechariah 4:7 - once again in another pronouncement of divine wrath ( *upon the hostile power that stood in the way of the building of the temple* ) the ancient prophet asks and declares : "**Who art thou , O great mountain ? . . . before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain**". While the identity of this nameless force of opposition is not revealed in the text , it is generally accepted that this is a reference to the adversarial forces arising from Babylon.
- In Daniel 2:35 - we find the wondrous allusion to "**the stone that smote the image . . . became a great mountain**" which will "**fill the whole earth**". This grand vision speaks of the great and glorified multitude ( *in Christ* ) who as a righteous '**destroying power**' will not only replace the *kingdoms of men* , but also inhabit the earth for eternity.
- Finally in Revelation 8:8 we find as it were "**a great mountain . . . burning with fire was cast into the sea**". While '*the second trumpet*' certainly did foretell events during the Roman Empire ( *the 'then-known' world* ) it was also '*a shadow*' of events to come in the last days. Just as the ancient *Egyptian* and *Assyrian empires* were used as prophetic emblems to portray '*the world*' in the last days , so too the Roman Empire ( throughout the sounding of *the seven trumpets* ) is likewise used as a prefigurement for '*the world*' in the latter days.

In all the metaphorical references above but especially Daniel's vision of "*the stone that became a great mountain*" we know for a certainty '*a mountain*' is a symbol representative of '*a great populous*' or '*multitude of people*', whether a nation, a city or a race of people etc.



The fall of the mighty city of Carthage was the "*great mountain burning*" in Roman times. Not only was it a partial collapse of the empire, it was also a foreboding precursor to the ultimate overthrow and demise of 'Imperial Rome' of the day. Therefore, having established the identity of the '*great mountain*' during the era of the Roman Empire (ie. *the great trading metropolis Carthage*) we look to the parallel '*end-times fulfilment*' of the second trumpet to ascertain 'WHO' or 'WHAT' this same '*great mountain*' is, soon to be destroyed in our time.

With any '*latter-day prophecy*' the interpretation should be able to be validated through at least 3 elements :

- 1) A Likeness or Similitude - to the subject of the prophecy in its primary ( or historical ) fulfilments
- 2) Characteristics or Attributes - that reflect ( or fit ) the ' pictorial imagery ' of the prophecy
- 3) Corroborating bible evidence - ie. ' consistency ' with other prophetic passages and revelations

So knowing ' Carthage ' was intended to be a '*prefigurement*' of world events in the last days, to determine the true identity of this '*great mountain burning*' we must look for parallel attributes, characteristics and circumstances. We look for a people or nation ( *like Carthage* ) who had '*formerly*' been a great trading empire and who would rise again to be the pre-eminent global trading power. A '*great, populous nation*' that is a '*destroying power*', but itself being the '*great mountain burning*' will be spectacularly destroyed through some apocalyptic event ( as revealed in verse 8. )

**In the 21<sup>st</sup> century . . . the nation of ' CHINA ' is that power.**

### 1) ' LIKENESS ' OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> TRUMPET

*Just like Carthage* . . . China was a great trading empire. For thousands of years through its famed *Silk Road* routes, China had been a trading and mercantile giant, the exotic and unsurpassed 'market place' of the Oriental Far East. Then after centuries of decline and impoverishment, China in the last 50 years has risen yet again ( *just like Carthage* ) to be the unrivalled world leader in manufacturing and international trade. In its ruthless quest for world dominion, China through its global *Belt and Road Initiative* ( B.R.I ) has not only been extending its economic and political influence world-wide, but also through its aggressive '*wolf-warrior*' diplomacy is subjugating the national sovereignty of many weaker nations and exploiting their natural resources. Similarly as a '*destroying power*' China in recent years has also waged a hostile and subversive warfare - both economic and cultural - against Western democracies by infiltrating the West's most powerful institutions and industries ( politics, education / universities, science / technology / finance ) through various means and programs such as espionage and spying; the '*Elite Capture*' doctrine; COVID-19 pandemic; fostering '*Climate Change*' alarmism; social media (*Tik-Tok*) and even large scale activities in the illicit drug trade (*Fentanyl*) all aimed at weakening and ultimately destroying the West's economic, cultural and military strength.

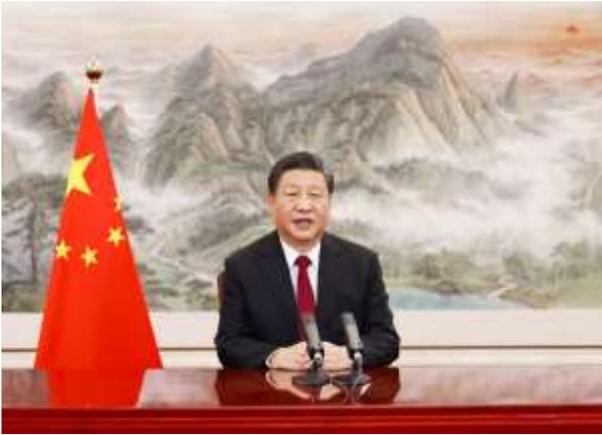
*Just like Carthage* . . . ( *who in its day was revered for its economic and naval prowess* ) China, now as the world's largest trading nation commands enormous global power and influence in international economics and trade, as well as transport, logistics and shipping ( ie. monolithic corporate giants like China's Cosco ). In the same manner ancient Carthage ruthlessly enforced its will upon many of the sea-going trade routes, so too in recent times China has become a global pariah, aggressively seeking to monopolise vast international shipping corridors through aggressive political and economic coercion; military intimidation and enforcement, and even in some instances provocatively building new islands ( as military installations ) in disputed territorial waters for the purpose of projecting its power.

*Just like Carthage* . . . ( whose ancestral origins can be traced back to the ancient Phoenicians of Tyre / Lebanon ) China is also a race of people which numerous scholars suggest ( from bible exegesis ) are far removed or distanced from its ancient origins the Sin/Sinai region ( Sinim ) further underpinning the likeness and similitude to its predecessor.

So on a multitude of levels, there is overwhelming evidence suggesting Carthage was indeed a prefigurement of China.

## 2) IMAGERY OF THE 2<sup>nd</sup> TRUMPET

A key feature of the *second trumpet* is the graphic imagery of a “*great mountain*” being cast into the sea. Having already established that ‘*a mountain*’ is a biblical symbol often used to represent a large multitude or nation of people, China with the largest national population on earth ( 1.4 Billion people ) is most definitely a latter-day manifestation of a “*great mountain*” ( . . . if ever there was one ).



More than any other nation, China is famous for its ‘*mountains*’. In its geography, about two-thirds of the county is mountainous, with the world’s tallest mountains, the Karakorum, Pamirs and Tian Shan dividing China from South and Central Asia. In fact, eleven of the seventeen tallest mountain peaks on earth are located on China’s western borders. Even China’s other major geographic feature - its two major rivers which flow through central China ( *Yellow River* to the north and *Yangtze River* to the south ) owe their very source and existence to China’s mountains. These major rivers have for millenia been China’s principal source of fresh water, food, fertile soil and transportation and thereby have formed the lifeblood of Chinese society.

Beyond this, China’s ‘*mountains*’ also constitute a central part of the nation’s historical, cultural and even religious values, and are deeply ingrained within Chinese life, folk-lore, art and the psyche of its people. It is profoundly clear, just as the ‘*great red dragon*’ is synonymous with the Chinese identity and culture, so too are its mountains and rivers.

Once again - on a multitude of levels - when we examine the ‘*imagery*’ of the prophecy there could not be a more ‘*fitting*’ symbol for China than a “*great mountain*”, as depicted by the LORD in the sounding of the *second trumpet*.

---

When we look at both prophetic outworkings of the sounding of the *second trumpet* ( ie. ‘*Carthage*’ in Roman times and ‘*China*’ in the last days ) we find unsurprisingly and irrespective of the epoch, the mercantile activities of both these trading behemoths was ‘*heavily maritime*’. Due to the nature and scale of their commerce, transporting and transacting their produce to distant far away markets ‘*by sea*’ was not only essential, but also necessitated a formidable naval capacity, which both Carthage and China developed. Understanding this common and consistent backdrop to both trading empires, it *explains in the clearest terms* why the remaining words in the *second trumpet* ( vs. 8 - 9 ) seem to be ‘*overwhelmingly*’ focused on a series of terrible events that ( will ) happen upon “*the sea*”.

v8 *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 ;*

v9 *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.*

It is a harrowing account revealing death and destruction on an immense scale. In the context of the heavy maritime and naval activities of both Carthage and China, such a setting makes ‘*perfect sense*’ and is an apt visual depiction of the world’s largest and most formidable navy being destroyed ‘*upon the waters*’. It’s also an entirely plausible sequel to the preceding end-time judgment ( *First Trumpet* ) which foretold the outbreak of the next great world conflict that will be fought with man’s wicked devices. These apocalyptic events described as “*hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth : and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up*” (v.7)

As this “*great mountain*” ( ie. *latter-day China* ) is figuratively cast into the sea, the result is truly catastrophic with ‘*a third part*’ of the ships destroyed . . . ‘*a third part*’ of the creatures ( *living beings* ) being killed . . . and ( as a result ) ‘*a third part*’ of the sea becoming blood. What must be remembered though, is this graphic picture is a *metaphor* for the fall of the trading power ( Carthage/China ) . . . and ultimately a precursor to the demise of the ‘*whole empire*’ ( ie. *the world* ). It’s a dreadful visual image on a scale hard to imagine. In scripture the phrase “*a third part*” not only provides a measure of proportionality to events, it is also consistently linked to the ‘*finality*’ of *divine* judgment. Yet we find this *divine* judgment where ‘*the waters turn into blood*’ is neither unique, nor without a biblical precedent.

If we return again to the old testament account of the Ten Plagues, we find the 1<sup>st</sup> plague ( Exodus 7 ) not only provides a remarkable parallel account where “*the waters . . . were turned into blood*” ( vs. 17,19, 20-21 ) but it also offers ‘*profound clues*’ to both the ‘*true nature*’ of this terrible disaster soon to befall China and also ‘*the identity*’ responsible for the destruction of this “*great mountain*”. It’s a stark prophetic revelation widely unforeseen until now.

So . . . WHAT happens to the “*Great Mountain*” . . . and WHO or WHAT is responsible for China’s fearful demise ?

As we consider the record of Exodus chapter 7 , wherein Moses at the LORD’s instruction orchestrated the first of several mighty plagues against Pharaoh and the Egyptians , we find one ‘symbol’ is prominently featured throughout this account. No less than 9 times the word “*rod*” [ H4294 ‘*matteh*’ ] is mentioned , referring to Moses’ staff. In scripture, this “*rod*” is highly significant, usually representing ‘a sceptre’ ( ie. ‘*rulership, authority and power*’ ). More pointedly, it is also an instrument of ‘correction’ or ‘punishment’. In this passage of Exodus the “*rod*” is the very focal point of these events. In fact , throughout the course of the Ten Plagues ( *and Israel’s wider deliverance* ) it is incontestably the pivotal object the LORD repeatedly employs ( through Moses ) to initiate His righteous judgments upon Egypt ( ie. ‘*world*’ ). Prophetically though , this “*rod*” is an ‘*illustrative depiction*’ that points forward to the evil instruments to be used in the final ‘*judgments of fire*’ brought upon the kingdoms of men ( *world* ) in the last days.

In fact , the prophet Isaiah defined the two key elements God will use to punish the nations in the last days ( Ch. 66:16 )

“*For by FIRE and by HIS SWORD will the LORD plead with ‘all flesh’ : and the slain of the LORD shall be many*”

So then 1) WHAT are these elements ?? . . . and 2) FROM WHERE will they come ??

1) They are man’s ‘*weapons of war*’. Most prominent among these are his ‘*missiles*’. These destructive ‘*rod-like*’ weapons will be the ‘*FIRE*’ of God’s judgment sent upon all the nations. Foreseen by the Father from the times of antiquity, these modern weapons are variously described in His Word as “*wicked devices*”, “*mischievous devices*”, “*instruments of death*” and “( *wicked* ) *imaginings*” and commonly depicted by their ancient archetypes, namely :  
‘*bright swords* / ‘*glittering spears*’ / *arrows* / *bows of steel*’ / ‘*iron weapons*’ / ‘*flying rolls*’ / *ROD of wickedness*’

❖ THE SIGN OF THE BUYER & THE SELLER -- REVEALED : The ‘*bible truth*’ concerning the end-times ‘*RODS of wickedness*’ ( [Click Link](#) )

2) The principle source who will unleash these evil ‘*rod-like*’ devices is also revealed in God’s Word. Consistently throughout scripture the LORD states He will judge the nations by “*His sword*”. We know this is NOT a literal ‘*sword*’. Rather, it’s a figurative statement. A prophetic ‘*metaphor*’ foreshadowing the end-times “*destroyer of the Gentiles*”. It will be through the agency of the Russian Autocrat that the LORD’s judgments ( *of fire* ) will be executed upon the kingdoms of men. It is the same pattern of divine operation utilised by the Father for millennia. Just as He has in prior epochs used hostile foreign powers ( ie. *Assyrian-Babylonians* / *Persians* / *Greeks* / *Romans* / *Nazis* etc. ) and their armies to punish Israel and the wider nations , so it will be in the last days as the marauding power of Gog and his confederate allies execute God’s judgments upon all the wicked and ungodly. ‘*Gog*’ will be “*the sword*” of the LORD.  
[ See also : Isaiah 34:5-6 , 41:2 , 66:16 / Jeremiah 12:12 , 47:6 / Ezek 21:4-5 , 9-17 / Deut 32:25, 42 / Psalm 7:12 / Zeph 2 :12 ]

It is therefore no co-incidence that Russia is not only the possessor of the world’s largest arsenal of nuclear missiles<sup>1</sup>, but also in many areas, the most advanced. Along with its stockpiles of intercontinental ballistic missiles ( ICBM’s ), it has recently deployed into active service ‘*hypersonic*’ missiles ( *ultra manoeuvrable and travel 20 times speed of sound* ). Similarly, since 2015 it has been developing a ‘*nuclear torpedo*’ designed to generate a tsunami wave up to 500m tall and purposed to contaminate a wide area of enemy coastline with cobalt-60 radiation. Russia also boasts both the most powerful ‘*nuclear*’ and ‘*non-nuclear*’ ( *thermobaric* ) devices ever detonated. The use of these fearsome weapons of mass destruction ( whether nuclear , chemical or biological warheads ) are a central pillar of Russia’s military doctrine and represent Vladimir Putin’s ‘*signature weapon*’ of choice. These “*wicked devices*” will be the catastrophic element that will bring the fulfilment of apocalyptic prophecies such as Isaiah 24 :6 , 2 Peter 3 :10-12 and Malachi 4 :1

[ <sup>1</sup> The exact number of nuclear warheads is a ‘*state secret*’ and is therefore a matter of guesswork. As of 2022 , the *Federation of American Scientists* estimates that Russia possesses 5,977 nuclear weapons -- Wikipedia ]

So how does the latter-day “*sword of the LORD*” ( *Russian Gog* ) and his wicked ‘*rod-like*’ devices relate to this mysterious , horrifying calamity that is to befall the great populous nation of China in the last days ? As noted in our introduction to these articles, the sounding of the seven trumpets, foretell a series of end-time ‘*divine judgments*’ upon the nations. The first six trumpets speak to the LORD’s judgments enacted through ‘*His sword*’ the Russian Gog. They are a sequenced preview of the global atrocities Vladimir Putin will yet commit. The seventh and final trumpet is the final, inevitable unsheathing of ‘*divine power*’ to be executed ‘*personally*’ by the Lord Jesus Christ and his angels.

As this trumpet is only ‘*the second*’ of the seven judgments, we can conclude with full confidence, the dreadful scene depicted here ( ie. “*great mountain . . burning with fire*” and being “*cast into the sea*” resulting in “the third part of the sea became blood” ) is the direct result of the actions of the Russian Gog. This means that despite the avowed “*no limits partnership*” declared by Russia and China at the beginning of 2022 and the mutually-beneficial alliance they share , China will ultimately be ‘*blind-sided*’ by Russia in the most catastrophic way imaginable - a full-scale military attack. Just as Carthage ( its ancient predecessor ) was attacked without warning or any declaration of war by the barbarian Genseric and his Visigoths , so China will likewise fall victim to the same form of treachery and deceit.

While this is a shocking and unforeseen development , it is not altogether illogical. Presently Russia and China are allied together and parties to a ‘ three-way ’ battle for global supremacy with a rapidly declining United States. Once America’s demise is complete ( ie. *First Trumpet* ), Russia and China - each of whom have their own designs on world dominion - immediately become ‘ rivals ’. Both Putin and Xi are brutal totalitarian dictators with unbridled ambition. Neither will cease until they achieve their goal. Victory will go to the most calculating and the most ruthless. The end has already been written. The Bible says it will be Vladimir Putin who prevails , together with his ‘ *rods of wickedness* ’.

In 2023 , as we witness the crumbling of the Western nations ( US, UK, EU, Aus, Can, NZ etc.) economically , politically and militarily before these two rising powers of the east , it is only a matter of time before we will witness the final epic battle for global supremacy between Russia and China , so graphically depicted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet of Revelation 8.

Finally , we consider the :

### 3) CORROBORATING BIBLE EVIDENCE

While China’s role in ‘ *end-time* ’ bible prophecy and world events has remained unheralded until now , it is utterly inconceivable the rise of this ‘ global superpower ’ was not fore-seen of the Father. Equally implausible is that China’s absence from the oracles of prophecy was an intentional omission or a divine oversight. The only logical explanation can be, it is among those final details of prophecy that Daniel told us would be “ *closed up* ” ( ie. ‘ *hidden, kept secret* ’ ) *and sealed till the time of the end* ” [ Dan 12:9 ]. Are there any other scriptures attesting to China’s place in prophecy ?

Beyond the extensive bible proofs provided in this article ( together with the real-world evidence - both historical and present day ) the details found in the record of the ‘ *Second Trumpet* ’ are entirely consistent with the manifestation of the **GREAT RED DRAGON** in Revelation 12:3-4. [ For more information : Please see the links below which provide comprehensive studies upon the prophetic details within this truly monumental 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Apocalypse. ]

- ❖ [THE GREAT RED DRAGON \[ Revelation 12 \]](#) -- *Revealed : The true end-time “ Seven Heads . Ten Horns , Seven Crowns ”* ( [Click Link](#) )
- ❖ [THE DRAGON \[ Revelation 12 \]](#) -- *Understanding the end-times transition from the ‘ Great Red Dragon ’ to ‘ the Dragon ’* ( [Click Link](#) )

The record of the ‘ *second trumpet* ’ simply provides a more detailed narrative concerning the sudden and violent demise of this latter-day power China - which itself is yet another manifestation of the ever-evolving ‘ *serpent-system* ’ of hostility that has ( and will continue to ) oppose the saints down through the ages. It’s also noted , that once an understanding of China’s unique role in the outworking of prophecy is appreciated , it then provides critical clues to a ‘ *true understanding* ’ of the order of events to unfold in the last days. For example : Why is China ( *Great Red Dragon* ) NEVER mentioned or alluded to in respect to the battle of Armageddon? There is a bible-based answer / explanation :

- ❖ [THE COMING JUDGMENTS OF FIRE](#) -- *The bible truth concerning the unheralded events ‘ preliminary to ’ Armageddon* ( [Click Link](#) )



The ‘ *Second Trumpet* ’ - like all seven trumpets - is incontestably an ‘ *end-time* ’ prophecy. It is an apocalyptic vision of total devastation , as this “ *great mountain* ” of the latter days ( *China* ) is consumed ‘ *by fire* ’ and cast into the sea. It’s a dark , troubling prophecy of this great and populous kingdom - a maritime trading nation ( after the manner of it’s ancient predecessor *Carthage* ) - together with all its naval and merchant vessels , being utterly destroyed with an immense loss of life at the hands of the Russian Gog. The *second trumpet* is a projection forward to the last days , describing just one of a series astonishing judgments of God , executed through “ *His sword* ” , Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

No doubt this new revelatory insight into the ‘ *Second Trumpet* ’ is a significant departure from the traditional interpretations of this prophecy. For this reason , we strongly recommend all readers ‘ *re-read* ’ this document ( together with our two articles on Revelation 12 - ‘ *The Great Red Dragon* ’ and ‘ *The Dragon* ’ ) to fully evaluate all the evidence presented in these documents. We both welcome and invite rigorous scriptural testing of the matters in this paper and all our articles. If it can be shown to be inconsistent or astray from God’s Word , we’d like to know.

While some readers to this point may still be unconvinced of this new ‘ *end-times* ’ rendering of the *Seven Trumpets* , we’d suggest a full reading of the remaining 5 trumpet accounts ( in this series ) will provide further conclusive proof - and confirm beyond any doubt - the scriptural truthfulness of these matters , particularly with regard to the application of the first *six trumpets* to the exploits of the ‘ *latter-day* ’ Assyrian-Babylonian King , Vladimir Putin.

So then , we turn to the ‘ *Third Trumpet* ’ to understand the next stage of the Russian Gog’s future movements.