

In this lesson, we will study the arrival of the **Third Woe** of Bible prophecy and related events for the era. Recall from our prior studies that Islam and its works were defined by the first two *Woes*. By the *Triple Application of Prophecy Principle*, the Third Woe must also be a work of Islam. In order to decipher the hidden message, we must thoroughly analyze Biblical symbols upon several topics. Let us begin!

**Locusts:** We have seen in prior lessons that the Bible used swarms of destroying locusts to symbolize the power and works of Islam. The first Biblical account of locusts, in Egypt, destroyed its crops and its economic strength. Later in the Revelation, we saw locusts ascend from the *Bottomless Pit* that darkened the sun and sky, and covered the earth. The prophet Joel lastly described four type of destroying locusts, the record of whose destruction was to be repeated to **four generations** until God would restore the land (Genesis 15:13-16; Joel 1:1-4; 2:2-11, 25; Exodus 20:5, 6; 34:7).

**Children of the East:** The descendants of Abraham, born to Ishmael, son of Hagar the Egyptian, and Keturah, Abraham's second wife, are called the *Children of the East*. Prior to his death, Abraham gave gifts to his sons born to Keturah and sent them east of Palestine, the *Promised Land*, reserved for the descendants of Isaac, the *son of promise* (Genesis 25:1-6, 12-18; Jer 49:28). The children of the east or *sons of the east* have at times been both a blessing and a scourge to the Children of Israel, descendants of Isaac. For example, Ishmaelite and Midianite merchants heading to Egypt were responsible for purchasing Joseph from his brothers who

purposed to kill him, thus saving his life (Genesis 37:23-28). However, Midianite and Amalekite armies covered the earth like grasshoppers as they lay in wait to battle against Israel during the time of Gideon (Judges 7:12-15). The Arabs, followers of Islam, claim Abraham as their ancestor by way of Kedar (Gen 25:13; Gal 4:22-31; Ezek 27:21; Psa 120:5, 6).

**The East Wind:** The east wind in Bible prophecy is shown to be that which brings destruction and the collapse of wealth to a nation (Psalm 48:7; 2 Chron 9:21; Hosea 13:15). We first encounter the east wind in the dream of Pharaoh of Egypt during the time of Joseph, where after seven years of prosperity, symbolized by a corn stalk bearing seven ears, "*rank and good*", seven years of harsh drought appeared, symbolized by seven thin ears of corn "*blasted by the east wind*" (Genesis 41:6, 23, 24). Later, we see that the east wind brings the plague of locusts to Egypt during the time of Moses (Exodus 10:13-15). The plague, which was like none other before or after its time, was so severe "*there remained not any green thing... through all the land of Egypt*". The east wind, as a carrier of the locusts, brings destruction, harm, and hardship in Bible prophecy.

**Rough Winds:** The Bible describes the destruction to befall the earth after the sealing of the people of God as four winds held by four mighty angels (Revelation 7:1-4). An inspired writer once wrote regarding the winds, "*Angels are holding the four winds, represented as an angry horse seeking to break loose and rush over the face of the whole earth, bearing destruction and death in its path.*" The winds represent the

perils upon the earth with the passage and enforcement of a global Sunday Law (see Daniel 3 and 6), a *Time of Trouble!*

**The Wild Arabian Ass:** The description given for Ishmael, the son of Abraham born of the Egyptian slave Hagar is as follows: "*he will be a wild man; his hand [will be] against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren*" Genesis 16:11, 12. The Bible states that Ishmael would be a wild, untamed man who would wage war against every man, and every man would wage war against him. The Bible also foretold a very intense rivalry between descendants of Ishmael and Isaac, the son of Abraham born to Sarah and the ancestor of the Jews (Genesis 21:1-13, Galatians 4:22-31). Ishmael and his descendants would be a nomadic people who kept to themselves, not engaging or mixing with other peoples. These characteristics, wild, passionate, nomadic, and avoiding outside influences are also biblical descriptions given for the herds of wild asses in the Arabian Desert. The book of Job describes the asses as follows: "*Who hath sent out the wild ass free? or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass? Whose house I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwellings. He scorneth the multitude of the city, neither regardeth he the crying of the driver. The range of the mountains [is] his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing*" Job 39:5-8 (See also Hosea 8:9). God claims authority over the wild ass as one of His creations, where He can restrain and loose it at His will. The nomadic descendants of Ishmael had a high appreciation for the wild ass because of

its keen sense of scent, where it can detect water miles away, as well as underground aquifers, something essential for a people living in arid lands. The animals were also caught and domesticated for use by the Arabs, who are some of the best equestrians in the world. The prophet Jeremiah, in speaking of the animal's habitat and swiftly volatile nature wrote, "*A wild ass used to the wilderness, [that] snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure...*" Jeremiah 2:24.

**The Rains (Early & Latter):** Life in Ancient Palestine was wholly dependent upon God's blessings of the annual rains to grow food. God, who daily provided manna for Ancient Israel while sojourning in the wilderness, counseled them not to forget their utter dependence upon Him once He brought them to a "*land flowing with milk and honey*" (Deut. 8). In seeking to perfect their faith and develop characters of patient obedience, God counseled His people to cherish His *Everlasting Covenant* and to ask for the rain, which He would provide according to their need and His abundant grace.

Jesus often used natural and agricultural imagery, speaking of seeds, rains, harvests, and laborers to characterize the Christian experience and the works in the *Plan of Redemption*. The prophet Isaiah showed that it was the rains that caused the plants to bud when he wrote, "*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater...*" Isaiah 55:10. The apostle James, in writing of the required life of patience for the Christian, compared it to the

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## Supplemental Study 15 [Based on Revelation 11:14, 18; Isaiah 27:8]



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farmer when he wrote, "*Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain*" James 5:7. The **early rains** cause the sown seed to root and bring forth the tender plant, while the **latter rains**, which occur shortly before harvest, bring the crops to full maturity. Comparing this natural cycle to the Christian experience, the Bible likens Jesus' promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon His people to the rains (John 14:16, 17; 16:7-14). The early rain, which fell upon the early Christian movement and empowered the church to blanket the world with the gospel of Christ, was seen in the experience of the apostles. Jesus, when gathered with His disciples after His crucifixion and resurrection, breathed on them and commanded them to receive the Holy Spirit (John 20:21, 22). Thus marked the arrival of the early rains, first given in measure (moderately), and would continue to fall upon the disciples until its full manifestation, without measure (Deut 32:2), at Pentecost fifty days after Christ's crucifixion. The spiritual signs and wonders shown through the "rain" of the Holy Spirit included the gifts of prophecy, unity, and tongues, the supernatural ability to communicate the gospel in the language of the listeners, therefore requiring no translation. In addition, were the gifts of healings, wisdom, and all spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ (Acts 1:12-2:47; Ephesians 1:3-14, 3:14-21). This initial work brought by the *Early Rains* will be matched and surpassed by the arrival of the *Latter Rains* near the close of time, first in measure, then

without measure, bringing God's people to full maturity; being made perfect and complete in Jesus (Eph 4:11-13). As Ancient Israel was to pray for the coming of the rains for literal survival, we too must pray for the rains, the early and the latter rains for our salvation (Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23). The prophet Zechariah counsels us to, "*Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; [so] the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain...*" Zechariah 10:1.

Piecing the prophetic symbols together, let us realize the warnings of rain and judgment to the *fourth-generation of God's remnant church* [AD1989+] (Heb 3:9, 10; Lk 21:28-32): "*And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers [and] streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.*" Isaiah 30:25, 26

The rivers and streams that will be upon every high mountain are the result of the rain, the *Latter Rain*, which arrives in the day of great slaughter, when the towers fall. The events of September 11, 2001 commenced the falling of the latter rain upon the people of God, first *in measure*. God brings an increase of knowledge (light) of His Word, the Old and New Testaments (sun and moon), in order to bring healing to the spiritual breach that has taken hold from the era of the empowered Church, Philadelphia, to the last Church, *Laodicea* (Psa 119:105; Isa 58:11, 12; Jer 6:16, 17).

*"Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens forever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks"* Isaiah 32:14

The Lord foretold perilous times with desolations upon the land and cities. One such desolation would result in the forts and towers falling and becoming a den, a joy of wild asses. The toppling of the twin towers in New York City, fortresses of the U.S. and global economy by rejoicing, radical Islam, left them as two hollow dens (holes in the earth).

*"In measure, when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it: he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind."*  
Isaiah 27:8

The coming of the latter rain in measure, causing the young plants to shoot forth and bud is coincident with the blowing of the *East Wind*, all while God restrains the *Rough Winds*. The East Wind, that by Islam brought destruction and economic calamity to the United States and the world, began to blow on September 11, 2001 (Zephaniah 1:14-18). Those called "*briers and thorns*," scoffers and skeptics within the *Laodicean Church*, debate with this conveyed message.

Islam, the *Third Woe*, playing the role of catalyst, has "*angered the nations*", causing them to seek to *restrain* it with a global war on terror (Revelation 11:18). As the *East Wind* continues to stir world outrage, and morality globally declines, world leaders will soon respond in issuing an *unrighteous decree*, a Sunday Law. This in turn will cause *the release of the Rough Winds, a global Time of Trouble!*

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