

**More Of His Strange Work
The Trumpet Judgements (continued)
Revelation 8:8 – 13**

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Last week we looked at the transition which took place in heaven as the 7th seal of the deed to planet earth was opened by the Lamb. The 7th seal marked a shift and now all of heaven has shifted to serving the Lord, who is moving, in judgement.

As we have also discussed before, I reject that Revelation is all symbolism, some exists, but not the whole book. Once you go down the road of symbolism and begin “guessing” what each thing means, that opens it up for very strange interpretations. This is a blow by blow chronology, history in advance, being given to us by John. He is doing his best to explain what he is seeing and uses imagery and metaphor he would be familiar with.

Now this is a book of revelation we are reading. And it is not sealed (22:10). Therefore we have just read an exact description of what will take place! (Newell 1935, 123)

Revelation 22:10

“And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.” (NASB95)

The interpreter of these and later judgments is constantly faced with the problems of how far to take the literal and the symbolic. The point of view here being expressed is that these judgments should be interpreted literally insofar as this can be reasonably followed. To make the mountain a form of human government, the sea the Roman Empire, and the ships that are destroyed the church or organized religion, is to read into the passage far more than is justified. (Walvoord 2008, 155)

As we continue in the book of Revelation, we need to remember the global impacts of everything else that has already taken place.

It is all building on each other.

- The great disappearance
- Financial upheaval
- Seals
 1. False peace
 2. Persecution, slaughter, worldwide war, systematic ritual execution of believers
 3. Selective famine impacting all but the rich
 4. World war with weapons of mass destruction killing ¼ of the world’s population

- The use of nuclear devices resulting in nuclear winter
 - Destruction of the ozone layer
 - Disruption of high-altitude radiation belts
 - Potential disruption of the axis of the earth
 - Pathogen outbreaks and disruption of food sources
5. Martyrs – how long?
 6. Earthquakes, tsunamis, worm hole with a view into heaven, fallen angels being cast down to earth or meteors, visible signs of dimensional portals and activity, everyone tries to hide from God, seal the evangelists, take a look at what is to come, all insurance companies bankrupt, ecology kaput.
 7. Silence, incense, prayer, shift from grace to judgement, a preview of coming events, trumpets.
 - Hail, fire. Blood with 1/3 of the earth burned up, 1/3 of the trees and the green grass, possibly supernatural in origin, coronal mass ejection, global war
 - Here we go

Revelation 8:8–9

“The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.” (NASB95)

Reminder: John is writing this in the 1st century AD, around 90 and he is using, just as we use, comparatives; ones that he and his readers would be familiar with. He is explaining what he sees and experiences in terms that are familiar to him, not so much for us though as we are not living in 90 AD and do not have the cultural or educational background of those in Asia Minor. As a result, we get to dig just a bit more to figure it all out.

Ref: Mountain

What was John thinking about? “Like a great mountain.” Some history.

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius took place in 79 AD. This was a well-known event and was only 12 or so years in the past for John. That eruption and the accompanying destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum was considered, by many Jews, to be God’s judgement on Rome for destroying Jerusalem and the Temple. The eruption also created the island of Procida. Mount Vesuvius though did not start in the sky and then get thrown into the sea. But the picture that would pass through John’s readers mind eye, would be that of Vesuvius. There is also the possibility some may consider fallen angels falling to earth. This event showed up in Enoch 18.

Enoch 18:13

“There I saw seven stars like great burning mountains about which I inquired.” (Lexham Press 2020, Enoch 18:13)

The context though here in Enoch is about fallen angels being held prisoner.

The judgement angle from Mount Vesuvius does has some possible traction. Titus Vespasian had just become Emperor of Rome. This is the same Titus Vespasian who had personally destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple then bringing over 50,000 Jewish slaves to Rome to build the Coliseum.

It was just two months into the reign of Emperor Titus when the events surrounding the eruption of Mount Vesuvius took place. Titus’ reign, although short at just over two years, was dogged by catastrophe; the eruption of Vesuvius was followed by a fire in Rome and an outbreak of plague, but during all of this his popularity increased. Finally and suddenly at the age of 41 he died, whether of natural causes or killed by his successor and brother Domitian we will never know. (Sloane 2013, 23)

The day Mount Vesuvius erupted, in Pompeii, it was just another day of life as normal. Based on archaeological discoveries, it was just a normal day. People were killed while doing everyday life. They had ignored all the signs taking place around them. There had been weeks of earthquakes and rumblings. There had been smoke coming from Mount Vesuvius, and they ignored it. When the eruption took place, it was as if they did not know it was coming. It was a huge surprise to them. Yes, it is indeed kind of like how the world will react the day after the rapture of the church. This was a volcanic eruption that one afternoon, changed everything for that portion of the Roman Empire.

Yes, I do think this would be something that John's readers in Asia Minor would remember as a "like," but this is not a massive eruption of a super volcano.

Mountain – Mountains are at times used in the scripture as a metaphor for a great organized governmental power. Is this about some government being destroyed suddenly? Maybe. But it is thrown into the sea (sea can also mean the chaos of nations) and a third of sea life and sea vessels are toast. That idea looks to be a bit of a stretch.

Babylon? Yes Babylon gets referred to in those terms.

Jeremiah 51:25

"Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, Who destroys the whole earth," declares the LORD, "And I will stretch out My hand against you, And roll you down from the crags, And I will make you a burnt out mountain." (NASB95)

There is much more to come about Babylon later in Revelation.

Here's a thought...John sees a large burning mass falling to earth, like a mountain burning with fire...he is simply explaining what he sees. I find that I agree with Dr. Seiss.

I, therefore, take it as it is written, because there is no other way of taking it which yields any certain or reliable sense. What do we want with Vespasian, Alaric, Rhadagaisus, Attila, Genseric, Romans, Goths, Vandals, Arians, prelates, or the devil, when the inspired writer tells us it was a fiery meteoric mass,—an aerial mountain,—great and towering, precipitated from the atmosphere into the sea, as one of the great wonders of the day of judgment? (Seiss 1901, 52-53)

It appears no one has seen the movie Armageddon and the asteroid that is threatening the earth.

A mighty mass of rock hurtling toward the earth, surrounded by combustible gases which ignite as they enter the atmosphere, steered earthward by the angelic host of heaven, seems the most likely physical explanation accessible to us at this time. Maybe a giant meteorite, or asteroid, or even a satellite orbiting one of the other planets, could conceivably be propelled earthward by cosmic forces of which we have little knowledge as yet. (Morris 1983, 147)

This literal mass falls into the literal sea, one-third becomes literal blood, and one-third of all the literal living creatures in the literal sea die a literal death. Nothing could be plainer than this. Also, one-third of the literal ships of all literal nations are literally destroyed. If we just let John say what he wants to, he makes it very clear. (McGee 1997)

Ok, so we are going with the plain statement of the text. "...something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea: and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed."

It is either an asteroid or comet and the Center for Near Earth Objects or the Planetary Defense Coordination Office at NASA is not able to come to the rescue. I assume the warning will be given and all eyes will be watching.

Yes, they really are like mountains falling from the sky. For example, here is the detail for a small one.

Asteroid 2003 SD220
Dec 15 – 17 2018
2.8 million miles away
1.6 kilometers long

Although its actual collision with the sea will be in only one impact location, it is evident that the entire world will know about it. People will observe it for some time approaching from space, then entering the earth's gravitational field and spiraling inexorably to the surface itself. Most likely television cameras will be focused on it and the actual splashdown will be seen on TV screens all over the world.

The mighty explosion on impact will dwarf that of an atomic bomb and will be terrifying beyond imagination. The destruction of life in the sea will be tremendous, and the poisoned waters, like a great "red tide," will spread out soon to the waters of all other oceans so that a third part of the sea "became blood." (Morris 1983, 147)

Asteroids are also called minor planets, and the International Astronomical Union is tracking thousands of them. When this asteroid strikes the earth it will destroy 1/3 of the ships.

1/3 of the ships, so how many is that? Per Clarksons Research World Fleet Monitor there are about 139,300 existing vessels and over 11,500 on order. In active service, over 89,000, so 1/3 of that would be 29,667 vessels. If each had an average crew of about 27, that is over 800,000 mariners gone. Not to count the total loss of shipping capability worldwide.

Water to blood, 1/3 of all sea life is gone, fisheries are depleted and their dead rotting bodies float to the surface.

The destruction of the sea will cause tremendous upheaval to the food chain which supports all life on the planet. The divine hand is systematically removing every means by which man can continue to imagine himself as independent of the one true God. (Garland 2006, Re 8:8)

In the scope of the first two trumpet judgements, 1/3 of all the trees are gone, all the green grass is gone, and 1/3 of all marine life is gone.

These constitute the lowest and most basic components of many of the world's food chains, so their destruction must produce a domino effect on many higher forms of life. (Morris 1983, 148)

The probability is that all life and all ships are destroyed in one portion of the earth, the area nearest to the impact of the great burning mountain. (Walvoord 2008, 155)

Has God ever used meteors as weapons before? Possibly.

Just before Joshua realized he needed more daylight time to finish the battle, Joshua 10 has the following for us, I added the emphasis.

Joshua 10:9–11

"So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, **the LORD threw down large stones from heaven** on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword." (ESV)

Revelation 8:10–11

“The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.” (NASB95)

Luke 21:10–11

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.” (ESV)

The second trumpet impacted the oceans, this third trumpet impacts sources of fresh water.

This astronomical body that falls to earth is given the name ἄψινθος (apsinthos). There is no magic meaning to this word, it is “a plant of the genus ‘Artemisia’, proverbially bitter to the taste, yielding a dark green oil (the rendering wormwood derives from its association with medicinal use to kill intestinal worms) (Arndt, et al. 2000, 161)

Why the name wormwood? Wormwood is an herb. Parts of this herb are used for medicine, fragrance compounds and insecticide.

It is also used in alcoholic beverages such as vermouth and absinthe, which is illegal in the US because a poisonous compound called thujone is found in it. Thujone excites the central nervous system. However, it can also cause seizures and other adverse effects. (WebMD 2005-2020)

It is bitter and it can kill. The sweet or good water is made bitter, a reversal of what took place in Exodus 15:23-25. There is also another contrast here to see as well.

Such also is the contrast between Christ on the cross atoning for sin and making that which is bitter sweet and Christ coming in judgment which turns the vain hopes and ambitions of men into bitterness and despair. (Walvoord 2008, 155)

While all of this is going on, there are 144,000 young men spreading out all around the planet who are presenting God’s offer of peace. Acceptance of that offer does carry a much higher price during this time than presently, but the offer is there and as we saw with the 5th seal, there will be a turning to the Lord in such numbers that we have never seen before.

But, as we continue in Revelation, we also see a rejection that becomes firmer as Satan moves forward with his program of deception and impersonation.

“burning like a torch” – καίόμενος ὡς λαμπάς (kaiomenos hos lampas) is used here, the word πυρὶ (puri) which was used in the description in verse 8 and translated as fire is not used.

Once again, John sees something and must tell us it looks like something else to help and fill in the gap that exists in his mind as well as those who would be reading this. Whatever this star is that is falling from heaven, we cannot confuse it with a fallen divine being. This, as with the last trumpet judgement, is John trying to describe the entry of some large object into the earth’s atmosphere. The last object was a meteor/bolide, a very large one that was visible on the way down by everyone, read live on CNN or your favorite web device. It appears that the agencies still exist to detect near earth objects, but nothing can be done about those objects striking earth anymore.

Because John uses the term, a great star, this opens up doors for potential interpretation. We already covered what morning stars are, we also discussed the idea that the Jews believed the stars to be divine beings. But stars have also been referred to, per Ironside, as religious figures too.

As a result of not taking this as what it says and trying to read into it, you get things like..."Can you imagine what might be the effect on vast numbers of people if to-morrow the newspapers came out with an "Extra" something like this: "The Pope declares that Christianity is all a sham, that religion is just a fraud!?" Can you imagine the effect that would have?" (Ironsides 1920, 151)

Though many have attempted to interpret the third trumpet symbolically, it seems best to consider it as a large meteor or star falling on the earth from heaven and turning the water, as indicated, into bitterness so that people who drank it died. (Walvoord, Revelation 1985, 952)

Ironsides is a great Bible teacher, even he is not sure of his interpretation here. But you can see the places some commentators go when they are looking for answers. Remember, John is using metaphors here to the point that he is using "like a" quite a bit. Just maybe this star, is a star.

Burns like a torch – check

Chemical changes as a result – check

Fell from heaven but not a direct hit on earth – check

Neutron star collision in our galaxy – could be

I have taken enough astronomy classes to be dangerous, in other words, I read some of the literature from time to time, oh, and I do have a telescope.

There have been ideas floating around the star gazer community for many years. There are those who like to find and view near earth objects, then there are those who simply like to look at the moon, planets and other stuff, but there are a group who are looking for supernovas and they use radio telescopes, satellites as well as imaging systems. They are looking for the next supernova 1987A

From Scientific American

According to a 2016 study, supernovae occurring as close as 50 light-years from Earth could pose an imminent danger to Earth's biosphere—humans included. The event would likely shower us in so much high-energy cosmic radiation that it could spark a planetary mass extinction. Researchers have tentatively linked past instances of spiking extinction rates and plummeting biodiversity to postulated astrophysical events, and in at least one case have even found definitive evidence for a nearby supernova as the culprit.

Neutron stars are a few dozen kilometers in radius rather than a few million like a typical stars. When these dense objects merge, they tend to produce jets that blast out gamma rays from their poles. "[W]hat it looks like to us, and the effect it has on us, would depend a lot on whether or not one of the jets was pointed directly at us," Frank says. Based on its distance and orientation to Earth, a kilonova's jets would walk the fine line between a spectacular light show and a catastrophic stripping away of the planet's upper atmosphere. If a jet is pointed directly at us, drastic changes could be in store. And we probably wouldn't see them coming. A kilonova begins with a burst of gamma rays—incredibly energetic photons that, by definition, move at light-speed, the fastest anything can travel through the universe. Because nothing else can move faster, those photons would strike first, and without warning.

"What [the gamma rays] would do, probably more than anything else, is dissolve the ozone layer," says Andrew Fruchter, a staff astronomer at the Space Telescope Science Institute. Next, the sky would go blindingly white as the visible light from the kilonova encountered our planet. Trailing far behind the light would be slower-moving material ejected from the kilonova—radioactive particles of heavy elements that, sandblasting the Earth in sufficient numbers, could still pack a lethal punch. That's if the kilonova is close, though—within 50 light-years, give or take. At a safer distance, the gamma rays would still singe the ozone layer on the facing hemisphere, but the other side would be shielded by the planet's bulk. "Most radiation happens very quickly, so half the Earth would be hidden," Fruchter says. There would still be a momentarily blinding light. For a few weeks, a new star would burn bright in the sky before gradually fading back into obscurity.

A Nearby Neutron Star Collision Could Cause Calamity on Earth, From certain death to a scientific goldmine, here's the spectrum of possibilities that we might expect from merging black holes, colliding neutron stars or detonating supernovae in our galactic neighborhood... (Wenz 2017)

Candidate?

- Is a star or stars
- Material falls from heaven yet the star itself is not thrown into the sea or onto the earth
- Does extreme ecological damage
- Causes chemical changes in the environment to those areas exposed
- Burns like a torch
- Kills indiscriminately

The third trumpet judgement could be totally supernatural, and God throws something down to earth we have never seen before, then again, it could be the creator making use of His creation, such as He has done in the past with meteors and hailstones, for His own means.

And here is a real head scratcher, if the kilonova is 50 light years away, contingent upon when Christ comes for His church and when all of this kicks off; it could have already happened and is currently on the way. Hmm.

Kind of like the meteors and hail of Joshua 6 that only are found to be hitting the enemy...hmmm.

If the fresh water is impacted, then that means all of the fish and life connected with that water is impacted as well.

The idea behind these judgements is to drive man to repentance. Remember, there are 144,000 evangelists who are being protected from this and two witnesses in Jerusalem calling down other things as well.

The star's name suggests that this is a judgment upon man for idolatry and injustice. Calamity and sorrow are the natural compensations that are coming upon man because of this judgment. (McGee 1997, 964)

It is not a warning of nuclear reactor meltdowns, i.e. Chernobyl which in Russian means wormwood. That would be the practice of newspaper prophecy. "This practice of interpreting the Bible based on the morning newspaper has been common throughout the last two thousand years and should warn us to beware of the same procedure!" (Uttley 2001, 72)

Revelation 8:12

"The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way." (NASB95)

A 33.3% reduction in the light of the moon, stars and the sun. Again, all we need do is look at what has already taken place in judgement up to this point.

- Global thermonuclear war – read nuclear winter
- Earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanos erupting everywhere all at once – volcanic winter
- Repeat – asteroid collision caused with associated airborne debris
- Stripped away ozone layer and higher than normal gamma radiation

All of these equals decreased light worldwide, decreased or no crop production, decreased domesticated animal populations, decreased oxygen production and increased carbon dioxide due to burned up converters (trees, grass.)

It is designed to teach and communicate a point and to cause people to take note of something. In the last days, man, in his humanism and the deification of himself, will have rejected the truth of creation and the authority of God. So now God acts supernaturally in that part of His creation which so clearly declares His glory—the sun, the moon, and the stars. Why? To demonstrate the truth of God as the Creator and Sovereign of the universe. However, surely it is also a warning and an appeal. It warns of final judgment, the return of Christ, and appeals to man to repent. (Keathley III 2002, Re 8:12)

This could also be of origin from God alone and in His wisdom and knowledge, He dims the lights. This would eliminate the scientist from explaining away things as a natural follow on to all that has taken place with the previous judgements.

The simplest explanation of all this (“simplest” in the sense of economy of explanation, not of scientific understanding, of which we have none at this time) is that, somehow, the visible luminaries in the heavens for a time, maybe a day, maybe several days, slow down their internal reactions in such a way as to reduce their power output by a factor of one-third. The day and night, as a result are only two-thirds as bright as normal, even though the skies are completely clear of haze or anything else to obscure the light. (Morris 1983, 150)

This interpretation is given support by the next verse, which indicates that the first four trumpets are not only judgments in themselves but warnings of the last three trumpets which will be far more severe in character. (Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ 2008, 156)

Luke 21:25–26

““And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (ESV)

In whatever way the Lord chooses to do what it is John is describing, and how long it lasts, the goal is still to drive man to repentance. Some will respond to Him as a result of this being explained by the 144,000 but many will continue to reject Him.

Time for an announcement from our sponsor.

Revelation 8:13

“Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”” (NASB95)

Paraphrase – “you ain’t seen nothing yet” (Brown standard edition.)

To paraphrase Dr. Walvoord, as we have seen, the first four trumpet judgements dealt with things you and I take for granted. We assume that the ecosystem is in balance and there will be trees and green grass; we assume that the oceans will be there and available for the water cycle and the fisheries will remain intact; we take for granted the availability of potable drinking water; and we take for granted the light from the sun, moon and stars.

Psalms 19:1–6

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the sky displays his handiwork. Day after day it speaks out; night after night it reveals his greatness. There is no actual speech or word, nor is its voice literally heard. Yet its voice echoes throughout the earth; its words carry to the distant horizon. In the sky he has pitched a tent for the sun. Like a bridegroom it emerges from its chamber; like a strong man it enjoys running its

course. It emerges from the distant horizon, and goes from one end of the sky to the other; nothing can escape its heat.” (NET)

So dramatic are the judgments and so unmistakably an evidence of the power and sovereignty of God that blaspheming men on earth can no longer ignore the fact that God is dealing with them. Fearful as these judgments are, they are only the beginning of God’s dealing with the earth; and as indicated in a special announcement, three great woes are still to fall. (Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* 2008, 157)

Flying in midheaven, John sees and hears an eagle, recall that one of the throne guardians had that appearance so it holds this is a divine being as well.

This is a message that “is delivered all over the world from a point midway between heaven and earth.” (Osborne 2016, 158)

As we have seen already two different times, there is direct communication from God to earth dwellers, those who desperately need Him but continue to reject Him even considering the things going on around them. This makes the third direct intervention.

Revelation 5:13

“And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”” (NASB95)

Revelation 6:15–17

“Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”” (NASB95)

Revelation 8:13

“Then I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!”” (NASB95)

Each time we have seen God going out of His way to impact the earth dwellers in such a way that they have had to acknowledge who Jesus is, asked to be hidden from God ala Genesis 3, and be warned of impending judgement. Earth dwellers cannot say they did not know, it is God’s grace that is making the message continuation possible.

As bad as the first four trumpet judgements were, the next three are much worse, thus the warning. “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth” – It is the triune God who has been rejected, the one who is three times Holy as we saw in chapter 4, so we see the result s of the rejection of that grace and love, three times woe. And this is especially for earth dwellers as they have been ill prepared for what has already taken place, but spiritual warfare is about to invade the physical world in a very real way.

Unlike the first four trumpets, which affected the source of people’s life, the last three fall upon people themselves. (Mounce 1997, 183)

A bit about earth dwellers.

Isaiah 26:21

“For look, the LORD is coming out of the place where he lives, to punish the sin of **those who live on the earth**. The earth will display the blood shed on it; it will no longer cover up its slain.” (NET)

Zephaniah 1:14–18

“The LORD’s great day of judgment is almost here; it is approaching very rapidly! There will be a bitter sound on the LORD’s day of judgment; at that time warriors will cry out in battle. That day will be a day of God’s anger, a day of distress and hardship, a day of devastation and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and dark skies, a day of trumpet blasts and battle cries. Judgment will fall on the fortified cities and the high corner towers. I will bring distress on the people and they will stumble like blind men, for they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dirt; their flesh will be scattered like manure. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’s angry judgment. The whole earth will be consumed by his fiery wrath. Indeed, he will bring terrifying destruction on **all who live on the earth.**” (NET)

The phrase those who dwell upon the earth takes on a soteriological/eschatological meaning in the book of Revelation for it denotes the unsaved at the time of the end who steadfastly continue in their rejection of God. (Garland 2006, Re 3:10)

Hebrews 3:8–13

“do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.’ As I swore in my wrath, ‘They shall not enter my rest.’” Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (ESV)

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