



Atheism

Measure #3354 (Greek)

1b) metaph. to judge according to any rule or standard, to estimate.

7 Trumpets—part 9

REVELATION 11:1, NKJV—“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.’”

Measure = To Judge

“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That You may be justified in Your words, **and may overcome when You are judged**’” (Romans 3:3, 4, NKJV).

Temple of God = God’s Testimony (Law/Character/Love)

“And **the temple of God** was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple **the ark of His testament**” (Revelation 11:19).

“You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put **the Testimony that I will give you**. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the **ark of the Testimony**, of all things which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel” (Exodus 25: 21, 22, NKJV).

Altar = Cross

“**We have an altar**, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. **Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate**” (Hebrews 13:10-13).

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is **the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ**, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Worshippers = Those who Profess to Obey the Gospel

“For the time is come that **judgment must begin at the house of God**: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17).

Revelation 11:2-4, NKJV—“**But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months**. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.”



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Holy City (Jerusalem) = God's Church/People

“But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem**, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Hebrews 12:22, 23, NKJV).

42 months = 1260 literal years

Two Witnesses = 2 Olive Trees/Lampstands—OT and NT/Bible

“**Your word is a lamp** to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105, NKJV).

Sackcloth = Persecution

“And the letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate all the Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, and to plunder their possessions. And in every province where the king's command and decree arrived, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes” (Esther 3:13, 4:3, NKJV).

Revelation 11:5, 6—“**And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.**”

“For I testify to everyone who hears **the words of the prophecy of this book**: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written **in this book**; and if anyone takes away from **the words of the book of this prophecy**, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18, 19, NKJV).

“Thus says the LORD: ‘By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood’” (Exodus 7:17, NKJV).

“For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29).

Revelation 11:7, NKJV—“**When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.**”

Beast = Earthly Kingdom



“**Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings** which arise out of the earth. Thus he said: ‘**The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom** on earth’ (Daniel 7:17, 23, NKJV).

Bottomless Pit = Earth in a State of Darkness, Chaos, Needing the Spirit of God

Sodom = Sexual immorality

“As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7, NKJV).

Egypt = Atheistic Power

“And Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? **I do not know the LORD**, nor will I let Israel go” (Exodus 5:2, NKJV).

3 ½ days = 3 ½ literal years

Revelation 11:8, NKJV—“**And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.**”

Crucified = To Turn from Christ and His Word

“If they **fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they **crucify again** for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame” (Hebrews 6:6, NKJV).

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14, NKJV).

“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me**’” (Matthew 25:40, NKJV).

Revelation 11:9, NKJV—“**Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.**”

Revelation 11:10, NKJV—“**And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**”

Revelation 11:11-13, NKJV—“**Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven**



saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

Summary—Jesus was crucified by the rejection of the Word of God and the falling away from the truth and the persecution of God’s people by the nation of France. Yet all the world realized the great peril in rejecting the Bible. France was devastated as by an earthquake. Thousands of the flower of the nation were lost as the Bible lay dead in her streets for and a half years. After this time, the Bible was reinstated in France and the Bible was raised higher and higher before the nations and the world.

Present Truth—Christ is crucified today by many who reject Him and the Bible. God’s people suffer as well as the nations who turn away from Bible truth, but soon God’s word will be exalted above all earthly powers.

Historical Notes—

“God’s faithful witnesses, slain by the blasphemous power that “ascendeth out of the bottomless pit,” were not long to remain silent. “After three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.” Revelation 11:11. It was in 1793 that the decrees which abolished the Christian religion and set aside the Bible passed the French Assembly. Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees, thus granting toleration to the Scriptures, was adopted by the same body. The world stood aghast at the enormity of guilt which had resulted from a rejection of the Sacred Oracles, and men recognized the necessity of faith in God and His word as the foundation of virtue and morality. Saith the Lord: ‘Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel,’ Isaiah 37:23. ‘Therefore, behold, I will cause them to know, this once will I cause them to know My hand and My might; and they shall know that My name is Jehovah.’ Jeremiah 16:21, A.R.V” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 287.1).

“Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further: “And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.” Revelation 11:12. Since France made war upon God’s two witnesses, they have been honored as never before. In 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized. This was followed by similar organizations, with numerous branches, upon the continent of Europe. In 1816 the American Bible Society was founded. When the British Society was formed, the Bible had been printed and circulated in fifty tongues. It has since been translated into many hundreds of languages and dialects” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 287).



“The infidel Voltaire once boastfully said: ‘I am weary of hearing people repeat that twelve men established the Christian religion. I will prove that one man may suffice to overthrow it.’ Generations have passed since his death. Millions have joined in the war upon the Bible. But it is so far from being destroyed, that where there were a hundred in Voltaire’s time, there are now ten thousand, yes, a hundred thousand copies of the book of God. In the words of an early Reformer concerning the Christian church, ‘The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers.’ Saith the Lord: ‘No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.’ Isaiah 54:17” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 288.2).

“‘Where also our Lord was crucified.’ This specification of the prophecy was also fulfilled by France. In no land had the spirit of enmity against Christ been more strikingly displayed. In no country had the truth encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. In the persecution which France had visited upon the confessors of the gospel, she had crucified Christ in the person of His disciples” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 271.1).

“The same master spirit that urged on the St. Bartholomew Massacre led also in the scenes of the Revolution. Jesus Christ was declared to be an impostor, and the rallying cry of the French infidels was, ‘Crush the Wretch,’ meaning Christ. Heaven-daring blasphemy and abominable wickedness went hand in hand, and the basest of men, the most abandoned monsters of cruelty and vice, were most highly exalted. In all this, supreme homage was paid to Satan; while Christ, in His characteristics of truth, purity, and unselfish love, was crucified” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 273.1).

“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.” Infidel France had silenced the reproving voice of God’s two witnesses. The word of truth lay dead in her streets, and those who hated the restrictions and requirements of God’s law were jubilant. Men publicly defied the King of heaven. Like the sinners of old, they cried: ‘How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the Most High?’ Psalm 73:11” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 274)

“It was popery that had begun the work which atheism was completing. The policy of Rome had wrought out those conditions, social, political, and religious, that were hurrying France on to ruin. Writers, in referring to the horrors of the Revolution, say that these excesses are to be charged upon the throne and the church. In strict justice they are to be charged upon the church” (*The Great Controversy*, pp. 276-277).

“Rome had misrepresented the character of God and perverted His requirements, and now men rejected both the Bible and its Author. She had required a blind faith in her dogmas, under the pretended sanction of the



Scriptures. In the reaction, Voltaire and his associates cast aside God’s word altogether and spread everywhere the poison of infidelity” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 281).

“When error in one garb has been detected, Satan only masks it in a different disguise, and multitudes receive it as eagerly as at the first. When the people found Romanism to be a deception, and he could not through this agency lead them to transgression of God’s law, he urged them to regard all religion as a cheat, and the Bible as a fable; and, casting aside the divine statutes, they gave themselves up to unbridled iniquity” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 285).

“From devastated provinces and ruined cities a terrible cry was heard—a cry of bitterest anguish. France was shaken as if by an earthquake. Religion, law, social order, the family, the state, and the church—all were smitten down by the impious hand that had been lifted against the law of God” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 286).

The Third Woe—7th Trumpet

Revelation 11:14, NKJV—**“The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”**

Coming Quickly = Second Coming of Jesus Christ

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown” (Revelation 3:11, NKJV).

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book” (Revelation 22:7, NKJV).

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12, NKJV).

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20, NKJV).

Revelation 11:15, NKJV—**“Then the seventh angel sounded: and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world **have become** the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”**

Revelation 11:16-19, NKJV—**And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on**



their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You **have** taken Your great power and reigned. The nations **were** angry, and Your wrath **has come**, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.' Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."

Biblical evidence that the third woe is the second coming of Jesus Christ:

- 1) The third woe is described as coming quickly. When we cross reference that phrase in the book of Revelation we find that it refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ no less than four times.
- 2) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh angel, announces the kingdoms of this world becoming "the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ."
- 3) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that God has taken His great power and reigned.
- 4) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that the nations "were angry" (past tense).
- 5) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that God's wrath or the seven last plagues "has come" (present tense—which means probation has closed).
- 6) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that it is time to judge the dead which begins after the Second Coming (the lost or those dead in trespasses and sins).
- 7) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that it is time to reward the prophets and saints which takes place at the Second Coming.
- 8) The third woe, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet, declares that it is time to destroy them that destroy the earth which takes place at the Second Coming.

Does the third woe of the seventh trumpet have to be interpreted as an Islamic power because the first two woes (fifth and sixth trumpets) were Islamic powers? There is no biblical principle of prophetic interpretation that forces us to make the third woe Islam because the first two were Islam. This is a forced interpretation that does not fit the text describing the activities that are taking



place under the third woe/seventh trumpet.

To force the third woe to be Islam because the first two are would be like forcing the white horse to represent sinister powers because the other three horses do, or to make the last five plagues universal because the first plagues effect all the people and all the water. Care should be taken to make sure our interpretations are in harmony with the message being communicated in the text itself rather than in the previous texts.

A more likely consistency found in the context of the text is recognizable in relation to the woes as they apply to armies that harmed all those who were not sealed with the seal of God as follows:

Three Woes = Military Conquest

First woe—Islam army on horses – don't harm the sealed ones

Second woe — Islam army on horses – don't harm the sealed ones

Third woe— Jesus' army on horses –don't harm the sealed ones

Summary—The third woe on the earth is the second coming of Jesus. As He returns that anger or hatred of the nations against God's people is swallowed up by the wrath of God (seven last plagues) which have been released. God's people are then taken to heaven followed by the 1,000 years during which the lost are judged and God's servants are rewarded. Each event follows in order as confirmed by the following statement from the Spirit of Prophecy:

Spirit of Prophecy Confirmation

“At the commencement of the Holy Sabbath, (Jan. 5,) we engaged in prayer with Bro. Belden's family at Rocky Hill, Ct., and the Holy Ghost fell upon us. I was taken off in vision to the Most Holy Place, where I saw Jesus still interceding for Israel. On the bottom of his garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Then I saw that Jesus would not leave the Most Holy Place, until every case was decided either for salvation or destruction: and that **the wrath of God could not come** until Jesus had finished his work in the Most Holy Place--laid off his priestly attire and clothed himself with the garments of vengeance. Then Jesus will step out from between the Father and man, and God will keep silent no longer; **but pour out his wrath on those who have rejected his truth.** I saw that the **anger of the nations, the wrath of God, and the time to judge the dead,** were separate events, one following the other. I saw that Michael had not stood up, and that the time of trouble, such as never was, had not yet commenced. **The nations are now getting angry,** but when our High



Priest has finished his work in the Sanctuary, he will stand up, put on the garments of vengeance, and then the **seven last plagues will be poured out**. I saw that the four angels would hold the four winds until Jesus' work was done in the Sanctuary, and then will come the seven last plagues" (*Review and Herald*, vol. 1, p. 9 [1849]).

This statement is clear that the nations are now getting angry. That is a truism that has continued from that time until now, growing more and more intense as we near the end of time. When the third woe/seventh angel sounds the "anger of the nations" is past and the wrath of God is come (7 last plagues). These are all separate events following each other.

- 1) Anger of nations (happening now).
- 2) Wrath of God (happens when third woe/seventh angel sounds).
- 3) Time to judge the dead (follows the wrath of God).

The third woe/seventh angel cannot be Islam because Islam does not bring the wrath of God, God does. Islam does not judge the dead, God does. Islam does not reward the saints and prophets, God does.

Islam does qualify as being part of the anger of the nations, but when the third woe/seventh angel sounds the nations "were angry." The anger of the nations is swallowed up in the wrath of God.

There is no Biblical connection between the description of the third woe/seventh angel sounding and Islam. To make the connection of Islam to the third woe/seventh trumpet because Islam is connected to the first and second woes would require internal evidence in the text describing the activities under the third woe. This evidence linking Islam to the activities under the third woe is lacking. Clearly those activities describe God not Islam.