Revelation 8v12,13 **Fourth Trumpet** 27th August 2026

"*And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars, was smitten. So that the third of them was darkened and the day shone not the third of it, and the night likewise. And I saw, and I heard from one, an eagle flying in the midheaven, saying in a loud voice Woe, woe, woe, to the dwellers upon the earth, from the remaining voices of the trumpet-call of the three angels hereafter to sound*".

This is the translation from Eureka by Dr J Thomas in the 1860s. It is not very different from the KJV.

Sections to read in Eureka Volume 2B are: Brown pages 67-79 Blue pages 437- 449 Red pages 81-92 entitled; Fourth Wind-trumpet & A Warning Proclamation.

The last wind trumpet takes forward the issue of barbarian attacks on the declining Roman Empire in the West. In the East the Emperor at Constantinople was to remain in place for many more centuries as we shall go on to review. There is a change in the way that the context conveys the narrative with the introduction of the last three trumpets.

The time period covered is from the sack of Rome by Odoacer in 476 AD/CE until 628, when the last barbarian incursion the Brunhilde took place. The last Emperor in the west was Romulus Augustulus. He was overthrown and exiled. Odoacer ruled as Rome's head until he was also deposed by the arrival of Theodoric the King of the Ostrogoths in 493 who after fighting many battles had his rival assassinated and then he ruled Italy.

The stress is on the "third part" in verse 12. Dr Thomas identifies this as being directed at one of the administrative divisions of the Empire at that time, where we have the Latin third, the Hellenic third and the Hellenised third. It is the Latin third that is particularly affected by the sounding of this fourth trumpet. This is not possible to identify in advance as the detail of what each third is, is not stated. This is a necessary retrospective interpretation, but this is not a wrong way to look at scripture. Often the ability to fully identify something is not possible until it has actually happened. No one except God Himself, could say in advance that the baby Jesus would be the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Messiah until it happened, but faith that an as yet unnamed child would be born was not only possible but anticipated and expected through faith.

The stress on the impending future Woes not only builds tension but reminds the reader that these issues are not done in a moment (or even seven years) but are to take place over hundreds of years. The Woe Trumpets follow the Wind trumpets. The Wind Trumpets were God's judgments against Catholic Europe, whereas the Woe Trumpets are His judgments against Papal Rome. The framing of woes finishing and being replaced by other subsequent woes is very helpful in determining the Continual Historic Fulfilment Interpretation of the Apocalypse. See 9v12 and 11v14. The trumpets clearly are sounded in a set order not altogether at one time, but with several intermingling effects which build up in the same way as an orchestra increases volume by adding new instruments towards a crescendo. God uses the appropriate symbology for meaning.

Each barbarian invasion or encroachment continued on in the effect it made upon Rome. The Lombards influence in Northern Italy remained until the modern era, indeed Lombardy is the name of a region there today. Over time these accumulated until the

pressure on the Empire was unbearable. A single barbarian people was no real rival to the Empire, which itself was made up from many people's nations and languages. It is possible to identify one of these powers as the angel which in the chapter warned with a loud voice of the impending doom against Catholic Rome. The Lombards were fiercely antagonistic to the main church. As Arians they objected to the standard understanding of the Trinity and used violence as well as rhetoric against their adversaries. They spoke out against the heresy of Rome as they saw it. They were not alone in using such an antagonistic indictment, Catholicism had many enemies they were far from blameless.

That the angel is said to fly through the midst of heaven, is speaking of the political and spiritual heavenlies of the day. Flying in the midst implies an occupant who actively participated. Hence the suggestion of an interpretation of an actual political and religious power of that time, not just a literal celestial angel but a representative one.

The Lombards continued in their resistance until the endorsement of the Western church leader of the Bishop of Rome as "Universal Bishop" or Pope. This was done by the decree of the Emperor Phocas in 610 AD/CE. Something which the Bible never required but warned about. Bishop**s**, plural, are local elders who were expected to shepherd their own geographic flocks; not seek or obtain control over others; only Christ as the Chief Shepherd should be regarded as universal or catholic as that word means.

The day not shining for a third part of it is not referring to the extent of the scene which was affected; thus the third part of a political area, interpreted as Italy; but is more specifically linked to time itself. So what is the day? The way it could be viewed is to find an Old Testament Day period like the year being 360 days and using the day for a year principle 360 years. A day is thus a year and a third part of that is 4 months. However the prophetic value in a four-month hiatus is not very noteworthy and difficult to isolate as a major step in the advance of the Trumpet stage of the decline of Rome.

However if we look at the total period of the day and moon being darkened as 476-628 this is dissected by the battle of Draco in 552 AD/CE when the Eastern Emperor Justinian sent his general to Italy who crushed the Goths there, ending the Western Empire's last independent attempt to unify as a proxy power to replace Rome. Prophetically the day transferred to night because Constantinople set up the Bishop of **Ravenna** as the Western power, instead of the Bishop of Rome, thus devaluing the old capital and putting ecclesiastics as the primary centre of power, a move which would tempt the papacy to usurp political power for themselves at a later date. The Brunhilde were quickly converted to Catholicism away from the Arian Heresy thus ending the moon not shining for a limited period, one third. For the rest of that night the moon shone until the rise of the Holy Roman Empire which in its infancy abolished to position of the Eastern Constantinople as the guarantor of power in the West.

Starting at the rise of the new Imperial Catholic Sun we have Constantine in 324, Odoacer in 476, Draco in 552, Brunhilde in 628, and Charles Martel in 780. 152/76/76/152, or two thirds one third one third two thirds. Day follows night which is Latin not Hebrew. The Revelation is not for Jews but for the Ecclesia.

A Voice from the Altar Russel Noonan