

Revelation 11:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Analysis

The transition from second woe to third (seventh trumpet) builds dramatic tension. The rapid succession ('behold, the third woe cometh quickly') emphasizes escalating urgency as history approaches consummation. Reformed eschatology sees these judgments as progressive revelation of God's victory over evil. The woes represent increasing severity, yet also decreasing duration before final judgment. This structure demonstrates God's sovereignty over history's timeline—each stage unfolds according to divine decree, neither hastened nor delayed by human action. The 'quickly' warns against presuming on time for repentance.

Historical Context

The woe structure builds on prophetic patterns where judgments increase in intensity (Egypt's plagues, Jeremiah's warnings). First-century believers facing persecution needed assurance that history was moving toward God's appointed consummation. The 'quickly' reminded them that despite apparent delays, God's timeline was accelerating toward Christ's return and final judgment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing the accelerating nature of judgment ('quickly') affect your sense of urgency in gospel witness?
2. What comfort does the structured progression of woes give about God's sovereign control over historical events?

Interlinear Text

Ἡ	οὐαὶ	ἡ	δευτέρα	ἀπῆλθεν·	ἰδοὺ,	ἡ	οὐαὶ	ἡ
G3588	woe	G3588	The second	is past	and behold	G3588	woe	G3588
	G3759		G1208	G565	G2400		G3759	
τρίτη	ἔρχεται	ταχύ						
the third	cometh	quickly						
G5154	G2064	G5035						

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 8:13 (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Revelation 9:12 (Parallel theme): One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

Revelation 15:1 (Parallel theme): And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.