

# Revelation 9:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

## Analysis

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The announcement that one woe is past with two more coming creates dramatic tension and emphasizes escalating judgments. The Greek 'ouai' (woe) pronounces divine curse and impending calamity. This structure reveals judgment's progressive intensification—resistance to earlier warnings brings more severe consequences. Reformed theology affirms that God's judgments are both just and merciful; each stage offers opportunity for repentance before more severe judgment. The 'behold' heightens urgency, warning that worse follows for the impenitent. God's patience has limits.

## Historical Context

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The three-woe structure (announced in 8:13) organizes the trumpet judgments, building dramatic intensity. Ancient audiences familiar with prophetic literature recognized such pronouncements as harbingers of divine action. The progression warned that partial judgments, if ignored, would culminate in complete destruction—a pattern seen in Egypt's plagues and Jerusalem's fall.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How should the reality of escalating judgments affect your response to God's present warnings through Scripture and conscience?
2. What does the progression of woes teach about God's patience and the danger of presuming on His mercy?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐ οὐαὶ ἡ μία ἀπῆλθεν· οἶδού, ἔρχονται ἔτι δύο  
G3588      woe      G3588      G1520      is past      and behold      there come      more      two  
G3759

οὐαὶ μετὰ ταῦτα  
woe      hereafter      G5023  
G3759      G3326

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 11:14** (Parallel theme): The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

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