Global Watch Weekly Report

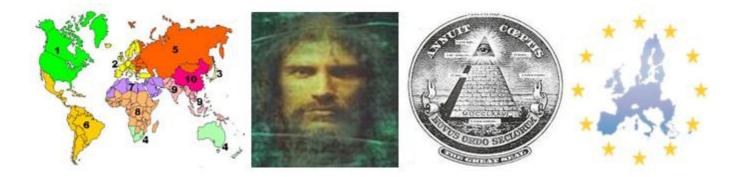
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SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

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Global Watch Weekly Report



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Global Watch Weekly Report

Welcome to the Global Watch Weekly Report

Through the ages mankind has been fascinated by the heavenly bodies, sometimes worshipping them, sometimes reading portents in them. Unusual events such as eclipses and comets sparked fear and were seen as signs of impending disasters.

But modern man has mapped the heavens and calculated the eclipses and orbits of comets. What would it take to get people's attention today? Likely it will take the awesome spectacles Christ foretold. The heavenly signs He mentioned will be clearly supernatural, and they will fulfill numerous prophecies of the Old Testament.

Jesus' description of a darkened sun and moon, falling stars and the heavens being shaken would have struck a chord in the minds of His audience. So would John's record, which included the element of an earthquake. Such events were described many times throughout the Old Testament in connection with the time called the Day of the Lord.

Isaiah's vivid imagery also talks about people hiding in the rocks "from the terror of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:10). Verses 11 and 12 go on to show part of the reason God will intervene in this way: "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down. And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up—and it shall be brought low."

Human pride has always been a stumbling block to the incredible relationship God offers us—to be His children (1 John 3:1).

Pride destroys our other relationships as well, leading to untold suffering and heartache. But seemingly the only way to break through a hardened shell of pride is to shake things up a bit. So that is what God will do.

In the midst of this traumatic time, people will finally see the worthlessness of their idols, which they will throw to "the moles and bats" (Isaiah 2:20). While this includes actual idols, charms and religious objects, the apostle Paul equates idolatry with our modern pastime of greed and covetousness (Colossians 3:5). Our cars, entertainment centers and other toys can be the focus of our attention and affections today, as much as a household god would be in a different society. Finally the greedy desire for more and more things will be seen for the pointless goal that it is.

So why will God send the heavenly signs? Their purpose is to prepare for Christ's return and His Kingdom. Our loving God must wake this world up and expose its evils, including pride, idolatry and greed, to bring this world to repentance.

In this week's edition of the Global Watch Weekly we take a look at particular aspects of the "signs in the heavens" including two controversial areas which for different reasons caused significant stir and debate within the bible prophecy community many years ago.

THE GROANING OF CREATION

Have you noticed in the last few years due to several tsunamis, we are seeing the sea and waves roaring all over the world? Jesus foresaw these in the last days. In certain parts of the world, we are seeing man creating tumultuous weather. Jesus compared these signs to the birth pangs of a woman in labor (Matthew 24:8). (The Greek word odin, time and again translated as sorrows in Matthew 24:8, literally means birth pangs.)

It is interesting that Paul told us, in Romans 8:21-22, that the creation will be delivered from the curse at the end of the age, and that the "the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs." As a period of time known biblically as the Tribulation period draws near, the birth pangs will increase in both intensity and frequency. Therefore, the creation itself would travail as the time of delivery draws near. Of course, the sea and waves roaring is not new, but we are witnessing an increase in strange weather. If we pick any year in the last ten years we could spend weeks going through evidence of significant and devastating weather patterns that have strayed from the norm. For instance if we were to go back to 2010 we would have witnessed the following:

- The devastating earthquake which occurred in Haiti in January 2010 measured 7.0 on the Richter scale and wiped out over 230,000 people including nearly 2/3 of government officials. It was the worst earthquake disaster in 200 years.
- In April 2010 many of us witnessed the Icelandic volcanic eruption and how it brought unprecedented chaos to the world airline industry as clouds of ash rose thousands of miles into the air impacting aviation and bringing the whole of mainland Europe to shut-down.
- The 2010 China drought and dust storms brought a series of severe droughts during the spring of 2010 that affected Yunnan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Sichuan, Shanxi, Henan, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Hebei and Gansu in the People's Republic of China as well as parts of Southeast Asia including Vietnam and Thailand, and dust storms in March and April 2010 affected much of East Asia. The drought has been referred to as the worst in a century in southwestern China.
- The 2010 Western Australian storms were a series of storms that travelled over south-western Western Australia on 21 and 22 March 2010. The storms brought extensive hail, strong winds and heavy rain, causing extensive damage to vehicles, property and trees, and flash flooding. The hail stones, believed to be the largest ever to have occurred in Perth, were around 3 cm – 6 cm in diameter which caused extensive damage to property across the city, including schools, hospitals, universities and power infrastructure. Wind gusts were recorded at around 120 km/h (75 mph).
- The 2010 Indian heat-wave was a period of ongoing extremely hot weather occurring during the summer of 2010 in India and much of South Asia. Temperatures of 53.7C (128.66F) had been recorded. It was said to be the harshest summer since 1800, the heat-wave killed hundreds of people due to heat exhaustion and food poisoning.
- The BP oil spill was labelled as America's greatest ecological disaster. The oil spill has devastated fisheries and wildlife preserves along hundreds of miles of coastline in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida leading to a slump in tourism along the coast and causing widespread unemployment as the sea trade suffers significantly from the impact.

Then in 2011, seven years after the Indian Ocean earthquake which triggered a devastating Tsunami the

news came in that Japan was hit with the seventh largest earthquake in recorded history. The earthquake initiated tsunami that struck Japan caused devastation. Thousands of cars, boats and houses were swept away by the waves. Buildings were shaken and damaged. Fires spread throughout downtown Tokyo. A nuclear power plant was seriously damaged. Cellular telephone services were knocked out all over the country. The northern high-speed train was shut down. Underground subways were closed. A ship with 100 passengers was missing. And the number of casualties was unknown. Tsunami warnings were issued for all the Hawaiian Islands and the West Coast of the United States.



In this 21st century, over 1.5 million people have already died in earthquakes. In the first ten years of this century, 20,000 died in India, 31,000 in Iran, 230,000 in Indonesia, 79,000 in Pakistan, 69,000 in China, and 230,000 in Haiti. An 8.8 earthquake in Chile in February of 2010 moved the entire city of Concepción 10 feet to the west, triggered a tsunami that devastated several coastal towns, moved the earth 8cm off its axis, shortened the length of the day by 1.26 microseconds, and caused standing waves in Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana (4700 miles away). Two million people were displaced.

"There shall be earthquakes in divers places." Mark 13:8

Earthquakes are also a sign from God. Earthquakes have killed almost 2 million people in 100 years.

Famines are also a sign from God. Do you know how many deaths have resulted from famines in the past century? In Russia, 1921, 5 million; 1929 China, 3 million; 1933 Russia, 10 million; 1936 China, 5 million; 1943 China, 1 million; 1967 India, 1.5 million; 1972 Africa, 1 million; 1979 Cambodia, 2 million; North Korea - ongoing, 3.5 million; 2004 Congo, 3.8 million. Currently, Kenya faces 10 million deaths by starvation.

"Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines." Mark 13:8

"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?" Mark 13:4

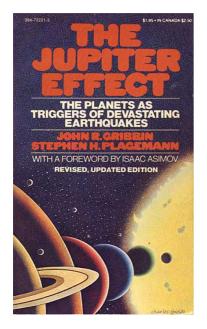
"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:25

Clearly something is happening within the realm of nature which is causing a significant increase of abnormal activity. Unfortunately for the majority of the world do not realize it is only through the prism of the Bible that once can truly understand what is happening and why.

THE 1982 JUPITER EFFECT

One of the most popular examples of a previous planetary phenomena was the 1982 planetary alignment of the planets in the solar system, where they were all unusually aligned on one side of the sun.

The Jupiter Effect was a best-selling book by John Gribbin, Ph.D., and Stephen Plagemann (published. 1974) that predicted that this alignment of the planets of the solar system would create a number of catastrophes, including a great earthquake on the San Andreas Fault in Los Angeles, on March 10, 1982. To fully understand the research and reasoning behind the Jupiter Effect, you may wish to read the book, still in print and usually available at your local bookstore. In the meantime, the following is a summary of the book's basic reasoning and conclusions.



Gribbin and Plagemann found a variety of independent research forging a link between solar activity and terrestrial seismicity, particularly during the peak years of the approximate 11-year sunspot cycle. During these peaks, which have remained fairly consistent since Galileo first discovered sunspots in 1610, there are a maximum number of solar disturbances including sunspots, solar flares, solar prominences and coronal holes. Apparently, these dramatic disturbances of the Sun's equilibrium blast powerful pulses of charged particles through space and into the Earth's ionosphere. This theoretically creates an upsetting affect on the overall circulation of the huge masses of atmospheric weather patterns, which can alter the speed of the Earth's rotation and thus change the length of our day. In turn, this sudden slowing of the Earth, even by just a few milliseconds, causes extreme stress on the tectonic plate margins where earthquakes occur.

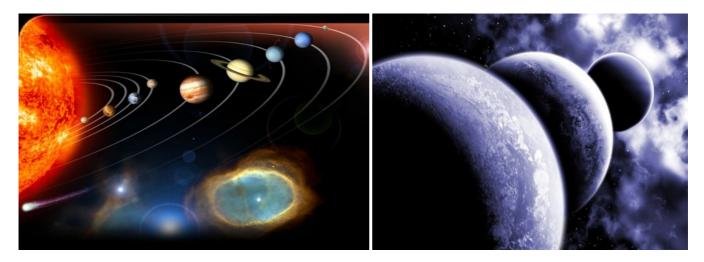
The authors then pointed to a variety of research indicating that alignments of the planets magnify the various forms of solar activity, and in turn bad weather and geological activity on the Earth. They cited the research of Dr. E.K. Bigg of Sydney, Australia which found that the planet Mercury had a magnifying effect on sunspots, most likely due to a tidal influence from gravitational attraction, much like our own Moon creates tides on the Earth. Further research by Dr. Bigg found that this "Mercury Effect" was compounded when one or more of the tidal planets (Venus, Earth, or Jupiter) was on the same side of the Sun as Mercury. Among much additional evidence, Plagemann cited the research of a NASA colleague that found a 20 percent increase in solar activity when Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction.

"The wealth and variety of coincidence is remarkable, although too often it has either been ignored or kept quiet by the discoverers themseles, afraid perhaps of ridicule," Gribbin and Plagemann wrote.

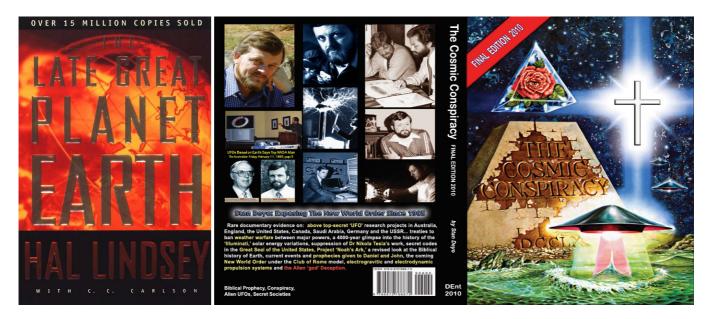
So when they found that all of the planets in our solar system would be clustering in a relatively narrow arc on the same side of the Sun at approximately the same time as the next peak in the sunspot cycle, the case seemed crystal clear.

"From time to time betwen 1982 and 1984 we imagine there will be bursts of strong activity associated with the unusual series of alignments," wrote the Cambridge astrophysicists. "A remarkable chain of evidence, much of it known for decades but never before linked together, points to 1982 as the year in which the San Andreas Fault will be subjected to the most massive earthquake known in the populated regions of Earth in this century."

Here were two respected scientists from Cambridge University, one connected with NASA, the other with a prestigious science journal (Nature), writing a book with a foreward by the revered Isaac Asimov - making one of the most astounding scientific forecasts of all time!



Astronomers had long been aware that there would be an alignment of the planets on that date, when Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto would be on the same side of the Sun, within an arc 95 degrees wide and the book had an aura of credibility, since both authors were Cambridge-educated astrophysicists and Gribbin was an editor at the prestigious science magazine Nature. The scientists claimed that the combined gravitational force of the planets (especially dense ones, such as Jupiter and Saturn) would exert tidal forces on the Sun, causing an increase in sunspot activity that would douse the earth with high-speed particles, which, in turn, would cause abrupt changes to our planet's rotation, leading to earthquakes.



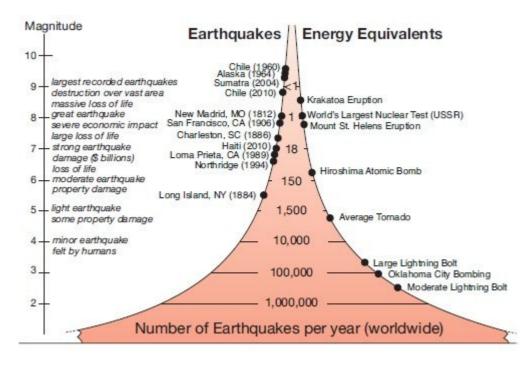
The book triggered significant activity within the bible prophecy arena, in part, to the endorsement of well known authors such as Hal Lindsey (author of the best-selling 1970s book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*) who, in 1980, wrote that earthquakes across the planet would trigger meltdowns at nuclear power plants and would smash dams, causing massive floods. Additionally, Stan Deyo in his book The Cosmic *Conspiracy* also went at length to affirm the validity of the ecological and astronomical impacts of these planetary alignments.

Earthquakes play a role in Bible prophecy. They are mentioned in the Book of Revelation (6:12-17; 8:5; 11:13,19; 16:16-21) as well as the books of Isaiah (2:19,21; 5:25; 24:19), Ezekiel (38:19,20), Joel (2:10;

3:16) and Zechariah (14:4,5). A number of prophecy teachers point to what they assume to be an increase in the number of earthquakes and associate these quakes with the words of Jesus to show we are in, or near, the last days (cf. Matt. 24:7

The final earthquake, mentioned in the seventh bowl of wrath, is described as

"a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath" (Revelation 16: 18-19).



As the dreaded 1982 date approached, panicked city residents bombarded Los Angeles' Griffith Observatory with phone calls. Elsewhere, the San Diego Vista Press reported on March 10, 1982: *"We've literally had people ask, 'Should I sell my house and move away?*' said Kevin Atkins of Gates Planetarium [in Denver, Colorado]... One small Christian sect in the Philippines is building a maze of padded cubicles and trying out padded suits in readiness for disasters." Even Beijing's newspaper, The People's Daily, sought to assure readers that "there is no regular cause-effect relation at all between this astronomical phenomenon and natural disasters like earthquakes."

1982 came and went without any notable geological or ecological changes and one year after the nondoomsday event, Gribbin and Plagemann published The Jupiter Effect Reconsidered. It was also a bestseller. In this publication they theorized that the effect had actually taken place in 1980, despite the lack of planetary alignment then, and that had triggered the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens.

THE CHERNOYBL FACTOR

"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter." Revelation 8:10-11

At 1:22 a.m. on April 26, 1986, a Soviet reactor crew carelessly turned off the safety systems of the Chernobyl Unit 4 nuclear reactor to perform an unauthorized safety test. Within 36 seconds the reactor surged out of control, and a steam explosion pierced the roof. Deprived of coolant, 150 tons of uranium fuel melted into lava that oozed into the basement of the reactor.

A second, hydrogen explosion ignited blocks of graphite, rocketing a hot plume of radioactive particles a mile into the sky. the explosion was so powerful that it blew the 2 million pound concrete lid of the reactor into the air. For three weeks the fire spread out of control, sprinkling iodine-131 and other nuclides as far as Scandinavia, Italy, and Britain.

In an 18-mile radius around the reactor, Geiger counters found extraordinarily high-level "gamma fields" where the fire's plume brushed the ground. Authorities evacuated 170,000 people, threw up barbed wire, and declared the area a permanent "exclusion zone."

The explosion in Chernobyl's reactor released an immense cloud of radiation north of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. The Chernobyl meltdown released 10 times the amount of radioactive substances as was released by the bombing of Hiroshima in World War II!

An estimated 125,000 people in Ukraine have died because of the Chernobyl disaster, and two million have been infected. Disease rates in some regions are three times higher for children than before the accident, and four to five times higher for pregnant women. One million extra cases of cancer are predicted worldwide within 70 years, Ukrainian scientists estimate.



Over 200 million people have experienced excess exposure to radiation because of Chernobyl and this has also led to obvious mutations with graphic physical effects.

Dr. Alexander Rykhlya, director of the department of international scientific and technical cooperation, gave this opinion: "My view is that as time passed the medical aftermath will become worse. The peak death rate has not yet been reached. It will be reached after one or two generations."

Most severely affected was the Gomel region, hit first by the radiation: the thyroid cancer rate there is now about 80 times the world average. *"The only reasonable explanation,"* write the Belarus officials, *"is that it is a direct consequence of the accident at Chernobyl."*

In the most badly affected areas, such as the Gomel area in the south, just over the border from Chernobyl, the cesium-137 surface contamination is more that 1,480 kilobecquerels per square meter, 1,000 times the norm. The normal level of radiation in the soil before the disaster was 1.48 kBq.

In these areas the forest looks as though it has been struck by lightning. Efforts are being made to bury radioactive trees, but the financial burden is too great. Only the animals remain. "There are large numbers of wild deer, elk and boar because it is a closed area," said Professor Alexander Stozharov, director of the Research Institute of Radiation Medicine. "Some are shot by the guards because they can transmit radiation to the clean zones."

More than 3 million acres of farmland-an area about the size of Connecticut-is considered lost for a century. More than nine years after what everybody calls "the tragedy", Pripyat, the city near Chernobyl, is still dead and deadly. No one can live here-at least for long. Weeds stand shoulder high along the wide avenues, a Ferris wheel is rusting behind the cinema. The dozens of tall apartment buildings where 49,000 people once lived still look new, but their windows are open, broken, blank. Trucks spray chemicals on decaying streets so their contaminated dust won't be spread by the breezes that rustle dead leaves of dead trees.

"This is the one place where you could understand how the world would be after a nuclear war," says Sergei Akulinin, who lived only 7 minutes from the Chernobyl power plant where he worked.

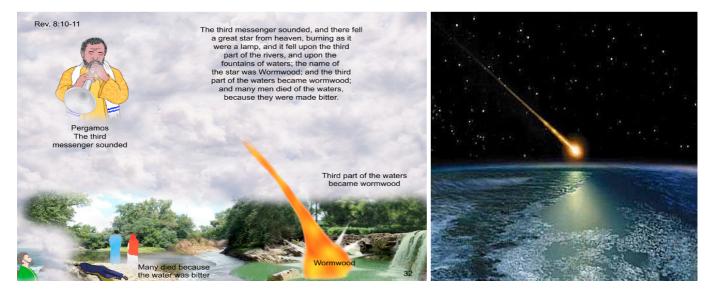
All animals and other foodstuffs that were contaminated by the radiation had to be destroyed. Several tens of thousands of rabbits raised for meat had to be destroyed. Nearly 100,000 reindeer being raised in Europe had to be killed and buried.

Cesium-137 has a half-life of 30 years. As a result when food containing radiation is eaten, it gets in the muscles and stays for a very long time. It eventually causes cancer.

The book of Revelation describes cataclysmic events that are to happen in the end time. Part of these events are signalled by the blowing of seven trumpets by seven angels. At the sounding of the third trumpet in chapter 8, a great star called Wormwood was cast into the earth in which on contact with the earth it made the waters bitter and poisonous to those who came into contact with it.

Many prophecy commentators see significance that this prophecy is related to what happened at Chernobyl. The link between Chernobyl and the Ukrainian word for "wormwood" was first noted by S. Schmemann in a New York Times article dated to 25th July 1986, titled *Chernobyl Fallout: Apocalyptic Tale*. Schmemann pointed out that the city Chernobyl is actually named after the Ukrainian word for mugwort or wormwood (Artemisia vulgaris), which is чорнобиль "chornobyl".

Absinthium vulgaris are plants in this region which are tolerant of poor soil and thus plentiful in the sandy lands of the Polissia region—where the twelfth-century town of Chornobyl took its name from the plant and, in turn, gave it to the twentieth-century nuclear station seven miles away. It is a bitter medicinal herbs and natural pest repellent, ridding fleas from the home, slugs from the garden, and worms from the body. And it gets its pungent fragrance from thujone, an organic toxin thought to be the psychoactive agent in absinthe, the infamous wormwood liqueur banned by most Western countries a century ago.



The word "Chernobyl" is a combination of the words chornyi (чорний, black) and byllia (билля, grass blades or stalks), hence it literally means black grass or black stalks. That may signify burnt grass, perhaps prior to cultivation. Even for those who feel the fulfilment of Revelation 8:10-11 is still future would have to admit that it is incredible coincidence that a major modern day event that involves the poisoning of the surrounding lakes, rivers and seas would be triggered at a city which translates into wormwood.

However there have been other events where meteors from space have actually survived the earths atmosphere to strike the earth with some Chernobyl like consequences. On September 15, 2007, a meteorite impacted Earth near the village of Carancas, Peru, creating a 50-foot-wide crater. When local officials went to investigate, they saw boiling water bubbling at the bottom of the hole. Sickeningly foul-smelling, noxious gases rose out of it, striking the investigators ill on the spot.



In the days after the impact, about 200 villagers came down with a mysterious illness, suffering nausea, headaches and vomiting. Later, tests of the impact site by scientists at Peru's Mining, Metallurgy, and Geology Institute (INGEMMET) showed that the locals had likely suffered mild arsenic poisoning. The meteorite unleashed gaseous arsenic when its hot surface met an underground water supply tainted with the poisonous element, the scientists said.

In October 2010 an article appeared in the New Scientist where Scientists were becoming concerned about the ramifications of a medium-size asteroid striking the earth. The ones which landed in Peru were small sized meteors however if a medium-sized asteroid lands in the ocean, tsunamis won't be the only worry. A new computer simulation suggests that the water vapour and sea salt thrown up by the impact

could damage the Earth's protective ozone layer, leading to record levels of ultraviolet radiation that could threaten human civilisation.

"This suggests new issues you could have with ocean impacts that people hadn't thought of before," says Brian Toon of the University of Colorado at Boulder, who was not involved in the work...The resulting ultraviolet-radiation levels would be higher than anywhere on Earth today, the team writes, presenting a new hazard for human civilisation.

A large comet hitting the earth would also seem to have similar effects to that of a medium-sized asteroid. And it also could cause tsunamis. Something hitting the Pacific ocean would more immediately devastate the California Coast, while hitting the Atlantic ocean would more quickly affect the Eastern seaboard.

Over 2000 years ago, notice what the Apostle John was inspired to write in the Book of Revelation 8:10-11:

"Then 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 water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter."

And while Wormwood does not have to be a comet, it sounds more like one than an asteroid.

In addition to looking like a star falling from the heavens (and an asteroid could possibly do that), comets normally appear with cyanogen. Astronomers state hydrogen cyanide on comets may be their source of cyanogen gas. Interestingly, the cyanogen gas mixes with water to form hydrogen cyanide, which has an almond odor and bitter taste, and reportedly causes death at concentrations over 5 parts per million.

And thus for Bible skeptics, the fact that before humans had any idea that comets could produce a poisonous bitter water, it is recorded in the Bible. This should be additional proof to those willing to see that the Bible has been inspired by God.

Sometime after the earth is hit by "Wormwood", notice what else the Bible predicts:

"Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory." (Revelation 16:8-9)

So, if the report in New Scientist is somewhat accurate it may be that the crash will contribute to the depletion of ozone which will cause higher radiation, and possibly higher heat, to be on the earth. What the angel may pour out of his bowl (which is unspecified), may reduce the protection from high heat even further. Thus, it may be that some scientists are getting a glimpse into what the Book of Revelation predicts, even though most of them will still ignore its warnings.