Then they were made bitter: now they are turned into  
blood. They are still capable of supporting life, only  
they produce horror and disgust. There have been in  
past times numerous testimonies of waters turned into  
blood.  
 Now science may say that this was merely some  
red animalculae which fell into the waters and coloured  
them; or some red dust which gave them the appearance  
of blood. In the past cases it may be so: in this it will  
be real blood. The justice of punishment which the  
angel of the waters alleges, proves this. They shed  
blood; they drink blood as their recompense.  
 “Cyrus, thy thirst was blood, now drink thy fill,”  
said Thomyris, queen of the Scythians, when Cyrus’ head  
was brought to her, and was immersed in a bowl of blood.  
 The expression “the angel of the waters” is remarkable.  
It proves that angels are not idle: God has  
given them some office and occupation. This angel is  
in charge of the waters of earth. Perhaps it is the  
same who was directed to trouble the waters of Bethesda,  
in order to heal some favoured ones of Israel.  
John v. 4. Now they are troubled in order to produce  
horror and sickness among men. Men must slake their  
thirst, or die of its pains. They loathe the sight and taste  
of this their judicial beverage. Athens gave its condemned criminals hemlock to drink: God gives blood  
to His earth’s crew of murderers.  
 The justice of God and the sin of man are the corresponding reasons of these inflictions. The angel then  
mentions the sin of which this is the righteous requital,  
They are not merely murderers, but slayers of the *holy*[,]  
murderers of those *inspired* by God’s Spirit. This is  
both the greatest crime against man, and manifests  
enmity against God and His Spirit. “They shed the  
blood of saints and prophets.” This includes all God’s  
martyrs from before the Law till the latest under Antichrist.