

Revelation Chapter 15 & 16

Chapter 15 KJV

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Verse 1

And I saw another sign in Heaven great and marvellous seven Angels having the last plagues for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire and them, who had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image and over his mark, and over his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

We know that '7' is God's perfect number and the number of completion; it is used 54 times in the book of Revelation. Here God uses 7 angels to do His bidding, and they bring from heaven the last of the plagues which also number seven. The plagues are carried in 7 vials or bowels and they are filled to the brim with the wrath of God. In the original Greek 'filled up' is the word *teleo* and means make an end, expire, accomplish or finish. These angels are preparing to pour out the completion of the wrath of God and His judgement on those who have rejected the Saviour of mankind throughout the decades, on the Antichrist, and on the false prophet. This will bring all that Satan vowed to do since the Garden of Eden to an end. The time has now come to rid the world of sin and wickedness once and for all and its instigators as well.

Verse 2

And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God.

This passage explains the destiny of the martyrs of Jesus during the tribulation. These overcomers are seen standing on this sea of glass playing harps and singing the songs of Moses. The floor they will stand on will be like transparent glass with the colourful movement of fire under or on it producing a spectacular display of colour produced by the glory of God and not seen before on earth. From the throne of God lightning and prismatic colours flash upon the sea of glass producing a wonder much like the Northern Lights or the aurora borealis. (See Exodus 24:10) How on earth can mortal man describe the Glory of God? One day when we see this spectacle in heaven we will smile at my description and how much I have missed it!

Verse 3

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying great and marvellous are your works Lord God Almighty, just and true are your ways you King of saints.

We read in Exodus 15 the song of Moses was one of victory over Pharaoh, a song of triumph over his enemies.

I will sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously...
The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation;
This is my God and I will praise Him...I will exalt Him...In the greatness
of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries. Who is like you O Lord among
the gods? Who is like you majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds,
doing wonders?

What a song will be sung in heaven giving praise and glory to our God who has given us the victory over the Antichrist and Satan. This verse 2 says that the saints had "gotten the victory over the beast and the image and over his mark and over the number of his name". These are the overcomers that the Bible speaks about so much and encourages us all to be. This verse tells us it is possible to win against Satan and the Antichrist and not take his mark or his name. Jesus has made it possible to have victory over sin today, we do not have to give in to the enemy. If we are successful we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will stand with these overcomers on this beautiful sea of glass that surrounds the Throne of God and worship Him playing the harps of God.

Verse 5-6

And after that I looked and behold the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And seven angels came out of the temple having the seven plagues clothed in pure and white linen, and having their chests girded with golden girdles.

These seven angels are God's messengers. In Revelation Chapter 17:1 one of these angels showed John the mystery of the great whore and the beast that carried her, and in Revelation 21: 9 one of them showed John the Holy City the bride of Christ coming down from heaven, we will get to this a little later. John fell down at the feet of the angel but was told that he was an ordinary man one of the prophets (19:9-10). In this section that we are reading it is the angels who carry out God's spoken word. We should never pray to an angel, only to God or His son Jesus, and they command the angels to help us.

Verse 7, 8

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no man was able to enter the temple, until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

The beast spoken of here is one of the Zoa we looked at in Chapter 5 also called living creatures, all these creatures were ministering unto the Lord and doing His bidding. During the last few months of the Great Tribulation no one will be allowed to enter the temple to pray or intercede to turn away God's wrath or to try to divert Him from His purpose. Such will be the torment and hardship of the day of the Lord that men will run to the temple to plead with God to have mercy, but God will not be stopped, the temple will be shut.

These vials or golden bowls were full of God's wrath and were to be poured out upon the earth and upon those that reject Christ.

Chapter 16

Verse 1.

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven Angels Go your ways and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

These vials contained the rest of the wrath of God which began in the 6th seal in Chapter 6: 12-17. These vial judgements will happen in the last 3 ½ years and in the last week (Daniels 70th week) and will be completed at the time of Christ's Second Advent.

As we know much of these scriptures refer to the history and the restoration of Israel. Whether we like it or not (and I like it!) Israel is God's special people, they are His chosen ones. Through His prophets He has warned and encouraged Israel that although as a nation they will go through very difficult times God would be with them and bring them to victory.

Isaiah 51: 23

But I will put it into the hand of them who afflict you; which have said to your soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and you have laid your body as the ground and as the street to them who went over.

In ancient times the victor of war would make the victim to bow to the ground so that the victor may tread on the necks of those lost in battle to save the blood stained mud from soiling his boots. Then the whole body was used as the verse says as a street to them who went over. The intention of the Antichrist is to humiliate Israel and bring that nation to its knees and take over Jerusalem and set up his throne in the temple and take the place of God. The outpouring of the wrath of God is upon all who will worship Satan, the Antichrist and his image.

Verse 2 The first vial

And the first angel went and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and upon them which worshipped his image.

At the command of God this first angel went out and poured out his bowl over the earth. An awesome grievous plague of sores fell upon all who would demonstrate their allegiance to the Antichrist by accepting his mark and upon them which worshipped the image. It was no consolation that everywhere you turned you would see men suffering with itching, bleeding, open sores oozing puss and blood and everyone crying and complaining. Doctors and hospitals would be unable to help because they too were suffering with the same condition.

Imagine you were queuing for bread for your starving family and you could not get any food because you did not have the mark 666 on your forehead or hand. Many will take the mark out of ignorance, "it's just something else the Government has dreamed up to make more money, and they do it all the time"! Some may take the mark out of desperation to feed their family. But the angels had gone over the earth giving God's warning not to take the mark.

John makes it clear that only those who would take the mark and worship the image would fall under this judgement. No tribulation saint will suffer from them.

In Exodus 9: 8-11 we read that God told Moses to take some dust from the furnace and sprinkle it toward heaven in the presence of Pharaoh. The furnace was believed to be, in the Hebrew *kibshan*, a smelting furnace, the place of human sacrifices where human offerings were made in the fire to offer to the god Typhon an evil principle, in the hope of averting plagues. God used these very ashes the Egyptians would use to do the same thing but they saw that these ashes did not work it served only to harden Pharaoh's heart. God had done this before so why could it not happen again?

In Revelation in spite of continuous warnings from Almighty God the first angel poured out a plague of sores upon the men who had the mark of the Antichrist and upon them who worshipped his image. They had been warned, the gospel had been preached, and opportunity given, but like Pharaoh their hearts were hardened. Once the plague had come and they realised God meant what He said, it was too late, judgement had come; they had made their choice, it so happened it was the wrong one.

You know it is the same today, God tells us the consequences of sin and we all have a choice and once that choice is made that's it, God won't change His Word about disobedience.

Verse 3 The second vial.

And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man and every living soul in the sea died.

This sea may refer to the Mediterranean around which will be the location of the kingdom of the Antichrist. In Exodus 7 the waters of the Nile and all other waters of the land were turned into blood because of the disobedience of Pharaoh. Here the sea had become like the stagnant blood of a dead person bringing death to all marine life. Can you imagine the foul smell from this black congealed mass rising up from what was once a beautiful sea of rich blue, the home of all types of fish that was the living of hundreds of fishermen, the playground of those that lived nearby and the holidaymakers from all over the world. Yes, things had changed overnight, nobody wanted to sit and play in the sand or swim in the warm blue ocean anymore. Confusion will be everywhere, water is a necessity of life and the Bible does not tell us if God provides another source of water or engineers by some process can turn this blood back into water.

Verse 4 The third vial.

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters: and they became blood

I have no doubt that panic would set in by now. You would go to the water tap in the kitchen to quench your thirst only to find blood coming out of the tap instead of fresh cool water. You remember filling the kettle up less than an hour ago, only to find it is full up with thick stinking blood. You can't wash your clothes or have a shower, not in blood! You remember a small river nearby you found on a Saturday walk with the children, they enjoyed the fresh cold water from the

spring feeding the river. Surely not, yes it has turned into a spring of blood spurting up making the whole river dark red with flowing blood.

Some question if this is literal blood and the water is just red in colour. If Christ can turn water into wine He can turn water into blood. This is one of God's final judgements He wants to show His disappointment in His creation for their rejection of Him, this is not a party trick! This blood brings with it disease and pestilence there will be no known cure from this corrupt, never known before blood, where did this stuff come from?

Verse 5/6/7

And I heard the angel of the waters say, you are righteous O Lord which are, and was, and shall be, because you have judged thus, for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say. Even so Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgements.

Notice that at no time do the people repent, at no time do we read that the people cry out to God and ask forgiveness thereby getting fresh clear water for their thirsty children. It is not the people saying that God is righteous; it is the angel confirming God is justified in bringing this judgement upon the people. As we have said earlier we are told by our Pastors and teachers that God is a God of love, and so He is but we forget He is also a God that judges the world. He tells us to keep His commandments; He also tells us what will happen if we don't.

He is God Almighty, creator of the world and in His love and knowing what's best for us, demands us to obey Him not willing that even one should perish. However He has also told us right from the beginning there will be a day of reckoning when He will stop all sin by wiping out the author of sin. That time has come and this may happen sooner that you think.

I imagine there are some who just cannot understand how a loving God could stand by and see His creation in desperate need as these plagues proceed one after another. God has spent 2000 years explaining why He died a horrible death to redeem men women and children from the grip of sin. Satan wants to take God's creation to hell with him, Hell was never made for mankind. It was God's destiny for Satan and his demons. But unless we repent of our sins and ask Jesus into our life hell will by default become our destiny as well. Jesus freely gave up His own life it wasn't taken from Him, so that He had the legal right to take those who accept Him to heaven with Him. If you gave your life for your son or your daughter and they rejected you, they despised you, completely ignored you and went their own way; you would be very upset too. God laid down certain requirements called the 10 commandments for us to live by so that we can have a well organised, well balanced and safe existence.

For over 2000 years men have gone their own way and not God's way and all that time He has warned us that disobedience would result in eternal death. All that time man has done their best to soften the words of Jesus, make it easy to follow another path and tell us everything will be all right if we do what we want to. Throughout the ages the world and its evil systems have been opposed to God and His people. At the end of days there will be a reckoning, and it is those days we are studying. All readers of these studies have been told about God's salvation and opportunity is given you to seek God for yourself or ask your Pastor to help you find God's forgiveness, because Jesus wants you with Him when you die He makes it easy to find Him, do ask your Pastor or your Bible class teacher.

Verse 8 The fourth vial

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give Him glory.

This is the fourth vial judgement – the sun scorches men. Imagine, the mouths of the people are already parched from lack of water, everybody, especially the children and babies crying for water, and now the sun is so hot it scorches the body. Remember this plague is in the geographical area of the Antichrist that is the Old Roman Empire territory, the Middle East. Millions of people go to this area for their holidays because you are sure of hot sun and very little rain. I am sure you have been there as my wife and I have. We sat in the sun but under a large sun protector and I went to sleep, the sun moved round after a while and my foot became unprotected from the sun, it was so hot I jumped

up and had to jump into the pool to cool my foot down. Every now and again we all had to get into the swimming pool to cool off from the heat of the sun. These people, under this plague where the sun will pour out more heat than ever before, could not do that; it would mean swimming in blood! One would think that most if not all would be on their knees crying out to God in repentance, but the Bible says “they repented not” how silly! But every day the Gospel is preached somewhere in the world but every day thousands die without Christ unrepentant.

Verse 10 The fifth vial

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

So, the fifth angel was standing by ready for the word from God to deliver the next plague, a plague that compares to the 9th Egyptian plague in Exodus 10: 21-22. It was poured out on the seat of the beast. The seat being his throne will be located in Jerusalem. This plague is said to be upon the kingdom of the Antichrist, proving it is limited to the area of the Old Roman Empire territory not as some teach, the whole world. Revelation Chapter 11 verse 2 tells us the court outside the Temple was not to be measured because it was given to the Gentiles and they shall tread it underfoot for forty two months that is the time frame we are looking at now with these plagues. Mathew 24: 21, 22. also tells us about the great tribulation in the last 3 ½ years, again the time frame we are looking at, and it will be the worst time in the history of the world and only the elect, being Israel shall be saved by the days being shortened and Israel’s escape to Petra and the Lord’s second coming when He comes to earth to reign for 1000 years..

Verse 12 The sixth vial

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates and the water thereof was dried up that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

The River Euphrates is reported to be the longest river of Western Asia at almost 1800 miles. It begins in Turkey and heads towards the Mediterranean Sea flowing more than 1000 miles to converge with the river Tigris, then flows into the Persian Gulf. On this great river is the city of Babylon and Ur, it was from Ur that Abraham and his family left and travelled to the land of Canaan. The drying up of the river Euphrates refers to the coming Battle of Armageddon; the river bed will be made dry to allow the “kings of the sun-rising” (Greek) and their armies which will no doubt include the armies from China and Japan plus others who will join in the march towards Israel for the great battle called Armageddon for the prise of Jerusalem. The drying up of this river compares with the dividing of the Red Sea in Exodus 14: 21-26. Don’t we often say “Nothing is impossible with God?”

Verse 13.

John says; and I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouths of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

John says in verse 13 that he saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. In verse 14 he tells us they are the spirits of devils working miracles, Satan has brought together Hell’s mightiest to do battle against the Almighty God.

It is obvious by these verses that there are nations of the world that Antichrist doesn’t control but whose help he will seek. The goal of these three demon spirits, who have frogs coming out of their mouths, is to destroy Israel once and for all and to stop Christ’s reign over the earth. These frogs which are evil, unclean spirits will persuade the kings of the earth to join forces with Satan and the Antichrist against Israel. They will be empowered to do miracles to convince the kings of the earth that their future success lies in the whole earth joining together under Antichrist’s leadership to stop Christ from taking over the earth at His second advent.

This is the fulfilling of Psalm 2 which says;

Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together, against
the Lord and against His anointed.
Let us break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us.
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision.

Verse 15

Behold I come as a thief blessed is he that watches and keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

The Lord gives fair warning that he will come back as a thief. The thief does not advertise his intention to steal or break into your house he has come and gone before you know it. Jesus says His return will be just like that, the world will be at work, at play, at sports, on holiday, in meetings and suddenly you will look for your Christian friends only to find them missing, then you will remember they told you about the rapture and the calling up to God in the air and of all His followers, and you will feel sick that you didn't listen more closely. Maybe they didn't tell you about the rapture; well you have read it in these pages time and again. What will you do about it?

Verse 15 says *blessed is he that keeps his garments lest he walk naked and they see his shame.*

Since we started reading Revelation all sorts of people have appeared in white linen garments. Some have been given these garments by God some have come from heaven already wearing a linen garment. Those who loved and followed the Lord wore a white linen garment, those who chose not to follow Christ a garment was not given. Christ wore a garment and some who wanted healing pushed their way nearer to Him to touch His garment that they may be healed. Even the soldiers at the cross recognised His garment was too special to throw away so they cast lots for it. At the marriage supper of the Lamb His bride the New Jerusalem, will be arrayed in fine linen, for fine linen is the righteousness of the saints. It is obvious that the pure white linen garment is the "badge of honour" showing the world, the devil and all his fallen angels that we belong to the army of the King of kings.

All the time the army has its soldiers dressed in unity they can be seen and recognized from a distance. A stranger differently dressed can be seen but not recognized so he is told to remove himself from the 'family'. The man who had a different wedding garment on was rejected by the host and thrown out of the wedding party as an imposter. To have the right garment on is very important. We must keep our garments white and pure as we walk our Christian path lest we stray into paths that are not pleasing to God and we walk naked before Him and not only shame ourselves but our fellow Christians and shame our Lord too. (Heb, 6; 6-7)

Verse 17. The seventh vial

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, it is done. And there were voices and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great.

Remember these vials were full of God's judgements and this one was poured out into the air. The air is full of unkind words, blasphemy, unjust dealings, cheating, and so on and this pouring out was to cleanse the air of filth and uncleanness. Paul reminds us in Rom, 8: 19-22 that *all creation groans to be set free from its bondage and decay*. Now the time has come, the final judgement of sinful humanity has arrived. The great voice coming out of the Temple is undoubtedly the voice of God. All other voices were to remain outside the Temple and silence remained inside until the completion of the seventh vial. The first cry of God was from the cross He said "it is finished" a way was made to place the wrath of God upon Jesus to pay for our sins at the cross. Now over 2000 years later

God's voice was to be heard to cry out from the Temple "it is done", God's wrath against an unbelieving world is finally over.

At that point there was a great earthquake such as never has been since man has walked the earth. We certainly can't comprehend such a catastrophe; we simply can't imagine such a scene that causes the great city of Jerusalem to be split into three parts and the fall of the cities in the nations round about. At this time God remembered Babylon and its many sins against the Almighty God. The spiritual name of Jerusalem is Sodom and Egypt, Satan will turn this city into the capital of the homosexual community (Sodom) and the centre of worldliness (Egypt).

Today Jerusalem has a very large number of Homosexual and Lesbian communities as predicted by (Rev, 11: 8). When speaking of whoredom, which the Bible often does, it refers to sex sins and religious perversions being predominant in the last 3 ½ years of this age, (Ezek.23; 3, 8, 19, 27). As far as Babylon is concerned the Bible teaches that most, if not all sin and depravity, false prophecy and false religion has its roots in Babylon. The first organised, planned rebellion against God under the leadership of Nimrod was in Babylon. (Gen, 11: 1-9). Nimrod wanted to build a tower to reach up to heaven, the bringing down of that rebellion and all that it stood for centuries later under the power and authority of God Almighty was about to happen. God remembered Babylon and all her rebelliousness and to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Imagine an earthquake so big it made islands disappear and mountains could not be found. The Lord caused great hail stones weighing about 100 pounds each to fall from the sky's, and you can imagine the serious damage a number of those could do.

Verse 21.

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceedingly great.

And still men blasphemed God because of the plagues. This I cannot understand, with such devastation, hunger, thirst, being crushed by giant hail stones the people did not ask God's forgiveness. Verse 21 says men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail because the plague was exceedingly great.

Today Babylon looks a magnificent ruined city area which has a beautiful palace built by Saddam Hussein on part of the site of the old city, his intension was to rebuild Babylon to its former glory but his plans were stopped by war and ultimately his death.

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Be Blessed

My grateful thanks to my friend Graham Towse for his valued support and contributions.

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