

The Book Of Revelation - Chapters Fourteen, Fifteen & Sixteen

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders; and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. 12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. 14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

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. 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. 3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous [are] thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true [are] thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for [thou] only [art] holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of

the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

- the word "voice" is used eleven times in these three chapters; Heaven is pronouncing judgment as the world enters the last half of the Tribulation Period
- all the scenes in this section ANTICIPATE things yet to come; they are not CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS

- the 144,000 were sealed by God before the seventh seal (Rev. 7); they are now standing WITH the Lamb, BEFORE the four beasts and the elders (ie: they are not part of the church, but they are saved to become part of God's eternal kingdom)
- they are "virgins" - separated, literally or figuratively
- they are the "firstfruits" - Jewish "evangelists" who reap a great harvest of people in the Tribulation
- several angels are next seen pronouncing judgment:

1. "Judgment is come"

- "everlasting gospel" = "eternal good news"
- return to "natural theology" (man's conscience discerning a Creator who must be worshipped)
- "heaven & earth & sea & fountains of waters" - judged by the first four trumpets (ch. 8) and the first four vials (ch. 16)

2. "Babylon is fallen"

- PROLEPTIC prophecy: the fall of Antichrist's political and economic system in chapter 18 (ie: Isaiah 53, seven centuries before Christ)
- "is fallen, is fallen" - double destruction? - two Babylons are destroyed (ch. 17 & ch. 18)
- "fornication" - last days world built on LUSTS

3. "Escape God's Wrath"

- "drink of the wine" - drinking cup an image of judgment (ie: Jesus in Gethsemane)
- "patience of the saints" - God's people should understand the end of the wicked
- "blessed are the dead" - death to a saint is the ultimate blessing, not the ultimate curse!

4. "The Harvest is Ripe"

- three angels appear, encouraging the Lord to bring judgment (ie: sickle) upon the wicked
- PROLEPTIC prophecy of Armageddon (ch. 19)
- imagery of ancient winepress, with the Lord treading the grapes (wicked mankind)
- "horse bridles" - probably not literal; an image of grape juice staining the robe of one who treads with much fury (Isaiah 63:1-3)

- "seven last plagues ... filled up" - worst judgments!
- before the vial judgments are poured out, we are given a PROLEPTIC prophecy showing those who will eventually be saved out of the Tribulation
- "song of Moses" - same song sung to celebrate Israel's victory over Egypt in Exodus 15:1-21
- "song of the Lamb" - OT and NT saints present here
- at sounding of the seventh trumpet in Rev. 11:15, God's temple was seen (11:19); we now return to it

(15:5) to continue with the seven vial judgments, after three parenthetical chapters (12, 13, 14)

- "no man was able to enter" - irrevocable judgment!

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

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. 2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image. 3 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 died in the sea. 4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments.

8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 9 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. 10 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, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

12 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. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 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. 15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 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. 18 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. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 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 exceeding great.

SEVEN VIAL JUDGMENTS

FIRST VIAL - GRIEVOUS SORES (v. 2)

- similar to sixth plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:8-12)
- only on those who serve the Beast (Rev. 14:9-10)
- these sores do not disappear (Rev. 16:11)

SECOND VIAL - SEA TURNED TO BLOOD (v. 3)

- similar to first plague in Egypt (Ex. 7:14-25)
- second vial on sea, third vial on inland waters
- second trumpet turned one-third of sea to blood; second vial pollutes all of the sea

THIRD VIAL - RIVERS TURNED TO BLOOD (v. 4-6)

- also similar to first plague in Egypt
- third trumpet turned one-third of the fresh water bitter; third vial pollutes all of the fresh water
- these judgments are given because wicked men have shed the blood of God's people (v. 6)

FOURTH VIAL - HEAT FROM THE SUN (v. 8-9)

- previous judgments made the sun dim (Rev. 8:12)
- now the heat of the sun is increased, even as the world's water system lies useless!

FIFTH VIAL - DARKNESS (v. 10-11)

- similar to ninth plague in Egypt (Ex. 10:21-23)
- perhaps not worldwide (?), but certainly centered on the Beast's throne (either Jerusalem or Rome)

SIXTH VIAL - EUPHRATES DRIED UP (v. 12-16)

- this river mentioned earlier (Rev. 9:14)
- drying up of river makes it possible for "kings of the East" to come to Palestine, invading the Holy Land
- the Bible does not use the phrase "The Battle of Armageddon" - it comes from the Hebrew "har Megiddo" (hill of Megiddo, a place of slaughter)
- also called "Plain of Esdraelon" & "Valley of Jezreel"
- 14 miles wide, 20 miles long, beneath Mt. Carmel
- this area in Northern Israel; Napoleon called it "the most natural battlefield of the whole earth"
- in this area, Barak defeated the armies of Canaan (Judges 5), Gideon met the Midianites (Judges 7), and Saul lost his life (1 Samuel 3)
- it is Satan that draws the nations to battle (v. 13-14)
- **the outcome of this battle is recorded in Rev. 19**

SEVENTH VIAL - EARTHQUAKE & HAIL (v. 17-21)

- similar to seventh plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:22-26)
- "great city" (v.19) - Jerusalem? (11:8, & Zech. 14:4)
- more important: Babylon will be judged (Jer. 50-51)
- "fled" (v.20) - "sunk into the water"
- **this will be the world's fiercest earthquake ever!**
- "talent" (v. 21) - hailstones weighing 125 pounds!
- image of blasphemers being stoned (Lev. 24:16)
- Satan's religious (ch.17), political / economic (ch.18) and military (ch.19) systems are about to be judged!
- **even after all these plagues, men will not repent!**

"Behold, I come as a thief" (Revelation 16:15)