

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

BIBLE TEXT: Revelation 15:1-8; 16:1-21

LESSON 463 **Junior Course**

MEMORY VERSE: "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments" (Revelation 16:7).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Revelation 15: 1-8

¹ 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.

NOTES:

Songs of Praise

All through the Book of Revelation are sounded the praises of the redeemed in contrast with the wails and curses of those who hate God and refuse to obey Him. John wrote that when he was invited to look into Heaven he saw a Throne upon which sat the Judge of all the earth. Before the Throne was a sea of glass, clear as crystal (Revelation 4:6 ⁶ *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind*). He saw a Book sealed with seven seals, which only the Lamb was worthy to open. John saw terrible judgments poured out upon the earth as the seven seals were broken one by one. John heard seven trumpets sound as greater judgments were poured out. Yet mingled with the judgments, John saw at different times the hosts of the redeemed safe in Heaven, and they were singing songs of praise.

In the 15th chapter we read of John's vision of a host of redeemed people upon a sea of glass which this time was mingled with fire. They were the people about whom we read in the previous lesson --people who had gone through great fiery trials and been martyred because they had refused to take the mark of the beast. Here John saw them in Heaven, standing on the sea of glass, singing and playing harps.

Moses and the Lamb

What song were they singing? The song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb. Where do you suppose they had learned the song of Moses? No doubt in the Book of Exodus where is recorded Moses' song of praise to God for bringing the great multitude of Jews through the Red Sea to victory over their enemies.

And when had they learned the song of the Lamb? Probably when they had been redeemed by the great ransom that Jesus, the Lamb of God, paid for them with His own precious Blood. They had been given victory over the beast whom the devil had set up as dictator on the earth, and John saw them playing the beautiful harps of God as they sang, "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

God's Wrath

Immediately the door of the Temple in Heaven was opened -- the Temple that God had shown to Moses when they met together on Mount Sinai. God had told Moses to make one like it for the Children of Israel. When that door opened, out from the Temple came seven angels clothed with pure, white linen garments, and girded with golden girdles. To each of these seven angels was given a vial or bottle full of the wrath or anger of God.

We read in the Bible that "God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psalm 7:11), and for all time since the beginning of the world great multitudes of people have angered God by their wickedness and their stubborn and rebellious ways. Now upon those who have steadfastly refused to repent and be sorry for their sins, God's wrath is to be poured out.

The people on earth did not know that these angels were just ready to pour out the vials of God's wrath. They were going about their business as usual. But what is that mark in the palm of their hand or in their forehead? It is the mark they took in order to be able

Revelation 16: 1-21

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.

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

to buy or sell when they went to the food market, to the furniture store or the automobile dealer. The merchants could not sell to anyone who did not have a mark showing that he submitted himself to the rulership and order of the beast. They decided it was more important to buy food, to buy furniture, to buy a car than it was to be true to the God of Heaven.

Vials Outpoured

Suddenly, those who had the mark of the beast found great sores on their bodies. The first angel had poured out his vial. Then the seamen on the ships awoke one morning to find the sea had turned to blood. All the sea animals, all the fish, all the whales died because there was no water. The second angel had emptied his vial upon the sea. People in the cities and towns found nothing but blood coming out of their water faucets because the third angel had poured out his vial upon the springs and rivers, and the waters had become blood. John heard another angel say to the Lord that it was perfectly right and just that this awful thing had happened, because the wicked people had killed and shed the blood of the saints of God, and this was their just reward.

Then the sun came with scorching heat and men suffered of sunstroke. But instead of repenting and asking God for mercy, they rebelled against God and blasphemed His name. While they were still suffering with sores, from the lack of water, and from the scorching heat of the sun fearful darkness came over the capital where the beast ruled, and men gnawed their tongues for pain. Still they did not repent but blasphemed God.

The angels were still pouring out their vials, and the great river Euphrates dried up. Spirits of devils in the form of frogs came out of the mouth of the dragon, who is the devil, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. These evil spirits performed great miracles and persuaded the kings of the earth to meet at a certain place in Palestine called the valley of Megiddo (II Chronicles 35:22 ²² Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.). The kings of the east did not know what had happened in Heaven, but the way was made easy for them to go to Palestine. They did not know that Jesus would come there with ten thousands of His saints. Neither did they know that just at this time the seventh and last vial of God's final judgment was poured out. John heard a great Voice out of the Temple and from the Throne in Heaven, saying, "It is done."

There were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, great hail -- the hailstones weighing more than a hundred pounds each -- and the greatest earthquake this world had ever known. Have you ever experienced an earthquake? You may run to a tree or a fence post to steady yourself, but it is shaking, too. Oh, how helpless is a man when God shakes the earth!

The beast, his followers, the kings of the earth, and all the evil forces of the world fall under the might of the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. He consumes them with the spirit of His mouth, and destroys them with the brightness of His coming (II Thessalonians 2:8 ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming). The judgments are finished.

As a Thief

"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments." Jesus comes quickly, unexpectedly as a thief. To those who love Him and keep their garments of salvation, it is a day of joy; but to those who refuse and rebel, it is a dreadful day of heartache, trouble and sorrow. Which will it be for you, terror or

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.

great joy?

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of people were in Heaven standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God?
2. What were they singing?
3. Who came out of the opened door of the Temple in Heaven?
4. What kind of clothing did they wear?
5. What did the great Voice out of the Temple say to the seven angels?
6. Were the people on earth expecting the great judgments that were poured out?
7. Were they sorry because of their sins as the plagues came upon them one by one?
8. What influenced the kings of the earth to come to Palestine?
9. What was the last great plague, and what was the reaction of the people?
10. In what manner will Jesus come?

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.