



Truth For These Times



47. THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

Perhaps we would rather not study this subject, because in many ways it is rather fearful. When the plagues are poured out, it is a symbol of the wrath of God upon those who have not accepted the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. In previous times of our planet's history, God's wrath has been manifested, but always it has been mingled with mercy. However, at the time of the seven last plagues, God's mercy is withdrawn. Even though this study is somewhat unpleasant, God has revealed what will happen at this time for our instruction, also that we might be saved from the plagues themselves. God's true followers will not be affected by these divine judgments.

Revelation 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES, FOR IN THEM THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMPLETE.

The last repentant sinner at this time has heard the call of mercy and turned to God. Then these just judgments of God will fall on the unrepentant in a shelterless world.

Dan 12:1 At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; and THERE SHALL BE A TIME OF TROUBLE, such as never was since there was a nation, *even* to that time. And at THAT TIME YOUR PEOPLE SHALL BE DELIVERED, every one who is found written in the book.

In the study of the Mark of the Beast we saw how God's people were oppressed, and experienced a time of trouble and persecution. At the time of the plagues they have been sealed with the "Seal of God", while those who have the "Mark of the Beast" will suffer the plagues. It is now time for the wicked to have their "time of trouble" in the outpouring of the plagues – the worst trouble the world has ever experienced. It is during this period that God's people find deliverance.

Revelation 15:5,6 After these things I looked, and behold, THE TEMPLE of the tabernacle of the testimony IN HEAVEN WAS OPENED. And out of the temple came the SEVEN ANGELS HAVING THE SEVEN PLAGUES, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

When the temple in heaven is opened, the plagues are ready to be poured out. The ministry of mercy for sinners is now ended – the gospel message will no more unite sinners to salvation.



Angels come out of the temple with the seven last plagues.

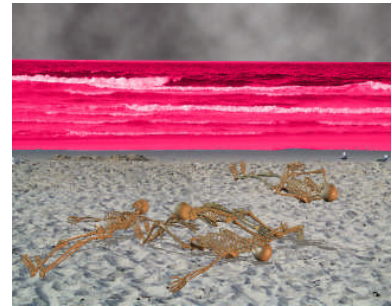
Isaiah 26:20,21 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; HIDE YOURSELF, as it were, for a little moment, UNTIL THE INDIGNATION IS PAST. For behold, THE LORD COMES OUT OF HIS PLACE TO PUNISH THE INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH FOR THEIR INIQUITY; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain.

When the Lord pours out His wrath upon the earth, God's people will be sheltered until the plagues have passed.

THE SEVEN PLAGUES

Revelation 16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, AND A FOUL AND LOATHSOME SORE came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

The first plague is an ulcer-like sore, perhaps like the boils that befell the Egyptians when they suffered the plagues of God's judgment at the time Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage. This plague falls on those who have not heeded the third angel's message. They have the mark of the beast or have worshipped his image. The plagues are not necessarily universal. If they were, it would perhaps mean that some of the later plagues would be unnecessary, for there would be no person alive to suffer them.



Sea turned to blood.

Revelation 16:3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it BECAME BLOOD AS OF A DEAD MAN; and every living creature in the sea died.

This is most offensive – as the blood of a dead man – that causes all living things in the sea to die. One can imagine that the reality will be much worse than the thought.

Revelation 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on THE RIVERS AND SPRINGS OF WATER, AND THEY BECAME BLOOD.

This plague is extremely serious because it affects water used for drinking, bathing and irrigation. This, too, is similar to that plague of Egypt when the waters were turned into blood. It is certainly a fearful visitation of divine wrath. Such a plague could not last long or all would perish. The alternative is that it is not universal.

Revelation 16:5-7 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "YOU ARE RIGHTEOUS, O LORD, the One who is and who was and who is to be, BECAUSE YOU HAVE JUDGED THESE THINGS. FOR THEY HAVE SHED THE BLOOD OF SAINTS AND PROPHETS, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments."



The sun scorched men with fire.

Such a terrible plague calls for a statement in defense of God for authorising it. God is certainly just in His dealings. They receive what they have given for they are guilty of shedding the blood of God's saints. The punishment is appropriate for the crime.

Revelation 16:8,9 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.

The first three plagues are poured out upon the earth, sea and fountains of waters. The next three are poured out upon the sun, the beast's throne and the river Euphrates, respectively. The seventh is poured out upon the air.

The sun has previously been beneficial to man, now it sends forth an excess of heat and energy, tormenting men and destroying life. Its worst results must be the most severe drought humanity has ever known. Instead of acknowledging their guilt they blaspheme the name of God. They repent not, demonstrating their devotion as servants of Satan.



Darkness on the earth.

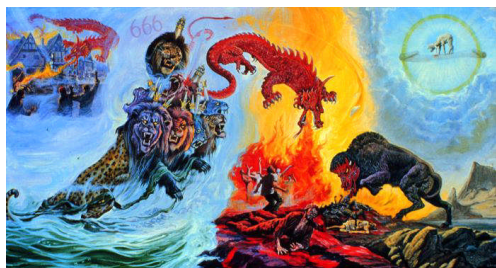
Revelation 16:10,11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his KINGDOM BECAME FULL OF DARKNESS; and they GNAWED THEIR TONGUES BECAUSE OF THE PAIN. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

Men have chosen spiritual darkness, now they must suffer literal darkness. The absence of light and heat would be all the more oppressive and painful after the intense heat experienced under the fourth plague. Here is a darkness that can be felt, similar to the plague in Egypt. Perhaps they gnaw their tongues in pain because of the intense cold accompanied by the prolonged darkness. Notice too how this plague strikes at the very seat of the great apostasy of the latter days – the Papacy. At this stage, the sores of the first plague are still causing suffering.

Revelation 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river EUPHRATES, and its WATER was DRIED UP, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

When Cyrus defeated Babylon, he diverted the river Euphrates by digging many ditches. The water level was lowered so that his men could march into Babylon under the river gates and defeat the mighty city. The drying up of the river Euphrates was a forerunner of the destruction of Babylon. In a similar way, in this verse the drying up of Euphrates is a forerunner of the destruction of antichristian Babylon.

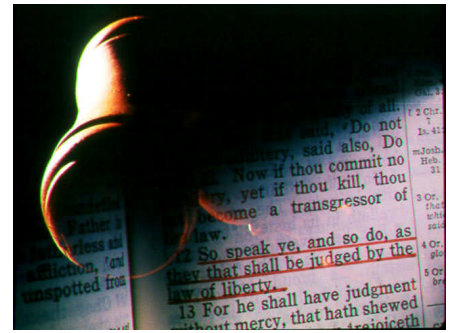
Revelation 16:13-16 And I saw THREE UNCLEAN SPIRITS LIKE FROGS *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For THEY ARE SPIRITS OF DEMONS, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, ARMAGEDDON.



Dragon, beast and false prophet.

The dragon represents paganism and spiritualism; the beast, the Papacy; and the false prophet, apostate Protestantism – the three great religious apostasies since the flood. These constitute latter-day Babylon. To God they are repulsive, as a frog is repulsive to humans. They are controlled by demons and perform miracles to make their deceptive work appear genuine. They are preparing for the battle of the great day of God Almighty – Armageddon. This battle is mentioned in Revelation 19:17-21.

Revelation 16:17-21 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “IT IS DONE!” And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was 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. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the PLAGUE OF THE HAIL, since that plague was exceedingly great.



No second chance once probation closes.

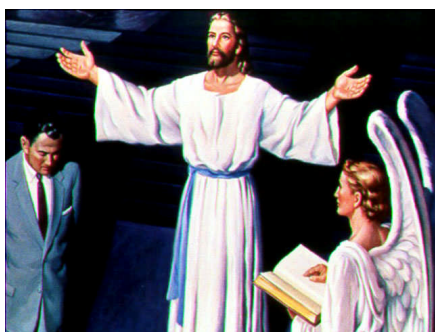
God’s voice sounds forth – “It is done.” The greatest earthquake this world has ever seen takes place, demonstrating the fierceness of the wrath of God. Hailstones well in excess of fifty pounds (approx 25 kg) each pelt the earth. Men blaspheme God for the third time – totally unrepentant, thus the 7 plagues are ended. The next great event is the second coming of Christ – verse 15.

THE CLOSE OF PROBATION

Zephaniah 2:1,2 GATHER yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, BEFORE THE DECREE IS ISSUED, OR THE DAY PASSES like chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s anger comes upon you!

Here is a decree that proclaims the close of human probation. There is no second chance, no repentance, and no forgiveness of sin when probation has closed.

Revelation 22:11,12 HE WHO IS UNJUST, LET HIM BE UNJUST STILL; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; HE WHO IS RIGHTEOUS, LET HIM BE RIGHTEOUS STILL; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.



Jesus no longer intercedes for the human race when probation closes.

When probation closes we are sealed for eternity. Those who are saved are forever secure. Those who are unprepared are forever lost. Probation closes before the plagues begin to fall and the door of mercy will be closed. The beginning of the plagues is the end of the day of salvation. Probation will close when people least expect it. When Christ finishes His mediatorial work in the heavenly sanctuary, there will be no more mercy for the sinner. The decree will go forth and the plagues will be poured out.

ARE YOU READY?

Isaiah 55:6 SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND, CALL UPON HIM
WHILE HE IS NEAR.

Jeremiah 8:20 THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE
SUMMER IS ENDED, AND WE ARE
NOT SAVED!

The saddest words ever to be spoken must be the words of Jeremiah 8:20. To have to say finally – “we are not saved” is the greatest of all losses. It will be too late then to change your mind – your eternity will be settled forever. But there is still time now – the day of salvation is still open – today you can make your decision to be on the Lord’s side and stand triumphant at last.

He wants you in His kingdom – He is pleading with your heart today that you might consecrate it fully to Him. You have nothing to lose except your guilt and sin and an eternity to gain. Jesus is waiting for you with outstretched arms – why not respond today – tomorrow may be too late. In 2 Corinthians 6:2 it states, “Behold, NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation.” Dear friend, Jesus is calling you NOW, are you listening to Him?



Does Jesus have your heart? Are you ready for Him to come?

Review Sheet – The Seven Last Plagues

ASSIGNMENT: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. What do the seven last plagues demonstrate? Rev 15:1
the seven last plagues, _____
2. What is the first plague? Revelation 16:2
Answer: _____
3. What is the second plague? Revelation 16:3
Answer: _____
4. What is the third plague? Revelation 16:4
Answer: _____
5. For what reason is God declared righteous in pouring out such a terrible plague?
Revelation 16:5-7
Answer: _____
6. What is the fourth plague? Revelation 16:8,9
Answer: _____
7. What is the fifth plague? Revelation 16:10,11
Answer: _____
8. What is the sixth plague? Revelation 16:12-16
Answer: _____
9. What is the seventh plague? Explain its meaning. Revelation 16:17-21
Answer: _____
10. Before the outpouring of the seven last plagues human probation will close. How does
Revelation 22:11, 12 describe the unchanging spiritual condition of the earth's inhabitants at
this time?
Answer: _____
11. How do God's people fare during this great time of trouble? Psalm 91:5-10
No evil shall befall you, _____

12. What should we be doing now? Isaiah 55:6
What are the saddest words one could ever speak? Jeremiah 8:20
Answer: _____

Are you preparing to be on God's side during the time of trouble? YES _____ NO _____