

# THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

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

LESSON 463 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22).

## **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.

## **Bible References:**

### **I John's Vision of the Overcomers in Heaven**

1. John sees those who "had gotten the victory over the beast," Revelation 15:2;

#### **Revelation 13:4, 8**

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months.

#### **Romans 8:35-37**

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

2. They sing the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb, Revelation 15:3;

#### **Revelation 14:3**

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.

#### **Exodus 15:1**

1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

3. The Millennium is to follow the final outpouring of God's judgment on earth, Revelation 15:4.

### **II Preparation for Outpouring of the 'Seven Last Plagues**

1. John beholds the Temple opened in Heaven, Revelation 15:5.
2. The seven angels receive the vials containing the seven last plagues, Revelation 15:1, 6-8;

#### **Exodus 40:34, 35**

34 Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

35 And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

### **III The Outpouring of Five Vials Full of the Wrath of God upon Earth**

1. The angels are commanded to "go" Revelation 16:1.
2. The first vial is outpoured, Revelation 16:2

#### **Exodus 9:9-11**

9 And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.

10 And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast.

## 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

11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

### 3. The second vial is outpoured, Revelation 16:3

#### Exodus 7:17

17 Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I *am* the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that *is* in mine hand upon the waters which *are* in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.

#### Revelation 8:8, 9

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

### 4. The third vial is outpoured, Revelation 16:4-7

#### Revelation 8:10, 11

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

#### Revelation 18:24

24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

#### Matthew 23:34, 35

34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from *a* city:

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon *the* earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zachari of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

### 5. The fourth vial is outpoured, Revelation 16:8, 9.

### 6. The fifth vial is outpoured, Revelation 16:10, 11.

## IV The Outpouring of the Sixth Vial and the Approach of Armageddon

### 1. Preparation is made for Armageddon, Revelation 16:12-14.

### 2. "The battle of that great day of God Almighty" is set in array Revelation 16:14, 16;

#### Revelation 17:14

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

#### Revelation 19:17-21

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*, *both* free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh

#### Joel 3:1, 2

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,

1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

3. Christ comes to earth to fight this last great conflict, Revelation 16: 15

#### **Revelation 1:7**

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

#### **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.

### **V The Outpouring of the Seventh Vial**

1. The end of God's wrath is reached, Revelation 16:17.
2. "There were voices, and thunders, and lightening; and there was a great earthquake," Revelation 16:18

#### **Matthew 24:29**

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken

#### **Isaiah 29: 6**

6 Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire.

#### **Isaiah 2:19-21**

19 And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

20 In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

21 To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

3. The fall of Babylon is foretold Revelation 16:19

#### **Revelation 14:8**

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.

#### **Revelation 18:5**

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

4. The fall of great hail is told, and yet men continue to blaspheme God. Revelation 16:21

#### **Revelation 11:19**

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

#### **Exodus 9:23-25**

23 And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

24 So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

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.

25 And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.

### Notes:

There is coming a time of terrible tribulation and trouble that is horrible to contemplate. This earth will be visited by the wrath of God because of its rejection of the mercies that God has extended through the ages. In the time now about to open, God's judgments will be poured out without restraint. People will even be given blood to drink, for they are "worthy." What an awful thought! Human language could never paint the horrible picture that will unfold here on earth during the time of the Great Tribulation. We try to picture as best we can, using these insights that the Word of God gives us, and yet it is certain that our minds grasp only a small portion of the horror that will be the experience of those who live on the earth during this time.

### **"As a Snare"**

We know that these judgments are coming but the people of the world do not know. We read the Bible and know that every prophecy of the Book will be fulfilled. But it is possible to hear preaching and to read prophecy and still not "know." Just as it was in the days of Noah -- he preached as he built the ark, but even though the people heard his preaching, it was said of them that they "knew not until the flood came, and took them all away." These are not idle words. "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

These plagues will be literal. Just as the plagues that God sent on the Egyptians in Moses' time were real, these will be. Those who have the mark of the beast will be afflicted with sores; the sea will be turned to blood and everything in the sea will die; the rivers and fountains of waters will all be blood which means that every water system will have blood instead of water. The sun will be so very hot that it will scorch men with fire, and yet they will not repent. These terrible times are coming to the very community in which you and I live, so it behoves all of us to be sure that we are ready for Jesus' coming so we will be shut in with Him at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, during the time of the Great Tribulation upon the earth.

When we study the opening of the seven seals and the sounding of the seven trumpets and the pouring out of the seven vials we see the plagues growing exceedingly more severe with each cycle. The seven vials are the final wave of judgments that God will send. But even when they are at their worst, people will not turn to God; rather they will harden their hearts and blaspheme God because of their trouble.

### **The Overcomers**

In John's vision he saw a company of people in Heaven rejoicing before God with the harps of God. They were singing the song of Moses and the Lamb. They were praising God for His deliverance out of the hand of the Antichrist and out of the terrible things that had transpired on earth. There seems to be a connection between these two songs. The song of Moses was one the Israelites sang as they were delivered from their troubles in Egypt, and now again that song is sung, along with the song of the Lamb. What a wonderful anthem that will be! This seems to indicate that this group "that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark,

and over the number of his name," and stood on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, were Jews. At least it is certain that we could not use this verse of Scripture to prove that there is hope of salvation for those who live under the blazing light of the Latter Rain Gospel and fail to make the Rapture. There will be those who will stand true and will give their lives for their testimony rather than to take the mark of the beast; but you who read these Bible Studies and hear the things that are taught, your hope of seeing God in peace is in being sure that you are ready to go with the Lord when He comes in the sky for His Bride. The Rapture of the Church could take place at any time and it certainly will be before the more terrible stages of the Great Tribulation come upon this earth.

### **Righteous Judgment**

God, having made provision for man's redemption, is perfectly just when He judges man for refusing it. Some might think that a God of love would not send such judgments upon the inhabitants of the earth. But they, in effect, ask for them when they refuse His call of mercy and fail to take advantage of the provision made to escape the things that He tells us are coming. The Prophet Isaiah gives the warning and points to the provision in Isaiah 26:20, 21: "Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpass. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain."

This very plainly speaks of the possibility of escape. It tells us that we may have the privilege of being shut away with the Lord at the time of the First Resurrection. (The privilege of the raptured ones will be covered in the next lesson.) But during the time that these vials of judgment are being poured out, the ones left here will be punished by things that have never been before nor ever will be again.

### **The Glory of God**

The smoke that filled the Temple in Heaven and the glory of God that John saw there remind us of the scene that unfolded when Solomon's Temple was dedicated. Each of these occasions reveals God's interest in the affairs of man. He is concerned, and blesses people when they worship Him in truth and His name is glorified. He is concerned when people rebel and refuse to obey Him; and when judgment is meted out, that is to the glory of God, too. God is a God of love, but He could not be just if sin went unpunished. Judgment is never sent until mercy has first been offered.

In Heaven the angel said, "Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus." When Christ was on earth He drove the money changers out of the Temple with cords, because they had made the house of the Lord a den of thieves. So even the wrath of God poured out during the coming tribulation will be to His glory, and all the redeemed of all ages will rejoice with Him in these judgments -- not because men are punished but because God's judgments are righteous.

### **Tribulation but No Repentance**

Some would say that when the great trouble comes they will then repent and seek God. But when the sun was so very hot that men were scorched with great heat, they blasphemed the name of God and repented not. Repentance does not come about through trouble alone but through the awakening of the understanding of man by the Holy Spirit. When sin is shown in its awful reality, the sinner realises that his sins are hideous and that his soul will be damned unless he calls out to God for mercy in true repentance. Some come to this

point through trouble, but by far the greater number of people who have distressing problems are more likely to forget God then, because they are preoccupied with their troubles. Signs and wonders do not often cause people to repent, either. Father Abraham told the rich man who was in hell that if his five brethren did not believe Moses and the prophets, they would not believe even though one went to them from the dead.

### **The Finish**

In the pouring out of the last vial we have these words, "It is done." It has been said, "This tells us direct from the judgment seat itself that here the end is reached, and that with this outpouring the whole contents of the wrath of God upon this present world are exhausted." In the Battle of Armageddon, in which the kings and armies of the earth set themselves against Christ and His armies, there will be the defeat of these evil forces who will be slain by the brightness of His coming. Those who are not destroyed will be brought into subjection and obedience to the rule of Christ, for then will He establish the Millennium upon this earth.

A great many events will take place at the revelation of Christ. After having had a part in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the high privilege of the redeemed will be to come back with Christ on white horses and rule and reign with Him a thousand years.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. Over whom had the overcomers in this lesson gotten the victory?
2. What was the reason for the song of Moses?
3. What comparison could there be between the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?
4. Where, first, did John see this scene unfolding?
5. What comparison could be drawn between the happenings in the Temple in Heaven and in Solomon's Temple at its dedication?
6. Will the rivers literally be turned to blood? Have they ever been before?
7. When will the Battle of Armageddon be fought?
8. From where will the armies of God come?