

The Seven Last Plagues

Rev. 15

11/11/2020

We have already seen the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven personalities now we will be viewing the seven vials (bowls) of wrath. The terrible events that we have already studied concerning the first half of Tribulation will be surpassed by the plagues of the second half. This will cover where we are now to the 21st verse of chapter 19. They will be the final judgments on a Christ rejecting society and therefore will be the most intense and devastating of anything that has happened upon this earth.

The Purpose of the Tribulation is Judgment!!!!

V1. "And I saw": This assures us that John is still a spectator to these events. This is the view of the last dress rehearsal of mankind's day on earth before Christ sets up His Millennial Kingdom.

"Another sign": Original supports "wonder". This connects to Rev. 12:1, the 1st "sign" which was Israel. This signifies the series of events from Chapter 12 to Christ's return are mutually related. Therefore the seven angels of wrath are connected to the entire scope of judgments we have been studying.

What we are studying in Revelation is what the Holy Spirit does throughout the entire Bible. God tells us something, tells us again, and then continues to revisit the established foundation of truth with additional logical detail. This method of God giving us **Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth** is known as the **Law of Recapitulation**.

Psa. 110:1 "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool". Satan, who has been thrown onto Earth, makes his final push against Israel in this last half of Tribulation along with his desire for world domination through the two Beasts. It will be at the end of this period that God will make the final display of wrath and conclude earth's rebellion against Him.

"Filled up": The original language is such as supports something that has already been done.

"The wrath of God": Again these last seven plagues will be God's final judgment being poured out. The language is teaching a greater intensity of judgment from the 1st half of Tribulation. It is clear that this is coming directly from the Throne of God. God is judging a Christ rejecting people.

V2. "As it were": Once again let our attention be focused upon what God teaches us throughout this final prophetic book. When something is a symbol of something it is shown that way and when it is a statement of a direct person or thing it says that. By carefully letting the Bible say what it says allows us to receive the entire message that is being given us. This method will cause us to not major on minors and pull segmented passages and form a false system of thoughts.

"Sea of glass mingled with fire": This "sea of glass" is the same one we saw in Chapter 4:6. There it was unoccupied, now it is occupied. Then its surface was crystal clear and plain, now its surface is of a "fiery" aspect, symbolizing the "fiery trials" of its occupants.

"Them that gotten victory 1) over the beast, 2) and over his image 3) and over his mark 4) and over the number of his name. Victory is achieved not on this earth but after. These are those who, although had been beheaded, still were victorious over the workings of evil of this period. The walk of a Believer is not in vain. There may be shortcomings here in relation to friendships, lifestyles, work opportunities, and even life itself may be taken for refusing to live anyway except following the Shepherd but the Eternal Reward will be forth it all. We are seeing that the Tribulation Saints are being recognized as having victory in the end.

V3. "The song of Moses": This can be looked at in Exod. 15:1-22 and Deut. 31:19,22, 31:30, 32:1-43.

"The song of the Lamb": This is found in Rev. 5:9-12 which ascribes praise to Christ as the Redeemer.

"King of saints": Jesus Christ is the center of all the books of the Bible.

V4. "Who shall not fear?" This is the statement of the Holiness of God. He is a consuming fire. He gives us breath and we live and he takes it and we die. There is no hiding from Him. It is a fearful thing to stand before Him. The fear of Him is the beginning of wisdom. The Almighty is not revered as He should be. The language of the history of the church age signifies a steady decline of fear to the point of being lukewarm. The statistics of sin is straight across the board with the visible church and the world. The world has infiltrated the visible church and the visible church has reached out unto the world and made every effort possible to appease the "flesh". God shall not be mocked for what His creation sows it shall also reap. The entire Bible with this finishing book is teaching us that His longsuffering will come to an end and His bowl of wrath will become full and be poured out on those who have not feared Him. Hell will be a reality discovered one moment too late. Those who have desired to not fear Him and not receive His gift of salvation and fellowship will find that desire (being apart from God) completed in Hell and then in the Lake of Fire. The complete Counsel of God is that He is a God of Love and that He cannot cover up the sins of His creation. God's love has never saved anyone. It is that truth added to the work of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary that redeems us from this wrath of which we studying. People, in my humble opinion, are being deceived into thinking that the God of Love will not ever remove Himself from them when in reality the decision is being made by the individual themselves based upon false teaching.

"All nations": America and all the nations of this world today are not on the verge of coming and worshipping before God. In this passage we find there will be a day when that will happen.

Psa. 2:8 "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen (nations) for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." The nations are going to be His.

Isa. 11:9 "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

Jer. 23:5 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."

Phil. 2:9-11 "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The lost individual may refuse to bow in this life but will one day in judgment. They will not be calling Him their Redeemer but will acknowledge Him as The Lord of all.

"Thy righteous acts...manifest" The witness coming forth during this period is amazing. God has a course in place that will come to where all wrongs are dealt with.

Psa. 7:9 "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins".

Psa. 11:7 "But the righteous Lord loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright".

Psa. 107:1,40,42 "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever...He poureth contempt upon the princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way...The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth."

V5. "The temple": The "temple" is referred to fifteen times in the Book of Revelation. Its prominence cannot be ignored. In the first part of Revelation, through Chapter 3, the church is the subject and there is no mention of a temple. Beginning in Chapter 4 the scene shifts to heaven, and we see the temple in heaven; also there is a temple on earth patterned after the one in heaven. There is no temple in New Jerusalem where the redeemed will enjoy "The Eternal State" God has designed. Jesus will be the focus of that place.

“The testimony in heaven”: The Holy of Holies in heaven. The tabernacle with all its workings that Moses was instructed to build and use is a duplicate of the original in heaven. Exod. 25:40 “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.” Heb. 9:23 “It was therefore necessary that the pattern of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”

The originals are referred to in Rev. 11:19 “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” The action of God here is based on the violation of His covenant with Israel—the broken Law. God is righteous in what He is about to do. He will judge, then He will carry out His covenant with Israel.

V6. “Seven angels”: The prominence of angels in this book is again called to our attention by the appearance of angels at this point. Previously, seven angels blew on seven trumpets. Here is the new series of seven angels who have the seven plagues of the seven vials (bowls) of wrath. The departure of the angels from the temple demonstrates that they depart from the throne of mercy, and now God acts in justice instead of mercy.

“In linen...golden girdles”: This is indicating the clothing of a priestly fashion indicative of the location they come from. Their work now is changed from priestly (intervention) to judgment against the Christ rejecting land.

V7. “Vials (bowls) of wrath”: Notice they are not bringing packages of love but the Wrath of God.

V8. “Temple was filled”: This will continue for the 3 ½ years that these angels will be administering the wrath of God upon this earth. We find that the earthly Tabernacle used bowls in the service being conducted. The High Priest once a year would take a bowl filled with blood into the Holiest of Holies. During this time the vials (bowls) will be pouring out wrath and not mercy.

The meek Lamb of God who endured chastisements, beating, a mockery of trials, the cross, and continued denial from the very ones He came to deliver will in that day become the Lamb of Wrath. The cup of iniquity being full is now poured out without measure.

Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Rom. 10:8-11 "...The Word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed."

Rom. 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Rom. 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."