

Revelation 15

The Seven Vials

In our last episode in Revelation chapter 14 I mentioned that chapters 14 – 18 were parallel chapters meaning these events are happening within the same period known as the Great Tribulation Period. In Chapter 14 for example, we see the phrase, Babylon has fallen and we'll see that phrase again in chapter 18. We'll also see references to Babylon in chapters 16 & 17 and we'll discuss this more in the upcoming chapters.

In chapter 14, God invites men to join Him one last time, but man's heart only grows harder against God so here are the 7 last plagues to hit the earth.

Seven angels with seven plagues

Revelation 15: 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.

These 7 last plagues contain God's final judgement on the earth during the Great Tribulation period.

The sea of glass

Revelation 15:2, 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.

This vs is referring to those killed for Christ during the tribulation period because they would not worship the beast or receive his mark. They make it into God's kingdom. They are given harps by God. These harps represent worship as seen over in Revelation 5:8-9.

Revelation 15:3-4, And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous 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.

Here in vs 3-4 they sang the song of the Lamb declaring victory of the Lamb.

The temple in heaven

Revelation 15:5, And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

John sees the heavenly temple in which God sits on a throne in vs 5.

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.

The vials are shallow cups that look like bowls.

I believe these four beasts are the same as what we discussed in Revelation 4:8. Those four beast had 6 wings and they were full of eyes, resting not day or night saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is and is to come. One of these four beast give the seven angels seven vials full of the wrath of God.

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 temple was filled with smoke and the bible says here that no man could enter the temple until the seven plagues were completed (v.8). Many people believe that we will become angels when we get to heaven and put on wings. The bible does not teach that. It says here, no man so you'll be a new man or woman and the bible says you will put on a new incorruptible body and obtain immortality.

Let's talk briefly concerning the seals, trumpets and the vials;

I believe the first six seals will be broken during the first three and one-half years, and that the seventh seal (which includes the trumpets and vials) covers the last three and one-half years."

Let's look at the similarities between the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments.

The trumpet judgements and the bowl judgements both deal with the earth or the land:

Revelation 8:7 where it says, *"The first angel sounded (blew his trumpet), and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up."*

Revelation 16:2, *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore (horrible and painful sores) upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.*

The trumpet judgements and the bowl judgements both deal with the sea:

Revelation 8:8-9; *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.*

Revelation 16:3; *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.*

The trumpet judgements and the bowl judgements both deal with the rivers and springs of water:

Revelation 8:10; *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;*

Revelation 16:4; *And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.*

The trumpet judgements and the bowl judgements both deal with the sun, moon, and stars:

Revelation 8:12; And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Revelation 16:8-9; 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.

The fifth trumpet dealt with sun and sky darkened and men tortured:

*Revelation 9:1-3; And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a **star** fall from heaven unto the earth: and to **him** was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

Revelation 16:10-11; And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat (throne) of the beast (demonic beast); and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

- The heat of the sun from the 4th angel scorches men during the day time hours.
- 1/3 of the day time hours it's dark.
- The 5th angel blows his trumpet and the sun and sky are darkened by the smoke from the pit.
- The 5th angel pours his vial, the kingdom is in darkness, more than likely by the smoke from the pit.
- The 5th angel blows his trumpet and demonic scorpion like locust comes out of the pit and tortured men for 5 months.
- The 5th angel pours his vial and men are in pain because of their torture.

The sixth trumpet deals with the river Euphrates

Revelation 9:13-16; And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and for day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

Revelation 16:12-16; 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. 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. 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. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

- The Euphrates River dries up when the 6th angel pours his vial.
- The 6th angel blows his trumpet and let loose four, more than likely demonic angels that are bound in the Euphrates River.
- The Euphrates River is dried up in preparation for the battle of Armageddon.

The seventh trumpet implies that the Great Tribulation is coming to its end:

Revelation 11:15-19; And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth. 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.

Revelation 16:17-21; 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. 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. 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. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 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.

- The seventh angel blows his trumpet and great voices in heaven announce “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”
- The seventh angel pours his vial and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.
- Both of these passages dealing with the trumpets and the vials includes lightnings, voices, thunderings and destruction of the earth by earthquake and hail.