

Revelation 15-16

Read Central Focus

Sing the Hymn

Prayer (together aloud)

Read the Introduction from LifeLight

The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

15 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!

⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come
and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

1. First, 7 seals, then 7 trumpets, and now 7 bowls (verse 7).
2. We are in heaven in this vision (verse 1).

3. Preparations are being made for the pouring out of the 7 last plagues (verse 1).
4. These plagues will impact the entire earth (chapter 16 bears this out).
5. God's people who have come through the great tribulation (review concept of "true timeline")...are described how?

Answer: "those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name"

What was the beast? 1st: World Powers/Political Powers; 2nd: Religious and Spiritual Powers.

What was its image? The devil gives power to Anti-Christ and antichrists to perform false miracles on earth to deceive.

What was the number? 666 (review)

6. God's people now stand verse 2 "beside the sea of glass" (see 4:6), but now perceived as being mixed with fire (verse 2). This reflects the glory of God.
7. Their victory over the beast looks like a defeat to the world.
8. Read Matthew 10:28.
9. Verses 3-4: The song of the saints is the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb. The OT refers to the Song of Moses at Exodus 15:1-18 and Deuteronomy 32. Both songs declare God's power and God's sovereignty over history and declare God's victory over His enemies. All nations will recognize that the Lord is God.
10. It is also the song of the Lamb: Moses led Israel to the Promised Land; but the Christ leads us and all saints to THE Promised Land.
11. Verses 5-6: Once again, the temple in heaven, the tabernacle of the Testimony, is opened, and the seven angels with the seven plagues come out. Their dress indicates priestly functions to the world. They serve as mediators of God's punishment to the world. What was announced before is now enacted.
12. Verse 8: the smoke is the glory of God.

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Chapter 16

1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,

“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.

It is what they deserve!”

7 And I heard the altar saying,

“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!”

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish
11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.
14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

1. The angels now pour out the bowls of God’s wrath out upon the earth. It’s happening! Romans 1:18.
2. The plagues are directed against the unbelieving world. They do not affect the people of God.

3. Verse 2: The description is reminiscent of the sixth plague poured out on Egypt, in which boils and abscesses broke out upon the people. In apocalyptic translation: those who follow the beast and worship his power “will in the end find that their hopes are fruitless and their spirits in agony as they realize that the powers of this world will pass away and only God and His own endure forever.”
4. Verse 3: Water turns to blood just like in Egypt (Ex 7:14-24). The result is death.
5. Verse 4: Death spreads everywhere.
6. Verse 5: God’s judgment is just.
7. Verses 6-7: Vindication of God’s judgment. Blood is a major concept throughout. These have rejected the blood of the Lamb however. “Rejecting the blood of Christ, they instead shed the blood of His servants, some in complete, knowing rebellion against God, others thinking that by doing so they are doing God a favor. So instead of drinking the blood of Christ in the cup of blessing given in the Sacrament of the Altar, the very blood poured out for them, they are forced to drink the blood of God’s wrath that runs through the rivers of the land.”
8. Verses 8-9: The fourth bowls poured out on the sun. Fourth of its fire strikes the people. These are a foretaste of the last judgment. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone because of their wickedness.
9. Verse 9: These people did ***not*** do WHAT?
10. Verses 10-11: Before the end, the agents of Satan will be shown to be powerless. “The euphoria of following the beast is only temporary.” The high wears off, but there is still the lack of repentance.
11. Verse 12-16, sixth bowl. Spiritual invasion, demonic spirits. Deception and lies which entice the nations to war against God’s people. Darkness always believes it can conquer light. The final conflict (Satan’s little season in Rev 20). God’s people must be prepared.*** The tribulation gets worse before the Last Day. 1 Thess 5:2: The return of Christ is “like a thief in the night.” “Armageddon”: means “Mountain of

Megiddo” = The plain of Megiddo was a significant strategic site in Israel (the Northern Kingdom after the monarchy was divided after the death of Solomon). One mountain in that region is Mt. Carmel where Elijah defeated the priests of Baal. Armageddon is a SPIRITUAL battle.

12. 17-21: Final outpouring of God’s wrath and then the End.