

God Judges the Great City

Scene Four: The Seven Last Plagues

Chapters 15-16



Revelation 15

¹I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed. ²And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God ³and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.

⁴Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts have been
revealed."

⁵After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. ⁶Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. ⁷Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. ⁸And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

The Victory Celebration in the Heavenly Worship

An exodus Scene- biblical memory transfigured

- “a sea of Glass mixed with fire”
- Those who have conquered (cf. 7:1-8; 14:1-5)
- The Song of Moses and the Lamb (Ex. 15 & Deut. 32)
- The Plagues
- The Smoke of Sinai
- The Tabernacle
- “dry ground”
- Two Groups of People

A worship Scene Christian worship Transfigured

- Victory is already celebrated, though not full yet
- “Now but not yet”
- Eucharistic Celebration past, present future
- God’s Attributes Revealed in Mighty Acts
 - Justice
 - Truth
 - Holy
 - Righteous

The Proper Response

- Fear
- Glory to His Name
- Coming
- Worship

Revelation 16

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

¹Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth."

²The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

³The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.

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

"You are just in these judgments,
you who are and who were, the Holy One,

because you have so judged;
⁶for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

⁷And I heard the altar respond:
"Yes, Lord God Almighty,
true and just are your judgments."

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. ⁹They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

The Seven Bowls of the Wrath of God

- Voice From the Temple: Isa. 66:6
- Magnitude of Judgment: Poured on all and everything
 - Earth (sixth Egyptian Plague Ex. 9:9-11)
 - Sea (Ex. 7:20-21)
 - Rivers and Springs (Ps. 78:44)
 - Sun
 - The Beast
 - The River Euphrates
 - Cyrus the Persian Herodotus Hist. 1.191
 - Air
- God is Just in his Judgments
 - God is Holy
 - They are Persecutors of God's People
 - Acts 9:4ff
 - John 15:18-25
 - Psalm 19:9; 119:137
 - Their Punishment (Isa. 49:26)
- The Refusal to Repent and Worship
 - They Cursed the Name of God
 - Loved Darkness more than Light (John 3:16-21)
 - Like Pharaoh Ex. 7:13, 22, 8:15, 19, 32, 9:7, 12, 34, 35; 10:20, 27, 11: (the Lord's Hardening)
 - The Purpose of Pharaoh to reveal God's Power and Glory...Ex. 9:16; see Romans 9:14-21; 11:9

¹⁰The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony ¹¹and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done

¹²The 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. ¹³Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

¹⁶Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. ¹⁹The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. ²¹From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

The Judgment of the Beast/Caesar/Pharaoh Babylon/Rome/Egypt

- The Battle of Armageddon
 - Josh. 3:1-4:18
 - Kings of the East—Parthians
 - Har=>Mountain
 - “Meggido”
 - Judges 4:4-5:31; cf. Rev. 5:19 II Kings 23:28-29
 - Plain of Megiddo Judges 5:19, 2 Chron. 35:22 (closest mount is Mount Carmel see 1 Kings 18:20-46)
 - Hebrew word for Assembly
 - Kings assemble (16:14)
 - Isaiah 14:12-15
 - “O Morning Star” Is. 14:12 see Rev. 22:16
- Thief in the Night
 - Rev. 3:3 Matt. 24:1-3
 - 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10
- “It is done.”
 - John 19:30