

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A study through the book of Revelation

Session #17

Rev. 15:1 - 16:21

I. The Seven Angels Sign (15:1-8)

Verse 1

I saw (horao) in heaven

another great and marvelous sign (semeion):
seven angels

with the seven last plagues (plege)
- last (eschatos) because with them

God's wrath (thymos) is completed (teleo).

This is the "third woe" initiated in the seventh trumpet.
These bowl judgements will conclude the waves of God's wrath.

Verse 2

And I saw

what looked like a sea of glass (hyalinus; Rev. 4:6)
mixed with fire and,

standing (histemi) beside/on (epi) the sea,
those who had been victorious (nikao)
over the beast
and his image
and over the number
of his name.

Most likely
martyrdom
Rev. 7:9-17

They held harps (kithara; like the 24 elders)
given them by God



Verse 3

and sang the song (only one song)

1) of Moses the servant
of God and

2) the song of the lamb:

Law
And
Grace

1) God's
Works

"Great (megas) and marvelous (thumastos)
are your deeds (ergon = energy),
Lord God Almighty (pankrator).

2) God's
Ways

Just (dikaios = righteous) and true (alethinos)
are your ways (hodos = how),
King of the ages (ethnos = nations).

Verse 4

3) God's
Worth-
iness

Who will not fear (phobeo) you,
O Lord (kyrios = master),
and bring glory to your name?
For you alone are holy.

4) God's
Worship

All nations (ethnos) will come
and worship before you,
for your righteous acts (dikaion) have
been revealed (phaneroo = seen)."

Notice the number of times "you" or "your" is mentioned! This
praise is all about God!

Verse 5

After this I looked

and in heaven the temple (naos), (Ex. 25:8,9; Heb. 8:9)
that is,
the tabernacle (skene) of the Testimony (martyrion),
was opened (anoigo).

The old testament tabernacle was called the "tabernacle of
testimony/witness" – (Ex. 28:31; Num. 1:50; 7:7,8; 2 Chr. 24:6; Acts
7:44) but this is the copy that is in heaven.

Verse 6

Out of the temple

came the seven angels
with the seven plagues.

They come directly from the throne of God.

They were dressed

- 1) in clean (katharos = pure in all ways) ,
shining linen (lampros = bright) ,
- 2) and wore golden sashes (zone = a belt or girdle)
around their chests.

These angels represent Christ and therefore have similar dress to Christ.

Verse 7

Then one of the four living creatures
gave to the seven angels

seven bowls (phiale = long deep bowl)
filled (gemo) with the wrath of God
who lives forever and ever.



Verse 8

And the temple

was filled (gemizo = overflowing) with smoke
from the glory of God
and from His power,
and no one could enter (dynamai = ability to)
the temple until
the seven plagues
of the seven angels
was completed (teleo) .

It appears that God would not allow anyone to come before him on behalf of the people.

II. The Bowls Against Nature (16:1-9)

Verse 1

Then I heard (akouo)
a loud voice

from the temple saying
to the seven angels,

"Go, pour out (ekcheo = to distribute)
the seven bowls
of God's wrath
on the earth."

God takes responsibility for all of these actions: He gave them the bowls and now commands their use. The "third woe" begins.

Verse 2

The first angel

went and poured out his bowl
on the land,
and ugly (kakos = loathsome)
and painful (poneros) sores
broke out on the people
who had the mark of the beast
and worshiped his image.

Takes us back to Job and to the Exodus plagues.

Verse 3

The second angel

poured out his bowl
on the sea (thalassa) ,

This appears to be the literal "sea" not figurative
and it turned into blood (haima = bloodshed)
like that of a dead (nekros) man,
and every living thing in the sea died.

Similar to the Exodus plague.

"Every living thing" is pretty complete.

Verse 4

The third angel

poured out his bowl
on the rivers
and springs of water,
and they became blood (haima = physical blood).

Similar to the Exodus plague.
Complete contamination of the drinking water sources.
Time must be short for the human race, because of lack of fresh water to drink.

Verse 5

Then I heard

the angel [in charge]
of the waters say:

*"You are just (dikaios = righteous)
in these judgments (krino = to rule/condemn),
1) you who are
and who were,
2) the Holy One,
because you have so judged;*

Verse 6

*for they have shed (ekcheo = poured out)
the blood of your saints and prophets,
and you have given them
blood to drink
as they deserve (axious = being weighed on a
scale and found unworthy) ."*

Verse 7

And I heard

*the altar (thysiasterion = altar of incense) respond:
The altar of incense is the prayers of the saints/voice of the
martyrs who are under the throne.
"Yes, Lord God Almighty (pankrator) ,
true and just
are your judgments (krisis) ."*

*The agreement to the angels affirmation by the corporate voices
of the saints and martyrs.*

Verse 8

The fourth angel

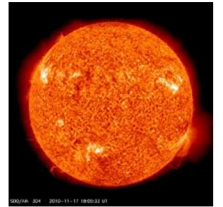
poured out his bowl
on the sun,
and the sun was given power
to scorch (kaumatizo = burn) people with fire.

*The energy which is necessary for life is turned into a curse on
all the living beings.*

Verse 9

They were seared

by the intense heat
and they cursed (blasphemo – to speak against/lie)
the name of God,
who had control
over these plagues,
but they refused
to repent (metonoeo = to turn away and turn to)
and glorify him.



III. The Bowls Against The Beast (16:10-21)

Verse 10

The fifth angel

poured out his bowl
on the throne of the beast,
and his kingdom was plunged into darkness.

Darkness = skotoo = to darken the mind or cause confusion

Men gnawed their tongues in agony

Verse 11

and cursed the God of heaven
because of their pains
and their sores,

but they refused

to repent of what they had done.

Verse 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.

In the days of Rome, the Euphrates was a formidable barrier against invasion from the east – it was 1,800 miles long and 300-1,200 feet wide.

If this was dried up, armies from the east (China, India, and Russia) would have no barriers to invading from the East. This seems to be plan – to open the way for Eastern invasion.



Verse 13

Then I saw

three evil (akathartos = unclean/impure) 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.

Similar to the Exodus plagues, frogs came forth following the water turned to blood. Jews despise frogs whereas Egyptians deify them.



Verse 14

They are spirits of demons (demonion = devilish)
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.

Once again false signs are the deception for the leaders of the world to gather for the final battle.

Verse 15

“Behold (listen! listen! – be aware/surprise) ,
I come like a thief (kleptes) ! (personal pronoun = Jesus)

1 Thess. 5:2 – “for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.”

Matt. 24:42 – 44 - “Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

*Blessed is he who stays awake (gregoreo = watchful/careful)
and keeps his clothes with him,
so that he may not go naked
and be shamefully exposed."*

Clothing is often representative of your spiritual state. To be naked is to be without covering – similar to Adam and Eve after they sinned.

Verse 16

*Then they gathered (synago = unified purpose)
the kings together
to the place
that in Hebrew
is called
Armageddon.*

Over 200 battles have been fought in this same valley.



Verse 17

*The seventh angel
poured out his bowl
into the air (aer = atmosphere),
and out of the temple
came a loud voice
from the throne, saying,*

"It is done!"

Verse 18

Then there came

- 1) flashes of lightning,
- 2) rumblings,
- 3) peals of thunder
- 4) and a severe earthquake.

Usually associated with God's word and presence

*No earthquake like it
has ever occurred
since man has been on earth,
so tremendous was the quake.*

Verse 19

*The great city (Babylon – the headquarters for the beast)
split into three parts,
and the cities of the nations collapsed.*

Probably because they were being managed by the beasts' false government.

*God remembered Babylon the Great (more in Rev. 17 & 18)
and gave her the cup filled
with the wine of the fury of his wrath.*

God's grace does have an end.

Verse 20

*Every island
fled away
and the mountains
could not be found.*

The tsunami and destruction of the earthquakes would level even the mountains.

Verse 21

*From 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.*



Hail is a common form of discipline and deadly destruction from God.