

CHRIST APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF PENNSYLVANIA [Mount of Redemption]

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BIBLE STUDY

COURSE OUTLINE: REVELATION 16: 1-12.

Nov 21, 2012.

NEXT WEEK: REVELATION 16: 13 – 21.

COURSE TITLE: -THE VIALS OF THE WRATH OF GOD
-THE BOTTLE OF VIOLENT ANGER

16:1 The vials of the wrath of God represent the climax of Gods' punishment of sinners during the tribulation period. At this point in time, no repentance is invited or shown as the seven (7) bowls of God's wrath are poured out onto a sinful world. **The severity of these judgments indicates the extent of God's wrath towards those who steadfastly refuse to acknowledge Him.** The severity also indicates the extent of God's love by showing how far He will go to get unbelievers to repent.

The emptying of the bowls takes place very rapidly in a short period of time. The loud or great voice from the temple **is the Voice of God.** The judgments are somewhat parallel to the ten (10) plagues on Egypt (Ex: Ch 7-12) and to the trumpets (Revelation Ch: 8&9).

The bowls of judgment are total and complete in their effects. **The time for intercession has lapsed and God's judgment was now irreversible (Lamentations 3:44).** The scenario will be like it was in the days of **Noah when the wicked** were removed from the earth by the flood and the **righteous (Noah & his family)** trusted God and survived. Every **lost** or **unrepentant** person will be removed from the earth when Jesus returns at His Second Coming.

16:2 The effect of the first vial (bowl) being poured out is **a painful (terrible) sore upon all who had the mark of the beast (Rev. 13:16,17).** The Egyptians faced a similar affliction in the sixth plague of the Exodus (Exodus 9: 9 – 11).

The lesson derived is that: **Just as Gods' great** power could not be denied by the Egyptians and their magicians (Ex. 9:11), the unbelieving people will be unable to deny God's sovereign justice as the bowls of God's judgment progress rapidly. (Rev 16: 9, 11, 21)

16:3 The second vial (bowl) turns the entire sea into blood, and produces the death of all sea creatures. The blood of a dead man is coagulated and rotten. No evaporation for rain would be possible. This judgment is similar to both the first plague on Egypt (Exodus. 7: 17-21 & 7: 20,21), in which the Nile river is turned into blood. This judgment also parallels the second trumpet (Rev. 8: 8,9). However, the judgment here is infinitely worse because of its global scope.

16:4 The third vial like the third trumpet (Rev. 8: 10,11), targets all the rivers and the springs of water and all fresh waters turn to blood, so that no pure water for drinking is left on earth. This third vial again parallels the first Egyptian plague, however the impact in this scenario is worldwide and severe compared to Rev. 8:10,11 as the water sources turn to blood instead of just becoming bitter (Rev. 8:11).

16.5. The angel of the Lord echoing that God is righteous is probably the same angel who poured out the third vial (Rev. 16:4) and not a spare figure or angel. Because the Lord is eternally righteous, His judgment of the inhabitants of the earth (Rev. 16:10) and their violent, unrighteous works is completely just.

16: 6-7 In these verses, God forces the unrepentant unbelievers (Rev. 16:9), who have shed the blood of God's people to drink the blood also in order to avenge the death of **the martyrs (believers killed for their unshakable faith in Christ)** as some of them had earlier requested in Rev. 6:10. The saints refer to Christians in general (Rev 5:8), or to those believers facing persecutions and martyrdom (Revelation: 13:7).

The prophets mentioned here may refer to all of God's spokesmen who have been killed as a result of persecution. The prophets may also refer specifically to the witnesses who prophesied for three and a half years (Rev. 11: 18, 11:3-13).

The lesson derived is that in God's impartial judgment, **the wicked will not go unpunished.** Those who slew the blood of God's people **MUST NOW DRINK BLOOD (IS. 49:26).**

16: 8,9: The fourth vial scorched the earth with fire from the sun. This is opposite of the fourth trumpet (Rev. 8. 12). In this plague, the sun's heat is intensified instead of diminished. The followers of the beast or also scorched as well, in contrast to the redeemed saints who God gave spiritual sustenance (Rev. 7:16).

Since the unrepentant unbelievers have before now made a permanent decision to reject God and follow the beast, they blaspheme the name of God and have refused to repent. Like Pharaoh, their hearts have become hardened (Ex. 7:13, Ex 8: 15,19 & 32, Ex. 9:7,34 &35).

16: 10,11: The fifth vial produces darkness on the seat and kingdom of the beast. His seat is his throne or headquarters. His followers suffer pain, agony, and fear. Even at this later date, the beast and his followers still blaspheme the God of heaven and refuse to repent of their deeds. The fifth vial is similar to both **health** plagues on Egypt (Ex. 10: 21- 29) and the fourth trumpet. (Rev. 8:12).

16:12 The sixth vial involves the Euphrates River, as does the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:14). Both judgments deal with the demonically inspired military forces. The army of two hundred million (Rev. 9:14) will kill a third of all human kind (Rev. 9:18). The army of Rev. 16: 12-14 will wage battle against God (Rev. 19 – 19-21).

The sixth vial results in the gathering of the armies of the whole world together in Palestine for the battle of Armageddon. With the water of the Euphrates River completely dried up, invasion by the kings of the east becomes much easier.

A BREIF OVERVIW OF REVELATION 15

- The third great sign John saw was the seven angles carrying the **seven last plagues, which will complete God's wrath (Revelation 15:1)**
- Standing beside the sea of glass mixed with fire will be those who are **victorious over the Antichrist**. They will receive harps and sing about the deeds of Christ (Revelation 15:2-4)
- Those who overcome the Antichrist will sing the **"song of the Lamb"**. **They will sing about His marvelous deeds, His just & true ways, and His holiness (Revelation 15: 3-4)**
- Anyone who rejects Christ and His gift of eternal life **will be judged according to the Law of Moses – THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (Revelation 15:5).**

When the heavenly temple opens, the seven angles with the seven plagues will come out of it. Once the angles leave the temple, **smoke from God's glory will fill the temple, & the time of intercession will have passed for anyone to take advantage of.** God will now act in judgment as an express