Victory Everlasting Gospel Church

Sabbath April 22, 2017

**“Revelation Chapters 15 & 16”**

A Power Point Presentation

Today’s sermon title is: **“Revelation Chapters 15 & 16”**

Before we begin, let us invite the LORD’s presence …

Revelation 15 & 16 both pertain to the seven last plagues. So let us begin by looking at a couple of verses in review.

Revelation 14:9, 10 told us, **“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, …”** Now what is the “wine of the wrath of God?”

Revelation 15:1 tells us. **“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.”** So here we are introduced to the seven last plagues described as the wrath of God.

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.”** Here are described a special group of final generation people that went through both times of trouble victorious.

Revelation 15:3 **“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”**

Revelation 15:4 **“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.”**

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

Revelation 15:6 **“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.”**

Revelation 15:7 **“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.”** What is the **Wrath of God?** It is the

Seven last plagues. At the end of those plagues, Jesus will come. What will happen to God’s people during the plagues?

Will Jesus come before the plagues as a thief to snatch His people away?

Or will His people live through the plagues, not affected by them, protected during the time of the plagues, and delivered after the plagues are over?

God is not going to rapture His people *out of it*. Jesus prayed in John 17:15, **"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."**

In Psalm 119:126. We see that this God forgetting world and most of the Christian world has made void the law of God.

Revelation 15:8 **“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.”**

Let’s look now at Revelation 16 and examine those plagues. And then let’s see if we can discover something about them. Revelation 16:1, **“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.”**

Verse 2, **“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”** The first plague is a sore that falls from head to toe, similar to the sores that Job had from the sole of his feet to the top of his head.

Here is a man that is covered with painful boils over his whole body. When the first plague is poured out, long despised mercy and grace are nowhere to be found.



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.”** Can you imagine whatever would happen if every living thing died in the sea?

The sea is the great, vast ocean of commerce and transportation. In fact, the sea covers some 80 percent of the world’s surface. Oil is transported by the sea. Most of the food of this world is transported from country to country, the great grain shipments by the sea.

If every living thing in the sea died, and if the sea became like blood and impassable, the economic bottom would fall out of the world.

When the 2nd plague is poured out the oceans become like coagulated blood and every living thing in the sea died. Can you imagine the smell?

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

The third plague will be upon the rivers and fountains of waters and they will be turned … to blood. God is letting His people know in advance what the plagues are so that we would not be so foolish as to walk away from so great a salvation as He has provided for us.

Revelation 16:5 **“And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.”**

Why does God cause blood to flow out when they turn on their faucets? Why does He turn the rivers and waters, and the drinking water, to blood?

Verse 6, **"For they have *shed* the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.”** They have fought against God in the person of His saints. They’ve passed strong laws, the Mark of the Beast, and have even come to the place where they are willing to kill God’s people.

**God’s people who have been overcomers, do not have to fear the seven last plagues, as God’s Word promises in Psalm 91.**

You remember that beautiful promise in Psalm 91. Verse 1, **“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”**

*Verse 2,* **“I will say of the LORD, [He is] my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”**

*Verse 3,* **“Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.”**

*Verse 4,* **“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust:”**

*Verse 4,* ***“… his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”***

Psalm 91 was written specifically for the time of tribulation and the plagues which follow the close of probation. Notice the assurances that are given of the protection that God will provide especially during the plagues given in verses 5-11

*Verse 5,* **“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; [nor] for the arrow [that] flieth by day;”** (that would be the terrible things being said about God’s people).

*Verse 6,* **“Nor for the pestilence [that] walketh in darkness; [nor] for the destruction [that] wasteth at noonday.”**

*Verse 7,* **“A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; [but] it shall not come nigh thee.”**

*Verse 8,* **“Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.**

*Verse 9,* **“Because thou hast made the LORD, [which is] my refuge, [even] the most High, thy habitation;”**

*Verse 10,* **“There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.”**

*Verse 11,* **“For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”** We live through the plagues and we are protected because we make Christ our refuge and we are safe. He is our shelter, our security. We are going to be miraculously preserved.

The first plague, sores; the second plague, the sea as blood; the third plague, fountains and waters as blood;

And now the fourth plague, Verse 7, **"And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”**

Verse 8, **“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire."**

Verse 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."**

Notice, back in the time of ancient Egypt, when God sent ten plagues upon the land, He gave them in the form of plagues on the very things they worshipped. They worshipped the Nile River. God turned it to blood so that it stank.

They worshipped the frog. God sent so many frogs upon them that the frog became loathsome in their sight.

They also worshipped the sun, so God blotted it out. They found out how good the sun was to worship. It couldn’t respond with light when they needed it. They worshipped the creation rather than the Creator.

Back to Verse 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."** And in the final time of the plagues, the authorities will have already enforced worship on the day of the sun.

They will have passed a decree that all men must worship on Sunday—the pagan day of sun-worship. This is only giving honor again to a pagan institution. Throughout history, the sun-god has been a key element.

The ancient Egyptians called the sun-god, Ra, and they worshipped him. The Babylonians called the sun-god, Bel-Marduk, and they worshipped him. The Romans worshipped the sun-god as well.

When Christianity and paganism fused in the early centuries under Constantine, paganism and Christianity amalgamated or became one. And during that process, sun-worship, in the disguise of keeping Sunday to honor the resurrection of Christ, entered into the Christian church.

In the last days of earth’s history, the sun scorches men and women because they have sold out conscientious loyalty to God when they had all the light of the ages shining upon them. They turned from God’s true sign.

Here God is saying “You insist on worshipping on the day of the sun, despite the fact that a witness was given to you of the truth of the true Sabbath. And you remain wedded to the day of the sun, you’ve even passed laws in honor of the day of the sun, so I’ll let you have the sun.

And God here turns up the heat. God gives them all the sun they want and much more. In Egypt, God put His plagues on that which they worshipped. To turn away from His true day of worship to man's day, the *sun* day, brings disaster.

It is no coincidence that there are two great sides brought out in the book of Revelation: Worshipping the Creator, or worshipping the beast power. Those that worship the Creator, accept the sign of creation and redemption rest—the Sabbath. Those that worship the beast power, accept the beast’s sign, the counterfeit Sabbath—Sunday.

Revelation 16:10 **“And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,**

Revelation 16:11 **“And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds."** Notice:Those who were covered with sores in the first plague are still suffering from them and now they are cursing God during the 5th plague.

Where was darkness poured out? Darkness has been poured out on the seat of the beast. ROME. They’ve looked to the beast power, the papacy, for light and truth. But instead the beast has been spreading spiritual darkness all over the world. God says, now I’m going to give you darkness.” And a dense literal darkness settles upon the capital of the beast’s empire.

Men and women have been deceived into following the traditions of the beast power. Now in the very place that millions looked for light they see nothing but dense darkness. Then people see as never before that they've been looking in the wrong direction.

The Bible says, **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”** (Psalm 119:11)

Let us read Amos 8:11, 12, **“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.”** This is a famine of indifference! The gospel was preached, opportunity to hear and know God’s Word was available, but they turned to the teachings and traditions of man, and now it is too late.

Two classes have developed:

**#1.** Those that fully accept the Word of God; they accept the commandments of God; and they accept God’s true Bible Sabbath.

And **#2.** Those that accept the word of man; they accept the traditions of man; they accept the counterfeit sabbath of man, they accept the blasphemous trinity doctrine and they receive the Mark of the Beast.

Revelation 16:12 **“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.**

Revelation 16:13 **“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the dragon, representing Paganism; and out of the mouth of the beast, representing the Papacy; and out of the mouth of the false prophet, which represents Apostate Protestantism.”** The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet represent 3 great religious powers that are in unity against God’s people.

These great religious powers, united through spiritualism, work on the political rulers and influencing them to destroy God's faithful ones.

By the way, how does a frog catch its prey?

With its tongue! And it has been all through the ages that the tongues of Paganism and the tongues of the Papacy and the tongues of Apostate Protestantism have been the means that all false doctrine has come to be.

Revelation 16:14 **“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

Revelation 16:15, **“Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.**

Revelation 16:16, **“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”**

Let’s back up now to verse 12**, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up,”** Some say this verse is the literal drying up of the literal river Euphrates and China will come across when the river bed is dry.

That’s a Hal Lindsey deceptive fable. Modern armies are not hindered by rivers. Let's let the Bible interpret its own symbols.

Many Old Testament prophecies of Israel were fulfilled on a literal, local scale, and often have a double application to be fulfilled on a worldwide scale with Spiritual Israel in the last days. Here are some examples:

 Ancient IsraelSpiritual Israel

 Jer.50:33, 34 **Persecuted by Babylon** Rev.17:6

 Dan.3:13 **Forced to worship an image** Rev.13:15

 Dan.4:30 **Called "Babylon the Great"** Rev.17:5

 Jer.51:13,14 **Babylon sits on many waters** Rev.17:1

 Isa.44:27,28 **Rescued—dried Euphrates** Rev.16:12

 Jer.51:6-8 **Called out of Babylon** Rev.18:4

 Isa.45:1 **Rescuer called the anointed** Dan.9:24, 25

 Isa.41:2, 25 **Both rescuers from East** Mat. 24:27

Did you notice what Revelation 16:12 says? **"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."** The prophecy tells us that the “Euphrates will dry up. What does it mean, **"and the water thereof was dried up"**?

From 605 BC. to 539 BC. the Israelites were held captive in Babylon. The Euphrates ran through the center of Babylon. During this captivity God raised up a king from the east named Cyrus of the Persians. He diverted the Euphrates River in a large basin by a skillful engineering feat. The water level dropped beneath the wall of Babylon, and Cyrus marched his armies down the river bed, got in through the inner river gates, and delivered God's people.

Thus, Cyrus is called "my shepherd," "his anointed" (Isaiah 44:28; 45:1). This was written more than 100 years before Cyrus was even born. As a type, or representation of Christ, Cyrus was the deliverer of God’s people.

Satan’s last act is to try to wipe out or eradicate the righteous. All the forces of the demons and the wicked are mobilized. The righteous flee. They run into the mountains. There God sustains them as He has promised. But the wicked are bent on destroying them.

And in the last moments of time, the Bible says, in verse 16, **“And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”**

What does this word, “Armageddon,” mean? Some misguided say, “That has to do with a battle in the Middle East." But what would a battle in the Middle East have to do with your salvation and mine? Nothing! Yet if we understand the word **"Armageddon"** in the *spiritual* sense, the mystery is solved.

Last day events do not center around oil fields and military conquests in the Middle-East; but they do focus on God's people, whom Satan wishes to destroy. The battle of Armageddon has to do with the forces of evil mobilizing against God's people to destroy them and all of us will be involved in the battle of Armageddon. By leading people to focus on Armageddon being a literal battle in the Middle-East, Satan is causing people to focus on the wrong events.

The word Armageddon appears only one time in the Bible. Revelation 16:16, **“And he gathered them together into a place called in the** (what tongue?)***Hebrew tongue* Armageddon.”** Now that’s strange because the New Testament was written in the Greek language, the Old Testament in the Hebrew language. Why does it say, “the Hebrew tongue”?

We must look in the Old Testament, as no place on Earth has ever been called Armageddon. In New Testament prophecy, it is not literal geography that is significant; it is the spiritual application we need to learn. We must find the symbolic meaning for Armageddon which comes from two Hebrew words. The first is *har,* meaning "mountain" or "hill."

There was also a plain of Megiddo where a famous battle of the Old Testament took place. Those who have accepted this interpretation have usually interpreted Armageddon as a literal battle occurring on the plain of Megiddo in the Middle East. While there is a plain, a valley, and a city of Megiddo, there is no mountain of Megiddo located in the Middle East.

The second part of the word comes from the Hebrew word mo'ed, {mo-ade'} which means "congregation" or "assembly".

Thus, the basic meaning of Armageddon would be the "mount of the assembly," which in ancient Israel was called Mount Zion—the symbol of the people of God. *Harmo'ed* is found one time in the Old Testament.

That same word (harmo'ed) was used by Satan as God records Satan's proud ambitions in Isaiah 14:13 **"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascent into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God"**

© **I will sit also upon the *mount of the congregation*** (Harmo’ed) in **the sides of the north."** This ties the battle of Armageddon to the original threat of Satan as Lucifer in heaven to sit where God sat. He wanted to have control of the congregation of God.

Satan still wants to control Mt. Zion, the church of the living God. Armageddon will refer to Satan's final attempt to destroy the remnant church of Christ and place his throne in control over the masses. This meshes perfectly with the entire scenario of last-day events outlined in Daniel and Revelation.

The battle of Armageddon is a spiritual battle where the forces of evil battle God’s remnant church over the spiritual issues of obedience to God! It is Satan’s final attempt to destroy the remnant people of God, who **“…** **keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.** (Rev.12:17*).*

Moving on Revelation 16:17, **“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,** (what?) ***It is done.*”** Only two other times has this been uttered.

At creation, God said, **“It is finished.”**

On the cross when Jesus died, He said, **“It is finished.”**

 And from the throne room in heaven the solemn words go out again— **“*It is done.”***God declares, “My people have suffered enough.”

Now let's look at the seventh plague. This describes the grand and glorious climax. Read Revelation 16:18-21. **“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.”** The earth begins to shake and tremble. The greatest earthquake ever.

Revelation 16:19 **“And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance.”**

Revelation 16: 20 **“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”**

There will be no measurement on the Richter scale for such an earthquake.

Revelation 16: 21 **“And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent:** As Jesus comes down the corridor of the sky, hailstones fall, the Bible says, about the weight of a talent—

That would be from 70 to 135 pounds. This is the last and great plague. All others seem to pale in comparison next to this one.

 As the mountains are shaking, as volcanic eruptions take place, as the heaven's artillery of huge hailstones falls, the wicked are stopped dead in their tracks.

Revelation 16:21 **“…and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”** They see that the King of kings is coming.

They begin to run, crying for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them, while the righteous recognize their Lord. They look up.

Isaiah 25:9 **“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and He will save us:** **this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. ”** (Isaiah 25:9). They hear the sounds of those chariots; they hear the blast of that promised trumpet and they see the King of kings. The heavens are illuminated in spectacular splendor. The wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

The righteous **dead** are resurrected. In a moment, in twinkling of an eye, their bodies are changed to immortality!

The righteous **living** are caught up to meet their Lord in the air in their new, translated, immortal bodies. And what rejoicing there is as separated loved ones are reunited!

What a day that is; to be taken from the sorrow and violence of earth to the joy and peace of heaven! To be taken from the war of earth to the peace of heaven! To be taken from the conflict down here to the glory up there. Whatever we had endured on earth, it will have been worth it all, when we see Jesus. God’s people need to become intelligent in matters pertaining to the prophecies of the last days.

Let us pray…