

## Semester 3 – Week 9 - Class 18

# **ARMAGEDDON AND THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES**

Very soon, the event sincere worshippers have longed for will take place. The glorious second Coming of Jesus will happen.

The seven last plagues are the most terrible manifestations of God's wrath and some may even wonder if this outpouring of punishment is contrary to the nature of a God of love. But God has intended for these things to be soberly considered and He's devoted a whole chapter in the book of Revelation for this very purpose.

The term "Armageddon" is found only once and it's in the book of Revelation. What is Armageddon? Where will Armageddon be fought? When will Armageddon be fought? Will you and I be alive on earth when Armageddon is fought? Who will the opposing forces be?

Revelation 14:6, 7 **"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.** We learned that this first angel's message announced the beginning of the judgement as Jesus moved to the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary in 1844.

Revelation 14:9, 10 **"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."** Then in the third angel's message we read this most solemn warning in all the Bible against receiving the Mark of the Beast. Those who receive it will face the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:12 **"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."** But God will have a people who will stand fast and keep His commandments when most of the world have forsaken God's law.

Psalms 119:172 **"My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness."**

Psalms 119:142 **"Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth."**

Psalms 119:151 **"Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth."** God's commandments are righteousness and are eternal, the law is truth, the commandments are truth. God has a people who believe these scriptures.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 **"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they might believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."** What truth did they not believe? The law, embodied in the Ten Commandments is truth.

**There are two classes.**

- 1) Worships the Creator - Their loyalty to Jesus is manifested by keeping His commandments, including the Bible Sabbath
- 2) Worships the beast - They turn their backs on the Creator, accept the traditions of man, disobey God, receive the Mark of the Beast—the sign of rebellion against God

This planet has been in rebellion from the first bite of the forbidden fruit and all the years between Eden and the flood, when God's wrath was poured out in the worldwide flood. God has had His champions of truth who would not bow their knees to an image, just as in the last days there will be a remnant people who will not bow to the image of the beast. Daniel would not allow a tricked king to stop him from praying to his Father three times a day. His faith made him unafraid of the consequences.

God's people who will soon enter the final crisis, can say as David wrote in Psalm 23:4, **"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."**

1 Corinthians 10:11 **"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."** King James - admonition: Learning, instruction.

Revelation 13:16, 17 **“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of His name.”**

Psalms 119:126 **“It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.”**

Revelation 14:9, 10 **“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.”**

Revelation 6:17 **“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”**

Isaiah 33:15-17 **“He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.”**

God promises to provide what we need during the plagues.

Psalms 91:5-11 **“Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.**

Christ is talking to His church. He's saying, "You will go through a time of difficulty. There will be calamity all around you but hold on to your garments, watch after your character because I'm coming! Keep your faith."

21 times "tribulation" is in the New Testament - and never, ever once is it spoken of as a seven year period. The tribulation is not in 7 years, but in 7 last plagues.

Proverbs 1:24-31 **“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.**

Revelation 15:1 **“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”**

The seven last plagues. **“The wrath of God.”** The seven last plagues will be literal and yet each will strike a telling blow at some aspect of apostate religion and thus have symbolic overtones.

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.**

**“...a great voice out of the temple ...”** Evidence indicates that since the seven plague bearing angels had already left the temple, Rev. 15:6, the great voice would be that of the Father Himself.

#### FIRST PLAGUE

Revelation 16:2 **“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.”**

**“... noisome and grievous sore ...”** These sores will cover the body and be both “painful and severe” as well as “troublesome and annoying.” They will be oozing type boils and ulcers that cannot be treated with medication and supposed faith healers can do nothing about it.

This first installment of “the wrath of God” falls upon those who have failed to heed either the third angel’s message, which warned them against worshipping “the beast and his image” (Revelation 14:9), or God’s final call to come out of mystic Babylon (Revelation 18:1-4). First Plague sores.

## SECOND PLAGUE

Revelation 16:3 **“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea, and the sea becomes as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.”**

The sea is useful primarily as a highway for international commerce and travel. It has been suggested that by the obstruction of international travel and trade, this plague is designed to demonstrate in a signal way of God’s displeasure with respect to Satan’s plan to bind the nations of the world together under his control.

**“... blood of a dead man ...”** Nothing more offensive can be imagined than the coagulated blood of a dead man.

**“... and every living soul died in the sea.”** Meaning all marine life. The stench will be unbearable. The second plague – the sea as blood.

## THIRD PLAGUE

Revelation 16:4 **“And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.** Whereas the second plague would cause great inconvenience, the third plague would have a more immediate and serious effect; as the fresh water supplies are used for drinking, bathing and irrigation. Now we read the significance of this plague in the next three verses.

Revelation 16:5, 6 **“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. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.”** Can you imagine when a person turns on the faucet for a drink, or even is in the shower, when suddenly blood is coming out?

The third plague – the fountains and waters as blood.

Revelation 16:7 **“And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”**

## FOURTH PLAGUE

Revelation 16:8, 9 **“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 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 the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; ... and they repented not...

The ancient **Egyptians** called the sun-god, Ra, and they worshipped him. The **Babylonians** called the sun-god, Bel-Marduk, and they worshipped him. Medo-Persia, Greece, and Pagan Rome worshipped the sun-god as well. What about the Christians? When **Christianity** and paganism fused in the early centuries, paganism and Christianity amalgamated or became one in Sun-day worship..

Normally the sun warms our planet and controls plant growth, climate, and many other natural processes necessary to the maintenance of life upon the earth. Now it sends forth an excess of heat and energy that tends to torment men and destroy life, causing the worst drought and famine the world has ever known. The literal plague is accompanied by a famine for God’s Word.

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.”** The people are not searching to get closer to God, just for relief from the plagues. Satan convinces them that it is the Sabbath-keepers who have brought these plagues upon the world. Instead of acknowledging their guilt, they proceed to lay the blame for their miserable plight upon those who have remained true and loyal to God.

**“... and blasphemed the name of God, ...”** The wrath of God in the seven last plagues had been visited upon the inhabitants of the earth, causing them to gnaw their tongues from pain and to curse God. The first four plagues cause much disease, famine and drought. They appear to happen in rapid succession as under the 5<sup>th</sup> plague, they still suffer the sores of the first plague.

Ezekiel 20:12 **“Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.**

#### FIFTH PLAGUE

Revelation 16:10, 11 **“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, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.”**

The seat of the beast is of course Rome and the beast of course is the Papacy, not so much in its religious aspect as in its assumed role of a world power dominant over other world powers. (Revelation 13:1, 2, 10; 17:3, 8, 9, 11. God sends darkness for the spiritual darkness the beast held the world in. Darkness for the traditions that replaced God's laws and truth. A deep, cold darkness over the seat of the beast for the long period of the dark ages where people were withheld from the scriptures.

Psalms 119:105 **“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”**

Though men grope unrepentantly for light in a spiritually dark world, God sends them literal darkness, symbolic of the deeper spiritual night that is yet to enshroud the earth for a thousand years. This is indeed literal darkness with its attendant cold and misery. The absence of light and heat would be all the more impressive and painful after the intense heat experienced under the fourth plague. Men confirm their perverse hatred of God as they continue to blaspheme as they did under the fourth plague. They do so because of their misery they suffer without relief and the pain from the sores of the first plague which apparently were not fatal.

#### SIXTH PLAGUE - DRYING UP OF EUPHRATES AND THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 16:12-16 **“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. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”**

This word **Armageddon** is made up of two Hebrew words “Har” which means “Mountain” or “Hill.” The other is “Mo’ed” which means “Congregation” or “Assembly.”

So Armageddon in Hebrew is “Har Moed” which means “The Mount of the Congregation” or “Mount Zion.”

Knowing that, look at this next scripture:

Isaiah 14:13, 14 **“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. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Satan still desires to control Mt. Zion, the church of the living God.**

There are two views on the meaning of the 6<sup>th</sup> vial. One is literal and the other spiritual. According to the literal interpretation, “the great river Euphrates” represents the Ottoman Empire; the “kings of the east,” the nations of the Orient; and Armageddon, the literal valley of Megiddo in northern Palestine. Thus the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire is seen as preparing the way for the Asian nations to join battle with those of the west in the valley of Megiddo. Many hold to that view, but we prefer the spiritual application.

According to the second interpretation, the Euphrates (waters) represent people throughout the world, over whom mystical Babylon holds sway. The drying up of the waters is the withdrawal of their support from Babylon. The “kings of the east,” represent the coming of Jesus with the armies of heaven that accompany Him; Armageddon is the last battle in the 6,000 year great controversy between Christ and Satan for the minds and hearts of the people. Thus, the withdrawal of human support from mystical Babylon is seen as the last barrier to her ultimate defeat and punishment.

According to the first view the battle of Armageddon begins as essentially a political conflict and comes to a climax with the appearance of Christ and the armies of heaven. According to the second view the battle of

Armageddon begins when the united religious and political powers of earth open their final attack on God's remnant people.

Though the two views appear to be mutually exclusive, there are 12 things they have in common:

1. It is the last great battle of earth's history and is future.
2. It is "the battle of that great day of God."
3. The great river Euphrates is symbolic of human beings.
4. The three unclean spirits (verse 13) represent spiritualism or paganism (the mouth of the dragon); the Papacy (the mouth of the beast); and apostate Protestantism (the mouth of the false prophet).
5. That these three "spirits" constitute the agencies that will summon the nations to battle.
6. The three unclean spirits are religious in nature and the forces gathered are political and military.
7. Preparations for the battle take place under the sixth plague and the actual battle itself is fought under the seventh plague.
8. In one phase, the battle will be a real battle between real people, employing real weapons.
9. There will be bloodshed on an unprecedented scale.
10. All the nations of earth will be involved.
11. Christ and the armies of heaven eventually intervene and bring the battle to a close.
12. The living saints witness the battle, but not as participants.

Revelation 14 **"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles..."** Demonic spirits performing miracles as they are working in and through those persons under their control. Supernatural manifestations of various kinds constitute the means by which Satan, working through various human agencies, succeeds in uniting the world behind his purpose to obliterate those Sabbath-keepers who constitute the only barrier to his unchallenged dominion over mankind.

Revelation 16:15 **"Behold, I come as a thief."** That is to the ungodly. **"Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, ..."** The saints are to be sober, alert and vigilant, remaining steadfast in faith and character and wholly loyal to God. **"... lest he walk naked, ..."** That is to lose his garment of character as a result of yielding his faith. **"... and they see his shame."** God's people must become increasingly alert as Satan intensifies his deceptions.

#### SEVENTH PLAGUE

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, It is done."** Only two other times has this been uttered. At creation, God said, "It is finished." Gen. 2:1 and on the cross just before Jesus died, He said, "It is finished" John 19:30.

Revelation 16:18-21 **"And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, ..."** The great earthquake is felt on every continent of the earth. The Richter scale has no means to measure its ferocity. Cities and mountains will be leveled and islands shall disappear. **"...such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."**

Job 38:22, 23 **"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?"**

As the great hail falls, each stone weighing from 55 to 70 pounds, some even estimate a talent can be as much as 130 pounds, death and destruction are everywhere and for the third time the God of heaven is blasphemed as their utter contempt for Him is revealed

The angel pouring the seventh vial into the air indicates that the plague will affect the whole earth. The voice from the temple is an official proclamation from the sovereign God of the universe. As the wicked rush to annihilate the saints of God, they hear His voice saying "It is done," which ends the time of Jacob's trouble, delivers the saints and ushers in the wrath of the seventh plague.

**“And the great city was divided into three parts ...”** Mystical Babylon of the last days is composed of the Papacy, apostate Protestantism and modern spiritism. At the voice of God this three fold union of apostate religious organizations loses its cohesion, unity and power to act. The components of this ungodly trio now turn upon themselves and there is strife and bloodshed everywhere.

Reviewing the Plagues:

**First plague**, sores;

**Second plague**, the sea as blood;

**Third plague**, fountains of waters as blood;

**Fourth plague**, the sun scorching men;

**Fifth plague**, darkness on the seat of the beast;

**Sixth plague**, Armageddon;

**Seventh Plague**, Great earthquake & hail.

John 14:15 **“If ye love Me, keep My commandments.”**

Matthew 5:11, 12 **“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”**

Hebrews 10:16 **“... I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.”**

Acts 5:32 **“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”**

Matthew 24:27 **“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”**

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.”**

## **End Semester 3 – Week 9 - Class 18**

## **The Next Class Semester 4 – Week 10 - Class 19**

**Revelation’s Saints – A Peculiar People**

## **The Following Class Semester 4 – Week 10 - Class 20**

**The Most Sought After Secret in the Bible**