

**REVELATION CHAPTER 15-16****Introduction**

- i) Intro. visions to the three sets of seven
    - chapters 4-5 to seven seals
    - chapter 8:1-6 to seven trumpets
    - chapter 15:1-8 to seven vials
  - ii) Intro. vision to seven vials is in heaven
    - the portrayal of judgment on the world—Rev. 15:1-4
    - the preparation for judgment on the world—Rev. 15:5-8
  - iii) Outline of the seven vials of wrath
    - the pouring out of judgment upon the world—Rev. 16:1-7
    - the purpose of judgment on the world—Rev. 16:8-16
    - the perfecting of judgment on the world—Rev. 16:17-21
1. **The portrayal of judgment on the world**—Rev. 15:1-4
    - a) the sign in heaven—Rev. 15:1
      - seven angels
      - seven last plagues
      - wrath of God is finished with these
      - wrath is come in Rev. 6:17 and is finished in Rev. 15:1
    - b) the sea of glass—Rev. 15:2 cf. 1 Kings 7:23
      - the sea is now mingled with fire, indicating judgment—the symbolism is like the Red Sea
      - the sea is covered with a victorious company
      - those who have gotten the victory over the beast, image, mark, number of his name—this is also like the Red Sea
      - harps are in the hands of this victorious company thus they rejoice
    - c) the song of Moses—Rev. 15:3-4
      - as the Israelites sang at the Red Sea so this victorious company sings
      - this is the Song of Moses and the Lamb
      - this song acknowledges the greatness of God's works and the justness and truth of God's ways
      - the song acknowledges the holiness of the Lord and his right to be feared and glorified
      - the song predicts that all nations will worship him because His righteous acts have been manifested (RV)
  2. **The preparation for the judgment upon the world**—Rev. 15:5-8
    - a) the temple in heaven is opened—Rev. 15:5 cf. Rev. 11:19
      - in the temple is the ark of the testimony signifying the faithfulness of God in keeping promises
      - the temple is God's dwelling and so out of the temple come all the plagues

- b) the angels of judgment come from the temple—Rev. 15:6
  - they are seven in number signifying completeness
  - they are clothed in white signifying no mercy
  - they are girded with golden girdles signifying the righteousness of their task
- c) the bowls of wrath are given to the angels—Rev. 15:7
  - one of the four creatures charges the angels with the execution of wrath
  - the seven bowls of wrath are full and ready
  - this wrath is of him who lives forever and ever
- d) the glory of God filled the temple with smoke—Rev. 15:8
  - judgment comes from the presence of God, just as salvation comes from his presence
  - judgment is the reverse side of salvation
  - no one is able to enter into the temple
  - this is true until judgment is past
  - there is not salvation until this period is past (Rev. 16:9, 11, 21)
  - these men have challenged God like Pharaoh and God wants to give them a complete demonstration, so he allows none to enter the temple to receive salvation
  - these men are hardened by God due to their own sinfulness and refuse to be saved
  - instead they blaspheme as evidence of their incorrigibility

**3. The pouring out of judgment on the world—Rev. 16:1-7**

- the announcement and command to the seven angels to pour out wrath upon the earth (Rev. 16:1)
  - first three vials follow and affect the earth universally
- a) the first vial—Rev. 16:2
    - the earth is the object of the wrath and all of the earth is affected
    - the wrath takes the form of an evil and rotten sore—its hideousness and incurability are meant (cf. Ex. 9:9)
    - this is upon all those who worship the beast, wear his mark or pay respects to his image
  - b) the second vial—Rev. 16:3
    - the second vial is upon the sea and universal in extent
    - it takes the form changing sea to blood in appearance and it congeals as blood
    - the result is that all life in the sea dies
  - c) the third vial—Rev. 16:4-7
    - the third is upon all the fountains of waters
    - the result is that they become blood
    - two angels proclaim the righteousness of God in this judgment (v. 5,7)
    - the reason lies in the fact that the wicked are now receiving their just due
    - they wanted blood and slew the righteous
    - now the Lord is giving them blood to drink

**4. The purpose of judgment on the world—Rev. 16:8-16**

- the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> vials follow
  - the response of men show incorrigibility
- a) the fourth vial—Rev. 16:8-9
- this vial is poured out upon the sun (v. 8a)
  - the result is that power is given to scorch men with fire (v. 8b)
  - the response of men is proof of their incorrigible nature (v. 9)
    - they suffered with much physical pain
    - they knew the source of their pain and blasphemed
    - they repented not to give glory to God
- b) the fifth vial—Rev. 16:10-11
- the object is the seat of the beast (v. 10a)
  - the result is darkness in the kingdom of the beast and pain—the pain may be from grievous sores (v. 10b)
  - the response of men is the same
    - they blasphemed God for their pain and sores
    - they repented not of their deeds
- c) the sixth vial—Rev. 16:12-16
- the object is the Euphrates River (v. 12)
  - the water is dried up and the way for the King of the East is prepared
  - the Kings of the East—China, Japan, India (cf. Isa. 11:15-16)
  - the satanic trinity now in operation (v. 13)
    - dragon—out of his mouth an unclean spirit
    - beast—out of his mouth an unclean spirit
    - false prophet—out of his mouth an unclean spirit
  - the preparation for the final battle (v. 14, 16)
  - the demons stir up the nations and by means of miracles gather them to the Battle of Armageddon (cf. I Kings 22:15-36)
  - the warning to men living then (v. 15)
  - the revelation will be sudden and inescapable
  - a warning to the believer of that period is then in order

**5. The perfecting of judgment upon the world—Rev. 16:17-21**

- a) the seventh bowl of wrath
- the object of this vial is the air (v. 17)
  - this is due to the fact that the air is full of wicked spirits
  - the announcement is made that judgment is done, finished, brought to an end (v. 17)
  - the results of judgment are universal (v. 18-21)
    - there was the greatest earthquake ever to be felt in the earth (v. 18)
    - the great city was divided into three parts
    - this city is Babylon, not Jerusalem
    - all the other cities also fell
    - the islands and the mountains were affected by the earthquake (v. 20)
    - this readjusts the earth's surface
    - hail stones the size of a talent (50 lb. each) fell upon men ( cf. Job 38:22-23)