



**SLIDE #1: REVELATION: An Intensive Study – [the Lamb as Lion]**

**SLIDE #2: Part 11: Revelation 15-16 – The Gospel and the 7 Last Plagues**

**[WHITEBOARD]:**

The partial judgments of the Trumpets (Rev 8-9) and total judgments of the Plagues (Rev 15-16) run parallel in theme/focus:

- Earth
- Sea
- Rivers/fresh waters
- Heavenly light[s]
- King of Abyss (not sealed by God)/throne of the beast (bear his mark)
- Destructive powers from across the Euphrates (coming of judgment)
- The atmosphere: the wrath of God finished: “Now has come...” “It is done!”

**SLIDE #3: Revelation 15:1-3**

I saw in heaven another **great and marvelous sign**: seven angels with the *seven last plagues*—**last**, because **with them God’s wrath is completed**. And I saw what looked like a **sea of glass** glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, **those who had been victorious** over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of God’s servant **Moses** (Exodus 15) and of the **Lamb** (Revelation 5:9-10):

- **Sign** (semion) – a symbolic revelation pointing to a greater reality  
Remember, there are **7 great “semions” in John’s Gospel**—all pointing to Jesus as the all sufficient Savior; and 7 “semions” in Revelation, 3 are seen in heaven and 4 on earth.
- Last...because in them “**the wrath of God**” (11:14-18; 14:9-10) is **completed** (see 15:8; 16:17; 21:6)! The 7 last plagues **on Egypt** only touched those who opposed God.
- “**Sea of glass**”—remember, there are **two ‘seas’ in Revelation: one before the throne of God**—clear as crystal mingled with fire (4:2-6); and **one on earth** out of which the Satanic beast is called forth (13:1-5). One is **eternal**: the redeemed stand victorious by it [before the throne] (15:2-3); and the other **disappears** in the earth made new (21:1-3).
- “**Those who were victorious over the beast...**”: Always before divine judgment falls in Revelation (all of Scripture), there are calls to repent and a reassurance give and in Rev. a picture of divine reassurance that the people of God are not the objects of divine judgment (15:2-4).

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- “**they sang the song of Moses...and the Lamb**”: The song of **Moses** was sung by the calm sea of redemption after the storm of God’s judgment on the oppressor of His people, intent on destroying them (**Exodus 15**); and the song of **the Lamb** comes after the ultimate redemption (**Rev 5:9-10**).

### **SLIDE #4: Revelation 15:3-4**

Great and marvelous are **Your deeds**, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are **Your ways**, King of the nations. Who will not **fear You**, Lord, and bring glory to **Your name**?

**For You alone are holy**. All nations will come and **worship** before **You**, for **Your righteous acts** have been revealed.

- **Seven times** (complete) the praise of the redeemed point to God.
- Key understanding of the saved: “**For You alone are holy**.” Our hope is **not** in ourselves or in any extension of ourselves, neither political, religious, economic or military. Our hope is in the **holy acts of God** in Jesus Christ.

### **SLIDE #5: Revelation 15:5-6**

After this I looked, and I saw in heaven **the temple**—that is, **the tabernacle** of the covenant law—and it was opened. **Out of the temple** came the seven angels with the **seven plagues**. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

### **SLIDE #6: Revelation 15:7-8**

Then **one of the four living creatures** gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls **filled with the wrath of God**, who lives for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup>And **the temple was filled** with smoke from **the glory of God** and from his power, and **no one could enter the temple until** the seven plagues of the seven angels were **completed**.

- No one could enter the temple until the wrath of God was “completed.” This explains Revelation 8:1 and Revelation 11:16-19.
- It is one of the **four living creatures** (*symbolic of God’s creation*) that arms the avenging angels with the plagues that will **both smite creation and prepare the way for its renewal** in the restoration of all things (see 11:18 and Revelation 21:4-7).

### **SLIDE #7: Revelation 16:1-2 [1<sup>st</sup> plague]**

Then I heard a **loud voice from the temple** saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of **God’s wrath on the earth**.” The **first** angel went and **poured out** his bowl on the



land, and **ugly, festering (loathsome and malignant) sores** broke out on the **people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.**

- A **loud voice from the temple** in Revelation always announces judgment on the self-worshipping proud and salvation for those whose hope is Christ.
- **“ugly, festering [loathsome and malignant] sores...”** but only on those who worship the beast (self-worshipping human power untethered from God). This is humanity that worshipped self as the image of God (Romans 1:25 = “the lie”) and now that self-centered image is defiled. **ILLUS:** Oscar Wilde: **“Picture of Dorian Gray.”**

#### **SLIDE #8: Revelation 16:3-4 [2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> plagues]**

The **second** angel **poured out** his bowl on the sea, and it **turned into blood like that of a dead person**, and **every living thing** in the sea **died**. The **third** angel **poured out** his bowl on the **rivers and springs of water**, and they became **blood**.

#### **SLIDE #9: Revelation 16:5-6**

Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

**“You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, You who are and who were; for they have shed the blood of Your holy people and Your prophets, and You have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”** And I heard **the altar respond**: **“Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are Your judgments.”**

- The systems of the world have condoned the shedding of the blood of all who opposed them as just and right; now **they receive as they have given.**
- This is the ultimate answer to the cry of the saints from **“the altar”** in Revelation 6:9-10—they themselves now declare the answer to their own question.

#### **SLIDE #10: Revelation 16:8-9 [4<sup>th</sup> plague]**

The **fourth** angel poured out his bowl **on the sun**, and the sun was allowed to **scorch** people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they **cursed the name of God**, who had control over these plagues, but they **refused to repent** and glorify Him.

- **Sun** (heavenly light) is always the symbol of **God’s truth and presence** for humanity. In Christ, the Light of heaven came with **“grace and truth”** (John 1:17-18; 8:12); but now it comes only as **soul-exposing truth** and the revelation of it causes those committed to sin to hate God more.

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- The reaction of the people to the sun in **Rev 16:8** stands as **the opposite** of the reaction of the people in **Rev 7:16-17**—for this earlier group has received the divine Light of God in the Lamb.

### **SLIDE #11: Revelation 16:10-11 [5<sup>th</sup> plague = identifies group in focus]**

The **fifth** angel poured out his bowl on **the throne of the beast**, and its kingdom was **plunged into darkness**. People gnawed their tongues in agony [torment = see 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet] and **cursed the God of heaven because of their pains** and their sores, but they **refused to repent of what they had done**.

- In each series of 7 in Revelation, it is always the **5<sup>th</sup> part** of the series that identifies **what group is in focus**. Here it is the throne (kingdom) of the beast—who is the human incarnation of the spirit of Satan.
- “**plunged into darkness**”—this symbolizes the mental perversion and agony (inner torment) of human existence when the Spirit of God ceases to strive with the impulses and lust of the human heart. This is the universal fulfillment of John 13:30: “*Judas went out from the presence of Jesus and it was night.*”
- They “**curse God**” because of their pain, but “**refuse to repent**” of worshipping their own works. This is the insanity of humanity: we want to worship self as ‘god’, but blame God for the pain our self-focused lives inflicts upon our own souls (compare with Revelation 9:4-6).

### **SLIDE #12: Revelation 16:12-13 [6<sup>th</sup> plague]**

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. Then I saw **three 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**.

### **SLIDE #13: Revelation 16:14-16 [6<sup>th</sup> plague continued]**

They are [3] **demonic spirits that perform 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. “**Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.**”

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon**.

- This sending out of **three demonic spirits by the false trinity** of dragon, beast and false prophet, to deceive the whole world and gather them against God, is the **Satanic counterfeit of Revelation 14:6-13**. We will heed one or the other, ultimately, in the

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trajectory of our life and eternal destiny.

- Revelation 16:15 is the **brief interlude of the 7 last plagues**. Always there is an interlude between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> in each judgment series to answer the question: What is happening with the people of God? The key here is to **stay alert** (7 times in Matt 24); and **dressed in that which God has freely given us in Christ** (Revelation 7:14; 19:8-10).
- “**Armageddon**” is the symbol for the gathering and final confrontation of all good and evil. Literally ‘har-megiddo’—it means the Mountain of Megiddo. While Megiddo is one of the oldest and most fought over cities on earth, there is no mountain there. But **God’s decisive judgments always take place on a mountain** (Moriah, Sinai, Carmel, Zion, Calvary).
- **Satan can no longer deceive, so now he is bent on total destruction** of all that is good. He gathers the wicked together to battle against God by destroying God’s people (see Revelation 17:12-14).
- **But there is no battle, no struggle**. See Revelation 19:11-21 = Jesus destroys the forces of Satan simply by the breath of His mouth and the glory of His appearing (see also 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 2:9-11; Revelation 14:14-20; 20:7-9). **The decisive battle was fought and won already** when Jesus gave Himself over for our sins on the ultimate tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There He secured for His people access again to the tree of life (Revelation 22:1-5).

### **SLIDE #14: Revelation 16:17-18 [7<sup>th</sup> plague: “It is done!”]**

The **seventh** angel **poured out** his bowl into **the air**, and **out of the temple** came a loud voice **from the throne**, saying, **“It is done!”** Then there came flashes of **lightning**, rumblings, peals of **thunder** and a severe **earthquake**. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.

- We have heard this same voice speak the same declaration from His earthly throne before: **“It is finished!”** We will all personally receive the impact of this declaration, either as the statement of a **finished work of salvation** that forgives our sins (John 19:30); or as the **final work of judgment** against our own clung-to sins (Rev 16:17). We will all face Jesus, either as our Savior by the revelation of His sin-bearing grace, or as our Judge by the revelation of His sin-revealing truth. Our choice.

### **SLIDE #15: Revelation 16:19-21 [7<sup>th</sup> plague completed]**

The **great city split** into three parts, and the **cities of the nations collapsed**.

**God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath**. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge

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hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail [see Isaiah 28:17], because the plague was so terrible.

- Like the declaration from the throne, we have also seen this “**cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath**” before. It is the same “cup” Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, had to willingly choose to drink for us on the Cross (see Matthew 26:38-44; and also Revelation 14:10). **Either He drank this cup for us—or we must drink it ourselves.** Our choice.
- This is the **final, great eschatological earthquake**: every time God has descended to earth as the great Law-Giver or Judge there has been an earthquake (Exodus 19/Matthew 27:51). All the Prophets had foretold this last earthquake on the great Day of the LORD; as has John repeatedly in Revelation (6:12; 11:19). **Now this last, great earthquake of judgment takes down Babylon fully and finally**; so that out of the dust and ashes of evil God can restore His good earth.