

Lessons From Revelation

The Seven Bowls

(Rv 15:5-16:1)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Afternoon,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From Revelation."
 - a. Last week we examine the "Beginning Of The End."
 - i. John witnessed the "reason for the disciplining of Rome" with the seven seals & trumpets.
 1. Satan was on the attack.
 - a. After not devouring Christ on earth he tried in heaven.
 - b. After losing in heaven he tried to devour God children on earth.
 2. Satan allied with Rome to persecute and devour the church.
 - a. The sea beast (the mighty side of Rome).
 - b. The land beast (the false religion side of Rome).
 - b. Today we are going to examine "The Seven Bowls."
 - i. As the angel said earlier, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great..."
 1. This is section deals with the attack on Rome by God with is his seven bowls of wrath.
 2. The time of repentance is over.
 3. Let us now examine this great feat.

I. The Scene

- A. John sees seven more angels
 1. He views seven angels with seven plagues.
 - i. He notices they are different as they are "the last."
 - ii. He notices they are to finish God's wrath.
- B. John sees a sea of glass
 1. The sea is mingled with fire.
 2. The sea has people standing on it.
 - i. These are the ones that had conquered the beast, its image, and the number of its name.
 3. These people are singing.
 - i. They are singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.
 - a. **Rv 15:3-4** "...Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.""

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- C. John then looks back to the tent
 - 1. The sanctuary of the tent was open for John to look into and see the last seven angels come out of it.
 - i. They were clothed in pure bright linen.
 - ii. They had golden sashes around their chest.
 - iii. They are given seven bowls containing the wrath of God by one of the four living creatures.
- D. John then notices the sanctuary being filled with smoke.
 - 1. This smoke came from God's glory and power.
 - 2. This smoke prevented anyone from entering the sanctuary until the seven plagues were finished.
- E. John then hears a loud voice from the temple saying to go and pour out the bowls on earth
 - 1. The first angel poured his bowl out on the earth.
 - i. Those that bore the mark of the beast received painful and harmful sores.
 - 2. The second angel poured his bowl out on the sea.
 - i. All the sea became like the blood of a corpse and everything died in the sea.
 - 3. The third angel poured his bowl out on the rivers and springs.
 - i. All the rivers and springs become blood as well.
 - 4. The fourth angel poured his bowl out on the sun.
 - i. The sun was then allowed to scorch the people on earth with fire.
 - ii. The people that were scorch cursed God and repented not.
 - 5. The fifth angel poured his bowl out on the throne of the beast.
 - i. The beast's kingdom became dark.
 - ii. The people of the beast's kingdom gnawed at their tongues in anguish and cursed God while repenting not.
 - 6. The sixth angel poured his bowl out on the great river Euphrates.
 - i. The great river dried up and prepared the way for the kings from the east.
- F. John then sees the dragon, sea beast, and land beast retaliate
 - 1. The three produce from their mouths three unclean spirits with the appearance of frogs.
 - i. These frogs are demonic spirits.
 - ii. These frogs are performing signs.
 - iii. These frogs are recruiting the kings of the whole world to battle against God.
 - 2. The dragon, two beasts, three frogs, and the kings that were recruited gather at Armageddon to battle God.
- G. John then sees the seventh angel pour out his bowl of wrath into the air on Babylon
 - 1. A loud voice from the temple declares "it is done."
 - i. He sees flashes of lightning, sounds, thunders, and a great earthquake such as has never been since man was on the earth come upon Babylon.

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2. John sees Babylon under attack.
 - i. It is split into three parts.
 - ii. It is hit with great hailstones weighing about 100 pounds each.
 - ii. It's overseen nations fall under the attack.
 3. The people of Babylon that have the beast's mark curse God.
 - i. They curse God and repent not.
- H. This is the scene which John witnessed

II. The Message

- A. The sea of glass mingled with fire
 1. This is the second time we find this.
 - i. The first time was **Rv 4:6**.
 - a. There it represented mankind and its separation from God because of the intensity of the persecution.
 - ii. The last time we will see it is **Rv 21:1**.
 - a. There it represents the uniting of mankind to God as the persecution has ended.
 2. This sea of glass represents the purifying of mankind making them optimal to be no longer separated from God.
- B. The six angels and their bowls of plagues
 1. Their clothing is very revealing.
 - i. Normally in Revelation the angels do not have their clothing mentioned.
 - ii. Their clothing is particular because...
 - a. It is likened to that of the priest of the O.T. though not exact.
 1. **Ex 28:4**
 - b. Their sashes are just like Christ's.
 1. **Rv 1:13**
 - iii. Thus these angels have a specific purpose and that is to fulfill God's will of wrath on Rome.
 2. The first bowl and its plague of sores on the land.
 - i. This represents the fact that nothing on land could save Rome, it would fall.
 3. The second & third bowls and their plagues on the sea and rivers.
 - i. This represents that fact that nothing on water could save Rome, it would fall.
 4. The fourth bowl and its plague on the sun to scorch the earth.
 - i. This represents the fact that nothing in the heavens could save Rome, it would fall.
 5. The fifth bowl and its plague of darkness over the throne of the beast.
 - i. This represents that Rome was not completely separated from God.
 6. The sixth bowl and its plague of drying up the Euphrates river.
 - i. This represents a way in which Rome would fall. The kingdoms of the east would rise against Rome and help to bring it down.

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- C. The unclean spirits from the dragon, and two beasts
 - 1. They were going about recruiting other kings from around the world.
 - i. This represents Rome reach and desire to try and destroy Christianity that they would try to go even beyond their borders.
 - 2. The unclean spirits along with the dragon and beasts bring the willing kings to Armageddon to battle God.
 - i. This represents Satan's resolve to try and do anything and everything to defeat God but he cannot succeed as God is...God.
 - ii. Notice as well there is actually no battle that takes place.
 - a. Satan and the people come and they are simply defeated.
 - 1. **Rv 17-19**
- D. The seventh angel and its plague
 - 1. The final bowl of wrath is poured out into the air.
 - i. This represents the thoroughness of the destruction of Rome and its judgment.
 - a. Air is everywhere where man is.
 - b. "Everywhere, with no nook or cranny left for safety, the wrath of God float[ed] down on men." (The Truth for Today Commentary Revelation 12-22 by Roper, David pg. 174)
 - ii. Everywhere Satan and his followers were so too was the wrath of God.
- E. Thus...
 - 1. Rome was without excuse and without time. As the voice out of the temple explained "it is done."

III. The Implication

- A. The two great truths concerning God's wrath
 - 1. First those that receive His wrath bring it upon themselves.
 - i. **Jn 12:48** "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."
 - ii. **Ro 2:16** "on that day...God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus."
 - 2. Second those that receive His wrath always receive a punishment that fits the crime.
 - i. **II Co 5:10** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."
 - ii. **Ga 6:7-8** "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."
- B. Thus...
 - 1. We must guard ourselves against the schemes of Satan and set our focus on the prize, the crown of glory that awaits the righteous.

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren the wrath of God is that which we must never take lightly.
 - a. **Mt 10:28** “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”
2. But to those that mature in righteousness day by day there is more to live for than fear.
 - a. **I Jn 4:17-18** “By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”
3. Question: Are you living for God perfecting your love for Him or are you living in fear of His wrath shrinking from perfection?
 - a. If living for God continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If living in fear of God’s wrath why not start now by striving for perfection and growing from fear to love.
4. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**