

Revelation

Chapters 14 & 15

Chapter 15, Verse 1

- These plagues are much more extensive and appear to be poured out in rapid succession.
- Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and wonderful [a warning of terrifying and horrible events]: seven angels who had seven plagues (afflictions, calamities), *which are* the last, because with them the wrath of God is finished [that is, it is completely expressed and reaches its zenith]. (AMP)

Verses 2-4

- **The Song of Moses is found in Exodus 15:1-18, Miriam leads the women in a dance singing a refrain from the song in verses 20-21.**
- **The song is a song of victory when Israel is finally freed from Egypt and Pharaoh's army is destroyed in the Red Sea.**

Verses 2-4

- Notice, that although they are martyrs, they are also called *victorious* by John. Death is never a defeat when you belong to Jesus.
- Revelation 6:9-11 – The sixth seal when the martyrs are told wait until their number was complete

Verses 2-4

- Notice their song:
- Only God's works are great and marvelous.
- Only God's ways are just are true.
- King of the saints is sometimes rendered King of the nations, meaning God's people come from every tongue, tribe and nation.

Verses 2-4

- **Notice their song:**
- **Only God should be feared and God will be feared by all nations and people who reject Him. The wise fear God now. (Proverbs 9:10)**
- **Only God is holy and to be worshipped.**

Verses 2-4

- **“...For all the nations shall come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts [Your just decrees and judgments] have been revealed *and* displayed.”
(AMP)**
- **“All nations will recognize that God’s judgments are made manifest in righteousness and are in line with true holiness and justice” – Stanley Horton**

Verses 5-6

- **The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. – The inner sanctuary or the Holy of Holies.**
- **“Thrown open wide” – This speaks of the access to God all could have and the saints do have through our High Priest, Jesus Christ.**

Verses 7-8

- **The Living Creatures were the guardians of God's throne and were in constant worship of God in chapter 4.**
- **"...no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed." - No one can enter the temple seems to signify that no one may stop or even intercede for the stopping of the bowl judgments on the earth. The seven plagues must be poured out in their entirety.**

Chapter 16, Verse 1

- **“Out of the temple” would indicate the voice is that of God the Father or Christ, Himself.**
- **These judgments are complete and everyone will be affected; no man can escape the wrath of God.**

Verse 2

- **The First Bowl – Grievous Sores**
- **Malignant sores broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue.
(NLT)**
- **The Septuagint Bible translates this as festering boils. They are cancerous tumors, ulcerated sores.**

Verse 3

- **The Second Bowl – The Sea Turned to Blood**
- **During the second trumpet (Revelation 8:8) a third of the sea was affected, here all the salt waters are affected.**
- **Everything in the sea will perish. Food supplies from the ocean are now gone**

Verses 4-7

- **The Third Bowl – Fresh Water Turned to Blood**
- **The third trumpet affected a third of all the fresh water, this will affect all fresh water.**

Verses 4-7

- **This is also the first time that a reason for the plague is given.**
- **The world is given blood to drink because they have killed so many of God's people, "saints and prophets".**

Verses 8-9

- **The Fourth Bowl – The Sun's Heat Increases**
- **The fourth trumpet dimmed the sun, now it will be made worse.**
- **People were [severely] burned by the great heat; (AMP). This will worse than merely sunburn. The wording suggests an instant flare or pulse of heat.**

Verses 8-9

- **Will they repent and find mercy, no, instead they curse God. It is His fault; they will not accept responsibility for their own actions.**
- **Exodus 9:12 -¹² But the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the Lord had spoken to Moses.**
- **Exodus 8:15 - But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said. Also: 8:32, 9:34**

Verses 8-9

- **God gave Pharaoh many opportunities to heed Moses' warning, but finally God seemed to say, "All right Pharaoh, have it your way" and Pharaoh's heart became permanently hardened. Did God intentionally harden Pharaoh's heart and override his freewill? No, He, God, simply confirmed that Pharaoh freely chose a life of resisting God. – Life Application Bible**

Verses 8-9

- Exodus 14:8 - ⁸ And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went out with boldness.
- Deuteronomy 2:30 - ³⁰ “But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as *it is* this day.
- The choices have been made and God will use their choices to show the justness of His judgments.

Verses 10-11

- **The Fifth Bowl – Darkness on the Antichrist's Throne or City**
- **This plague seems to be only located at where the Antichrist has his seat of power.**
- **This is God now focusing on the Antichrist and his immediate allies. It is purposeful.**

Verses 12-16

- **The Sixth Bowl – The Euphrates River Dried Up**
- **First, the Euphrates River is dried up to make it easier for armies to move into Israel, presumably the biggest army coming from China.**

Verses 12-16

- **Second, three demons come out of the mouth of Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. These three, like the true Godhead/Trinity, speak with the same voice.**
- **Now, these are said to look like frogs, they are not actually frogs. Frogs are unclean to the Jewish people.**

Verses 12-16

- **Third, these demons communicate with the world or entice the world to join with the Antichrist to destroy Israel, maybe thinking they can defeat the One who is causing these plagues.**
- **Not only will these demons have persuasive words but they will work false miracles as did the Egyptian magicians.**

Verses 12-16

- **Matthew 24:24 - ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**
- **1 John 4:1 - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.**

Verses 12-16

- In verse 15, Jesus adds a parenthetical statement to the saints. Jesus will come when many are not expecting it. Jesus does not announce His return, for He wants to see if we are truly faithful to Him.
- Will we “keep our garments”, keep ourselves from the stain of sin? Will we be “naked”, not clothed in Jesus’ righteousness? Are we truly watching for Jesus’ return and helping it along?

Verses 12-16

- **2 Peter 3:10-12 - ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.**

Verses 17-21

- **The Seventh Bowl – Earthquake and Hail**
- **¹⁷ Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne [of God], saying, “It is done. [It is all over, it is all accomplished, it has come.] (AMP)**
- **Many see this as the fulfillment of the sixth seal in Revelation 6:12-14.**

Verses 17-21

- Here is the only debate of the last two chapters, what city is “The Great City”?
- Jerusalem or Babylon, the Antichrist’s seat of power are the two that are debated.
- Some see that because verse 19 states “the great city” and then names Babylon, that they are two different cities.

Verses 17-21

- In Revelation 11:8 - ⁸ And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the *great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
- *The Amplified Bible and the NLT, name it (the great city in verse as Jerusalem.

Verses 17-21

- Zechariah 14:1-4
- Revelation 11:1-2 - Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ² But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months.

Verses 17-21

- **Stanley Horton's view and J. Vernon McGee's view is that Jerusalem is the "great city", which is the general consensus of scholars.**
- **Other commentators believe that the "great city" is Babylon and God is striking the city before the final battle because of the great wickedness found in it.**

Verses 17-21

- **The city being split into three parts would seem to indicate a chasm between each part.**
- **Other cities will be razed to the ground, completely gone.**
- **Mountains will literally crumble in the magnitude of the earthquake and island will disappear, whether through the earthquake itself or tsunamis that may follow.**

Verses 17-21

- **The final part of the plague is that hail will fall. A talent is seventy-five pounds.**
- **How many buildings will be destroyed and lives lost because of the hail alone?**
- **It is catastrophic destruction and yet man's anger increases and he still curses God.**

Verses 17-21

- **The rest of verse 19 means that God will now turn His attention specifically on Babylon and to justly punish her for all her sins.**
- **With the fall of Babylon seen over the next two chapters and the defeat of the Antichrist in chapter 19, this could be taken as the case.**