

Revelation – 101

10/19/25 – PM (week 10)

Chapters 14-16

Review chapter 13

- Chapter 13 reveals the “unholy trinity”, as Satan desires to counterfeit or duplicate the Godhead.
 - We see the dragon (Satan himself as the unholy father)
 - We see the “beast” (the Anti-Christ as the unholy son, whose power is given unto him by the dragon).
 - We see the “second beast” – (the False Prophet, a one-world religion leader as the unholy spirit).
- From the book of Daniel we see this “beast” as a hybrid of previous world leaders and kingdoms. He is a world dictator, who by the end of the first 3 ½ years of the tribulation, had the entire globe under his control.
- The Anti-Christ is very likely a resurrected person from history, as he “comes up out of the sea” (from the bottomless pit – the core of the earth, hell itself). See Revelation 17:8 and Isaiah 14:18-19.
- The False Prophet (the unholy spirit) comes up out of the earth. He appears as a Lamb (harmless / peaceful), but he speaks as a dragon.
 - He controls the people of the earth to worship the beast, as the right-hand man of the Anti-Christ. He has power to do miracles. He gives “life” to an image of the beast and has power to kill all those who will not worship the image.
- The False Prophet forces all people of the earth to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads as a symbol of allegiance or loyalty to the beast. If they do not receive it, they can neither buy nor sell.
 - The number of the beast is the number of a man – “666”

- This is symbolic of man's total rejection of the true God of Heaven. It represents man's world, man's philosophy, man's religion, man's pride, and man's system.
 - It could be a chip implant (?) or some other form of biometrics that contains all a person's information, records, financial status and more. It is definitely a tracking device of some sort, and those who refuse to accept it will be killed.
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Chapter 14 – The Lamb with the 144,000 (the last parenthetical section)

A. Revelation 14:1-5

- a. These are the same people mentioned in chapter 7, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Verse 1 is an earthly scene, where John sees the Lamb (Jesus) with these witnesses who served through the tribulation. They are described in detail here, and are called the “firstfruits unto God and the Lamb”. Remember, they were sealed at the beginning of the tribulation – the first Jewish converts, as it were, of the period. They will lead Israel in ushering in the millennial kingdom after Armageddon.

B. Three Angels - Revelation 14:6-12

- a. First angel – the everlasting gospel (vs. 6-7)
 - i. “gospel” – means good news – but this is not the good news of salvation. This message is good news to Israel and to the tribulation saints – that God's judgment of the nations is about to fall. (Schofield, pg. 1343)
- b. Second angel – “Babylon is fallen, is fallen . . .” (vs. 8)
 - i. This is the final collapse of the world's political system and religious system. (Fulfillment in chapters 17 and 18).
- c. Third angel – condemnation of the worshipers of the Beast
 - i. (vs. 9-12)

C. Blessing of the Tribulation saints (martyrs) – vs. 13

D. Vision of Armageddon – the judgment of the nations (vs. 14-20)

- a. The earth is ripe for harvest. (Joel 3:12-14)
- b. The battle of Armageddon
 - i. This battle is the final act of the tribulation, where tens of millions on earth gather to fight against Jesus and the armies of Heaven. The wrath of God is poured out on the earth at this location (the Valley of Megiddo) – and the blood runs to the horse’s bridle for nearly 176 miles.
 - ii. We will teach about this in much more detail in Chapter 19.

Chapter 15 – The Seven Last Plagues of the Wrath of God

- Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the Book of Revelation, and John sees a scene in heaven of worship by the tribulation saints as well as seven angels preparing to pour out the wrath of God upon the earth. Remember, the seal judgments led to the trumpet judgments, and the trumpet judgments lead to the “vial” or “bowl” judgments.
 - A. Revelation 15:1 - John sees seven angels with the seven last plagues (7 is the number of completion).
 - B. Revelation 15:2-4 – He sees victorious tribulation saints standing on a sea of glass, singing the song of Moses (Exodus 15:1) and of the Lamb, praising God’s holiness and justice. *This shows that the tribulation saints are both Jews (song of Moses) and Gentiles (song of the Lamb).
 - C. Revelation 15:5-8
 - a. The tabernacle of the testimony is opened and the seven angels exit.
 - b. They are clothed in pure and white linen (God’s righteousness)
 - c. One of the four beasts (a cherub) gave the angels each a vial FULL of the wrath of God, to be poured out upon the earth. These will be the last of God’s judgment, and they will take place in the second half of the tribulation. These final judgments lead up to the battle of Armageddon (Chapter 19).
 - d. The glory of God fills the temple “and no man was able to enter into the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels are fulfilled.
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Chapter 16 – The Vials of the Wrath of God Poured Out on the Earth

A. Revelation 16:1-3

- a. John hears “a great voice out of the temple” – most likely the voice of God himself – saying to the angels “go your ways, and pour out the vials . . .” (vs. 1)
 - i. These judgments do not affect a “part” of the world – they are for the whole planet, and all of humanity. These are universal judgments.
- b. The first vial (vs. 2) – painful, festering boils upon all who have the mark of the beast and which worshipped his image. “Noisome” = offensive or noxious to smell / foul or disgusting
- c. The second vial (vs. 3) – the sea (all saltwater) becomes blood, and every living thing in the sea dies.
- d. The third vial (vs. 4-7) – all fresh water (rivers and fountains) became blood.
 - i. The angel “of the waters” justifies this judgment by declaring that the world has killed the saints and prophets, so it is only just (or “worthy”) that the world should have blood to drink as punishment.
 - ii. Another voice from the altar “seconds the motion” of the first angel’s announcement.
- e. The fourth vial (vs. 8-9) – poured upon the sun
 - i. Power was given unto “him” (the sun) to scorch men with fire. These are severe burns (“great heat”)
 - ii. The men of the earth do not repent, or ask for mercy. Instead they blaspheme the name of God, and refuse to give Him glory.
- f. The fifth vial (vs. 10-11) – poured out upon the “seat of the beast”
 - i. Darkness – a frequent sign of judgment in the Bible
 1. Egypt (Exodus 10:20-22)
 2. Joel 2:1-2
 3. During Jesus’ crucifixion (Luke 23:44)

- ii. This darkness is cast over the throne of the Anti-Christ and his kingdom. The people are gnawing their tongues for pain (the first vial – boils / sores). But even through all this, they will not repent, and continue to blaspheme the Lord.
- g. The sixth vial (vs. 12-16) – The River Euphrates dries up.
 - i. The dried up river bed becomes a highway for the armies of the Kings of the East to approach the Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon).
 - ii. John sees three unclean spirits (“like frogs”) – one comes out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), one comes out of the mouth of the beast (Anti-Christ), and one comes out of the mouth of the false prophet (second beast, unholy spirit).
 - 1. These are the “spirits of devils” (vs. 14). They work miracles “which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world” – to gather them to the place of the coming battle.
 - a. Why three?
 - i. Remember the three sons of Noah?
 - 1. Shem (Middle East/Asian peoples)
 - 2. Ham (African people groups)
 - 3. Japheth (Gentiles / Europeans)
 - ii. These three represent the entirety of the human race in their defiance against God, and His righteous judgment of the earth.
 - b. Why frogs?
 - i. Possibly because they are one of the most diverse groups of all animals. They are cold-blooded. They leap great distances. There are also 220 poisonous species of frogs. The Golden Poisonous

frog is the most poisonous animal on the planet. A single golden poisonous frog contains enough poison to kill up to 20,000 mice, or 1 adult humans. They were also one of the plagues on Egypt when God judged the land.

- c. Their purpose – To gather the whole world for the great War of Armageddon. Armageddon means “Mountain of Slaughter”. (We will study in detail in chapter 19).
 - h. The seventh vial (vs. 17-21) – poured out into the air (atmosphere)
 - i. The great voice speaks again out of the temple (God himself) – “It is done” – (7 is the number of completion).
 - 1. 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 vials – complete judgment
 - ii. Voices and thunder and lightning, and the greatest earthquake the world has ever known (vs. 18).
 - 1. The earthquake divides Jerusalem into three parts
 - 2. The cities of the nations fell (destroyed)
 - 3. Babylon (the symbol and seat of Gentile power) is being judged before God (We will discuss in detail in chapters 17-18).
 - 4. The world is shaking and collapsing (vs. 20)
 - a. Possibility that this earthquake could coincide with the physical return of Christ to the Mount of Olives (?) – Zechariah 14:3-4
 - 5. Hailstones “the weight of a talent” – a Greek talent weighed 88 lbs. This hail falls “upon men” – instant death – but yet men still blaspheme God.
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