

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Sixteen

The Seven Last Plagues

Focus Verse: **Revelation 4:11**

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

I. Introduction to Chapter Sixteen

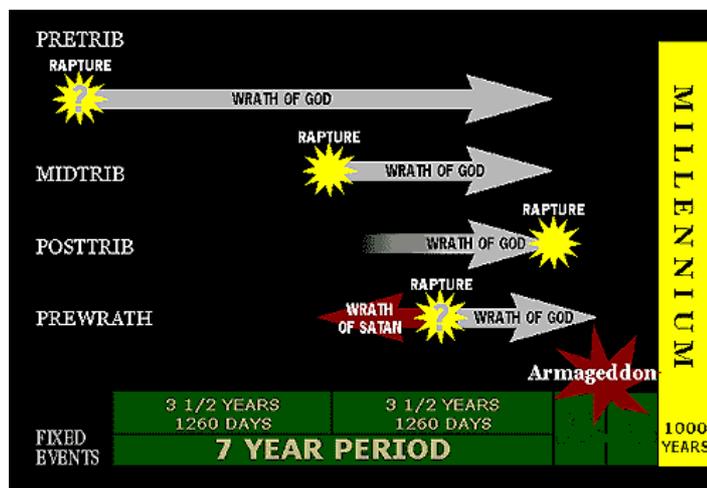
- A. We have been through the Tribulation now three times, and are about to go through it for the last time. I believe that the Lord is attempting to impress upon man the seriousness of these future events by going over their consequences again and again. If God repeats something, then we had better know that it is important!
- B. Let's look at the Judgment Table again:

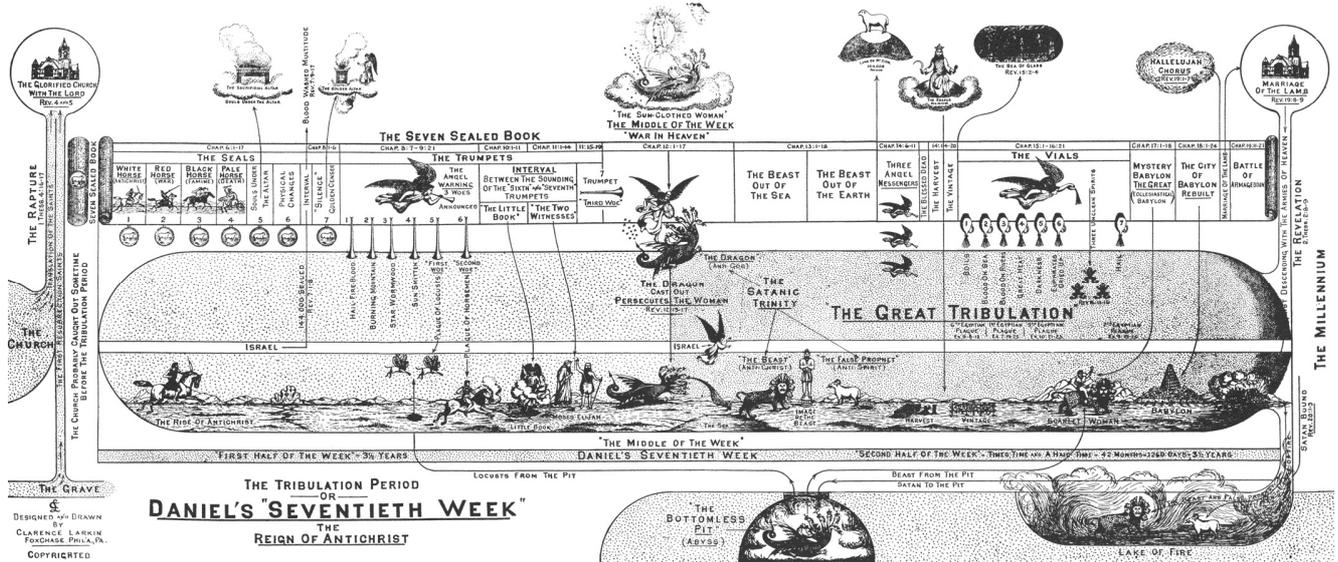
Trib Event	Judgments							
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	(Gap)	7th
7 Seals (6:1-8:1)	White Horse Antichrist False Peace	Red Horse Wars	Black Horse Famine	Pale Horse Death & Hell	Great Persecution Genocide	Earthquake Sun Darkened	144,000 Witnesses	Silence
7 Trumpets (8:2-11:19)	Fire & Hail	Meteor	Comet "Wormwood"	Sun & Moon Darkened	Plague of Locusts	Army of 200,000,000	<i>The Little Book</i>	The "Last" Trumpet
7 Persons (12:1-14:20)	A Woman	A Red Dragon	A Man Child	Michael	The False Prophet	The Living Image of the Beast	<i>The Lamb and the 144,000</i>	The Son of Man and the Death Angel
7 Vials (15:1-18:24)	Grievous Sore	Sea becomes Blood	Rivers become Blood	The Sun Novas	Darkness	Euphrates Dries Up	BABYLON	"It is DONE"

Table 7 - List of Tribulation Judgments

- C. It is true that there are several places where differences in judgments are apparent, but overall, the pattern is the same: number of judgments, type and character of the judgments, the time element being similar, and the seventh judgment in all four sequences are not really judgments at all, but signify the END of the Tribulation every time!
- D. One thought about these last plagues is that they probably are judgments that occur primarily in the last half of the Tribulation (after people take the mark of the Beast, see 16:2), and relate to the Great Tribulation part (Matt 24:15-31).

II. Review of Tribulation Timelines





III. Lesson - The Seven Last Plagues (16:1-21)

A. The First Vial (16:1,2) - Noisesome and Grievous Sore

1. The command for these angels to “go their ways”
2. A vial is a small bottle, like a perfume bottle with a long neck.
3. The Church is not on the earth definitely because “God hath not appointed us to wrath (1 Thess 5:8-10. But the people left on the earth are!
4. The “noisesome and grievous sore” evidently goes on all those who have received the mark of the beast, so these plagues definitely occur after the first half of the Tribulation.
5. Determining the time element involves the following facts:
 - a. When the Beast (anti-christ) shows up, he is finally given power by speaking great blasphemies, and he reigns for 42 months (Rev 13:5).
 - b. The rebuilt Temple will be “trodden under foot” by Gentiles in the last half of the Tribulation for 42 months (Rev 11:2,3).
 - c. Israel will be saved in a day when the abomination of desolation in the Temple takes place, and will have to flee to the wilderness mountains for 42 months (1,260 days, Rev 12:6).
6. Noisesome means very painful. Grievous implies it will grieve people to have these sores, and will take all their time just to dress the sores, and attempt to heal them. This sore is much like leprosy (Lev 13).

B. The Second Vial (16:3) - Sea Turned Into Blood

1. Notice how Moses (who turned water into blood before in Exod 7:20), is active (Rev 11:6).
2. Notice the words, “every living soul ... in the sea.” This statement, with Num 31:28 proves that animals have souls, but the souls of animals are not the same as that of humans in that they are not immortal.

C. The Third Vial (16:4-7) - Rivers Become Blood

1. Every bit of water on this earth becomes blood, even “as the blood of a dead man” (16:3)!
2. Blood has a definite way of stinking if it does not get washed off. Here, in this plague, even the water that could wash off the blood is contaminated!
3. The words, “for they are worthy” tell you immediately what God thought about the situation, “THEY DESERVE IT!”
4. There is no questioning the “righteous Judge of all the earth” for His judgments are RIGHT (Gen 18:25)!

D. The Forth Vial (16:8,9) - Sun Novas (increases in heat)

1. Notice Isa 30:26 for how the Sun will be SEVEN times brighter than it is now in the Millennium. This plague is in preparation for the Millennial kingdom, and will stay in force for the next 1,000 years!

2. The heat of the Sun begins to “scorch” men! Not just “give them tans” but burn them like roasting some barbecue chicken on the grill!
3. Notice again that instead of people getting right, and begging God for forgiveness, they just blaspheme God, and blame HIM for all their troubles, when THEY are to blame from the beginning (Gen 3:6)!

E. The Fifth Vial (16:10,11) - Darkness

1. Just after the Sun novas, it gets dark. Talk about confusing mankind! The world will experience what the Egyptians experienced in Exod 10:20-23).
2. The “seat of the beast” is a throne (2 Thes 2:4), and is the target of this plague (as in “smart bombs” going after their target).
3. The “gnawing of tongues” is for three reasons: no water (all is blood), extreme heat (just getting over the nova of the Sun), and tremendous pain (from the grievous sores)!
4. In spite of all this, man will not repent. It is just as frustrating to a parent who chastises their child for wrong, and the child just looks up defiantly, and rebels even worse! The world’s wisdom says, “Stop punishing wrong and things will get better.” But God commands otherwise (Prov 19:18; 23:13,14)!!!

F. The Sixth Vial (16:12-16) - Euphrates Dried Up

1. We are dealing with the Euphrates river again as we did in Rev 9:13,14.
2. The kings of the east are associated with the Chaldeans (Babylon), and may refer to peoples even further east like the Chinese, Hindu, or Russians.
3. The main thrust of the plague is the preparation for the FINAL conflict in the Tribulation - Armageddon. God just opens up the way for Satan’s army to go right across the riverbed on “dry ground” toward Israel!
4. Look at the anti-types of the Holy Trinity of God that are sent forth to deceive (2 Thes 2:9):
 - a. The Holy Spirit is like a dove (Matt 13) - the unclean spirit is like a frog and is the false prophet
 - b. God the Father is a Spirit (John 4:24) - Satan is called a dragon
 - c. God the Son is called the Lamb (Rev 5) - the antichrist is referred to as the Beast!
 - d. These “spirits” work MIRACLES (they heal, raise the dead, Rev 13:3,14). The Christian should be ultra-careful when dealing with those who trust miracles more than the word of God!
5. Jesus is coming soon at this point. Still like a “thief” (Compare with Matt 24:43,50; 24:29,30)!
6. Notice how that all the nations are “gathered together.” The work of the United Nations (Zech 14:2)! The place is Armageddon (Valley of Meggido, Zech 12:11; Joel 3:11-16).



G. The Seventh Vial (16:17-21) - It is Done!!!

1. This is the FINAL event of the Tribulation. There are voices, thunders, lightnings, and a great earthquake associated with this statement of “IT IS DONE!” This earthquake will be the biggest one since the beginning of time.
2. Notice the reference to the great city Babylon as being destroyed here, when it was described as being destroyed already in Rev 14:8, and yet the destruction of Babylon will be discussed one more time in Rev 18:2! You therefore know that Revelation is not giving a chronological account, but the same account over and over!
3. The earthquake takes care of all the islands (as with the sixth Seal in Rev 6:14).
4. Great hailstones weighing in at 8 pounds each!
5. The people of the earth just right ahead and blaspheme Almighty God. Have you ever seen anyone yelling at a judge for their sentence? They don’t get ANY sympathy - they just get removed from court!

V. Conclusion

- A. So, throughout the Tribulation, under the god of this world (Satan, and his anti-christ), people do not get better, they just get worse!
- B. But the descriptions don't stop there. We still have two more chapters before the King of kings returns and restores paradise in chapter 19.

VI. Some Questions

- A. What is a noisesome sore? _____
- B. During which portion of the Tribulation are these seven last plagues occurring? _____
- C. Do animals have souls? _____
- D. What's different about animal souls? _____
- E. What is the number of people come from the east to attack Israel? _____
- F. Where is the last great battle of the Tribulation going to be fought? _____
- G. Can Satan work miracles? _____