

Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 18

Armageddon and the Seven Last Plagues

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapters 15 and 16]

During the last decade we have witnessed some of the most unprecedented and phenomenal historical events in world history! In fact, commentators have said that world events during this past decade have made the most momentous changes in the world since the Reformation of the sixteenth century.

The demise of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall, nations in quick succession demanding freedom, and world regimes vanishing! Horrendous famines, pestilences, floods, and multiple earthquakes rocking the earth! Wars-and the talk of war! What lies ahead? Will it be World War III?

According to Bible prophecy, an outline of coming events is clearly revealed. The crisis at the close of human history is not merely a military struggle, it is the last great battle in the longstanding conflict between Christ and Satan.

The seven last plagues prior to, and including, the Battle of Armageddon, focus on the end of human history and the coming of our Lord.

READ: *Revelation* 15:1-8; 16:1-21.

With this background, let's turn to our study for this chapter.

1. What great crisis will this world soon face? Revelation 16:16, 17.

2. What will be poured out on those individuals who worship the beast? Revelation 14:9, 10.

Revelation Speaks - 2

NOTE: When every human being has chosen between the Mark of the Beast or the Seal of God, the plagues will fall! A loving God would not possibly allow the plagues to fall without giving each individual the opportunity to avoid them.

3. What is the "wrath of God unmingled with mercy"? Revelation 15:1, 2.

4. Upon whom does the first plague fall? Revelation 16:1, 2.

NOTE: Men and women do not receive the Mark of the Beast until the entire world has had the opportunity to hear the message of Revelation chapter 14. From this, it is clear that the plagues are still in the future.

PRESENT AGE	THE TEST	CLOSE OF PROBATION	DELIVERANCE
Signs of Christ's Coming	Mark of the Beast Seal of God	Seven Plagues Poured Out	Return of Jesus
False Christs Wars and Rumors of Wars Pestilences Signs in the Sun, Moon, and Stars	A Time of Final Decision for All Mankind God's People Persecuted	God's People Protected Wicked Afflicted By Plagues	Righteous Living Translated to Meet Christ in the Air Wicked Call for Rocks and Mountains to Fall on Them

5. What statement shows that Christ's work as our intercessor has been completed when the seven last plagues are fallen? Revelation 15:8.

Revelation Speaks - 3

NOTE: Revelation 16:2-15 lists the first six plagues:

1. Grievous Sores
2. Sea as Blood
3. Fountains and Rivers of Waters as Blood
4. Sun Scorching Men
5. Darkness on Seat of the Beast
6. Armageddon

6. After the first six plagues, what announcement comes from heaven? Revelation 16:15.

NOTE: What sense would it make for Jesus to declare that He was coming" as a thief" after the plagues, if He had already come? This text is Christ's encouragement to His followers, urging them to perseverance in light of His soon return.

These plagues are called "The seven last plagues." Ten plagues fell on Egypt in Old Testament times. The first three fell on both the Egyptians and the Israelites; the last seven fell only on the Egyptians. At the end of earth's history the seven last plagues fall only on the wicked, while the righteous, still on earth, are protected.

7. What is the first plague to fall, and how does it affect human beings? Revelation 16:2.

NOTE: The plagues are not arbitrary scourges on the part of God. There are eternal principles which govern the universe. One is the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7, 8). The seeds of evil carry with them their own deadly results. The first plague falls upon those who have the Mark of the Beast (verse 2). The Beast power which enforces the Mark of the Beast says, "unless you receive the Mark you will be physically harmed." In the first plague those who receive the Mark of the Beast are physically afflicted. This first plague clearly reveals that there is no physical security outside of Jesus Christ.

8. Upon what do the second and third plagues fall? Revelation 16:3, 4.

NOTE: Just imagine the economic collapse and financial disaster which occurs when the sea becomes a polluted wasteland. Certainly there is no economic security outside of Jesus Christ (Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19).

9. Why do the rivers and waters turn to blood during the third plague?
Revelation 16:5-7.

NOTE: The wicked receive blood to drink, in direct response to their shedding of the blood of God's people. For those whose lives are hid with Christ in God, there is safety and security during the plagues.

10. As the human race is thirsting for water, what happens to the sun during the fourth plague? Revelation 16:8.

NOTE: The wicked have turned from true to false worship. They have rejected the Creator's Sabbath and accepted the pagan day of the sun. The object of their false worship scorches them.

11. What is the fifth plague, and where does it specifically fall? Revelation 16:10, 11.

NOTE: Human beings have turned from Jesus, who is the Light of the world (John 8:12). They have not walked in the light of His Word, so they are left in darkness (John 12:35).

12. List below the ways that a loving God will protect His people during the plagues:

Psalm 91:1, 2 _____

Psalm 91:4, 5 _____

Psalm 91:7 "A thousand _____

Psalm 91:9, 10 _____

Psalm 91: 11 "He shall give his _____

13. What assurance does God give us that He will feed us during this time? Isaiah 33:16, 17.

14. How will Satan attempt to unite all nations to destroy God's people in earth's last war? Revelation 16:14.

15. What is this battle called? Revelation 16:16.

NOTE: The word *Armageddon* comes from the Hebrew *Har-Megiddo*, meaning "mountain of assembly," or "mount of slaughter." During the last days of earth's history, the whole world will be turned into a vast battlefield as the wicked attempt to destroy God and His people. It will appear that their doom is certain.

16. As the whole world is mobilized to destroy the people of God, what divine act takes place? Revelation 16:17-21.

NOTE: It is interesting to notice that when Christ closed His life of "humiliation and suffering, He cried out triumphantly, 'It is finished.' Now, as the humiliation and suffering of His people draw to a close, He cries out with enormous satisfaction and relief, 'It is done.'" -*God Cares*, Vol. 2, p. 429.

17. How is Jesus described in Revelation 19:11-16?

NOTE: In the last moments of time, Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, with the armies of heaven. Friend, the outcome of this battle is certain. God and His people will gloriously triumph!

[Note: See Chart of Seven Last Plagues on following page.]

My Response

 In the crisis of the end time, I want to be on Christ's side when the plagues fall.

 By God's grace and power, I commit myself to obey and follow Jesus as my Savior and Lord.

After all mankind has finally chosen for or against Christ-after each has made his or her eternal choice, the seven last plagues are poured out upon the recipients of the Mark of the Beast.

Chapter 16: The Seven Last Plagues			
GOD'S LAST WARNING MESSAGE	MARK OF THE BEAST	PROBATION CLOSES	CHRIST RETURNS
	God's Seal of Protection Economic Boycott Death Decree	Seven Last Plagues	
Everlasting Gospel Judgment Hour Worship Creator Give Glory to God Babylon's Fall Mark of the Beast Commandments of God Faith of Jesus	Destinies of All Decided Holy Spirit Poured Out Political/Economic/Religious Coalition Formed		
Revelation 14:6-12	Revelation 13 and 17	Revelation 16	Revelation 19