



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THE LAST SEVEN PLAGUES

Introduction: In the preceding lesson, the Apostle John offered a glimpse of the final judgments, describing them as "great and marvelous" vials of God's wrath. Now, Revelation 16 delves deeper, painting a vivid and terrifying picture of these end-time judgments.

THE 1ST VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 1-2)

- This bowl is filled with pain for all those who receive the mark of the beast.
- **"Noisome and grievous"** sores will inflict those who...
 - ...receive the mark of the beast.
 - ...worship the beast's image.
- **NOTE:** *Noisome* is defined as *painful*. *Grievous* means *causing sorrow* and *hard to bear*.

THE 2ND VIAL JUDGMENT (v 3)

- This bowl of wrath is poured out **"as the blood of a dead man"** upon the earth's seas.
 - This will affect mankind as it will...
 - ...kill every living organism in the world's largest bodies of water.
 - Food and water supplies will be limited as a result.
 - The stench of contaminated water and rotting sea life will fill the air.

THE 3RD VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 4-7)

- This judgment takes out the remaining fresh water sources by turning them into blood. (v 4)
 - It will affect all rivers, streams, and tributaries. We can expect the same result as the seas, which became as blood... the death of all living organisms therein.
 - It will affect all "fountains of water."
 - **NOTE:** *"Fountains of water"* refers to natural springs, geysers, and all underground water sources. We can infer this to include all man-dug wells.
- The delivering angel proclaims righteousness. (vs 5-7)
 - Those who remain, having shed the blood of God's righteous, will drink blood in return.

THE 4TH VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 8-9)

- This bowl judgment is poured out upon the sun. (v 8)
 - The sun was given power to **scorch** men with **great heat**. (v 8)
 - Instead of repenting, these recipients of God's wrath blasphemed even more. (v 9)

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THE 5TH VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 10–11)

- This vial will pour darkness over the beast's kingdom. (v 10)

*"... this fell—upon **the seat of the beast**, upon Rome itself, the mystical Babylon, the head of the antichristian empire." ~ Matthew Henry*

- Men gnawed their own tongues to take their mind off their misery. Despite their afflictions, they persisted in blaspheming God and failed to repent. (v11)

THE 6TH VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 12–16)

- This bowl judgment dries up the Euphrates River, creating a land bridge for the kings and armies of the east to gather for the great Battle of Armageddon . (v 12)
- Three demonic spirits come forth out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. (v 13)

- These devils perform miracles, convincing all the kings of the earth to join forces to fight against God Himself at the Battle of Armageddon. (vs 14–16; Rev. 14:20)

- **NOTE:** God places a warning and a blessing in verse 15.

*"The warning which God gives of this great and decisive trial, to engage his people to prepare for it, (v. 15). It would be sudden and unexpected, and therefore **Christians should be clothed, and armed, and ready for it, that they might not be surprised and ashamed.** When God's cause comes to be tried, and his battles to be fought, all his people shall be ready to stand up for his interest and be faithful and valiant in his service." ~ Matthew Henry*

THE 7TH VIAL JUDGMENT (vs 17–21)

- The final bowl judgment pours out God's wrath in the form of The Great Earthquake and great hailstones.

- The Great Earthquake proceeds God's proclamation of finality... **"It is done."** (v 17)

- The earthquake is unprecedented in magnitude. (v 18)

- It causes the great city to be divided into three parts (v 19).

- It causes the **"cities of the nations"** to fall. (v 19)

- It levels all mountains and sinks every island. (v 20)

- **Great hail falls from the heavens and torments man**, each hailstone weighing a talent (roughly 60 pounds!).

"And a great hail falleth out of heaven - From which there was no defence. From the earthquake men would fly into the fields; but here also they are met by the hail: nor were they secure if they returned into the houses, when each hail - stone weighed sixty pounds". ~ John Wesley

- Despite this "exceeding great" plague of hail, men persisted in their hearts to be unrepentant and blasphemed God.

Lesson Conclusion: These cataclysmic plagues underscore the unwavering justice of God towards those who stubbornly refuse repentance. Remember, sin, left unchecked, inevitably leads to divine judgment. Throughout these trials, humanity, blinded by arrogance, continues to blaspheme. While God possesses the power to mitigate these afflictions, as verse 9 suggests, these hardened hearts, echoing the defiance of Pharaoh, ensure the full force of each judgment. As the vials of wrath are poured out, the final window of repentance will slam shut. Do not delay. Repent now and lead others to the saving grace of Christ.