

The Conclusion of Final Judgment (Message #38)

Revelation 16: 10-21

Tonight we are continuing to look at the final judgment involving the 7 vials that will be poured out upon the earth. The Revelation has been filled with great wonders, trials, and judgment upon the earth dwellers. As we move through these verses remember that at this time the Tribulation will be drawing to a close. The earth has endured the wrath of God for 7 years.

As these events unfold, they will set the stage for the return of Christ in all His power and glory to judge this world, reigning upon His throne. He was despised, rejected, and crucified the 1st time He came, but the 2nd coming will be much different. The trio of Satan will be powerless to stop the return of the Lord as He comes to deal with sin and the world system. Let's take a few moments to look, in detail, at the three remaining vials as we consider: [The Conclusion of Final Judgment](#).

I. The Vial of Retribution (10-11) – As we consider the [5th vial](#), keep in mind that the Antichrist has set up his one world government and has dominated the global scene during the Tribulation. This is all about to come to an end as the Lord begins this final judgment. Notice:

A. The Vial is Pointed (10a) – Satan's superman has deceived the world into worshipping him and has established world rule, leading the earth into unimaginable depths of sin and depravity, destroying all who refuse his mark. It is here in the 5th vial that God brings judgment to the [seat of the beast](#), the very place of his power.

- His cruel reign of bloodshed and manipulation is about to be judged by the power of Almighty God, beginning at the source of evil and spreading throughout his entire kingdom. Men may feel as if they can get by with sin, but eventually God will deal with it at the source of its origin!

B. The Vial is Profound (10b) – As the seat of Antichrist is assaulted by the power of God, [his kingdom is filled with darkness](#). Antichrist and the wicked of this world have denied God, living lives consumed by sin, choosing darkness rather than light, and God has brought a thick, consuming darkness to the world.

- As we've already seen, God does, at times allow men exactly what they desire; He does render judgment by giving the wicked the desire of their hearts, turning them over to their lusts. These wanted the darkness of sin and God has granted their desire. I'm sure this will be much more than they ever imagined. As the darkness sets in, they will gnaw their tongues with pain.

Imagine the boils, the blood, the contamination of water, and the sunburn being intensified by the dreadful darkness and agonizing pain.

- I truly believe these are experiencing a prelude of the torments of hell that will be their eternal destination. [Mat.25:30](#) – **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** The darkness that men sought will surround them for all eternity!

C. The Vial is Protested (11) – Just as we saw in [V.9](#) with the 4th vial upon the sun, men remain defiant before God. As their bodies writhe in pain and suffering, they continue to curse God and blame Him for their lost condition. Facing the undiluted wrath of God these still refuse to repent of sin and acknowledge God. This is a sad picture for those who are left.

- These verses just affirm the truth of God's Word in regard to the total depravity of man. When left to himself man is wicked and vile in all his ways. Our world is filled with those who refuse to bow before a Holy Lord. I know a man who has endured great tragedy in his life and yet will not seek the Lord. He made the statement that God just hadn't broken him yet. There will come a day when all will bow and confess Christ as Lord of all! What a tragedy that men blaspheme the Lord when He has already given Himself upon the cross to forgive sin. Those who die lost can only blame themselves.

I. The Vial of Retribution (10-11)

II. The Vial of Preparation (12-16) – The 6th vial will pave the way for the battle of Armageddon as the nations of the world gather to invade the Holy Land. What can we learn about this vial of preparation? Notice:

A. The Prelude to Invasion (12) – As this vial is poured out the mighty Euphrates River will dry up, paving the way for the advancing armies to invade. The Euphrates has long been the dividing line between east and west. It is an enormous river, originating in Mt. Ararat in Turkey and flowing south through Iraq, emptying in the Persian Gulf.

- By the providential hand of God, the river will dry up allowing the [kings of the east](#) to invade the land. If you remember in [Rev.9:16](#) we encountered an army numbering 200 million. Many believe this to be modern China. The Bible doesn't say specifically, but we know that the nations of the east will come against Israel. A battle is brewing and this vial will help set the stage.

B. The Presence of Deception (13-14) – Here we find that Satan’s ungodly trio will spew out three unclean spirits, going out to further deceive the world leaders to unite in battle against Israel. Antichrist has been on the scene performing apparent miracles and Satan’s evil influence will entice the world to come together and try to do away with the people of God. The world has been deceived since the creation of man by the subtlety of Satan and during the end times this deception will continue on a much larger scale.

C. The Promise of Completion (15) – This verse speaks of the second coming of the Lord. Prior to the Tribulation the church was raptured and the Lord’s return is soon at hand. The world may think that they have gotten the upper hand, but God is in complete control. This may seem tragic for Israel, but this is all in God’s plan.

- The armies of the world will gather in confidence under the leadership of Antichrist, feeling invincible in their diabolical plan, but Jesus will return as He said He would in all of His power. The world may choose to deny it, but the Lord is coming again and it may be much sooner than we think!

D. The Plan of Devastation (16) – All of the armies of the world will gather in the valley of Megiddo, the place called Armageddon. It is here that the Lord will defeat the armies of the world. He will actually draw these armies together, finally crushing their resistance. As the world looks upon, expecting the total annihilation of Israel, God has a different plan.

- It may appear that the world has conquered the righteous, driving the Lord from the world He created, but here the Lion of Judah will roar as He defeats the world system that has rejected Him and polluted the earth. The battle will be completely one sided, over as quickly as it began, as the Lord destroys them and their blood runs to the depths of horses’ bridles.

I. The Vial of Retribution (10-11)

II. The Vial of Preparation (12-16)

III. The Vial of Consummation (17-21) – As this 7th vial is poured out the wrath of God is finalized. This vial will bring completion to the judgment of God. Man has always rebelled and rejected the Lord. What began in the heart of Cain, flowed on in the desire of Nimrod at the tower of Babel. This attitude of sin and wickedness has plagued the hearts of men down through the ages of time. God in His mercy has been longsuffering, but here He will fully and finally deal with sinful men and their wickedness. Notice:

A. A Fulfilling Word (17) – As the vial is poured out in the air, a voice from heaven declares, [It is done!](#) Judgment has reached its consummation; the Lord will step out to return in power. When Jesus was on the cross, He cried, “***It is finished!***” There He announced His *victory*. Here, He cries, “***It is done!***” as He announces His *verdict*.

- God has spoken and His verdict has been carried out. Jesus secured what man had lost in sin as He died upon the cross. He is about to return and claim that which He purchased through His sacrifice!

B. A Final Woe (18-21) – It is here that God will utterly destroy that which man has so desperately held on to throughout history. Let’s look in on the final moments of judgment and see what awaits the world system.

1. A Great Earthquake (18) – We have all seen the devastation and horror that an earthquake can bring. A sizeable earthquake brings massive destruction and death to those who find themselves in its wake. The world has never experienced an earthquake of this magnitude.

- Can you imagine the lives of men on earth? They have faced the turmoil of the recent plagues, the world is plunged in darkness, and now the earth begins to shake violently under the hand of God! This vial brings more.

2. The Fall of Cities (19a) – The [great city](#) is believed to speak of Jerusalem. During this earthquake Jerusalem will be divided in three parts. This won’t be confined to Jerusalem, but the major cities of the world will crumble and fall as the final wrath of God is poured out.

- For centuries the major metropolitan areas have been the center of man’s devices. It is there that the economic centers hold men’s fortunes. It is there that the vices of sin are offered liberally without shame. It is in these major cities that men obsess with pride as they consider their accomplishments. God will strike the very root of man’s vanity and wickedness!

3. The Judgment of Babylon (19b) – The very seat of Antichrist’s power will fall at the hands of a righteous, holy God. His world system has enjoyed a run of power and domination, but this will all come to an abrupt end as the 7th vial is poured out. God has not forgotten the wickedness that Antichrist promoted and it will not go un-judged. We will deal with the judgment of Babylon in detail in [Chps.17-18](#).

4. The Landscape is Ravaged (20) – Can you imagine the enormity of this judgment? The islands will be swallowed up in the vastness of the oceans, likely due to enormous tsunamis caused by the massive earthquake. The mountains of the earth will crumble and cease to exist.

- The world as we know it will be drastically changed, completely unrecognizable as to what it was before. We can't begin to imagine the power that our God has. All of that power will be released as he judges the men of the earth and the world they have defiled. [Heb.10:31 – It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.](#)

5. The Persecution of Men (21) – As the earth quakes, whole cities crumble and fall, and islands and mountains disappear from sight, [God unleashes a devastating hail storm upon the inhabitants of the earth.](#) These hail stones will weigh a talent each, literally about 100 pounds.

- Can you imagine the severity of this devastation? The world will be pulverized by the fury of God. Homes, animals, automobiles, crops, and all that encounter this mighty hailstorm will be destroyed. God in His fury will destroy all that man has prized above Him.

- As this tragedy rains down upon them men still refuse to acknowledge God, blaspheming His holy name. These are near to an eternity of torment and they continue to curse God. They will go to hell defying the mercies of God and holding on to the one they have served, Satan.

- What a tragic picture of what awaits those who reject God. I want us to be reminded that these are literal events that will come to pass as the Lord judges this world. May God help us to see those around us in need of salvation and do all we can to reach them.

As with most of these passages, I rejoice that I will be in heaven when this dreadful time comes about. The Lord has extended mercy today. He died upon the cross for all, even those who will deny Him till the bitter end.

Do you know Christ as your personal Savior? Are you assured that you will avoid the wrath of God? There is still time for you to come if you are unsure. For those who are saved, let's pray that God will send forth laborers into the harvest to reach those that we can.