

Read Revelation 15

No one can read these verses...and understand what is taking place...and not be profoundly moved! This occasion, which will take place at the half waypoint through the Tribulation Period; reminds us of the time Moses and the children of Israel celebrated after the overthrow of Pharaoh in Exodus 15.

Interestingly, these judgments are referred to as "...Thy (God's) works (15:3)...or, as one translations states it, "God's righteous acts"... and verse 4 states, "Thy (God's) judgments are made manifest."

In verse 5 the "temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven" is opened. (This is the heavenly Tabernacle, which Moses' Tabernacle was patterned after) We are here on Old Testament ground, as God is fulfilling His "covenant promises" toward Israel.

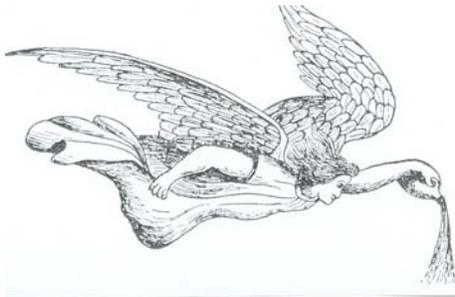
With the pouring out of the 7 vials, it will be the end of God's judgments. The pouring out of these last vial judgments will be the signal for Christ's return with His saints to set up His Kingdom on earth.



God, having introduced us to the company who will not be overcome by the terrible judgments . . . (that is, these 144,000, standing on the sea of glass mingled with fire)...now resumes His account of what will occur when the vial judgments are poured out.

Read Revelation 16

The Seven Vial Judgments



The First Vial - A noisome and grievous sore . . . (foul and painful ulcer, or, severe and malignant) . . . upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

The Second Vial - The sea became as the blood of a dead man...(turned into blood like that of a corpse [thick, corrupt, ill-smelling and disgusting])...and every living soul died in the sea.

The Third Vial - The rivers and fountains of waters became blood.

Men find fault with God for sending these terrible judgments because they still do not understand the awfulness of their sin, nor the absolute righteousness of God. As long as man minimizes sin, and continues to rebel against an infinite God, he will continue to find fault.

The Fourth Vial - The sun scorches men with a great heat.

The Fifth Vial - Darkness, so terrible, it causes men to gnaw their tongues in agony and curse God.

Swiftly following the fifth vial...like horses, racing into the last lap of the race...the world quickly heads toward Armageddon!

The Sixth Vial - The great river is dried up to prepare a way for the kings of the east toward Megiddo.

These verses give the details of the last days, which end in violence and war. When all hope, for mankind, is gone, Christ returns...He stops man's reign of terror ...and sets up His Kingdom of righteousness and peace.

There are two important events, which occur when this sixth angel pours out his vial upon the great river Euphrates:

- (1) The Euphrates dries up to prepare a path for the kings of the east toward Megiddo
- (2) The gathering of the armies of the world for the last battle of all time, *Armageddon!*

The Euphrates River is mentioned in two historical accounts: The Garden of Eden and the city of Babylon. Satan won the first skirmish when he deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve, thus, plunging the whole human race into judgment and death.

The Euphrates...one-thousand, five hundred miles long, 10 to 30 feet deep, and several miles wide in many places...will become a dry riverbed, making a great super highway, playing an important role in bringing together the armies of the world for the last battle of all time.

This river, Euphrates, has been a formidable, natural, barrier between the east and the west.

Daniel tells us that there will be at least four great armies, which will meet in the valley of Jehoshaphat...(a valley just north of Palestine, in the hills of Megiddo).

These four armies are, simply, called "*the king of the north...the king of the south...the king of the east...the king of the west.*"

1. The "*king of the north*" is, probably, the empire of Russia
= and those countries surrounding her.
2. The "*king of the south*" is, undoubtedly, the African nations.

3. The "*king of the east*" is, without doubt, the areas of the yellow races

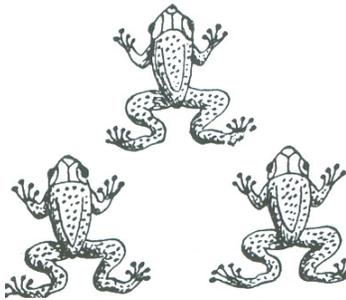
4. The "*the king of the west*" is, what is referred to, as, the Old Roman Empire

In order, to make way for the "*kings of the east*" to reach the battle- field, the Euphrates is dried up, making a natural road.

Here we have the Satanic trinity...the Devil, the Antichrist and the False Prophet... deceiving the kings of the earth into preparing to fight in the Battle of Armageddon. Three evil spirits (fallen angels), which have been kept bound (Jude 6), are now loosed to go out and to deceive the nations of the world by initiating the last desperate rebellion against Almighty God.

No nation will be neutral in this war, because verse 14 states, "*of the whole world.*"

How are these three evil spirits like frogs?



1. They come forth out of the pestiferous...(that is, "*carrying infected diseases*) ...quagmires of darkness.
2. They do their devilish work in the evening shadows of their dispensation.
3. They *creep and croak*" and fill the ears of the nations with their noisy demonstrations.

The battle, between God and the Devil, started back in the Garden of Eden when God declared war on the Serpent (Satan) and his seed. For almost 6,000 years the battle has been raging. At Calvary, "*the seed of woman was bruised*" and, now, "*the seed of woman crushes the head of the serpent.*" Armageddon, the hill of slaughter, is at hand and, the events which take place when the battle occurs is given in verses 17-21.

The Seventh Vial

This will be a terrible time for men who reject Jesus Christ...a day when the air explodes and earthquakes split the earth. So great will be the convolutions of the earth... (perhaps the release of atomic energy)...that mountains disappear, islands are submerged and, one hundred pound, hailstones fall from heaven to earth.

This great battle brings us to the time when Christ returns to earth **with** His saints to rule and reign in His earthly Kingdom - in chapter 19.

Between the 16th chapter, and the 19th chapter, are two, explanatory, chapters, which deal with Babylon and her doom.

When we arrive at the 17th chapter of Revelation, we have nearly reached the end of the Tribulation Period. We saw in chapter 16 a glimpse of the Battle of Armageddon, how- ever, the Battle of Armageddon and the return of Christ **with** His saints to set up His Kingdom is described in the 19th chapter, and between chapters 16 and 19 we have one great topic, *God's final judgment upon Babylon.*

Because of the important role, which "*Babylonianism*" plays, two entire chapters are devoted to this subject, that is, chapter 17 and 18.

Read Revelation 17

The angel clearly tells John, "*I will show you...*(reveal to you the mystery of the great harlot) . . . the great punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries."



We saw this seven-headed, ten-crowned, Beast, which this "*great prostitute*" is riding, back in chapter 13, coming up out of the "*waters*" [Verse 15, of this chapter 17, reveals that the "*many waters*" on which this great prostitute sits are "*peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.*"] The leaders of the earth commit fornication with her and the inhabitants of the earth will be made drunk with her wine...(verse 6 says, "*drunk with the blood of saints.*")

This, "*bride of the Antichrist*," is an utterly loathsome creature. Scripture refers to her as a "*Harlot*"...a symbol, which expresses the attitude God has toward this apostate religious system of the end-time.

Is it any wonder that Bible believing Christians, who understand what God says concerning the end-time religious system, look with suspicion upon a "*World Church Movement*"?

I confess poverty of descriptive language in attempting to portray the blasphemous character of this "*Great Harlot*."

God, to a sensuous, lewd, woman, having external beauty, likens this religious system, and alluring appeal, however, her rotten soul is the habitation of demons and her body is full of disease and moral metrification.

"*Glamorous*" is the word for this harlot of Babylon! Even, John was caused to look with admiration upon her poise, gracefulness and charm. He states in verse 6, "*When I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*"

This "*great harlot*" will enjoy a large traffic in "religious" prostitution, as all churches, left on earth after the rapture, will be a part of this world federation of false religions.

There seems to be method in the madness of all churches getting together for public pow-wows.

Scripture, of course, is for unity between all groups of **true** believers, those who are a true part of the *Body of Christ*, Christ prayed that we all might be "*one*." However, this unity, which Christ prayed for, is **not** dependent upon any central ecclesiastical

authority, but, rather, by the fact that we are one body in Christ Jesus. All true Christians are linked together by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit.

However, there is, today, the reality of an ecumenical fever that would have sounded farfetched only a few years ago. It is not difficult to see the formation of this "*world federation of churches*." Its development is so fast, and furious, that it leaves one dizzy with all its implications as to the nearness of time.

Many leaders seem to be obsessed with the idea of a "*world federation of churches*." They enthusiastically support and advocate the union of all churches into one movement.

As one witnesses this "*bundling up*" of religious groups...this merging of all churches into one...it, certainly, has deep prophetic significance to the Bible student. When one stops to realize that the machinery...(the church structure)...through which the Antichrist will exercise world-wide control over the peoples of the world, is already formed, and needs only a little time for its completion, it is alarming, indeed!

The message for the "*federation of a world-church*" is couched in such flowery language calling for world peace, brotherhood, tolerance and good will, that is, certainly, a persuasive instrument in cementing the peoples of the world into a solid, cohesive, mass, however, all this "*sweet talk*" has but one end...that all the world will worship the image of the Beast.

Many are only faintly aware of the extent to which the prophecies of God's Word are being fulfilled today and, that the world is rapidly moving to embrace all of Christendom into one giant system. Extensive propaganda pours through the mail urging all churches to be "*one*." The "*birth*" of this system has already taken place, and we are seeing the formation of this World-Church, today.

The stage is being set for the rapture of the true church, which occurs **before** this ecclesiastical church comes to a climax.

Satan's masterpiece of deception

The "*Babylonian Cult*" began in Genesis 11:1-9, where we find the very, first, great apostasy...the first organized, rebellion against God. Babylon, according to Genesis 10:10, was built by Nimrod.

The Babylonian Cult continued in Babylon until the fall of the Babylonian Empire in 487 B. C., when Xerxes took Babylon. The Babylonian priesthood was then forced to leave Babylon, and move to Pergamos, which was its headquarters for some time. When Attalus, the Pontiff and King of Pergamos, died in 133 B. C., he bequeathed the headship of the Babylonian priesthood to Rome. When the Etruscans came to Italy from Lydia (the region of Pergamos) they brought with them the Babylonian religion and rites and set up a Pontiff who was the head of the priesthood and had the power of life and death over them. Julius Caesar was made the supreme Pontiff of the Etruscan Order in 74 B. C. In 63 B. C. he was made supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian Order,

thereby becoming heir to the rights and titles of Attalus, who had made Rome his heir by will.

The Antichrist, pictured in the Revelation as "*a scarlet colored beast ...having seven heads and ten horns,*" supports "*the great whore, arrayed in purple and scarlet color and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand...*" in her long dream of being a "universal" church. However, when he has used her for his purposes, he will turn on her and destroy her (verses 16).



There is no need for anyone to speculate on the meaning of these symbols in Revelation 17 because the angel clearly tells John, "*I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has seven heads and ten horns*" (verse 7).

The "*seven heads*" are seven kingdoms (verse. 9)

Of the seven kingdoms, verse 10 states, "*five have fallen*"...history shows them to be Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece..."*one is* (that is, one was in existence at the time of John's writing, which, of course, was the Roman Empire)..."*and the other has not yet come, but when he does come, he must remain for a little while.*" Verse 11 states, "*The beast...*(the Antichrist)...*who once was ...*(that is, his kingdom once existed)...*and now is not...* (his kingdom no longer exists)...*is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven..*(that is, the Antichrist is one of the 10 kings who make up the seventh world-wide kingdom)...*and is going to his destruction...*(he is headed for Armageddon)."

Thus, the first Roman emperor became the head of the Babylonian priesthood and Rome became the successor of Babylon with Pergamos as the seat of this cult. In 218 A.D. the Roman army in Syria, having rebelled against Macrinus, elected Elagabalus emperor. This man was High Priest of the Egyptian branch of Babylonianism. He was chosen shortly afterward as Supreme Pontiff by the Romans, and, the two Western branches of the Babylonian apostasy centered in the Roman Emperors who continued to hold this office until 376 A.D. when the Emperor Gratian, for Christian reasons refused it because he saw that by nature Babylonianism was idolatrous.

This "**Babylonian Cult**," which began in Nimrod's day, progressed through history... infiltrated into "*professing*" Christendom...becoming the super church of the end-time, is the religious-apostasy, "*bride*" of Antichrist, and comes into power with him.

Verse 12 states, "*The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast,*" that is, the ten horns on the Beast represent ten kings who will receive their kingdoms for a short while. These ten kingdoms, together, make up the seventh world-wide power.

Verses 13 to 14 state, "*They... (the ten kings)... have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the Beast... (the Antichrist, making the eighth world-wide kingdom). They will make war against the Lamb ... (Jesus Christ)... but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.*"

Verses 16-18 state, "*The Beast... (the Antichrist)... and the ten horns... (the ten kings ... you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose by agreeing to give the Beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.*"