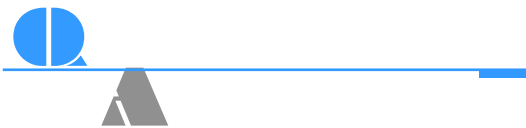


Just before the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ, seven fearful plagues of judgement will fall upon unrepentant sinners. To reject the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and the special messages of the three angels of Revelation 14:6-12 is no small thing. We read of the seven plagues in Revelation 15 and 16.

**GOD'S MESSENGERS**



A

**Q1 What do the seven plagues represent?**  
Revelation 15:1; 16:1

A



**Q5 What is no longer possible during the time of the seven plagues?**  
Revelation 15:8

A

**Q2 Who will experience the judgements of these plagues?** Revelation 18:1-5

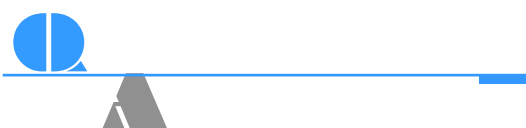
A

**Q3 What are the faithful and victorious people of God depicted as doing while preparation is made for the pouring out of the plagues?** Revelation 15:2-4

A

The filling of the temple with smoke implies that ministry in the temple is impossible. The intercessory ministry of Jesus Christ is over. (Compare Revelation 8:3-5.) The door of mercy has been closed and the opportunity to repent has passed. The ten commandments, or "the two tablets of Testimony" (Exodus 31:18), which were written and declared by God in the midst of unapproachable smoke (Exodus 19:16-19), will be the standard of the final judgements of God. God's justice, His commandments, His character and His people will be vindicated by the plagues. The real nature of those opposed to God's Word and the ten commandments will be revealed.

The Children of Israel celebrated their deliverance from the oppression of the Egyptians, and the plagues that fell upon Egypt, with songs of praise to God. (Exodus 15:1-21.) In the same way God's people at the end of time celebrate their deliverance from sinful Babylon, and its plagues, with songs of praise.



**Q4 From where do the seven angels with the plagues come?** Revelation 15:5-7

**Q6 After the close of Christ's ministry as our High Priest, what are the seven angels told to do?**  
Revelation 16:1

A

## THE SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH

### 1 First Plague



Q7 **Where is the first plague poured and what is the result?** Revelation 16:2

A Where:

The judgement:

The *LAND* or the *EARTH* is where God's people have found protection. (Revelation 12:16.) It is also the place from where the false prophet has risen. (Revelation 13:11.) Tragically, those who were God's people have turned from Him. The judgement of the plagues begins with those who have been the professed people of God. (Compare 1 Peter 4:17.) They have had access to truth but have rejected it in favour of the counterfeits promoted by the false prophet. They have received the mark of the beast rather than endure economic sanctions and threats of death. They have accepted the false doctrines of the revived Church of the Dark Ages and supported efforts to destroy those who obey the commandments of God and are faithful to Jesus Christ. They have joined the dragon in his attack on the scriptures, the Saviour, the standard and the truth of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The *UGLY AND PAINFUL SORES* remind us of the plague of boils that fell upon ancient Egypt. (Exodus 9:9. Also compare Exodus 15:26.) Isaiah wrote of the sin of people in this language, "From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness - only wounds and welts and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil." Isaiah 1:6. (Also compare Psalm 51:7; Leviticus 14:1-6; 26:16; Deuteronomy 28:21-24; Zechariah 14:12.) The miracle working power of evil spirits, bent on deceiving people to follow the beast, will be powerless to bring any relief from these judgements involving spiritual, moral or physical sickness. (See Revelation 13:13,14; 16:13,14; 18:2; 19:20.) God's power will be demonstrated and those who have rejected the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus will suffer.

### 2 Second Plague



Q8 **Where does the second angel pour the contents of his bowl and what is the result?** Revelation 16:3

A Where:

The judgement:

### 3 Third Plague



Q9 **Where is the third plague poured and what is its effect?** Revelation 16:4

A Where:

The judgement:

The *RIVERS AND SPRINGS OF WATER* represents those who have chosen to turn from Jesus Christ the "living water." (John 4:10.) Instead of choosing to follow the Lord and experiencing "a spring of water welling up to eternal life," (John 4:14) some choose to reject the Word of God and the gospel and become corrupt and polluted streams. (Compare Habakkuk 3:5-11.)



Q10 **What reason does the angel give for declaring that these judgements are just?** Revelation 16:5,6

A



Q11 **John hears a response of affirmation to the angel's declaration of God's justice. From where does that response come?**  
Revelation 16:7

A

The *ALTAR* is referred to a number of times in Revelation. An altar featured in the cry from martyrs for vindication. (Revelation 6:9,10.) The golden altar of Jesus Christ's High Priestly ministry reminds us that everything possible has been done to save humanity. (Revelation 8:3-5; 15:5-8.) The cost to heaven can be measured by the sacrifice on the altar of Calvary. God is just. The punishment of the third plague is appropriate for those who suffer the depressing inconvenience, sickness and damnation of this plague have shed the blood of God's true, faithful and obedient people. Those who drink the blood of damnation have despised, and refused to drink, the Water of Life.

#### 4 Fourth Plague



Q12 **Where is the fourth plague poured? What is the result?** Revelation 16:8,9

A Where:

The judgement:

The *SUN SCORCHES WITH FIRE*. God created the sun to warm and cheer, to control and assist growth. Jesus Christ, the "sun of righteousness," (Malachi 4:2) came so that we might have light and eternal life. Those who have rejected Christ the Creator and the Light of the world will feel the intensity of that which they have rejected. The light of the gospel will sear their consciences, but the intense heat of this plague does not bring repentance for the time of human probation has closed. People refuse to repent and they curse the name of God. They have opposed

the followers of Jesus Christ who have accepted His seal or name. They have received the mark or name of the beast. They have killed those who have remained faithful to the Lord and obedient to God's commandments. Jesus Christ the light and Creator of the world judges these followers of the beast creature.

#### 5 Fifth Plague



Q13 **Where is the fifth plague poured and what is the result?** Revelation 16:10,11

A Where:

The judgement:

The *THRONE OF THE BEAST AND HIS KINGDOM* is the counterfeit to God's throne and His kingdom of faithful and obedient believers. (Revelation 1:4-6; 4,5.) Judgement will fall upon those who have led in, and those who have been deceived by, the attacks upon the scripture, the Saviour, the standard and preparation for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The counterfeit throne and kingdom will be placed in utter darkness. (Compare Isaiah 8:20-22; Matthew 8:12; John 3:19-21.) The effects of the plagues will apparently be accumulative. (Revelation 16:10,11.) Those who have chosen spiritual darkness will experience the full horror of darkness. In anger they curse God.

#### 6 Sixth Plague



Q14 **Upon what is the sixth plague poured and what is the result?** Revelation 16:12

A Where:

The judgement:

The *DRYING UP OF THE GREAT RIVER EUPHRATES* represents the destruction of the "waters," or people, of the evil system called Babylon. (See Revelation 17:15.) In Old Testament times Cyrus, who came from the east, when he overthrew literal Babylon, dried up the literal Euphrates River. (Compare Isaiah 44:27, 28; Jeremiah 51:36,49.) That prepared the way for the deliverance of God's Old Testament people from the captivity of literal Babylon. (See Isaiah 43:2.) The fall and destruction of the prostitute Babylon of Revelation prepares for the deliverance of God's people and the setting up of His Kingdom. The angel with the seal of God comes from the "east." (Revelation 7:2.) Salvation and deliverance comes from heaven.



Q15 **What do the evil spirits of the dragon, beast and false prophet set out to do?**  
Revelation 16:13,14

A

The "evil spirits... looked like frogs." Revelation 16:13. Frogs come out after rain. Here is a counterfeit to the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, which is referred to as like "rain." (Compare Joel 2:24-32 with Acts 2:1-47.) The message of these spirits is in contrast to what is proclaimed by the three angels of Revelation 14:6-12.



Q16 **Satan uses the revived Church of the Dark Ages (the beast) and Apostate Reformation Churches (the false prophet) in a final display of deception and destruction. What words of comfort and counsel does Jesus have for His people as they live through the last few hours on earth?** Revelation 16:15

A

There is a message of encouragement for God's people between the opening of the sixth and

seventh seals, and the blowing of the sixth and seventh trumpets. There is also a message of encouragement between the sixth and seventh plagues. (Compare the message of Revelation 16:15 with Matthew 24:42-44; Luke 12:39,40; 2 Peter 3:9,10; Revelation 3:18; 7:9,14.)



Q17 **What is the last battle before the second coming of Jesus called?**  
Revelation 16:16

A

The battle of *ARMAGEDDON* is a global conflict that is demon-inspired. The combatants are the forces of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet against the followers of the Lamb. (See Revelation 12:17; 13:7; 17:14; 19:19; also Ephesians 6:12.) Although there is aggression and chaos it is not a conventional war. There is no literal place, mentioned either in Scripture or in secular literature, by the name of Armageddon. It is an apocalyptic term to describe the last desperate attempt by Satan to overthrow God, His people and the truth of His Word and Commandments.

## 7 Seventh Plague



Q18 **Where is this plague poured out? What declaration is made from heaven as this last plague falls?** Revelation 16:17

A Where:

The declaration:

This plague depicts the glorious coming of Jesus Christ. (Compare 2 Peter 3:10; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 6:12-17.)



Q19 **What follows this solemn declaration from heaven?** Revelation 16:18-21

- A
1. **Lightning, thunder and**
  2. **Babylon and the cities**
  3. **Islands and mountains**
  4. **Destruction with**

The gathering for the battle of Armageddon takes place under the sixth plague. The actual battle takes place under the seventh plague. This takes place at the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ. The lightning, thunder and earthquake; the fall of Babylon and the cities of the nations; the destruction of islands and mountains; and the plague of hail depict destruction and judgement. The whole system of Babylon will end. (Read Revelation 17:14; 19:19-21.) The threefold alliance of the dragon, beast and false prophet will be split apart and Babylon destroyed.

Some have noted the parallels and contrasts between the seven days of creation week and the seven last plagues. On the first day God created the earth. On the second day He created the sea. On the third day He made the rivers and springs

of water. On the fourth day He created the sun, moon and stars. On day five He created the flying creatures and the creatures of the "abyss" or the sea. On the sixth day He created the creatures of the earth including the serpent and human kind. The seventh day saw the end of creation and was the rest day or Sabbath. The seven plagues depict the reversal or undoing of creation and the end of the world.

## THE DELIVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

The seven last plagues fall on the enemies of truth. They fall on people who have attacked the *SCRIPTURES*. They fall on people who have attacked the *SAVIOUR* by seeking their salvation among the inventions of the human mind. They believe the lie of Satan that the defiance of God gives people the power and ability to know good and evil, and on the basis of this they reject the good ten commandments of God. The plagues fall on those who attack God's *STANDARD* of the ten commandments and upon those not prepared for the *SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST*.



Q20 **Who will be delivered from the plagues and be ready for Jesus to come?** Revelation 18:1-5

A

## my response...

In view of the decisive nature of the final conflict we should choose which side we will be on right now. (See 2 Corinthians 6:2.) The message of the three angels calls us to separate from Babylon and find full protection in the eternal gospel. Just as the blood of the lamb protected Israel against the plague of death in Egypt so the blood of Jesus Christ the Lamb is our only protection today. (Read Psalm 91.)



**What do you think will be the response of family and friends as you choose to follow the message of the three angels and separate from Babylon?**



**How could you introduce the messages of the three angels so that friends will join you?**

