

Revelation 16

Table Revelation 16:1-21

- 1 *And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.*
- 2 *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.*
- 3 *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.*
- 4 *And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.*
- 5 *And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.*
- 6 *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.*
- 7 *And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.*
- 8 *And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.*
- 9 *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.*
- 10 *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*
- 11 *And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.*
- 12 *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.*
- 13 *And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.*
- 14 *For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*
- 15 *Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*
- 16 *And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.*
- 17 *And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.*
- 18 *And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.*
- 19 *And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*

- 20 *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*
And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of
 21 *a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 443-463 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 26, 99, 100, 1109, 1208, 1661.

1. **Revelation 16:1-2.** The angels in Revelation 16:1 promptly obey **"the voice of God"** Deuteronomy 4:33. So should today's believer as King David testifies. **"I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments"** Psalm 119:60.

The outpouring of the first vial inflicts **"...a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image"** Revelation 16:2. The purpose of that affliction to urge repentance may be achieved and is as revealed in Psalm 77:2, Lamentations 3:39-41 **"In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted... Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens."**

Today's believer's mindset should therefore always be directed towards encouraging the unsaved to repent and form a Thessalonian mindset according to Paul's commendation of them about **"...how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"** 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.

2. **Revelation 16:3-7.** The outpourings of the second and third vials **"...upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and... upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood"** Revelation 16:3-4 are God's direct vengeance upon **"...the wicked... like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt"** Isaiah 57:20 and in return for distresses that wicked men brought to God's saints as King David testifies in Psalm 119:136 **"Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law."**

Revelation 16:5-7 are a vivid testimony to the Lord's End Times condemnation of men that **"...keep not thy law"** and **"...have shed the blood of saints and prophets..."** Revelation 16:6 as the Lord states in Ezekiel 13:21-23 **"...and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life: Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD."**

In addition Revelation 16:5-7 are a stark reminder to which today's believer should always pay close attention of Galatians 6:7-8 **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."**

3. **Revelation 16:8-11, 21.** Revelation 16:8-9 are like Genesis 19:24-25 **"Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground"** because **"...the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly"** Genesis 13:13 and **"...as it was in the days of Lot... the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed"** Luke 17:28-30.

Noting that “...**the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire**” Revelation 16:8 the sun typifies “**the Sun of righteousness**” Malachi 4:2 and it is *He* therefore particularly in vengeance against the United Nations Assembly by Whom “...**men were scorched with great heat...**” Revelation 16:9 in that “**Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them...**for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy” Psalm 21:9, Zephaniah 3:8.

When “...**the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast...his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain**” Revelation 16:10 because concerning “**the beast and his kingdom**” Revelation 16:10 “**His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue is mischief and vanity...For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue...Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips...And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven**” Psalm 10:7, 109:2, Romans 3:13, Revelation 13:6.

Yet for all that, noting the correspondence with Revelation 9:20-21 “**men...blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory...And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds...and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great**” Revelation 16:9, 11, 21. The reason is that many men are like King Rehoboam of whom it is revealed in 2 Chronicles 12:14 “**And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD**” his attitude and that of his ilk being that of Job 21:15 “**What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?**”

Therefore “**His eyes shall see his destruction, and he shall drink of the wrath of the Almighty**” Job 21:20 and today’s believer should remember Romans 1:18, 2:8-9, 11 “**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness...unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath...Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile...For there is no respect of persons with God.**”

4. Revelation 16:12-14, 16. Noting the correspondence of Revelation 16:12 “**And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared**” with Revelation 9:13-15 “**And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men**” and context, the removal of this water barrier allows for a westward invasion instigated by “...**three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet...which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty**” Revelation 16:13-14.

These “...**spirits of devils, working miracles...**” Revelation 16:14 e.g. so that “...**the earth and them which dwell therein...worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed**” Revelation 13:12 are collectively that from which today’s believer has been delivered as Paul reveals in Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-7 “**And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...But God,**

who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

Revelation 16:16 “**And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon**” literally *the hill of the crowded* is the End Times precursor to Isaiah 66:16, Jeremiah 25:31 “**For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many...A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.**”

Thankfully today’s believer has the assurance of Colossians 3:3-4 “**For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**”

5. Revelation 16:15. Revelation 16:15 “**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame**” is an intermission scripture aimed at “**...he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end...**” Revelation 2:26 with respect to the End Times saint who is equivalent to Job according to his works “**Because I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him...I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem**” Job 29:12, 14.

Equivalent scriptures for today’s believer would be “**...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day...Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**” 2 Timothy 1:12, Hebrews 7:25.

6. Revelation 16:17-21. Revelation 16:17 “**...the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done**” is a heavenly air burst. See for an illustration earthsky.org/space/what-is-the-tunguska-explosion.

This air burst results in widespread devastation after the manner of Psalm 46:8 “**Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.**”

Revelation 16:18 “**...there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great**” corresponds to Revelation 11:19 “**...and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail**” and reveals the greatest of the “**great earthquakes...in divers places**” Luke 21:11 that afflict the earth in the End Times and indeed the greatest earthquake ever.

The “**...voices, and thunders, and lightnings...**” are the End Times global equivalent of the Lord’s judgement on “**the land of Egypt...the iron furnace**” Jeremiah 11:4 a type of the world with Pharaoh a type of the devil from which comes the lethal hail such as that which “**...fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent...**” Revelation 16:21 in the End Times via the voices of the Lord and Moses in Exodus 9:1, 17-19, 23-25 “**Then the LORD said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD God of the**



Hebrews...As yet exaltest thou thyself against my people, that thou wilt not let them go? Behold, to morrow about this time I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail, such as hath not been in Egypt since the foundation thereof even until now...for upon every man and beast which shall be found in the field, and shall not be brought home, the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die...And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.” Note the chilling cross reference **“(for the tree of the field is man’s life)”** Deuteronomy 20:19.

An Old Testament talent is 66 lb, 30 kg, a massive weight to wear on the head as in 2 Samuel 12:30 **“And he took their king’s crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David’s head...”** By contrast, the Imperial State Crown is 1.06 kg, 2.3 lb. However, the New Testament talent is even heavier, at 75 lb, 34 kg, so the hail stones are indeed **“a great hail”** Revelation 16:21, more like megacryometeors, which can, in an extreme case, weigh 50 kg, 110 lb or more.

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_State_Crown, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megacryometeor and the *TBS Westminster Reference Bible* pp 1493, 1496.

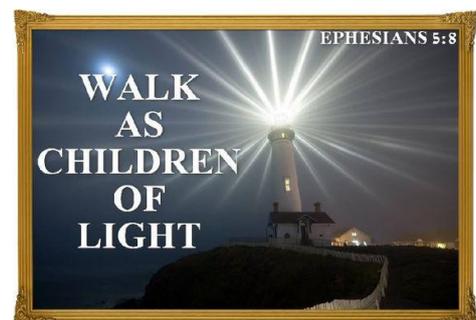
With the **“great earthquake”** Revelation 16:18 **“...the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found”** Revelation 16:19-20 in the End Times *global* fulfilment of Jeremiah 51:60-64 **“So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her...”**

In sum, all should keep in mind including today’s believer, noting the futility of **“the pride of man”** Psalm 31:20 as indicated by Revelation 16:9, 11, 21 above, the End Times application of Ezekiel 12:25, 28 **“For I am the LORD: I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall come to pass; it shall be no more prolonged: for in your days, O rebellious house, will I say the word, and will perform it, saith the Lord GOD...Therefore say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; There shall none of my words be prolonged any more, but the word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord GOD.”**

Finally, even in the light of Revelation 16:20 **“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found”** today’s believer can still be encouraged by Psalm 46:1-2 **“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.”**

Conclusion

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” Ephesians 5:6-8. See www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/395542779745827721/.



Revelation 16 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. What do Revelation 16:1-2 reveal about the God's priority target in the pouring out of **"the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth"** Revelation 16:1?
2. What do Revelation 16:3-7 reveal about God's vengeance in the pouring out of **"the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth"** Revelation 16:1?
3. What do Revelation 16:8-11 reveal about the mindset of many men under the pouring out of **"the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth"** Revelation 16:1?
4. What do Revelation 16:12-14, 16, 21 reveal about the response of many men to God under the pouring out of **"the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth"** Revelation 16:1?
5. Amidst the judgements of God described in Revelation 16:17-20 why in particular would it be that **"...great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath"** Revelation 16:19?
6. Revelation 16:15 **"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame"** applies strictly to End Times saints **"...who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life"** Romans 2:7 and **"...which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb"** Revelation 7:14. However, what devotional, practical, spiritual application of Revelation 16:15 could be made by today's believer?

Sample Answers

1. **"This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be...good for nothing"** Jeremiah 13:10.
2. **"Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is their God? let him be known among the heathen in our sight by the revenging of the blood of thy servants which is shed"** Psalm 79:10.
3. **"O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return"** Jeremiah 5:3.
4. **"For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengtheneth himself against the Almighty"** Job 15:25.
5. **"...in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know"** Isaiah 47:9-11.
6. **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong"** 1 Corinthians 16:13.