

THE VIAL JUDGMENTS

Gordon Lindsay

VOL. 12

REVELATION SERIES

Revelation Series 12, The Vial Judgments By Gordon Lindsay

This is the Twelfth of the BOOK OF REVELATION MADE EASY SERIES. This volume follows the narrative of the Book of Revelation into the closing days of Divine judgment. Angelic beings are pouring out the vials of God's wrath upon the kingdom of the Antichrist. Here we see the forces of evil being rounded up and brought to bay in the climaxing battle of all history — the Battle of Armageddon. In this book are answered some of the most important questions concerning events that result in the destruction of the armies of the Antichrist and the binding of the devil in the Bottomless Pit. Such questions as the following are answered:

What is the sharp sickle that gathers the grapes of wrath into the Divine winepress?

What is the meaning of the Seven Vials? Are these the same as the seven last plagues?

Will these judgments affect the light of the sun and the moon?

What is the meaning of the drying up of the Euphrates River so that the kings of the East might be prepared? Do these kings represent such countries as India and Red China?

What means does Satan use to bring the nations of earth to battle at Armageddon?

How does Communism fit into the picture? Will Russia move South into the Holy Land?

What is the meaning of the prophecy, "The cities of the nations fell"? Does this refer to atomic destruction?

What about the world's greatest earthquake and hailstorm that is said to occur at this time?

Published by CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS, INC. Dallas, Texas 75224 Reprint 1984 All Rights Reserved

Contents

Revelation Series 12, The Vial Judgments By Gordon Lindsay

Contents

Chapter 41, The Winepress of the Wrath of God

- 239. The Temple In Heaven
- 240. Identification Of The Angel With The Sickle
- 241. The Harvest Of “The Grapes Of Wrath”
- 242. The Seven Vials Or The Seven Last Plagues
- 243. The Smoke In The Temple

Chapter 42, The Vial Judgments

- 244. The First Vial
- 245. The Second Vial
- 246. The Third Vial
- 247. The Fourth Vial
- 248. The Fifth Vial
- 249. The Vial Judgments In Isaiah 13

Chapter 43, The Sixth Vial - The Gathering at to Armageddon

- 250. The Sixth Vial And The Euphrates River
- 251. The Unclean Spirits Like Frogs
- 252. A Comparison Of Armageddon With The Crusades
- 253. Cause Of The Armies’ Gathering At Armageddon
- 254. Delusions Of The Lying Spirits
- 255.The Meaning Of Rev. 16:15

Chapter 44, The Seventh Vial - "It Is Done”

- 256. Events Of The Seventh Vial
- 257. The Great Earthquake
- 258. The Earthquake In Jerusalem
- 259. The Great Hail

260. Judgment Does Not Induce Repentance
261. Stoning, Punishment For Blasphemy

Chapter 41, The Winepress of the Wrath of God

Question: What is meant by an angel with a sharp sickle gathering the grapes of the vintage and casting them into “the great winepress of the wrath of God"? (Rev. 14: 17-20)

Answer: This angel and his sickle, speak of the judgments that are to come upon the Beast and his kingdom at the close of the Great Tribulation. It is interesting to note that the sickle is one of the symbols of Communism — indicating that Communism is associated with the great judgment that comes upon the earth. God uses the wrath of man to praise Him. In the day of Assyria, God said, “O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger.” (Isa. 10:5) It is hardly an accident that Communism is represented by the sickle — it is the sickle of God’s anger, even as the Assyrian in his day was the rod of His anger. But God brought His rod on the Assyrian rod when His purpose was accomplished. So now God will wield His sickle upon the Communist sickle.

239. The Temple In Heaven

Question: What is meant by the angel's coming out of the temple which is in heaven?

> ***‘'And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.” (Rev. 14:7)***

Answer: We remember that the temple of God was opened in heaven when the Seventh Angel sounded, and twenty-four Elders worshipped God and said, “And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come . . . and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven . . .” (Rev. 11:18-19) Therefore, it is obvious that we are now at this same point in the second division of the Book of Revelation narrative. The unfolding of events has now reached chronologically, the time of the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet—an event marked by the opening of the Temple in heaven. This occurrence in heaven is the signal for the final measure of the wrath of God to be poured out.

240. Identification Of The Angel With The Sickle

Question: Who is the angel with the sharp sickle?

“And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp

sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes arc fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (Rev. 14:18-20)

Answer: Apparently, this Angel is Christ. Isaiah 63, speaks of the Lord as the One Who treads "the winepress alone".

> ***"Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury . . . for the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of mine redeemed is come . . . And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and 1 will bring down their strength to the earth." (Isa. 63:2-6)***

The words of Rev. 14:17, might infer that the angel was a different personage than Christ. However, there is a constant change of types in Revelation as they describe the various offices and acts of Christ. The Lord is seen in one place in a refulgence of glory (Rev. 1:13-16), in another as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5), in still another place as "a Lamb as it had been slain", still again as "a mighty angel", and here in Rev. 14:18, as an "angel", thrusting in the sickle to gather the grapes of wrath and cast them into the winepress of Almighty God. Isaiah so definitely makes Christ the One Who treads the winepress that it would involve us in serious difficulties not to admit that this Angel is He.

That the "angel" is Christ, seems definite also from Rev. 19:15, where He is shown as treading "the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God".

Question: What does it mean that the "winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs"? (Rev. 14:20)

Answer: The pouring out of Divine wrath will reach its final climax in the plains of Megiddo (Armageddon), north of the City of Jerusalem. The evil spirits of the Dragon, the Beast and the False prophet are luring the nations into "the battle of that great day of God Almighty". (Rev. 16:9) The location is Armageddon. "And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon." (Verse 16) All the nations of the world are being gathered to this area north of Jerusalem. The city itself will be taken. (Zech. 14:1-3) Destruction

will be cataclysmic. Blood will flow for a distance of 1600 furlongs, or about 200 miles.

241. The Harvest Of “The Grapes Of Wrath”

Question: Rev. 14:14-17, then portrays the gathering of the harvest of the grapes of wrath, as God goes forth in judgment against the nations?

Answer: Yes. Joel also refers to this fearful harvest in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. (The battleline is 200 miles long extending from Bozrah through Megiddo up to Jerusalem.) The prophet speaks clearly of this harvest as one of judgment:

> ***"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.” (Joel 3:12-16)***

Question: What relation is there between the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, the thrusting in of the sharp sickle to gather the grapes of Rev. 14:14-17, and, the Seven Vials or Seven last Plagues?

Answer: They all refer to one and the same thing. The Seventh Trumpet includes the Seven last Plagues. This can easily be seen to be true, for Christ said that in the days of the Seventh Angel, “when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God shall be finished”. (Rev. 10:7) The. Seven Vials, or the Seven last Plagues, is the judgment upon the kingdom of the Beast. Certainly these judgments cannot take place after the Seventh Trumpet is through sounding for at that time “the mystery of God is finished”.

Question: What do the words mean in Rev. 15:5, “And after that / looked and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened”?

Answer: This is the Temple of God in heaven. Stephen said in his sermon, “Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen." (Acts 7:44) This tabernacle of the testimony in the wilderness contained

the Ark of the Testimony with the Law of God and was made in the pattern of the one in heaven. The heavenly Temple contains the Ark of the Covenant. (Rev. 11:19) This Tabernacle was the very Holy of Holies, where the High Priest (Christ), went in to make atonement — not once a year as men did on earth, but this High Priest entered into the holy place in heaven itself, once, "to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself". (Heb. 9:23-26) But alas! At this belated hour there is no more sacrifice for sin.

> ***"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries." (Heb. 10:26-27)***

242. The Seven Vials Or The Seven Last Plagues

Question: What are the Seven Vials which are full of the wrath of God?

Answer: They are the "seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." (Rev. 15:1) As we have seen, they follow the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet. The Seventh Angel sounds (Rev. 11:15), and the temple of God is opened in heaven, indicating that the Seven Angels arc ready with the Vials of Judgment.

As we have noted, the eleventh chapter of the Book of Revelation completes the story of the Apocalyptic drama. In the twelfth chapter, therefore, Revelation returns to the beginning of the narrative, chronologically, this time to relate events of the rapture and the rise of the Antichrist of which little is said in the first outline. (Rev. 1-11) Now in Revelation 15:5, the point is reached again, chronologically, of the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet and the opening of the temple in heaven.

The Seven Angels now emerge from this temple with the Seven last Plagues of the wrath of God. (Rev. 15:1) These plagues are referred to in seven ways. As:

1. The Third Woe (Rev. 11:14).

2. The Seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:15).

3. The wrath of God (Rev. 11:18 and 15:1).

4. The hour of His Judgment (Rev. 14:7).

5. The winepress of the wrath of God (Rev. 14:19).

6. The Seven last Plagues (Rev. 15:1).

7. The Vials of Wrath (Rev. 14:7).

243. The Smoke In The Temple

Question: Why was no man able to enter the temple till the Seven Plagues of the Seven Angels were fulfilled?

> ***"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled." (Rev. 15:8)***

Answer: The temple of God was the place of intercession. There Christ, as High Priest went in to make intercession. But the hour of mercy is over. The die is cast. There is now no stopping the processes of Divine retribution, until the judgments of the Vials are completed.

A vision seen by Isaiah, the prophet, closely corresponds with this scene. It is found in Isaiah in the 6th chapter. Here the prophet saw the Lord high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. The seraphim cried one after another,

> ***“The whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.” (Isaiah 6:1-4)***

This vision of Isaiah foretold judgment upon Israel in that day. The smoke in the Lord's house spoke of Divine anger and that the day of mercy had passed for that generation, for men who have turned deaf ears to God’s mercy, only judgment is left.

> ***"And he said. Go, and tell this people. Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered***
>
> ***Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate." (Isaiah 6:9-11)***

Chapter 42, The Vial Judgments

Question: Who are the angels with the Seven Vials of Judgments?

Answer: These angels are evidently redeemed saints of the First-fruits. One of these angels was a guide to John. (Rev. 21:9) John, in the high state of his emotions — this being quite understandable — was about to fall down and worship him, but was restrained by the guide who told him he was one of the prophets himself.

> ***"Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God." (Rev. 22:9)***

From this it is evident that the Seven Angels with the Vials are glorified men. This is in keeping with Divine revelation that the saints will participate in the judging of men and angels. Indeed we are told that after the resurrection, they "shall be as angels". (Matt. 22:30)

244. The First Vial

Question: What is the First Vial?

> ***"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." (Rev. 16:2)***

Answer: The first plague is poured out on the earth and it becomes a grievous sore upon those who have the mark of the beast. There is no reason to think otherwise than the plague is what it says, "a grievous sore". The Sixth Plague of Egypt was similar in nature. Moses and Aaron sprinkled ashes of the furnace upward, in the sight of Pharaoh, "and it became small dust over all the land of Egypt, and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast". (Exod. 9:9) This cancerous sore on the worshippers of the Antichrist does not seem to heal. Under the Fifth Vial it is still on their bodies. (Rev. 16:11)

In the days of Moses, the magicians could not stand before the plague. (Exod. 9:11) Evidently in the case of the First Vial, medical science will be unable to cure this evil disease.

Those in Israel who have taken the Mark must suffer likewise. Then will be fulfilled the curse spoken of by Moses to the Children of Israel, that should come on the disobedient.

> ***"The Lord will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed." (Deut. 28:27)***

245. The Second Vial

Question: What is the Second Vial?

> ***"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." (Rev. 16:3)***

Answer: This is judgment upon the sea. The Beast rose up out of the sea. (Rev. 13:1) Now judgment comes upon the sea. Observe also the Plague Judgments are more intense as well as more universal in scope than those of the Trumpets. In fact, they follow an ascending crescendo of intensity. There is an obvious correspondence between the Trumpet and the Vial Judgments, the difference being one of degree. The Second Trumpet Judgment effects one-third of the sea, turning it to blood and destroying life within that compass. The Second Vial Judgment, however, turns all the sea into blood and destroys all life therein.

Does this sea mean the Mediterranean, the sea of the prophetic world? Or, does it include the "seven seas" of all the oceans? The indications are that the effect will be world-wide. God is now visiting judgment upon the whole earth. As death strikes the sea, the creatures will rise to the surface and their rotting bodies will fill every harbor, and lie on the shores to create an all-pervading stench.

This gives us some idea of the totality of the judgment of the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord. The judgment also carries the thought of cleansing. There are many evil creatures in the sea. Some of these creatures today are destroying the good fish. Witness the depredations of the lampreys in the Great Lakes. Man-eating sharks are infesting ocean beaches and making murderous assaults upon human beings. This reminds us of the prophecy of Isa. 24:1, 3-7.

There is no reason not to believe in the literalness of this plague. It is similar to the one that actually happened in Egypt.

> ***"And Moses and Aaron did so. as the Lord commanded, and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river . . . and the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt." (Exodus 7:20-21)***

246. The Third Vial

Question: What is the Third Vial?

> ***"And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters: and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say. Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shall be. because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so Lord God Almighty. true and righteous are thy judgments." (Rev. 16:4-7)***

Answer: This vial is poured out upon the rivers. It bears a relation to the Third Trumpet which was upon the rivers, but as in the case of the other Vials, it too is of a wider scope than the Trumpets. Of this vial. Newell says:

> ***"Here we have that angelic being in charge of the waters that supply the earth—a beneficent being, certainly; and also the altar itself, which should have spoken for men's forgiveness: both bowing to God's judgments as just and true! For men had poured out the blood of those messengers of God who warned and pleaded with them: and underneath the altar were thousands upon thousands of martyrs, whose, prayers for divine vengeance must now be fully answered. So the angel bows, as beautiful rivers and fountains he had administered are now turned to blood! All the sympathy of heaven is with God: not the sinner, or world bordering Christian! Let this speaking altar make you tremble! Flee to Christ and be safe: for the breakers of judgment show just ahead for this whole world!"***

The Third Vial Judgment (which is also very similar to the river judgment of Egypt) is of peculiar importance, insomuch that four verses are taken up in its discussion. The angel of the waters justifies God in His judgments. The worshippers of the Beast had taken a sadistic delight in shedding the blood of the prophets and the saints. Now they are judged and punished in their own coin — they are given blood to drink. Having rejected the waters of life, freely offered, they now must drink blood.

Even the altar which is the place of mercy, where the intercessions of the High Priest have been heard, now is a witness against the world which has surfeited itself in wickedness and hardened itself in rebellion against God. A guardian of

the altar cries out,

> ***"Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments."***

247. The Fourth Vial

> ***"And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. 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." (Rev. 16:8-9)***

The Fourth, and also the Fifth Vial, effect the light of the sun. In the first ease, the heat thereof is greatly increased; in the latter, the light is cut off and the kingdom of the Beast is filled with darkness. Under the Fourth Trumpet, the sun was one-third darkened. During the Fourth Vial, its power and heat are increased.

When God performed His original work of creation, we know that nature was perfectly balanced. God looked at His work of setting the lights in the firmament, “and God saw that it was good”. (Gen. 1:18) The climate was perfect; the seasons were tempered. But with the fall of man, a curse came on creation. The seasons moved out of balance. Fierce destructive storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes sweep over the earth from time to time. The Psalmist declares, “All the foundations of the earth are out of course.” (Psalms 82:5) This condition which effects the solar system is to be corrected during the Millennium. The Edenic seasons will return and the light of the sun is to be restored to its original strength.

> ***"Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound.” (Isa. 30:26)***

What is happening under the Fourth and Fifth Vials, may be the cataclysmic changes that will prepare the earth for the Millennium. It is known that certain pulsating stars vary in their heat and light several hundred per cent within a few days’ time, due to oscillating pressures within. Only a little change in the sun’s light could make a drastic change in the amount of heat the earth receives. Atmospheric disturbances of a very moderate amount, greatly increase the intensity of the lethal cosmic rays that reach the surface of the earth.

Isaiah alludes to this solar disturbance.

> ***"The earth mourneth and fadeth away . . . the earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant . . . therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left." (Isa. 24:4-6)***

Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, evidently speaks of this judgment of the Fourth Trumpet:

> ***"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Mal. 4:1)***

It is to be noted that these judgments do not lead men to repentance. The doctrine of purgatory, which assumes that fire will purge the evil in men, is utterly unrealistic. Grace and love alone melt the hearts of men. If they reject this, then punishment merely intensifies their hatred of God. The effect of these judgments is to make the wicked to increase their blasphemies. Could God allow such persons in heaven to profane the holy courts thereof with their blasphemies? Men who sell themselves to the devil must in time become devils themselves.

248. The Fifth Vial

Question: What is the Fifth Vial?

> ***"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, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds." (Rev. 16:10-11)***

Answer: The Fifth Trumpet effects the light of the sun also. The kingdom of the Beast is now filled with darkness. The Fifth Trumpet has its counterpart in the Egyptian Plague.

> ***"And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days: They saw not one another, neither rose any***

> ***from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." (Exodus 10:21-23)***

As the darkness effected only Egypt and not the land where the Israelites dwelt, so the darkness will affect the kingdom of the Beast. We must note that this darkening of the sun's light is altogether a different phenomenon than that which occurred just before the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord in Revelation 6:12-13. At that time the moon will be seen as blood red, and the stars from the heaven will fall. But now there is only gross darkness. Nothing can be seen. Joel speaks of both events. The first is just before the Great and Notable Day of the Lord while the door to God's grace was still open — though fast closing:

> ***"The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come. And it shall conic to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered."(Joel 2:31-32)***

But in the 3rd and last chapter of Joel, the judgments of the Day of the Lord have been poured out, and, in fact, are drawing to a close. Here the sun and moon and stars have all withdrawn their shining and there is nothing but thick darkness. This event comes after the putting in of the sickle to reap the harvest of the wicked, described in Rev. 14:17-20:

> ***"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining." (Joel 3:12-15)***

249. The Vial Judgments In Isaiah 13

> ***The darkening of the sun, moon and stars, finds fulfillment in the Fifth Vial. Notice that several of the Vial Judgments evidently are mentioned in the 13th chapter of Isaiah, a chapter that speaks of this Great and Notable Day of the Lord. (Isa. 13:6)***
>
> ***Fourth Vial: The sun scorching the men who have the Mark of the Beast. "Their faces shall be as flames." (Isa. 13:8)***

Fifth Vial: Darkness in the kingdom of the Beast. The sun, moon and stars withdraw their light. (Isa. 13:10)

Sixth Vial: The gathering of the nations to Armageddon. (Isa. 13:4)

Seventh Vial: Judgment on Babylon. ("And Babylon, the glory of the . . . Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.") (Isa. 13:19) Afterwards, Satan and his confederate, the Beast, are taken and cast into perdition. (Isa. 14:12-20)

It is to be noted that none of these judgments have the least effect of bringing men to repentance. "They gnawed their tongues and blasphemed God." With their tongues they blaspheme God, then they punish their tongues by gnawing on them.,

The most fearful lesson of all is this that judgment and punishment docs not bring repentance. Of this Seiss says:

"Some talk of conversion in hell, and an ultimate restoration of the wicked. Does this presentation (the vials) look as if such a thing were possible? If hell torments can cure men of their wickedness, why are not these people subdued to penitence? These are the very outpourings of the very divine wrath which makes hell; but where is the remedial impression; the turning from sin, the seeking for reconciliation? And while sin lasts, hell must last. These people have rebelled until the very spirit of perdition has settled in upon their souls, and henceforth there is no more help for them."

Chapter 43, The Sixth Vial - The Gathering at to Armageddon

250. The Sixth Vial And The Euphrates River

Question: Under the Sixth Vial we are told that the water of the Great River Euphrates was dried up so that the way of the kings of the East (or sun rising) might he prepared. What does this mean?

Answer: Under the Sixth Trumpet we found that the River Euphrates, referred to Babylon, the place at which human rebellion began, at which it was nourished, and at which it spawned the Harlot Woman and all her abominations. (Rev. 17) Here at the end of the age, the prophetic focus is again upon the Euphrates, which signifies the land of Babylon.

We remember that in the 9th chapter of Revelation, we were told about four angels who were bound in the River Euphrates. The River Euphrates all down through history, has represented the territory which has been the great dividing line and barrier between the East and the West.

The wars of nations with rare exceptions have by reason of this barrier been confined either within the East, or within the West. In history we do not find Japan, India, or China involved in wars in Asia Minor or Europe. In rare instances armies such as the Mongol hordes broke through and overflowed beyond these borders. But for all practical purposes, the geographical topography of Babylon has been an insurmountable barrier between the East and West.

The Euphrates River with its many tributaries has been a formidable barrier to East-West transportation and communication. The River, nearly 1800 miles long, is scarcely fordable at any point. Through most of the distance, the river is from a thousand feet to a mile wide, and from ten to thirty feet in depth. Genesis 15:18 declared that the Euphrates River marks the extreme extent of the lands promised to Israel. Thus, we see how the River from time immemorial has been reckoned as a boundary between the East and West.

But now we are told that as the angel pours out the Sixth Vial on the Euphrates, its waters dry up. Is this to be taken literally? We must not forget that climatic conditions will be tremendously disturbed during this time. A long protracted drought could cause this very condition. We have been told that the Two Witnesses “have power to shut heaven, that it rain not during the days of their

prophecy". (Rev. 11:6) It is implied that they will exercise this power, as Elijah did in the days of Ahab. Certainly if no rain fell during this long period, the waters of the Euphrates would dry up. Isaiah 11 seems to confirm this. The "seven streams" of the River dry up and men pass over dry shod.

> ***"And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod." (Isa. 11:15)***

However, the prophecy of the Sixth Vial must mean more than the drying up of the River. Modern armies move rapidly, and with the state of present day engineering, a great river can only stop the movement of soldiers for a brief time. So while the drought could facilitate the movement of armies from the East, because the water in the rivers is dried up, there is evidently a broader reference in the prophecy; probably other circumstances of which we are not informed, conspire to remove the barriers of the past. Powerful navies today, great transport planes, mechanized ground locomotion, with well-trained engineering crews make the transport of armies over rugged territory a routine task. The meaning of this seems clear. As the time of Armageddon approaches, there will be no geographical hindrance that will hold back the hordes of the East. And thus Kipling's poem of "Never the Twain Shall Meet" shall no longer be true.

251. The Unclean Spirits Like Frogs

Question: What are the three unclean spirits like frogs that come out of the mouth of the Dragon, and of the Beast and of the False Prophet? And what is the purpose of these frogs?

Answer: Rev. 16:13-14 explains that they are the spirits of devils working miracles. The drying up of the Euphrates alone, would not be sufficient to entice the armies of the kings of the East to make this long expedition. There must be a Satanic delusion involved in their strange odyssey. It is none other than Hell's final crusade for world mastery.

"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. 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." (Rev.

16:13-14)

Question: What means will these seducing spirits use to lure the kings of the East as well as other nations to the “battle of the great day of God Almighty"?

Answer: A seducing spirit is of course a lying spirit. It seeks to brainwash people, to confuse and control their thinking, so as to get them to follow a course of action which ultimately will lead them to ruin and destruction.

We are given such an illustration of how a “lying spirit” practices seduction on kings and their armies. In the 22nd chapter of 1 Kings, Ahab, King of Israel, husband of the notorious Jezebel, persuaded the good King Jehoshaphat to join him in a war against Syria. The king had a company of four hundred prophets whom he called together for consultation. These prophets of Ahab gave him their blessing and told him to go up to battle “for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king”. (Verse 6) But Micaiah, the true prophet of the Lord, who was called at Jehoshaphat’s insistence, exposed the lying spirit that was in the mouth of Ahab’s prophets. This is what he said:

> ***“And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.***
>
> ***And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said,***
>
> ***I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.” (1 Kings 22:19-23)***

Because of Ahab’s wickedness, and because he wanted prophets to prophesy only good things, this lying spirit was permitted to deceive his prophets, and the result was to lead the king to his destruction. So will it be at the time of the end. These kings of the East, as well as those of other remote nations, would not be persuaded to assemble themselves in the plains of Armageddon, if demoniac forces of delusion were not leading them on. It is these lying spirits spoken of in Rev. 16: 13-14. that are the cause of this world-wide assemblage.

252. A Comparison Of Armageddon With The

Crusades

Question: Doesn't it seem fantastic that demons would be able to cause vast armies of men to converge from all over the world into this one area of the land of Palestine?

Answer: True, but similar events just as fantastic have already happened in history. Linder the urging of Pope Urban II, and the fanatical Peter the Hermit, the Rhineland peasants were persuaded to embark on a mad Crusade to the Holy Land. The idea was to expel the infidel who was in possession of the holy places. On their way, this motley company showed their true character by massacring a large number of Jews. The ill-starred expedition petered out shortly after entering the Balkans. Despite its ignominious failure, no lesson was learned, and for two centuries, there followed crusade after crusade, most of which ended in miserable failure. But the most startling and pitiful venture of all was the ill-fated Children's Crusade in the year 1212. Stephen Cloyes, a French shepherd boy, promised to lead a band of children dry-shod over the sea. They took a ship at Marseilles, were betrayed, and sold as slaves into Egypt. A second group of 20,000, led by a German child, Nicolas of Cologne, largely perished on the eastward land route. Several other crusades were initiated, but with one or two exceptions, all failed to attain their objectives. What power was it that induced these poor people to engage in a quest that was doomed, from the beginning, to failure, and which could only result in wretchedness, misery, and death? The only explanation for such madness is that demon spirits were responsible. The Crusades, far from doing any good, only brutalized the human spirit, and set the precedent for the church to raise the sword, and to invent such hellish institutions as the Papal Inquisition.

So it will be at the time of Armageddon; seducing spirits of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, will entice the armies of the world to journey to Palestine. There, like the Crusades of old, they will make their last stand in the Valley of Megiddo, the Valley of Slaughter.

253. Cause Of The Armies' Gathering At Armageddon

Question: What will be the actual purpose of these armies which gather at the Valley of Megiddo? Is there an enemy warring against the Antichrist?

Answer: The exact details of the Battle of Armageddon may not be altogether clear. Still the general outline can be understood. There are forces opposing the

Antichrist to be sure, as Daniel 11:40 clearly indicates. In times of world-wide conflict, nations inevitably gravitate into opposing camps. Few can stay neutral. It was that way in World War I; likewise in World War II. Even at the present time, the nations are divided in a cold war between Communist and anti-Communist camps.

At the time, just prior to Armageddon, the world will be tom in a terrific struggle. Two great opposing battlelines will be formed. The struggle will focus in Palestine at Megiddo. The Prophet Ezekiel sees Rosh, King of the North, moving down upon the land of Israel:

> ***"Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee . . . And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates." (Ezek. 38:9, 11)***

But there is opposition to this great invasion of the land of Israel. Among the opposition are "the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof".

> ***"Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezek. 38:13)***

It is remarkable the unanimity there is among prophetic students as to the principals involved in the great clash pictured in Ezekiel 38. The land invaded as verse 16 shows, is Israel. The Northern Army would appear to be the Russian Confederacy— Russia and her satellites. "The merchants of Tarshish and all the young lions thereof", are almost universally reckoned as Great Britain and her Commonwealth and the United States. Then there appears to be a third confederacy, as outlined in Daniel 11:40. This is certainly the Antichrist.

While the Beast Powers, which include both Communism and the Antichrist, will work together in an uneasy partnership for a season, just as Hitler and Communism did, inevitably there must be a break between the two. This is portrayed in the vision of the image of Daniel 2. The clay of Communism, and the iron of the Antichrist, lack affinity and will not mix.

> ***"And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. And***

> ***whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." (Dan. 2:42-43)***

While the Beast Powers are maintaining a concordat, their power will be very great. When rupture finally comes, these mighty powers will clash. This is one of the reasons for the great assemblage at Armageddon. But we will speak more of this presently.

254. Delusions Of The Lying Spirits

Question: What delusions will these lying spirits employ to lure the nations to Armageddon?

Answer: Not all the details arc given in the Scriptures, but we are told that the frogs "are the spirits of devils working miracles". The world is deceived by means of these miracles.

> ***"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." (Rev. 16:14)***

The Beast has power to call down fire from heaven. He was able to stimulate a resurrection. He overpowers and kills the Two Witnesses. He causes "craft to prosper". No nation has been able to withstand the Beast. The peoples of the world watch his exploits and say, "Who is able to make war with him?" Weary with world chaos, men are looking for a strong man. Someone who can restore order and law. They are ready for peace at any price. The Antichrist seems to be that champion. Ironically, he who comes in the power of Satan to destroy the earth seems to the world to be this last fair hope against universal chaos. A desperate world rallies to his standard. And so the nations gather for the last great conflict, not realizing that they are assembling to be witnesses of their own doom. Armageddon is more than an ordinary conflict; it is hell's own crusade, as Joel declares in Joel 3:9-11.

> ***"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord."***

Armageddon is indeed more than an ordinary war. It is a war against Christianity, and against God. Demon power at this time will so completely control the rulers of earth, that in their madness they would dethrone the God of the heavens. Russia has already boasted that she will do this. Other nations will join with the Beast in this mad venture.

> ***"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." (Psalms 2:2-4)***

255.The Meaning Of Rev. 16:15

Question: In Rev. 16:15, we read of Christ's warning people to be ready at His Coming. Are there still saints on earth? What people is Christ speaking to now? Are not all believers raptured?

> ***''Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." (Rev. 16:15)***

Answer: While it is true that the Church has gone, we must remember that God is now dealing with Israel. We must not forget that there are 144,000 Israelites that have been protected against the Plagues.

While this number is sealed against judgment, being servants of the living God, there will be large numbers of other Israelites who will be accepting Christ as their Messiah. There are also Gentiles left on the earth that will not be destroyed in the judgments of Armageddon. (Zech. 14:16)

Chapter 44, The Seventh Vial - "It Is Done”

256. Events Of The Seventh Vial

Question: What is the Seventh Vial?

Answer: The Seventh Trumpet completes and fulfills the Mystery of God.

> ***“But in the days of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets." (Rev. 10:7)***

The pouring out of the Seventh Vial, which is the fulfillment of the Seventh Trumpet, is the signal of the end of the day of wrath. The Angel which executes this judgment, cries out, “It is done."

> ***“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." (Rev. 16:17)***

Question: What are the events that are fulfilled under the Seventh Vial?

Answer: There are seven main events;

1. Great atmospheric disturbances with thunders and lightnings.
2. The greatest earthquake the world has ever known, effecting the world’s topography.
3. Jerusalem divided into three parts by the quake.
4. The cities of the nations fall.
5. A great hail falls from heaven.
6. Great Babylon receives the cup of God’s wrath.
7. The destruction of the Beast and imprisonment of Satan.

Contemporaneously with these events is the Battle of Armageddon, which is the result of circumstances set in motion under the pouring out of the Sixth Vial.

257. The Great Earthquake

Question: The earthquake, we are told, is the greatest the world has ever known. What will he the extent of this great quake?

Answer: It begins with unprecedented atmospheric disturbances. “And there were voices and thunders and lightnings.” Isaiah tells us that when the “multitude of all nations fight against Ariel”, the Lord joins the battle. "Thou

shalt be visited of the Lord of Hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest and the flame of devouring lire." (Isa. 29:6-7) This obviously refers to the events spoken of in Rev. 16: 18. The thunder comes first, and then the earthquake.

This terrible terrestrial convulsion exceeds anything that has happened in the history of the world. This is the great earthquake spoken of in prophecy when the heavens and the earth will be shaken.

> ***"For thus saith the Lord of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts." (Hag. 2:6-7)***

Isaiah refers to it also in the second chapter of his book.

> ***"And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth." (Isa. 2:19)***

This is indeed more than an ordinary earthquake. Isaiah 24 speaks of that hour, when God shakes the earth and punishes the inhabitants because they "have broken the everlasting covenant".

> ***"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof . . . for the windows on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard ..." (Isa. 24:1, 18-20)***

This may be the time when the earth's axis will be shifted back to normal. Since the days of the Flood, it has evidently been displaced. "All the foundations of the earth arc out of place," the Psalmist declares. The tilt of the earth's axis is 23 V2 degrees, altogether too much, accentuating the seasons, making drastic differences in temperatures in various parts of the earth's surface, and precipitating violent storms, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods.

258. The Earthquake In Jerusalem

Question: This earthquake will affect the city of Jerusalem, will it not?

Answer: Yes. Rev. 16:19 tells us that "the great city was divided into three parts,

and the cities of the nations fell". Its destruction will not equal that of the cities of the other nations, however, whose fall will be total. Jerusalem already suffered a severe earthquake at the time the Two Witnesses ascended to heaven. One-tenth of the city fell, and 7000 were killed. (Rev. 11:13)

The earthquake in Jerusalem, dividing it into three parts is spoken of in detail in Zechariah 13 and 14. This event is a judgment upon the wicked inhabitants of the city — only one-third being saved "through the fire".

> ***"And it shall come to pass, that in ail the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." (Zech. 13:8-9)***

The 14th chapter of Zechariah continues the story. Just before the earthquake, and during the Sixth Seal, God has gathered the nations against Jerusalem to battle. (Verse 2) Jerusalem is invested and taken. The fall of Jerusalem is the signal for the Lord of hosts to be revealed in flaming power. As His feet touch the Mount of Olives, it cleaves in two, leaving a great valley through the center, with springs of waters gushing out of the earth in two directions, part toward the Mediterranean, and part toward the Dead Sea. (Verse 4)

This catastrophic earthquake will result in the death of two-thirds of the inhabitants. The final third, or remnant, will be those who acknowledge the Lord.

> ***"They shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God." (Zech. 13:9)***

This event is the actual physical return of the Lord to earth to reign with His saints, as Zech. 14:5, declares.

> ***"And the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." This is the obvious fulfillment of the warning given in Rev. 16:15.***

Question: Jerusalem is seriously, though not completely destroyed. But the destruction which jails upon the cities of the Gentiles, is jar more severe, is it not?

Answer: Yes, we may understand that the effects of this earthquake will be

greater than anything that has ever happened before. The vaunted works and achievements of men which have been conceived in vain glory, apparently will be destroyed. Even the topography of the earth is to be changed, as may be understood from the 20th verse: “And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” Just exactly what the final effect will be on the geography of the world, remains to be seen. We may understand that during the Millennium, with the restoration of other things, the earth will be returned to its primeval beauty and glory, which it had in Edenic days.

259. The Great Hail

Question: At the time of this earthquake, we are told that, “a great hail jell out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent”. (Verse 21) How much does a talent weigh in pounds?

Answer: The weight of the talent varied in ancient times. The Jewish talent weighed over 100 pounds. The Egyptian talent weighed less than a 100 pounds. Of the various talents of ancient times, some weighed more, some less, but even the lightest of which we have record, weighed over fifty pounds. The destructive power of such a hail can scarcely be imagined. One of the great judgments that fell on the Egyptians was a plague of hail. (Exod. 9:18-33) This hailstorm of the Seventh Vial will be worse than that which fell on Egypt. It smote down every herb and broke every tree. Flax and barley crops were ruined. But cattle and livestock brought into shelter, were spared. (Exod. 9:19-20) This shows that although the destructive force of the Egyptian plague was unprecedented, it was nothing like that which will fall under the Seventh Vial. Blocks of ice of fifty pounds or more, falling from great heights would crush most any kind of roof, except that of concrete and steel. Between the great earthquake and the hail, the number of lives lost might well run into many millions.

As we have seen, no such hail has ever fallen on earth, yet the storms where hailstones have weighed as much as a few ounces, have been extremely destructive. Seiss quotes a contemporary eyewitness account of a severe hailstorm which occurred in October, 1831, in the area of the Bosphorus:

> ***“After an uncommonly sultry night, threatening clouds rose about six in the morning, and a noise, between thunder and tempest, and yet not to be compared with either, increased every moment, and the inhabitants of the capital (Constantinople, Turkey) roused from their sleep, awaited with anxious expectation the issue of the threatening phenomenon. Their***

> ***uncertainty was not of long duration; lumps of ice as large as a man's foot falling singly, and then like a thick shower of stones, which destroyed everything with which they came in contact . . . Some were picked up half an hour afterward which weighed above a pound. The dreadful storm passed over Constantinople and along the Bosphorus . . . and the fairest, nay, the most beautiful and fertile tract, the vintage, just commenced was destroyed in a day! Animals of all kinds, and even some persons were killed, an innumerable number were wounded, and damage done to the houses is incalculable."***

The stones of the above storm weighed only a pound or less. What would have been the effect, had they weighed fifty pounds or more?

260. Judgment Does Not Induce Repentance

Question: Do these terrible events induce repentance among the inhabitants of the earth?

Answer: Alas, no! The only result is that, "men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceedingly great". During the Sixth Trumpet, after the great earthquake in Jerusalem, we are told that "the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven". (Rev. 11:13) Even wicked Pharaoh after the plague of hail, felt a temporary remorse, saying to Moses,

> ***"I have sinned this time: the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked." (Exod. 9:27)***

But by this time the hearts of men are hardened to the state of utter impenitence. They curse while they live, and blaspheme while they die. How dreadful and terrible is the final state of man who rejects repentance and continues on in sin!

261. Stoning, Punishment For Blasphemy

Question: Is there a particular reason why stones of hail should fall upon the wicked inhabitants of the earth?

Answer: One of the most flagrant sins of the wicked is blasphemy. Those who oppress God's people seem to be especially guilty of the sin of blasphemy.

> ***"The Assyrian oppressed them without cause . . . and my name continually every day is blasphemed." (Isa. 52:4-5)***

According to Divine Law, the penalty of blasphemy is stoning. “And he that

blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him ..." (Lev. 24:16) So these blasphemers of the end-time shall be stoned from heaven.

Notice that during the judgment which came upon the wicked inhabitants of Canaan, that on the day that God caused “the sun to stand still”, great hailstones fell upon the people.

> ***“And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children Of Israel slew with the sword.” (Joshua 10:11)***

Table of Contents

Revelation Series 12, The Vial Judgments By Gordon Lindsay
Contents
Chapter 41, The Winepress of the Wrath of God
- 239. The Temple In Heaven
- 240. Identification Of The Angel With The Sickle
- 241. The Harvest Of “The Grapes Of Wrath”
- 242. The Seven Vials Or The Seven Last Plagues
- 243. The Smoke In The Temple

Chapter 42, The Vial Judgments
- 244. The First Vial
- 245. The Second Vial
- 246. The Third Vial
- 247. The Fourth Vial
- 248. The Fifth Vial
- 249. The Vial Judgments In Isaiah 13

Chapter 43, The Sixth Vial - The Gathering at to Armageddon
- 250. The Sixth Vial And The Euphrates River
- 251. The Unclean Spirits Like Frogs
- 252. A Comparison Of Armageddon With The Crusades
- 253. Cause Of The Armies’ Gathering At Armageddon
- 254. Delusions Of The Lying Spirits
- 255.The Meaning Of Rev. 16:15

Chapter 44, The Seventh Vial - "It Is Done”
- 256. Events Of The Seventh Vial
- 257. The Great Earthquake
- 258. The Earthquake In Jerusalem
- 259. The Great Hail
- 260. Judgment Does Not Induce Repentance
- 261. Stoning, Punishment For Blasphemy