

Sister Shelbia opened us with prayer-

Our Father God:

Thank you for being in charge. Forgive every sin as I ask our DVD to touch hearts and get a lot of benefit here. We really want to make good use of your time - we are so blessed to have technology and information and the Word from you. We are very thankful for Jesus on the Cross. Thank you as your kingdom is so great to think about. Help us to share your Word with others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Is the coronavirus a judgment from God? Just asking that question elicits some strong responses from people.

If you don't believe that, just look at my twitter feed.

I couldn't believe some of the things people wrote on there. I jotted down the nicer ones to share with you:

-Do you live in the dark ages? Scientists have known for over a hundred years that a pandemic is not caused by God.

-Another person said, This is how cave men think. (Actually, that was Amy!)

-What a moronic statement!

-Even Monica Lewinski weighed in on the subject. Yes, that Monica Lewinski. One of our staff members showed me her tweet. She had been in Dallas speaking and drove past our billboards and saw the topic. She tweeted it out, but added an expletive to go with her tweet. (That really didn't concern me as much as why was one of our staff members following Monica Lewinski on social media did. (A full investigation of social media forth coming. LOL).

Now I promise we are going to answer that question in a few minutes, but for now, take your Bible out and turn to Revelation 15.

In our year long study of the book of Revelation, we are in the chapters 6 - 19 that describe the final 7 years of earth's history we call the tribulation; when the one world dictator, the antichrist will rule. It's a time when God pours out his final wrath judgment on the earth before the visible return of Jesus Christ at the end of chapter 19.

These judgments Gods sends are actually a series of 3 judgments. To help you understand the flow of the section of Revelation, think of a play that has 3 acts to it. In many ways, we could say that the drama of God's judgment against unbelievers during the tribulation unfolds in three acts of seven scenes each. After each act the curtain comes down and there's an intermission in it.

We've already seen act 1 - that's Revelation 6 - the Seal judgments. After chapter 6, the curtain comes down.

In Revelation 7 John explains something else we need to understand about Revelation.

Then the curtain goes up for act 2 in Revelation 8 and 9 - the 7 trumpet judgments occur. And then at the end of chapter 9, the curtain goes down.

And we are right now in another intermission before the final act of the play, the Bowl judgments, In Revelation 16.

So when we come to Revelation 15, we are in the final moments when we are peaking behind the stage curtain. We're watching the actors get on stage for the final act of this play about God's judgment and the return of Jesus Christ.

That's where we are right now in our study of Revelation.

Chapter 15 - before the final judgment, John is going to describe 3 things he saw. First of all, notice in verse 1, what he says.

Revelation 15:1-8

Let me stop there and remind you there are 3 signs John talks about that he saw he heaven. Chapter 12:1, the first sign was a woman who was about to give birth. This is a picture of of a woman (Israel) about the give birth to Jesus Christ.

Then in verse 3, he says, I saw another sign - a second sign, a dragon who represents satan, trying to devour the woman Israel and her child, Jesus Christ and those who belong to Christ and now when we get to Revelation 15:1, John says he saw another sign - the sign he sees will be the destruction of the dragon (satan) and all who follow after him. These 3 signs in and of themselves tell the whole story of mankind.

1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. It was 7 angels who had 7 plagues. This is the final judgments - we call them the bowl judgments against the earth.

John says I saw another sign - the 3rd sign in heaven. Notice the two words he uses to describe the sign that we are going to look at this week and next week. He said, the sign was GREAT and MARVELOUS! That word great in Greek is the word MAGA. Great! Don't worry, I'm not going there. It's a word that means incredible, important. The 2nd Greek word MARVELOUS, which means astonishing. John says what I'm about to show you is incredible. It's absolutely astonishing. It was 7 angels who had 7 plagues. These are the final judgments - the bowl judgments that consist of 7 plagues against the earth. Let me stop and talk about plagues; and answer our question for the day. What is a plague? A plague is a natural disaster that is supernaturally timed as a manifestation of God's judgment.

There are all kind of natural disasters in the Bible - earthquakes, pestilence, volcano's, sicknesses, all kinds of things. Think of the flood in Noah's time, Sodom and Gomorra which resulted in the fire and brimstone coming down. You know when I was in college, I had these pagan religion teachers - all they did was try to explain away the miracles of the Bible. Well its natural to have volcano's and earthquakes and locust. But you have to keep in mind that natural disasters that are supernatural timed as a manifestation of God's judgment is more!

I was running and listening to somebody preaching on this topic. I listen to as many people that I can, who preach. I listen to as many commentaries as I can before I preach on a topic. I try to learn as much as I can about the topic before I preach on it. And this teacher was talking about natural things like earthquakes that are supernaturally timed. A few seconds later the congregation broke into laughter. The preacher said, you all are probably wondering what all the laughter is about. Just as I was talking about this topic, we felt a trimmer underneath us that was going on in our city. That's what you call a miracle. A natural disaster that was supernaturally timed. Now you have these plagues all throughout the Bible. Now sometimes a plague will be extended, like Noahs flood in Genesis 7. It rained for 40 days but the earth felt the effects of it for 1 year. We've already seen the effects of the trumpet judgment. The locust, these other judgments that occur over a period of months. Sometimes plagues are very quick. The final 7 mean wound or blow. Its God striking the earth very, very quickly. It happened very, very rapidly. But whether the plague is rapid or short, the question we are looking at today is:

PLAGUE THEOLOGY:

IS THE CORONAVIRUS ONE OF THOSE PLAGUES one of the plagues that is talked about in the Bible. Is it God's judgment against the earth?

What I've done on your outline is: a section called plague theology. I'd like to submit to you 4 truths about God's judgment that might help you evaluate this or other events in the world or in your life as well.

1, All natural disasters can be ultimately traced to sin. Earthquakes, volcano's, cancer, Influenza, coronavirus - these can ultimately be traced to sin. What do I mean about that? The world we live in is not the world God designed. He never intended for the world to have earthquakes, volcano's, cancer, influenza, coronavirus. That was never part of God's original plan. God created this world perfectly. But its when sin entered the world thru Adam and Eve that this world became corrupted and became the world in which we now live. Paul explains that in ***Romans 8:19-22***

19 *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. (The whole creation stands on tip toe waiting for God)*

20 *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,*

21 *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (One day Christ is coming back and the world we live in now will be changed. It will be forever rid of the judgment against it.)*

22 *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. (This whole world is groaning in childbirth, awaiting the time when Christ will come and deliver the new heaven and earth.) This world is not the world God created. All sin can be traced to the original sin of Adam and Eve. And this leads to truth #2*

2. *Some disasters are related to specific sins. Sometimes God does use natural diseases and sickness as judgment for specific sin. Some people say, Well I just don't believe that. The God I serve would never send sickness as a judgment. Or the God I serve would never send anybody to hell. I love David Jeremiah's response to that. He says, you know you're right. The God you serve wouldn't do that! Because the God you serve doesn't exist. The God you serve is an imaginary God instead of the God of the Bible. If you believe the God of the Bible, you believe that God DOES use judgment against sin and sometimes those judgments include natural disasters.*

Genesis 7: *God destroyed the earth by a flood because of man's wickedness.*

Genesis 19: *God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorra because of the sins of homosexuality. (Don't let anyone rewrite that for you)*

God sent judgments against Egypt and Israel for their disobedience.

*God sent leprosy to Miriam, the sister of Moses in **Deuteronomy 28:27** The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods (tumors) and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.*

So we know in the past that God used sickness as judgment. We know in the future, God is going to use sickness as a judgment from Him.

In Revelation 6:8 *And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.*

Remember, under the seal judgments, John says, I looked an ashen horse and he who set upon it had the name death and hades was following with him. 1/4 of the world is going to be destroyed thru this one judgment alone. Part of the sickness will be the result of 1/4 of the world being slaughtered due to warfare. Famine and pestilence. They won't be able to dispose of all the bodies at the time. When you have decomposing bodies, naturally there are all kinds of things that will happen, bubonic plague for one, dysentery, hepatitis. And there will be beast of the earth that will eat the bodies. Some people believe this will be animal born plagues. Swine flu, coronavirus

Here's my point, In the past God has used sickness and natural disasters and In the future he is going to use the same. So is what we are experiencing right now a judgment from God?

And this leads to a third statement:

WE DARE NOT SPEAK WHAT GOD HAS NOT SPOKEN:

We dare not speak what God has not spoken. Anytime we speak what God has already revealed in his word, we are being obedience. Anytime we speak something God has not spoken in his word, we are being presumptuous. And the Bible warns against trying to speak for God when God has not spoken. We dare not speak anything God has not already spoken.

Deuteronomy 18:20 (A strong warning from God) ***But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.***

A strong warning from God; there's a strong judgment against anyone who claims to speak for God when God has not spoken. Let me give you an illustration of that. I can stand up here and say with full confidence that God hates abortion. The reason I can say that is what God's word already says - thought shalt not kill. The Bible equates an unborn child with a born child. Luke 1: The Greek word Grapais is used to describe John the baptist in Elizabeth's womb and that same word Grapais is used to describe the little children that came to him. God sees them as the same, the unborn and the born. And God hates the murder of anyone, including the children who are born or unborn. I can say that.

Luke 1:5-25: (Story of Zacharias and Elisabeth conceiving John the Baptist)

5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

Secondly, I can say with all the confidence in the world that God will judge a nation that kills its own children. I can say that again, because God did this with Israel. In Jeremiah 1 when He saw how Israelites were offering their children as burnt sacrifices. He said It never entered my mind you would do such a detestable thing, but because you have, I will send the Babylonians to take you captive. I can say God hates abortion. I can say God will judge a nation that permits and celebrates the killing of children, but what I cannot say is the coronavirus is God's judgment against America for abortion. I just cannot say that. I cannot do that. That is being presumptuous. And that's what we've got to be careful of when we get to something like the coronavirus. I heard a preacher just this week say, if you want to be protected from the coronavirus pay your tithes to your church and you will be protected. How I wish I could say that. But I would be in danger of being struck dead by God for saying something like that because God hasn't said that. WE DARE NOT SPEAK WHAT GOD HAS NOT SPOKEN.

The final truth is, we can say with confidence, that the coronavirus is not one of the plagues in Revelation!

Its not one of the plagues we are looking at in Chapter 6-19. How can I say that with confidence? That's easy. Because we are not yet in the tribulation. There is no antichrist ruling over the world. There is no 10 nation confederacy, there is no temple that which he is going to defile. Most importantly, there has been no rapture of the church yet. We are still here so this coronavirus is not one of the plagues mentioned in the book of Revelation.

Well pastor how do we avoid the pandemic panic?

2 Timothy 1:7 says God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

If you have panic in your life over this or something else that is just paralyzing you in fear. It's all you can think about, that doesn't come from God. God doesn't do that. That doesn't come from God. The bible gives us 2 ways to handle a crisis like this. The first way is through prayer. Philippians 4 says: don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything. Christians are not to worry. We are to pray - for ourselves, our family, our country. Now I know o unbelievers that sounds like foolishness. Did you see in the media all the nonsense surrounding Vice President Pence because he opened the first meeting of the corona task force with prayer? Unbelievers absolutely ridiculed that idea. Oh, we are in so much trouble if we have to pray. I was asked on Fox News if I thought the people who were critiquing the Vice President were just anti religion? I said, No, they are anti God They are atheist, every one of them. You can't be a believer in the true God and ridicule somebody who prays regardless of their political affiliation. You just can't do it!

The Bible says we are to pray. About everything. One of the greatest honor of my life was when I was invited to preach the inauguration sermon - for the president, Vice President, and their families and the cabinet and officers. I talked about our need as a nation for God; and I quoted Ronald Reagan, "God does not need America, but America needs God. If we ever forget that we are truly one nation under God we will truly be a nation gone under." I thank God we have a Vice President like Mike Pence who understands we all have a need for God. We ought to be praying! Prayer is not the only thing we should do.

Prayer and precaution! God has not given us fear, but he has given us a sound mind. He expects us to use that sound mind. You don't check your brain at the door when you become a Christian. You need to think and act sensibly. Take common sense precautions! That's not a lack of faith. Its just right thinking! I mean avoid shaking hands. You shouldn't be shaking hands right now. We've eliminated that in our service. Here's another thing. Stay away from sick people. Just stay away from them. Not only for your own protection, but for theirs. The people most in danger of dying are those that are already compromised; and you could be carrying it and not even know it; and if you're around a sick person you could give it to them. Our staff - we've told them not to go to the hospital right now. If we have someone in the hospital,

give them a call and pray for them over the phone. And I'd say the same to you - don't go see people that are sick right now. I don't want some staff member coming back and infecting the rest of the staff who in turn infect the church as a whole. I mean that is would shut our church down. That's just smart thinking.

I know some of you are thinking, 'I can't believe that'. Pastors telling us not to visit the sick in the hospital. What would Jesus do?

News Alert - You're not Jesus. Nobody needs your divine touch. Your divine touch isn't going to make anyone well, it might make them sick, so just lay off that.

You know something else we are doing - we're having this big communion service with Chris Tomlinson In April. We're going to change the way we do communion. We to going to pass around the tray and let people put their hands in the tray. We will have individually wrapped cracker and juice so we can come and celebrate and have a great time here.

Here's a good way to think about this. Pray as if your safety completely depends upon God; and take precaution as if your safety completely depends upon you.

If you'll do those two things you'll probably make it through this just fine.

Overriding thing is we are not to become worried and overcome as if panicked. But think as to have a sound mind Look back at verse 1. One reason I said coronavirus is not one of the plagues is because we are not in that time yet

But these 7 plagues begin in verse 1:

1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. It was 7 angels who had 7 plagues. This is the final judgments - we call them the bowl judgments against the earth.

Eschatology - the study of last things. In these final plagues the wrath of God is finished. These final 7 plagues is his final expression of wrath. Again, people say, I don't believe in a God of anger, I believe in a God of love. God wants all to come to the knowledge of truth, but he is also a God of wrath. His Holy nature demands that a payment be made for all sin. God's Holy nature demands that his Holy Wrath be poured out on someone for sin - and this time it's the earth.

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Two songs of praise - the song of Moses and the song of the lamb. Remember, we saw a sea of glass in Revelation 4; and we sang holy, holy, holy. That sea of glass represented the Holiness of God.

This sea of glass represents something else. I think it's a picture of those who were slaughtered in the tribulation. They refused to take the mark of the beast and were slaughtered. Now they have come out of this world and its judgments and they are standing saved and delivered by God.

Notice the song they sing - in verse 3. They sang the song of Moses, the bond servant of God.

Did you know Exodus 15 was the first song in the Bible - it was composed by Moses. It's called the song of Moses, the very first hymn of the Bible reporting God's power to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh (who was a type of antichrist).

After these tribulation saints are delivered into God's presence they will sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. And we have a portion of it recorded in verse 3 and 4:

***Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.
Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and
worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.***

All of the nations are going to worship before the Lamb. Perhaps John was thinking about Paul's words in ***Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;***

One commentator John Phillips compares the song of Moses with the song of the Lamb, this way:

***The song of Moses was sung at the Red Sea.
The song of the Lamb is sung at the crystal sea.
The song of Moses was a song of triumph over Egypt
The song of the Lamb will be a song of triumph over Babylon
The song of Moses told how God brought his people out of Egypt
The song of the Lamb tells how God brings his people into heaven.
The song of Moses was the first song in scripture
The song of the Lamb is the last song.***

This is the heart of Revelation 15:

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

The holiest part of the temple was the holy of holies. The tabernacle of testimony describes the ark of the covenant. It included the 10 commandments, and on top the ark was a mercy seat, a golden lid on the ark and a cherubim was on each side of the ark. Once a year, the blood of an innocent animal was placed on the mercy seat as a sacrifice for every sin.

6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

John saw the ark of covenant, symbolizing the ark of God. The Angels were coming out of the holy of holies. That symbolizes that the plagues the angels are about to send out are God's judgments on the earth. They already had the plagues in hand.

7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

The word bowl means a saucer - very thin, with the wrath of God in it. This represents God's anger toward man. The plagues are mixed with the wrath of God - and we are going to see the next time that they are dumped out on the earth.

8 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.

In other words, these judgments are now so inevitable, the countdown clock has started and nothing can prevent the judgments from being accomplished on the earth.

What does all of this mean to us today? Let me close with 3 timeless truths from Revelation 15 and how they apply to you:

1. Nobody can approach God in his own righteousness.

Regardless of what you hear today, you are not free to come to God any way you chose. **YOU MUST APPROACH GOD IN HIS WAY!!!** The Bible says the only people that can stand in the presence of God now and in eternity are righteous people. The Old Testament says that God's eyes are too pure to look upon sin. A Holy God cannot have fellowship with sinful man. Only the righteous can stand in God's presence. And who is it that is righteous? **No one!**

Romans 3:10-12 Paul quotes from Psalm 14-

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Psalm 14:

1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

3 They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

5 There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

7 Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Now there are those that don't agree with scripture. They say, Oh, pastor I don't believe this. What about those who work with habituate for humanity. What about those working overseas? They are good people.

Not In God's eyes. Not One Righteous person. There is no one who does good in and of, his own.

Isaiah 64:6. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Not to be offensive, the Hebrew word for filthy rag is a word associated with the menstruation of a woman. A filthy rag in God's eyes. There is no one righteous enough to stand in the presence of God. The only way we can stand in his presence is if you trust in Jesus to be your savior - **When you do this, God takes your sin and nails it to the cross and wraps Jesus's righteousness around you, so when God looks at you he doesn't see your filthy sin, he sees the perfection and righteousness of his own son, Jesus Christ.**

Paul says, in ***Philippians 9: My prayer is that one day I might be found in him, (Jesus), not having a righteousness that comes from the law, but having a righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.***

2. God's purposes are sometimes hidden from us. When these plagues begin, smoke and the presence of God filled the temple, so no one can see God. They won't see God but they will see the manifestation of God on earth.

You may be going thru something now - that you can't see the outcome of this yet. You don't understand what's happening in your life, but you can remember, you can always trust God's heart. You can claim the promise that God is causing all things to work together in your life for those who love God.

3. The final truth in this passage is there is a time when it is too late to pray. That's the most direct application of this passage. ***Look at verse 8: 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.***

Why is it that people went into the temple or had the priest go in for them? In order to receive God's forgiveness or help. Once the plagues start to be sent out, the time of forgiveness is over. There is no more repentance. There will be this time in this world's history; and in your time as well.

When we search through the Bible in the days of Noah, Noah preached God's message for decades, but then came the day when God shut the door to the ark and no one was let in.

In the days of the prophets - the people could repent, but they didn't. And God sent the Babylonians to capture Israel.

What's true in Biblical history is true in your life as well. There comes a time when it's too late to go to the throne of mercy.

Last week I was reading the story of the great Wulinda. It was March 27, 1998. Carl Wulinda was going to do a stunt and walk across a wire between two high buildings. He got to the halfway point and he noticed the wind started to pick up. He had passed the point of no return and he couldn't go backward. He had to go forward. He lost his balance and fell to his death after taking a few steps more.

There is point of no return in your life and relationship with God. There comes a time when you have so often said no to God's grace, so often neglected God that you have lost the opportunity for repentance and forgiveness and all that awaits you is the terrifying expectation of God's judgment. That's the message of Revelation 15.

Sister Shelbia stated this was a very sobering message again. We need to take heed, warn those who will listen and pray. Its very sobering to think there is a time of no return!

Sister Shelbia shared from Brother Jacks' introduction of Chapters 15 and 16. Chapters 15 & 16 really form one connected vision, depicting the final scenes of what some call the dispensation of Judgment, that we have been looking at here since chapter 6. We have been through a lot of heavy stuff but it's coming to a climax. Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the book of Revelation, and it really serves as an introduction, or prelude to chapter 16; and the primary subject we will be addressing is THE SEVEN BOWL JUDGMENTS.

We have encountered many Sevens in the book: The 7 churches, the 7 Spirits, 7 Golden candlesticks, 7 stars; then we saw the Seven Sealed Book, and the 7 trumpets, and now we have the 7 bowls. And there are many more 7's; by some accounts, over a hundred.

In any case, the Seals, Trumpets, and Bowls constitute the major elements of the book. So we are coming to the final closing chapters of the book, moving into this great climax. This climaxes this strange Seven Year Period that is known as the seventieth Week of Daniel from ***(Daniel 9:24-27)***.

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build

Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

That 7 year period, you will recall, is divided into two halves, the last half, or the last 3 1/2 years, being labeled by Jesus as "The Great tribulation" in ***(Matthew 24:21) For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.***

NOT FORGETTING THAT THE EARTH AND IT'S INHABITANTS have been experiencing the WRATH OF THE LAMB since the opening of the first seal in Chapter 6:1.

Clearly these 7 Bowls of Wrath that are about to be poured out, climax that 7 year period, just prior to God setting up His Kingdom on the Planet Earth, as we shall see shortly in ***verse#1: And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the Wrath of God.***

Another sign in heaven: This relates back to the two signs (wonders) revealed to John in Chapter 12; the Woman representing Israel and the Great Red Dragon representing satan.

Great and Marvelous: The best I can come up with on this is: John is awestruck by what he sees. In other words, it is a mixed feeling of reverence, fear, and wonder at this majestic scene before him. Of all that he has seen up to this point, nothing quite matches up to this.

The seven last plagues: This is it. This is the grand finale. As we will see when we come to them, these last seen plagues seem to be very intense and to fall in rapid succession. ***"For in them is filled up (finished) the Wrath of God!!!***

Wrath of God: We are going to draw a distinction between the Judgement of God and the Wrath of God: There have even many Judgments of God throughout history. God administered His Judgment at the two of Babel, when He confounded Man's language, and scattered them to the four point of the compass.

He used Babylon in Daniels' time to bring Judgment upon Israel.

He used the Roman Army to bring Judgment upon Jerusalem in 70 AD.

But the Wrath of God is a very reserved term: and that is what we are going to see forthcoming here. This term Wrath was introduced way back in Chapter 6:15-17, at the breaking of the Sixth Seal.

Revelation 6:15-17

15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

2 Peter 3:10-12 describes the winding up of it in vivid detail!!

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be

burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

So we see the beginning of 'The Day of The Lord' in Revelation 6; and I personally believe the thing that will trigger the beginning of that day is the Rapture of the Church, The Bride of Christ!

OK, as we move into this, let's momentarily turn back to *Psalms 110:1 - The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.*

Now you may remember that Jesus used this verse to confound the Pharisees. In that incident He raised the issue of David; and questioned them as to how could the Messiah be the Son of David and yet David called Him Lord. After that they were afraid to ask Him any more questions. You can read about it in *Matthew 22:41-46*

41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

But the main point here is: *the Father says to the Son: "Sit thou at My Right Hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."* **Question:** Where is Jesus Christ sitting, right now, as we speak? **Answer:** **At the right hand of the Father!** How long does He sit at the Right Hand of the Father? **UNTIL I make thine enemies thy footstool!**

So there is an event that is going to occur that will prepare the way for Jesus to take control. Meantime, He is sitting on His Father's Throne. **Question:** What is that event? **Answer:** **The pouring out of these Seven Bowls of God's Wrath upon the Earth!**

Where Do We Go From Here? David Jeremiah's new teaching.

Let me remind you about scams that are going on - they are worse now than they've ever been.

Phone calls - They ask 'can you hear me?' DON'T SAY YES!

Page 144 in *Where Do We Go From Here?* Talks about A culture of deception.

In his sermon on the end times, Jesus also warned of the rise of many false prophets who would deceive multitudes (Matthew 24:11).

That's never been easier than today, due to social media. Most at risk are senior citizens, who lost about a billion dollars in 2020 due to online Scams. A total of 105,301 people over the age of 65 were taken to the cleaners. The average person lost more than \$9,000.00 and almost 2,000 seniors lost more than \$100,000 each.

Thomas Mulligan, 85, is a retired surgeon and a devout Christian. One day he received a phone call on his landline from Amazon cyber security representatives who said they needed his help to stop a hacker. Mulligan was eager to help not

realizing he was actually on the phone with the very criminals he thought he was helping to catch. He was being scammed by two brothers in India named Karan and Arjun Mishra. The brothers told Mulligan to download some software that would allow them to 'catch the criminals'. That software gave the brothers complete control over Mulligan's computer, including all his records and accounts. Their goal was to drain all of Mulligan's bank accounts and take his last cent, including all his retirement funds. Fortunately, that's not the end of the story. While Mulligan was on the line with the criminals, his cell phone rang. It was a man calling himself Jim Browning, who is an ethical hacker, a sort of cyber vigilante trying to help victims. Browning said, please don't announce this but I think you're on the phone with people who are trying to steal your money. Browning, using his own hacking prowess, had been tracking the Mishra brothers and had managed to film the entire encounter. With Browning's help, Mulligan was able to recover most of - but not all - of his money. Browning explained that he himself was once scammed and now he uses his skill to help victims - as many as twenty every week. As for Thomas Mulligan, he told a journalist, "I thought I was an intelligent person and I was too aware to be caught, but I soon realized people can play on your good nature to scam you. They just seemed so credible that I was scammed. Fake people, fake reviews, fake products, fake news, fake friends - all of this has come to us via the word of big tech. And all of this is contributing to a growing culture of deception.

Sister Shelbia says LADIES, WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR TRUTH - STAY CLOSE TO GOD AND BE AWARE OF FAKE PEOPLE.

PRAYER LIST;

Sharon	Kay & Jerry	Steve & Carolyn	Sarah and Steve	Summer Rose
Judy	Elsie	Vada & Jim	Bessie	Ruth Ann
Della	Caroline	Jane	Rachael	Josh Hawley
Christians worldwide		Pastors to be firm in God's word		
Leaders of our world and country - pray for God's will to be done				

Heavenly Father, We come to you this day with praise and thanksgiving for everything you have given us. We thank you for sending your son, Jesus, to save us from our sin; we thank you for your Word; and for allowing Shelbia to lead us in our Bible Study.

Please take each person mentioned on our prayer list and hold them in your loving hands. Heal them physically and spiritually; and if there is anyone who doesn't know you, please send the Holy Spirit to convict them before it is too late.

We love you, we praise you, we bow before you in humble love and admiration for everything you have given us. Be with each person who attended today; and give them exactly what you would have them receive from our study. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

May every person have a blessed week!