

"Revelation In Review" — A Preview

For the past six months, we have been studying the prophecies of the Book of Revelation in this newsletter, creating a mosaic of the incredible, inspired story of the end time from the obvious to the obscure. Principles of interpreting the symbols of prophetic language have been laid down, using Scripture as the basis of our conclusions. Characters have been identified and their actions exposed. The great conflict of the ages which began in heaven between Christ and Satan has been revealed as the backdrop of all John tells us in this amazing disclosure of the events before us which precede the greatest event of human history — the return of Jesus Christ and the armies of heaven who come to deliver His followers from the one who sought to destroy the Savior in Bethlehem and at Calvary, and who in the end seeks to annihilate those who have placed their faith and allegiance in Him.

Though there is much more we could address — from the glorious introduction of the main Character of this Book, Jesus Christ, to the ultimate nature of eternal life for family of the redeemed in the New Earth — from the reward of the wicked to the reward of the righteous — and from the view of what's happening in heaven during the final end of evil to the actual experience of the followers of Christ on earth. There's so much more we could study in the Book of Revelation and the supporting prophecies of Daniel and the Old Testament. But my purpose in presenting a relevant, coherent, and easy-to-understand story of where we're living in time and those things which are just ahead for the Church of Jesus Christ, has been completed for now.

In the next few issues of this newsletter I will be summarily reviewing the main points of Biblical prophecy in a straightforward manner without attempting to document from Scripture or extra-Biblical sources my conclusions. "Revelation In Review" is just that — a review/summary of all that is of particular importance to the Church today, in view of current events, and the application of prophetic predictions and interpretation of what we are experiencing in this "season of Christ's return." Our Sabbath afternoon virtual meetings will continue, and we will continue our study of the Gospel of John, as the author of Revelation presents to us the saving story of Jesus in His first advent. As events of consequence unfold before us, our Sabbath afternoons will also become a forum for the discussion of doctrinal points of faith and an analysis of any spiritual matter relevant to end time Christians.

God has not left us to navigate the road before us alone, and West Valley Ministries will continue to be a venue to learn what's ahead for the Church and how we can be prepared for it all! Thank you for allowing me to be a companion with you in your journey with Christ!



Pastor Darrell Chilson

"We are living in the season of Christ's return."

Jesus said, "<u>Watch</u> and <u>be ready</u>, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The mission of
West Valley Ministries is to help
Christ's followers
recognize the signs
of His approaching
return and be prepared for that
Great Day.

In Him, Pastor Chilson



Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind 9:1-12

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

4 As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 7 "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. 8 His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." 10 "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. 11 He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." 12 "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

- 1) Why was the man born blind?
 - a) Verse 3 So that the works of God might be displayed in him
- 2) What does Jesus mean when he says night is coming when no one can work?
 - a) He's referring to his death "It is finished"
 - b) Jesus is on Earth doing the works of God this isn't to say that once Jesus leaves God's will won't be done but that the role of Jesus on Earth (the works Jesus did on Earth during his time) are completed.
- 3) How was the blind man healed?
 - a) Jesus mixed salvia and dirt to make mud and applied it to the man's eyes. He washed as commanded and was healed
- 4) What is the Pool of Siloam?
- 5) Why do you think Jesus healed the man this way?
 - a) Discussion questions
 - A normal seeing person would be blind if mud was on their eyes. Jesus made the man both physically and metaphorically able to see

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing 9:13-34

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. 17 Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." **18** They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

- 6) Why didn't the Pharisees believe he was born blind? How many times were they told that he was blind at this point?
- a) Three when the man was brought in, when they asked the man, and by his parents
- 7) What caused the division among the Pharisees?
- a) Sabbath vs Signs
- b) John 5:16-18 Jesus healed on the Sabbath
- 8) Do you think the Pharisees realized that this was a miracle?
- a) It mentions that they were divided on the topic of Jesus being a "sinner".
- b) Personally I think they did
- 9) Who does the healed man think Jesus is?
- a) V17 A prophet
- 10) Why don't the parents stick up for their son?
 - a) V22 They would be put out of the synagogue

"THE JUDGMENTS OF GOD" PT 3

In order to fully comprehend what we are about to experience in our study of this last wave of God's judgments, which occur immediately before the return of Jesus, we must understand what God is doing by sending these last of His judgments upon the earth. For three-and-a-half years before the seven last plagues fall, the "Axis of Evil" (the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet) have literally been at war with the followers of Christ. Note the following verses:

And he [the Beast] ... was given authority to make war [marg.] for forty-two months [three-and-a-half years]. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle [His Church], and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.... He [the False Prophet] was granted power to give breath to ... cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. When they [the Two Witnesses] finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit [the Dragon] will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. Revelation 13:5-7, 15; 11:7.

You tell me – if a child predator were ever to abduct, rape and kill **your** child, and you had the power to punish that predator as prosecutor, judge, and jury, what would you do? I can't imagine any punishment too great for such a person, if my child were the victim!

Now, consider a God of love and grace – a Father who endured watching His Son experience the cruelty, humiliation, and death at the hands of the "Dragon" and his agents at Calvary – THEN, not only throughout the ages but especially at the end of time, watch His children, those for whom His Son gave His life, also undergo the most cruel and humiliating treatment at the hands of the devil and his agents as they are pursued for extinction. Only as we see the contrast between the tender heart of God for His Church and the unhinged rage of the devil for Christ and His followers can we understand what the Bible calls the "wrath of God" poured out upon the wicked in this final wave of judgments the Bible calls the "seven last plagues."

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. Revelation 15:1.

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of **the wrath of God** on the earth." Revelation 16:1.

When God sought to deliver His people from captivity in Egypt, Pharoah refused to let them go. So, God sent ten plagues upon Pharoah and his kingdom to punish Pharoah and to force his hand to let His people leave Egypt for Canaan – the "promised land." At the end of time, God will send seven "last" plagues upon the kingdom of Satan to punish the forces of evil and to force them to their knees before He delivers His people from "Egypt" (Revelation 11:8) and bring them to the Promised Land – their heavenly home!

Let's look at these seven last plagues – the final wave of God's judgments before He delivers His Church and takes them to the place He has prepared for them in heaven.

The Seven Last Plagues -- Revelation 16:2-4, 8-10, 12, 15, 17, 21

- 1) "So, the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image." (The sixth plague upon Egypt). Notice that the plagues are leveled at those who have the mark of the beast, not at the righteous.
- 2) "Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead [man]; and every living creature in the sea died."
- 3) "Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood." (The first plague upon Egypt).
- 4) "Then **the fourth** angel poured out his bowl on **the sun**, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 9 And men were **scorched with great heat**, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory."
- 5) "Then **the fifth** angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of **darkness**; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain." (The ninth plague of Egypt).
- 6) "Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. ... "'Behold, I am coming as a thief...."

 The "River Euphrates" is a reference to "Babylon" (another name for the Beast the kingdom of the papacy, the Church of Rome, as it falls and its power dries up), and the "kings of the east" is a reference to Jesus Christ and His armies who are about to break through the heavens from the eastern skies to rescue His Church!
- 7) "Then **the seventh** angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And great hail from heaven fell upon men, [each hailstone] about the weight of a talent [75-100 pounds]. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great." (The seventh plague of Egypt).

An important observation – the previous wave of judgments, The Trumpets, were mixed with restraint, indicating the "warning" nature of their impact –

- The hail and fire, mingled with blood, affects "one-third" of the trees (Revelation 8:7).
- Only "one-third" of the sea becomes blood, and only "one-third" of the sea creatures die (Revelation 8:8).
- Only "one-third" of the fresh waters become bitter, resulting in the death of many (Revelation 8:10, 11).
- Only "one-third" of the sun, moon, and stars create darkness upon the earth (Revelation 8:12).

The last wave of God's judgments, the "seven last plagues", are poured upon the earth without restraint as they are "punitive", rather than "warning" in nature. They are not intended to persuade anyone to heed the call of God's messengers to repentance, but to punish those who are persecuting God's people and stop them in their tracks! The plagues occur immediately before the return of Christ in the clouds of heaven and they announce the doom of the wicked.

Next Week: "Revelation in Review" Part 1

Stay tuned!