**Lesson XII**

**Revelation Chapters 15 & 16**

**Seven Bowls of Wrath and Judgment**

**INTRODUCTION:** In chapter fourteen the reader received assurance about the welfare of the Saints. Now we are ready to see a vision of God’s final judgment. When people break God’s laws they must ultimately face His anger and judgment. God “is patient and not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9). But now we will see that God’s patience has run out. It is time for righteous judgment.

1. **INTRODUCTORY VISION: CHAPTER 15**
2. (vs. 1)
3. This is the third sign in the second part of the book. The first two being of the woman and the dragon in chapter 12.
4. God’s purpose is accomplished with seven plagues.
5. The word “plague” had become proverbial since the visitations in Egypt, for God’s punishment upon the defiant pride of godlessness.
6. These bowl plagues symbolize the ultimate expression of God’s wrath against evil.
7. (vs. 2) The sea is an image to take us back to the Red Sea of the Old Testament.
8. The Red Sea symbolized deliverance of God’s people and destruction of their enemies.
9. “Sea of glass” representing God’s holiness.
10. “Mixed with fire” may suggest the suffering and martyrdom of the saints and/or the judgment of God upon the wicked.
11. (vss. 3, 4)
12. The song of Moses is recorded in Exodus 15:1-18.
13. The Jews sang this victory song every Sabbath evening, as was their custom in the synagogue service, they were reminded of their deliverance from Egyptian bondage, a great event in their history.
14. It became a fit symbol of our deliverance from sin through Christ.
15. (vs. 5) The Presence of God.
16. (vs. 6) The garments worn by the angels suggest royalty, purity, and dignity as you would expect from those who come from the presence of God.
17. (vs. 7)
18. The bowls were containers out of which the contents could be emptied very quickly.
19. God’s judgment will no longer be delayed. Its execution will take place rapidly.

“The imagery of “the four living creatures” is borrowed from Ezekiel one and ten. If these living ones, whom Ezekiel identifies as cherubim, are to be considered as representatives of nature, it is interesting to see that nature submits herself to God’s will in the giving of the “seven bowls of the wrath of God,” for God uses nature to administer justice upon mankind, as will be noted in the study of the contents of the seven bowls.”

Glenn Bourne, Tower of Truth, p. 154.

1. (vs. 8)
2. See Isaiah 6:1, 4
3. When the seven angels complete their work, entrance will be open, but then it will be too late for man to repent. There is finality in the seven plagues.

The seven seals were broken to provide man with information. The seven trumpets were sounded to furnish man with warning. The seven bowls are poured out in execution of judgment upon those who ignore the information and fail to heed the warnings.

1. **THE SEVEN BOWLS POURED OUT: CHAPTER 16**
2. The First Bowl (vss. 1-2)
   * + 1. “Loathsome” means bad or evil. It suggests something that is morally wicked.
       2. “Malignant” also means bad, but it also carries with it the idea of being painful.
       3. “Sore” is a wound, ulcer, or boil, possibly in this case leprosy.
       4. The pouring out of this bowl intends to show that the persecution suffered by the Christians is nothing compared to that which will be suffered by those who worship the beast and his image.
3. The Second Bowl (vs. 3)
4. See Revelation 8:8
5. Man is surrounded by death. Another aspect of nature is affected and thus affects man.
6. The Third Bowl (vss. 4-7)
7. See Revelation 8:10-11
8. Man’s vital resources become an instrument of judgment.
9. In verses 5-6 the angel speaks to affirm the justice of God in pouring out the third bowl. What God does is right!!!!!!
10. The wicked deserve what they get, especially those who shed the blood of the saints. (Genesis 9:6)
11. In verse 7, the altar agrees with the angel. (See Revelation 6:9)
12. The Fourth Bowl (vss. 8-9)
13. God intensifies the sun to the point that it scorches man with fire.
14. This picture is one of terrible torment. God’s wrath is severe.
15. The result: instead of repenting they harden their hearts.
16. The Fifth Bowl (vss. 10-11)
17. In John’s day, “the throne of the beast” would have been understood as the government of the Roman Empire.
18. However, as has been shown previously, it is applicable to each generation.
19. The “kingdom of the beast” is the Satanic counterpart of the kingdom of God, the church.
20. “Darkness” pictures great disruption and defeat in the kingdom.
21. “They gnawed their tongues because of pain.” (See Matthew 8:12)
22. The Sixth Bowl (vss. 12-16)
23. The Euphrates River was a national boundary between nations.
24. In John’s day, it was the natural boundary of the Roman Empire. It stood between them and their dreaded enemies, the Parthians.
25. In this picture all barriers to enemy power are gone and the way is clear for the coming of destructive forces. The final showdown is coming.
26. The unholy trinity sends forth three unclean spirits that look like frogs.
    * + - 1. Frogs are filthy and dirty.
          2. “Coming out of their mouths” suggest lies, and false propaganda.
          3. The battle will be one with truth, but Satan will lie to the end.
27. “Spirits of demons, performing signs”
28. The purpose of the signs is to try and show that Satan and his army are going to be victorious.
29. It is deception though, for Satan is defeated!
30. It will be the “great day of God” for His defeat over Satan will prove Him to be the Almighty!
31. (vs. 15) The implication of being caught naked. (See Genesis 3: 9, 10)
32. HarMegeddon
33. Hebrew means “mountain of Megiddo”
34. One of the bloodiest battlefields in the Old Testament period.
35. The battle between God and Satan will involve all men and will be a severe conflict till the end. God will win even though during the battle it may not appear to be so.

“HarMegeddon is symbolic of the conflict of the ages and because of its setting in this chapter our minds are drawn particularly to the final stage of the battle. Remember this is spiritual conflict. It is not fought with swords and guns, tanks and airplanes, bonds and poison, but it is a war between righteousness and wickedness, between God and Satan, which is not and will not be confined to a small area in the northern part of Palestine. We will learn the details of this battle in chapter nineteen.”

Glenn Bourne, Tower of Truth, p. 163.

1. The Seventh Bowl (vss. 17-21)
2. The bowl being poured out on the air suggests that the life of the wicked is snuffed.
3. (Verse 18) See also 6:12.
4. The great city, Babylon = Satan’s people. The number three is God’s signature. He is the one who brings the destruction.
5. (Verse 20) There is no more place for sin to hide. It is totally destroyed.
6. (Verse 21)
7. The hail made the destruction complete.
8. It is not a new thought that God would use hailstones to bring an end to conflict. (See Joshua 10:11)
9. Men will curse God to the very end.