

The End Times
The Seven Vials
Revelation 15.1-8

[Thus far in this study we have examined,]

- [Calvary and the Dividing of Time]
- [Hades and God's revealed plan for mortal death in our time.]
- [The Church Age and God's revelation concerning this dispensation of grace.]
- [The Judgment Seat of Christ or the Bema of Christ, the accounting we will make, and the rewards we can receive.]
- [The Glorious Marriage Supper of the Lamb – A celebration that every human being should want to attend. A glorious, radiant event.]

[We are now looking into,]

- [The Great Tribulation Period – A Time unlike any other time in human history according to The Word of God.]
- [The Seven Seals – And the terror they release upon mankind. A full quarter of our world's population destroyed during these seven seals.]
- [The 144,000 Witnesses – Multitudes will be saved during the Tribulation Period, but not one who rejected Jesus Christ before the Rapture will be saved.]
- [The Seven Trumpets – Seemingly natural disasters with the three woes of the wrath of God loosed upon this earth. 1/3 is prominent in these trumpets and 1/3 of all people die in these judgments.]
- [The Seven Personages – The Demonic Trilogy and the Mark of the Beast which if accepted by anyone condemns them to the Lake of fire forever.]

[I our study we have examined those things revealed in the Word of God about the Tribulation Period. Famine and pestilence on a global scale, one-third (1/3) of all people, oceans, fresh water, and land destroyed. Death and decay everywhere, and this is only the beginning of the prophecies surrounding this horrible period called The Great Tribulation Period.]

[**Read: Revelation 15.1-8**]

[We now find that The Revelation reveals the Seven Vials described as,

[*Revelation 15:1 . . . **the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.***]

[*Revelation 15:7-8*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.*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.*]

[What a terrifying revelation. As if the Seven Seals and the Seven Trumpets were not bad enough. Now there are these seven last plagues described as the outpouring of the very Wrath of God. How absolutely horrifying!]

[**Let us discover these Vials and their Plagues,**]

1. The First Vial (Rev 16.1-2) – Grievous Ulcers [– *And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, **and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.***² *And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a **noisome and grievous sore** upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. – What is this grievous sore?]*

[**Sore** - ἔλκος (Gk) - gen. *hélkous*, a neut. noun. An ulcer, a sore (Luke 16:21; Rev. 16:2, 11; Sept.: Ex. 9:9; Job 2:7).¹]

[**Noisome** – κακός (Gk) – fem. *kaké*, neut. *kakón*, adj. **Bad, worthless** externally. Of a soldier, cowardly. In the NT **evil, wicked**, from the verb *cházō* or *cházomai* (n.f.), to give back, recede, retire, retreat in battle. One who is evil in himself and, as such, gets others in trouble. . . . (II) **Actively causing evil, i.e., hurtful, harmful** (Rom. 14:20; Titus 1:12, “ravenous beasts” [a.t.]; Rev. 16:2; Sept.: Prov. 16:4; Amos 6:3). In the neut., *to kakón*, evil, i.e., **cause or source of evil (James 3:8); evil done to anyone, harm,**

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

injury (Acts 16:28; 28:5; Rom. 12:17, 21; 13:10; 1 Cor. 13:5; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 3:9, 11). In words, evil speaking (1 Pet. 3:10; Sept.: Mic. 7:3). Pl., *tá kaká*, evils, i.e., **troubles, afflictions** (Luke 16:25; Acts 9:13; 2 Tim. 4:14; Sept.: Gen. 44:34; 48:16; Is. 46:7; Jer. 14:8).²

[**Grievous** – πονηρός (Gk) – fem. *ponērá*, neut. *ponērón*, adj. from *pónos* (4192), **labor, sorrow, pain**. Evil in a moral or spiritual sense, wicked, malicious, mischievous. . . . The neut. with the def. art. *tó ponērón*, evil, evil intent, malice, wickedness (Matt. 5:37, 39). **Also evil as inflicted, calamity, affliction**.³

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1. The First Vial – Grievous Ulcers

[What is being expressed here is the worst ulcers a person could possibly be afflicted with. This is reminiscent of Job who was covered from head to toe with boils when Satan attacked him. Or of Egypt when the ash blew through the land and cause boils to cover their bodies. These ulcers are described as noisome or evil and grievous.]

[Perhaps this follows the five long months of death defying torment cause by the demonic locusts released from the bottomless pit under the fifth Trumpet (Rev 9.1-12). Or it may happen in conjunction with this horrifying torment. Perhaps they follow one after another. One must strain to even imagine the horrors described between the Trumpets and this first vial.]

[Let us not forget that these vials are described by God as the Wrath of God? Why? Because God is pouring His judgment and wrath upon rebellious humanity; this, as we recall, was one of the revealed purposes of the Tribulation Period.]

2. The Second Vial (Rev 16.3) – Sea of Blood [- *And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every*

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

living soul died in the sea. – The description cannot be worse. Now not only one-third of the sea, but everything living in the sea dies. Think for a moment of the implications here. When there is draught and dearth upon the earth there is always the sea as an alternate food source. But now, no more fish, no more sea food of any kind. No alternate source of food. Nearly every society in our world has seafood as a major staple in their diet. Not anymore.]

[The sea becoming blood again is reminiscent of Egypt and those plagues that Almighty-God leveled against them when they rebelliously refused to let God's people go. We must remember that these plagues are not just any ordinary plague, these are plagues on a **SUPERNATURAL** level. This is the mighty omnipotent power of God released in His wrath.]

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1. **The First Vial – Grievous Ulcers**
2. **The Second Vial – Sea of Blood**

[Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.]

[Laugh and scoff at the thought of an All-Powerful living and active God. Refuse to be saved and receive of His overwhelming grace, love, and mercy while it is available to you. You may just live long enough to experience the outpouring of the Wrath of Almighty-God.]

[He has warned you, His wrath is coming. This is only the Second Vial.]

3. **The Third Vial (Rev 16.4-7) – Waters of Blood** [- *And the third angel poured out his vial upon **the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.***⁵ *And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.*⁶ *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, **and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.***

[If it were not enough that the seas in their totality became as blood and everything in them died; now, all the fresh waters become as blood. Under the **Third Trumpet** one-third of the fresh waters became wormwood or poisoned killing multitudes. Now, ALL fresh waters become as blood. Because there is absolutely no fresh water to drink, mankind must drink these bloody waters.]

[Folks, water is the elixir of life. We must have it to live. We drink it. Almost every drink we make uses water in its mixture. We cook with water. We need water to survive. What will it be like to have no water to sustain life? No usable water in the seas, no potable waters upon the land.]

[It all sounds terrible to me. How mankind will groan and curse under such extreme conditions. Then there is this declaration from heaven.]

[⁷ *And I heard another out of the altar say, **Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.***]

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- 1. The First Vial – Grievous Ulcers**
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- 3. The Third Vial – Waters of Blood**

[While mankind on earth suffers under the heavy, extreme, unimaginable conditions of the outpouring of the wrath of God, the supernatural wrath of God, there is the declaration of God's righteousness in these judgments. God is true and right even in these heinous plagues.]

[**Folks, let us be reminded of the gravity of our sin.** We tend to excuse our sin away. We tend to smirk at our sin as if it really isn't all that bad to sin against a holy God. Our sin is grave and we deserve every bit of the wrath and judgment of Almighty-God for even our smallest sin.]

[*Romans 6:23 **For the wages of sin is death;** but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*]

[This makes the Grace of God even more amazing. Our Lord Jesus Christ paid the full price for our sins, when He died on Calvary's Cross. Don't discount what the only begotten Son of God did for you. Call out to Him to save you today. To save you from the wrath that is coming upon this world.]

- 4. The Forth Vial (Rev 16.8-9) – A Scorching Sun** [*- And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. ⁹And men were scorched with great heat, . . .* – Now the Sun is given the power to scorch mankind with GREAT HEAT. Folks, I'm not a heat kind of guy. I actually like it cool rather than hot. Here is a heat from the Sun hot enough to scorch men with fire.]

[Folks, when it gets really hot outside what do you look for? You look for something cool to help cool you off. Perhaps a nice glass of ice water or some nice cool lemonade made with **water**. What do you have? You have blood water to assuage your thirst under these severe judgments.]

[It would seem likely to me that by now many, if not all, of the technological comforts that we take for granted will be gone. There would likely not be electricity to run your refrigerator and freezer. Without those there would be no ice to cool your glass of whatever you might find to drink. Yet the sun and its heat will be unrelenting.]

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- 4. The Forth Vial – A Scorching Sun**

[I recall being in Phoenix, Arizona the third week of June one year. The temperature during the day was a hot sunny 120 degrees. At well past 11:00 PM I went outside and one cold still feel the heat emanating from the side walk without bending over. I was so thankful for electricity and air conditioning. What will people do in scorching heat without modern convinces?]

[Then there is the response of mankind to the Wrath of God,]

[Revelation 16:9] *And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.]*

[By-The-Way this is the first time since the Tribulation Period began that mankind is seen acknowledging God and His hand at work. What are they doing? Blaspheming God and refusing to repent. How utterly foolish.]

- 5. The Fifth Vial (Rev 16.10-11) – Darkness** [- *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, -* With the outpouring of this vial there is darkness. This is reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt as well. The Word of God reveals,]

[Exodus 10:21] *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.***]

[The darkness of this plague must be similar because the text reveals that they **“. . . gnawed their tongues for pain,”** because of this darkness. I do not recall ever being in a darkness that could be felt. One’s mind can only wonder what such darkness must be like.]

[For those of you who refuse to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ and surrender to Him. You need to know that the eternal judgment that will be yours in the Lake of fire is referred to in the Word of God as,]

[Jude 1.13 “the blackness of darkness forever”]

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5. The Fifth Vial – Painful Darkness

[Perhaps the darkness of the Egyptian Plagues and these Vials of the Wrath of God are indications of what that will be like. So, you just go on and keep mocking God. That’s what these will do,]

[Revelation 16:10-11 ¹⁰ And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, ¹¹ And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.]

[Again Folks,]

[Hebrews 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.]

6. **The Sixth Vial (Rev 16.12-16) – The Way and Deception** [- *And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. ¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. ¹⁵ Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. ¹⁶ And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon.*** – The only purpose of these demonic spirits and the drying up of the great

Euphrates river is to gather all the armies of mankind together for one last and dreadful battle. **The battle of Armageddon.**]

[This battle of all battles is where the blood will flow to the horses bridle like a mighty river of human blood. It also speaks of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ at His second Advent and the establishment of His millennial kingdom upon this earth.]

7. The Seventh Vial (Rev 16.17-21; Zech 14.3-4) –

The Second Advent and Hail [- *And the seventh*

*angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.***¹⁸ *And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; **and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.***¹⁹ *And the great city*

*was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.*²⁰ *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*²¹ *And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. – **I believe that this points to the Second Advent or the second coming of Christ to the earth.*** Why? Because of the great earth quake.]

Zech 14.3

*[Zechariah 14:3-4*³ *Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.*⁴ *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.]*

[The return of the Lord will accompany the Battle of Armageddon and this great earth quake so that all the world will know, without any doubt, that the Lord Jesus Christ has finally returned to rule **King of kings, and Lord of lords.**]

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5. **The Fifth Vial – Painful Darkness**
6. **The Sixth Vial – The Way and Deception**

[So we have seen the Seven Seals opened, the Seven Trumpets sounded, the Seven Vials of the Great Wrath of God poured out. What terror, what catastrophe, what judgment. Do you suppose that your sin is worth enduring such as this Great Tribulation Period? The Time of Jacob's Trouble. A time unlike any time this world has ever seen before.]

[Will you still refuse to hear God, heed God, and turn to God? Will you be saved from the wrath to come?]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Feb 8, 2015

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- 7. The Seventh Vial – The Second Advent**