

## Chapter 16

In [Chapter 15] John saw seven angels who had the seven last plagues to be poured out upon the earth. This chapter begins with the angels being given the “green light” to do just that.

**[1] 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.**

Keep in mind that this is after the millennium, at the end of the little season, when Satan is loosed. \*see [Chapter 20] These vials contain the wrath of God, i.e., the seven last plagues to be poured out upon the remnant of the wicked remaining on earth at that time. [Chapter 15:1 & 6]

**[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 worshiped his image.**

A brief sketch of the mark of the beast and it’s image is this:

The **Image of the beast**, i.e. Papal Power, ascended to power after **the Beast**, i.e. Rome, had been wounded unto death. The beast that persecuted the saints had been destroyed, but it’s image appeared in the guise of a church, more brutal against righteousness than the Beast before it. And, of course, the mark of this beast (man or series of men) was 666. [Revelation 13:14-18]

So, the first plague is to fall “upon those who have the mark of the beast, and those who worship his image.”

**[3] 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.**

Though the time the events of this chapter take place is different from that of [Chapter 8], the similarities between the two are astonishing. Lets look at these similarities:

[Revelation 8:8] And **the second angel** sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea; and the **third part of the sea** became blood. (the second thousandth year)

Now, just what is this sea? Was it, or will it be a literal sea, or is this just another metaphor? Right, it’s a metaphor. This sea diametrically contrasts the “sea of glass like unto crystal” [Revelation 4:6], and the “sea of glass mingled with fire” of [Revelation 15:2].

The sea of this chapter identifies with the sea in [Revelation 13:1]; And I saw another sign, in the likeness of the kingdoms of the earth; **a beast rise up out of the sea**, and **he stood upon the sand of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns; and upon his horns ten crowns; and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. \*the foolish stand on false doctrines instead of the gospel! [Matthew 7:35]

But look at what [Revelation 11:7] calls this sea; “And when they shall have finished their testimony, **the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit** (*ascends out of the sea*), shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.” And again in:

[Revelation 17:8] **The beast** that you saw ... shall **ascend out of the bottomless pit**, and go into perdition. \*this beast (*the kingdoms of the earth, with their false churches, with their false religions*) shall bring their doctrines with them from the bottomless pit!

Do these scriptures not lend greater clarity to the following:

[Revelation 20:13] And the **sea (bottomless pit)** gave up the dead which were in it; and **death (the grave) and hell (world of the dead, Hades, or place or state of departed souls)** delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And:

[Revelation 21:1] I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; **and there was no more sea. (no more bottomless pit)!** *No need for it now!*

**[4] And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.**

[Revelation 8:10-11] And **the third angel sounded**, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon **the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters**; [11] And the name of the star is called Wormwood; and **the third part of the waters became wormwood**; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

**[5] And I heard the angel of the waters say, You are righteous, O Lord, which are, and were, and shall be, because you have judged thus.**

**[6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.**

**[7] And I heard another angel who came out from the altar saying, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.**

These verses illustrate the old cliché; “what goes around comes around.” Since those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image had “shed the blood of saints and prophets,” the angels are now declaring to the wicked, “It’s time to pay the Piper!”

[Matthew 18:6] Woe unto the world because of offenses! For **it must needs be that offenses come**; but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

[Isaiah 5:20-24] Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

This is precisely what those who worship the beast do; they do not like Jesus’ doctrine, so they promote Satan’s doctrine by worshiping the beast.

[Isaiah 47:10-14] You have trusted in your wickedness; you have said, None sees me. Your wisdom and your knowledge have perverted you; and you have said in your heart, I am, and none else besides me. [11] Therefore evil shall come upon you; you shall not know from where it rises; and mischief shall fall upon you; you shall not be able to put it off; and desolation shall come upon you suddenly, which you shall not know. [12] Stand now with your enchantments, and with the multitude of your sorceries, wherein you have labored from your youth; ...[13] Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save you from these things that shall come upon you. [14] Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame.

**[8] And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.**

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

[Revelation 8:12] And the fourth angel sounded, and the **third part** of the sun was smitten, and the **third part** of the moon, and the **third part** of the stars; so that the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

John the Baptist, speaking of Jesus, said that “it is he of whom I shall bear record, whose fan shall be in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but in the fullness of his own time will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. [Mat 3:39] [Lk 3:24]

It may be that John the Baptist understood that the “unquenchable fire” is the anguish the wicked will feel when they are faced with the reality of their abominations. And even though it will be to them as if they are “scorched with great heat,” they will not love God, but will curse his name.

[D&C 43:7b-f] ... Satan shall be bound; and when he is loosed again, he shall only reign for a little season, and then comes the end of the earth; [d] and he that lives in righteousness, shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye; [e] and the earth shall pass away **so as by fire**; [f] and the wicked shall go away into unquenchable fire.

[Mosiah 1:126-129] They shall be judged, every man, according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil; [127] And if they be evil, they are consigned to an awful view of their own guilt and abominations, which causes them to shrink from the presence of the Lord, into **a state of misery and endless torment**, ... [129] And their torment **is as** a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames are unquenchable, and whose smoke ascends up for ever and ever. \*see [Verses 83-84]

[Mormon 4:62-64] Do you suppose that you could be happy to dwell with that holy being, when your souls are racked with a consciousness of your guilt that you have ever abused his laws? [63] Behold I say unto you, that you would be more miserable to dwell with a holy and just God, under a consciousness of your filthiness before him, than you would to dwell with the damned souls in hell. [64] For behold, when you shall be brought to see your nakedness before God, and also the glory

of God, and the holiness of Jesus Christ, it will kindle a flame of unquenchable fire upon you.

[Alma 9:22-25] Then if our hearts have been hardened, yea, if we have hardened our hearts against the word, insomuch that it has not been found in us, then will our state be awful, for then we shall be condemned; [23] For **our words will condemn us**, yes, **all our works will condemn us**; we shall not be found spotless: [24] And **our thoughts will also condemn us**; and in this awful state, we shall not dare look up to our God; [25] And we would fain be glad if we could command the rocks and the mountains to fall upon us, to hide us from his presence.

But notice in [Verse 9] that after these “men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which has power over these plagues; **they repented not to give him glory**. One would think that these men who were “scorched *as it were* with great heat,” would repent and be spared the impending agony, but it just isn’t in their nature to do so!

[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.**

[Revelation 9:1-2] **The fifth angel sounded, ... [2] and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reasons of the smoke of the pit.**

Nephi expressed the contrast between the works of the devil and the works of God by saying that “the devil is the foundation of murder, and **works of darkness**,” but that “**the Lord God works not in darkness**.” [2 Nephi 11:93-95]

And, since Satan is the foundation of darkness, he and his angels will be cast into outer darkness, and “weeping and gnashing of teeth” generally follows. [Matthew 8:12] [Matthew 25:31]

[Alma 19:45-46] ... The spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil; ... have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord: for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; [46] And these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil.

**Important truism:** the wicked are not wicked because they choose evil works; rather, they choose evil works because they are wicked. “as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” [Proverbs 23:7]

[12] **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.**

[Revelation 9:13, 15, 18] And **the sixth angel sounded, [15] And the four angels were loosed, to slay the third part of men. [18] By these ... were **the third part** of men killed, ...**

Again – notice how closely the events depicted by each angel of his particular thousand year epoch parallels the events that are to take place when the angels of this chapter pour out their vials at the end-time. Notice also, only the third of the people were slain during each of the thousand year epochs; but during the time covered by this chapter, a third of all people are slain with the pouring of each vial! E.g., “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, i.e. in the bottomless pit.” [Verse 3]

The reason for this is that at the time these vials are being poured out, all those who are evil are again in the bottomless pit, also referred to as “outer darkness.” They are the tares of the earth. The righteous have been lifted up, they are standing on the sea of glass; the earth is being cleansed as though by fire! This is the time the two witnesses, a.k.a. the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks, have been lifted up, just prior to the kingdoms of earth becoming the kingdom of God!

[Revelation 11:3-4, 7-12, 15] And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, (*1260 years*) clothed in sackcloth. [4] These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

[7] And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. [8] And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. [9] And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. \*insert (The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. Revelation 17:15)\* [10] And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. [11] And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. [12] And they heard a great voice from heaven, saying unto them, Come up here. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

[15] And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. \*see [Verse 17] of this chapter.

You may have noticed by now that, when the sixth angel pours out his vial, a chain of events will begin which will flow over into the time covered by the seventh angel.

[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 the great day of God Almighty.

There are those who associate the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet with particular people; but [Verse 14] identifies them as “spirits of devils.” Furthermore, the dragon and the beast have been identified in previous chapters as representing the devil working through worldly powers.

[**Chapters 12:4, 8 & 17:8-3**] The false prophet naturally represents anyone who prophesies falsely, whether it be completely false or mingled with the truth; whether he be self appointed or designated by anyone other than God. These are not good people, they are the tares of the earth; they are Satan’s ministers. [**2 Corinthians 11:13-14**]

The last part of [**Verse 14**] is especially important, it is the key which places this chapter in its proper time. Notice, they are going to “go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them **to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.**” And when will “this battle be fought? It will be the final conflict at the end of the little season before Satan and his angels are cast out, never to have any power over the Lord’s people again.

[**D&C 85:35b-f**] ... Satan shall be loosed for a little season, that he may gather together his armies; and Michael, the seventh angel, even the archangel, shall gather together his armies, even the hosts of heaven. [**d**] And the Devil shall gather together his armies, even the **hosts of hell**, and shall come up to battle against Michael and his armies: and **then comes the battle of the great God!** [**e**] And the Devil and his armies shall be cast away into their own place, that they shall not have power over the saints any more at all; for Michael shall fight their battles, and shall overcome him who seeks the throne of him who sits upon the throne, even the Lamb. [**f**] This is the glory of God and the sanctified; **and they shall not any more see death.**

[**15**] **Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.**

[**Matthew 24:50-51**] But know this, if the good man of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to have been broken up; but would have been ready. [**51**] Therefore be ready; for in such an hour as you think not, the Son of Man will come. [**Luke 12:44-47**] [**Rev 3:3**] [**2 Peter 3:10**] [**1 Thessalonians 5:2-8**] “Blessed is he that watches, and **keeps his garments,**” \* ref [**Ephesians 6:13-17**] armor of God.

[**Revelation 19:7-8**] Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. [**8**] And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white; **for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

[**Isaiah 61:10**] I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for **he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,** as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

[**Alma 16:236**] *The Lord* has said, that the righteous shall sit down in his kingdom, to go no more out; but **their garments should be made white, through the blood of the Lamb.**

[**16**] **And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue **Armageddon.****

Armageddon is a Greek word taken from the Hebrew Har-Megiddo, which means Mount

Megiddo, according to some scholars. However, no Mount Megiddo has ever been identified, though an ancient city called Megiddo was located in the mountains of northern Israel, across the Plain of Esdraelon from Nazareth, where many battles were fought in Biblical times.

It seems that nearly every religion believes that Armageddon is the place where the final battle will be fought. But that is not what [Verse 16] is saying. It states that “he will gather them;” who is the “he” being referred to? Remember, the pronoun has to agree with its antecedent; that is still the rule whether we like it or not; and its antecedent is “the sixth angel.” Thus it could read, “And the sixth angel gathered them together ...!” And who is he going to gather to Armageddon? Those referred to in the preceding verse, “**he that watches, and keeps his garments!**” The angel will gather the saints to Armageddon, for safety, while the battle of the Great God is being fought!

\*There is no battle of Armageddon! Armageddon will be the “camp of the saints,” the “beloved city,” that is referred to in:

[Revelation 20:7-9] And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, [8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, **to gather them together to battle**; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. [9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed **the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city**; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

[17] **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.**

**It is done!** This expression in [Verse 17] speaks to the same time and has the same meaning as “**It is finished!**” It also coincides with that time when “the mystery of God should be finished;” and “there should be time no longer.” It is far from being a coincidence that they were all voiced by the seventh and last angel.

[Revelation 10:6-7] And swore by him that lives forever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that **there should be time no longer**; [7] **But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished.**

[D&C 85:33a-b] And again, another angel shall sound his trump, **which is the seventh angel**, saying: **It is finished! it is finished!** the Lamb of God has overcome, and trodden the wine press alone; even the wine press of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God; [b] and then shall the angels be crowned with the glory of his might, and the saints shall be filled with his glory, . . . .

Judgement day is here! The time that the righteous have been looking for has arrived!

Many, many people place the **Battle of Armageddon** as happening just prior to the ushering in of the millennial reign. But, as can be seen, there is no such thing as the Battle of Armageddon!

[Verse 14] calls it **the battle of the great day of God Almighty**; and the D&C calls it the **battle of the great day of God**! But, no matter what it is called, the evidence suggests that there is a successive flow of events, beginning with the end of [Chapter 14] through [Chapters 15 & 16], and ending when the seventh angel proclaims “it is done!” The **battle of the great day of God Almighty** will be fought at the end of the little season; and, It will not be “done” until “the Devil and his armies shall be cast away into their own place,” [Verse 17] that “they shall not have power over the saints any more at all.” [D&C 85:35e]

[18] **And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was 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.**

These last four verses may be a little more difficult to explain because, though they are metaphorical, they represent the factual (as metaphors do), but on a plane beyond human experience. These events will be the final blow to the “the battle of the great day of God Almighty” in which those living in the flesh at the time, those who have been resurrected, and some who are in their spiritual form will have part. Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians will now be visualized as reality:

[Ephesians 6:12] For we wrestle **not** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

[D&C 85:35d-f] The Devil shall gather together his armies, even the hosts of hell, and shall come up to battle against Michael and his armies: and then comes the battle of the great God! [e] And the Devil and his armies shall be cast away into their own place, that they shall not have power over the saints any more at all; for Michael shall fight their battles, and shall overcome him who seeks the throne of him who sits upon the throne, even the Lamb. [f] This is the glory of God and the sanctified; and they shall not any more see death.

Man does not have the experience nor the capacity to understand the plagues the angels will pour out on the wicked. They can only be perceived through the Spirit as some have done, such as John himself. But, even though these plagues will happen on a different plane than human experience, there have been given types and shadows of these plagues that are going to be poured out of the vials by the angels. Examples:

**First angel:** there fell a noisome and **grievous sore upon the men** which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image. [verse 2]

[Exodus 9:10] they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.

**Second angel:** the third part of the sea became blood. [verse 3]

**Third angel:** the rivers and fountains of waters became blood. [verse 4]

[Exodus 7:20] Moses lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, ... and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.

**Fourth angel:** men were scorched with great heat. [verse 8 & 9]

[Exodus 9:24] there was ... fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, ...

**Fifth angel:** the kingdom (*of the beast*) was full of darkness; .... [verse 10-11]

[Exodus 10:22] And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

**Sixth angel:** 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. [verse 12-14]

[Exodus 8:6] And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt.

**Seventh angel:** there were thunders, and lightnings; and there was great earthquake. [verse 18] there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent. (100 pounds) [verse 21]

[Exodus 9:23] Moses stretched forth his rod ; and the Lord sent thunder and hail, ...

Can it be by chance that the plagues God wrought upon Egypt, the fate of a third of the people during six of the thousand year epochs, and the seven final plagues poured out upon the wicked, parallels each other so closely? One would be inclined to believe that it is all being orchestrated. Whatever the case, the devil and his angels will have been conquered in “the battle of the great day of God,” to be cast into their own place, and the salvation of the remnant of mankind into their respective glory has now been secured. \*more on this in [Chapter 20]