

## 1 A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### LESSON 30

## 2 RECAP

- In this 8<sup>th</sup> chapter we have gone into the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> sounding of the trumpets and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pouring out of the vials
- These are under the 7<sup>th</sup> and last seal of the book that is the title deed to the earth
- There are a total of 7 plagues under this last seal
- This is the time spoken of in Daniel that is the 70 weeks – 7 years (Daniel 9:24)
- This time period is known as the Judgement time
- This period is after the 3-1/2 years when the saints that are martyred who do not take the mark of the beast are all caught up to heaven

## 3 RECAP cont.

- There are no souls saved during this time under the 7<sup>th</sup> seal according to the Scriptures
- This 7-year period is comprised of two distinct 3-1/2 year periods
- The preceding 3-1/2 year previous to this 7-year period is known as the Great Tribulation that was grace mixed with judgement
- This period of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, with the 7 trumpets/vials, is judgement only
- In Lesson 29 we ended in chapter 8 verse 9 and the parallel chapter 16 verse 3
- Remember the trumpets shown from heaven's viewpoint are in chapters 8 & 9 are parallel to the vials shown in the earth's viewpoint in chapter 16

## 4 FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC

## 5 THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS

Revelation 8:10-11

10 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.

Revelation 16:4-5

4 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  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

Revelation 16:6-7

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

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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- It is the rivers that are affected by this plague
- The first 3 plagues deal with inanimate objects
- This plague contaminates the sources of pure water and turns them bloody
- We see in the chapter 8 Scriptures that God sent down this wormwood – this is a supernatural happening

7  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

- This supernatural event has never happened before
- Notice it does not say it looked like blood, it says just what it is: blood
- We cannot think of events in Revelation as natural happenings explainable by experience or science
- These events are the results of the judgements of God on a sinful world
- The angel in 16:5-6 explains the just reasons why this judgement is blood; it is because what they have done
- "*The punishment fits the crime*" is appropriate as this is what God has done
- Pure water becomes extremely scarce

8  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

- The angel suggests that this is fitting judgement for those who have shed the blood of saints and prophets
- The wording in these verses suggests that although the whole earth is the scene of these judgements, they are more severe upon the enemies of God (Antichrist's realm)

- This would naturally be the case as these judgements are strictly punitive
- These people have rejected the water of life; they have spurned the blood of Jesus; they have spilled the blood of saints
- Now their water supply is turned into poisonous blood

9  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

- It is hard to understand why anyone would reject salvation today
- We would have to be in their shoes to understand this rejection
- Everything God does is for a good reason and it is for us: mankind (His creation) and us, His people
- God does not do things at random; there is always a plan and purpose

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Revelation 16:5

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.

10  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

Revelation 16:6-7

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

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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- We are so privileged that God deals with us as His own children and He does so with patience and longsuffering
- At the time we are looking into we that God's judgement is just as it is with us today

11  **THE THIRD PLAGUE: THE RIVERS cont.**

- We need to remember with these plagues that not everything is destroyed
- The worst of the effects of the plagues will be the area where Antichrist rules which is the area of the Mediterranean that was the old Roman Empire
- Any bright object falling to the earth, whether a meteor or an angel, is called a star in Revelation
- Further into our study we see when Satan is expelled from heaven the Scriptures tell us that he took a third of the stars (angels) with

him

- The messenger is called Wormwood as this is a very bitter substance so the word used here means "bitter"

## 12 **THE FOURTH PLAGUE: THE SUN**

Revelation 8:12

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 as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Revelation 16:8-9

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 hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

## 13 **THE FOURTH PLAGUE: THE SUN cont.**

- Between these two portions of Scripture we see a fairly descriptive picture of what exactly is happening
- This is probably the most terrifying of the plagues so far, but it will not be the worst
- It is merely the beginning, a mild prelude to the three woes that follow
- The sun is darkened for one-third of the day
- The effect is that there is darkness and extreme cold one-third of the day
- Then when the sun shines it is with an intensity that actually scorches (burns) people
- This plague does not let up until the cleansing of the earth is complete

## 14 **THE THREE WOES**

- There is a significant change after the 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet, vial and resulting plague

Revelation 8:13

8 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

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- The word angel here is rendered eagle but is still a messenger
- The eagle signifies God's saints in the Scriptures

## 15 **EAGLES IN THE WORD OF GOD**

Isaiah 40:31

31 but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

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Matthew 24:25-28

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

## 16 **EAGLES IN THE WORD OF GOD cont.**

- The word "carcass" in verse 28 is speaking of the crucifixion and the body of Jesus Christ, wherever He is
- Where Jesus calls His saints eagles, it's as they were soaring to Him by a spiritual flight; the freedom of soaring to God in the spiritual
- The flight of this eagle here in 8:13 represents another activity of the saints during this time
- There are many activities in the work for God right here and now
- Our profession is as a Christian (Colossians 3:23-24)
- God must be the center of our life

## 17 **THE THREE WOES**

- This announcement in 8:13 divides the seven plagues into two parts: first four plagues, then three plagues
- The last three are each known as a woe as well as a plague showing they are especially severe
- The first four plagues are directed at inanimate objects of nature: the earth, the sea, the rivers, and the sun
- The plagues themselves are inanimate forces: heat, blood, fire, wormwood, darkness

- The last three trumpets are directed toward people, especially the kingdom of the beast, Antichrist
- The three plagues are brought about by living beings

18  **THE THREE WOES cont.**

- One swarm comes from the bottomless pit, one army comes from the river Euphrates, and one company comes from heaven
- These living plagues are much worse than the inanimate ones which is why they are called woes
- The fifth and sixth plagues destroy men, and the seventh plague destroys the works of man
- This is no ordinary judgement
- It is not a calamity that comes as a result of natural causes or even as divine retribution on a wicked generation
- It is the consummation of redemption

19  **THE THREE WOES cont.**

- These judgements are a part of redemption
- They are closely supervised by innumerable saints operating from heaven
- Their purpose is the cleansing of the earth from the results of sin
- During the reign of Jesus Christ and the saints (the thousand years) which is almost immediately to follow, the earth will be transformed into a perfect paradise
- The rubbish has to be cleaned up and burned before the garden can be planted
- Remember that God cursed the ground because of man's sin

20  **THE THREE WOES cont.**

- This curse is about to be lifted
- It cannot remain on the earth while Jesus reigns
- The results of the curse are weeds, pests, pollution, sickness-producing germs, flies, mosquitoes – anything that otherwise mars God's perfect creation
- Nothing will escape the fires of this judgement
- They will cleanse every portion of the earth from the lowest depths to the uttermost atmosphere
- Every pest will be tracked down and killed
- What science has been trying to do with very limited success, the

saints of God will do completely in seven years

21  **THE THREE WOES cont.**

- This is a necessary part of the program of the redemption of the earth
- The reign of Jesus will restore all things to perfection in the earth
- The plagues will purge the good and destroy the bad

Isaiah 24:17-18

17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

18 And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

22  **THE THREE WOES cont.**

Isaiah 24:19-23

19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

23  **THE FIRST WOE & FIFTH PLAGUE**

Revelation 9:1-3

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; 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 reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto

them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

24  **THE FIRST WOE & FIFTH PLAGUE cont.**

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.

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- The pain was caused by these locust-like beings that were let loose from the bottomless pit
- John did not see this star fall as read in chapter 9
- The word "fall" should read "fallen"

25  **THE FIRST WOE & FIFTH PLAGUE cont.**

- John saw a star that had fallen from heaven
- The meaning can be ascertained by the context
- This star is an intelligent being, for things are distinctly ascribed to him
- A key is given to him
- He takes the key and he uses it to unlock a door that lets forth, from their prison, the occupants of this bottomless pit
- Satan is bent on letting loose against men all evil powers at his command
- Even now we see more and more evil spirits abounding in this world

26  **THE FIRST WOE & FIFTH PLAGUE cont.**

- Over half of Jesus' healings were of those who were demon possessed
  - Satan can only do what he is allowed to do by God, just as it was with Job
  - This is the meaning of the giving and receiving of the key to the bottomless pit, he couldn't just do it when he wanted to
- 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.
- He could not open up and let out the occupants by himself....God had to tell him he could do this

27  **THE FIRST WOE & FIFTH PLAGUE cont.**

- These were not earthly locusts, they are supernatural and infernal
- Because of the wickedness of the world, special powers are granted to Satan
- At this time there is nothing but wickedness left in the world.....any goodness has been removed

28  **CLOSING GRAPHIC**