

“The Voices of Victory 3”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 23
Revelation 16:8-21

1. The Victory of the 4th Plague

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Revelation 16:8-9

Points to consider:

- When men and women are looking to the sky to bring cool, thirst-quenching rain, they will get searing heat from the sun.
- Instead of repenting and turning to God they will only curse Him more.

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing...

Joel 2:12-14

This end-time global warming will make our present day hysteria seem like nothing.

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17

2. The Victory of the 5th Plague

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Revelation 16:10-11

Points to consider:

- In Exodus, a supernatural darkness covered Egypt but in Goshen where the Israelites lived there was light.
- The 5th plague reminds us that the plagues are cumulative.
- Supernatural darkness is meant to let people see how blind they really are without God.
- People still refuse to repent. This reminds us of Pharaoh hardening his heart against Moses and God.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may

be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.
Romans 1:18-19

3. The Victory of the 6th Plague

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.
Revelation 16:12-14

Points to consider:

- The 6th plague sets the stage for the battle of Armageddon.
- While the armies of the world are eager to descend on the Holy Land, it will not be because of their own choosing, but rather demonic deception.

4. The Voice of God's Assurance

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."
Revelation 16:15

Points to consider:

- Paul's words to the Thessalonians.

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

- The only garments that cannot be taken away from us are the garments of righteousness received by grace through faith.

5. God's Voice of Victory

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
Revelation 16:16-17

Points to consider:

- What is expected to be one of the greatest wars of all history, can hardly be considered a battle.
- The rest of the battle is described in Revelation 19.
- What to the nations will be a great battle, to God is only a "great supper" for the birds.

6. The Grand Finale

Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. Revelation 16:18-21

Points to consider:

- Verses 18-21 summarize the rest of what John will deal with in Revelation, chapters 17-21.
- The destruction of the 7th plague will prepare the earth for its "extreme makeover" under Christ's 1000 year reign.
- These verses describe the end of the world as we know it.
- Men's hearts are so hard they continue to curse God.

Application: God's eschatological and eternal wrath is inevitable; no one can prevent or hinder it from coming, but there is a way to escape it.

Romans 8:1
2 Corinthians 5:21
1 Peter 2:24

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

Hebrews 4:7