

Revelation 16:1-21

A. More Plagues: 16:1-11

1. Voice from the temple (v.1) –pouring out the bowls of God’s wrath.
2. Recall the plagues sent to Egypt.
3. Bowls represent humanity’s rebellion and extend the areas judged under the trumpets.
4. Angel’s and altar’s praise (vv. 5-7) –basis for recognizing God’s holiness and justice is the fact that GOD HAS JUDGED (c.f. 19:2). This further develops the Song of Moses in 15:3-4.
5. Pay attention to the phrase: “They did not repent of their deeds and give him glory.” Humility, humility, humility.
6. Shedding of blood; OT theme of the blood avenger—God avenges the blood of the saints and martyrs through the righteous act of judgment.

B. Racing toward Judgment: 16:12-21

1. Euphrates River—symbolic—drying up to make way for the Kings of the East (those preparing for battle) or perhaps for the lost 10 tribes to return to their land.
 - 1000 B.C.E.—David consolidated the 12 tribes into a monarchy.
 - Solomon magnificently built the kingdom but only lasted two generations.
 - After the death of Solomon 922 B.C.E, the alliance between the two southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin) and the northern tribes was uneasy.
 - Israel divided—2 parts: North and South
 - Northern Kingdom was defeated by Assyria in 722 B.C.E—10 northern tribes’ identities/ history were lost.
2. 3 Frogs—demonic trinitarian thought (image of the dragon, beast, false prophet) in 13:11-12.
3. False teaching/ propaganda coming from their mouths is no match for God’s truth; a sword from the mouth of the Word made flesh (1:16; 19:15).
4. Jesus will come as a thief in the night (c.f. Rev. 3:3, Matt. 24:43, Luke 12:39, 1 Thess. 5:2,4; 2 Peter 3:10).
5. Those who are not ready will be stripped instead of walking with Jesus clothed in white robes—nakedness is a great shame to Jewish people.
 - The righteous must remain righteous without compromise, for terrible times are coming; but Jesus will come when the world does not expect him.
6. Armageddon—Hebrew for Mount Megiddo. Valley of Megiddo—Jezreel Valley.

The Omnipotence and Lordship of Christ!