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A Study of Revelation 16

Questions on Chapter 16,

Revelation for Christians Today, by Lonnie Woodruff--page 288-89 [Answers from DRL]...

01. **Upon what were the seven angels instructed to pour their vials of wrath? (16:1).**
The earth.

02. **The earth is sometimes used to represent the dwelling place of what group of people? (12:12).**
Those who are living in sin, IN CONTRAST TO the heavenly places of the righteous. IN CHRIST, i.e., IN THE CHURCH is to be in heavenly places.
Ephesians 1:3--Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Ephesians 1:20--Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 2:6--And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

03. **From the above information, who do these plagues affect?**
People or forces which oppose God.

04. **Upon what did the first angel pour his vial of wrath? (16:2).**
The earth.

05. **What does the fire represent? (15:2).**
FIRE is used symbolically to represent the many trials and tribulations a Christian must suffer as he strives to live a Christian life.

06. **What happened to those people?**
A noisome and grievous sore fell upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

07. **What does the noisome and grievous sore represent?**
The noisome and grievous sores are symbolic of the pains and anguishes which sin will cause man to suffer while on earth. Many people get so tangled up in the ways of sin that they completely destroy their lives. They can see no way to escape and end up taking their own lives. Many others become physically sick because of the practice of sin. Problems such as venereal diseases and AIDS are largely caused and spread by the practice of sin. People with these types of mental and physical anguishes are "plagued" by sin and their own unwillingness to follow the ways of God.

08. **Upon what did the second angel pour his vial of wrath? (16:3).**
Upon the sea and it became as the blood of a dead man, and every living soul died in the sea.

09. **Who does the sea represent? (16:3). Also see 8:8.**

The masses of people on this earth (p. 140). Revelation 17:15-- And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

10. What happened to those people? (16:3).

The contents became as the blood of a dead man and every living soul died in the sea.

11. What does this second plague symbolize?

The sea becomes as the blood of a dead man, which means that those who do not believe in God are spiritually dead. To be without God in this life is to be spiritually dead and also without hope of life in the eternity to come. The spiritually dead of the earth will undergo the second death (21:8), which is eternal destruction. They are as dead men.

12. Upon what did the third angel pour his vial of wrath? (16:4).

Rivers and fountains of waters.

13. Who do the rivers and fountains of waters represent?

Verse 6 indicates these rivers have the ability to DRINK, which shows they symbolically represent CERTAIN PEOPLE who "have shed the blood of saints and prophets" (v. 6). In this verse, these rivers and fountains of waters represent the abundant teachings of those who attempt to direct the spiritual lives of people upon the earth. Specifically, they represent those leaders of false religious organizations who demand that people worship according to their dictates.

14. What happened to those people? (16:4).

As this plague is poured out upon these WATERS, they become as blood. This indicates that these people are SPIRITUALLY DEAD. Because these people practice false teachings and persecute Christians, God has judged them to be spiritually dead or as becoming blood which signifies death (v. 5). They are spiritually dead upon this earth, and, because of this, they will have a part in the SECOND DEATH, which is the lake of fire (20:14;21:8).

15. What had they done to receive this judgment? (16:5-6).

Because these leaders of false religions have been responsible for the persecution and killing of many Christians throughout the ages, God has given them blood to drink. They have shed the blood of Christians. Therefore, they are spiritually dead.

16. Discuss the meaning of this third plague.

Verse 7 seems to refer to the question which the saints under the altar are asking in the fifth seal (6:9-10). They desired to know how long it would be before God would avenge their blood on those who had persecuted them. In the third plague, God again shows that those who persecute Christians will suffer persecution themselves because He had judged that it will be so. This should help Christians today, as we suffer the trials and hardships of this life, to understand that someday we will be rewarded and those who persecute us will receive their just punishment from God.

17. Upon what did the fourth angel pour his vial of wrath? (16:8).

Upon the sun.

18. How was the sun affected by the contents of the vial? (16:8).

Power was given the sun to scorch men with fire.

19. What would be the symbolic meaning of scorching men with fire?

These symbols should not be interpreted literally. They are figurative descriptions of problems which will affect men here on this earth. We have gotten ourselves into difficult situations. We say the HEAT is on them, or they have gotten themselves into a very HOT SPOT. This is the situation many

people find themselves in today as they reject the Word of God. The preaching of God's Word is not an easy thing for sinners to hear. Because they will not accept it, it BURNS them. It puts the HEAT on them. The SUN that scorches men with heat and fire must in some way represent the teaching of the gospel. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, the gospel is referred to as THE LIGHT. According to 1 John 1:7, Christians walk in the LIGHT, which must refer to the righteousness of God's ways. This fourth plague then teaches that the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Christ will torment those who refuse to accept it.

20. What did these people do who were affected by this plague? (16:9).

They blasphemed the name of God.

21. Did this plague cause these people to repent? (16:9).

They did not repent.

22. Discuss the meaning of the fourth plague.

The fourth plague is a likeness to the ten plagues sent against Egypt in that these people refuse to repent. Every time a plague was sent against Egypt, Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to let the children of Israel go (Exodus 14:8). As one refuses to hear and accept the gospel, he is hardening his heart against God. he will continue to live in sin and be plagued by the gospel.

23. Discuss how these plagues are taking place in the world today.

Verse 9 states that God controls these plagues, but the gospel must be preached in order for them to be sent upon ungodly men. We know this because 11:6 says that the TWO WITNESSES (Christians) have the power to SMITE THE EARTH with all plagues.

24. Do Christians have anything to do with the pouring out of these plagues?

Yes.

QUESTIONS ON PLAGUES 5, 6, & 7 (16:10-21).

25. What does this fifth plague affect? (16:10).

The seat of the beast.

26. From chapter 13, what does the beast represent?

It represents all political and religious powers that oppose God and persecute His people.

27. What happened to the kingdom of the beast? (16:10).

It became full of darkness. This shows the power of God over the beast. God's kingdom will stand forever, but the kingdom of the beast, whether it be political or religious, will be full of pain, suffering, and darkness.

28. What did those people do who had put their trust in the beast? (16:10-11).

They gnawed their tongues for pain.

29. Did this plague cause these people to repent? (16:11).

They did not repent of their deeds!

30. Discuss the meaning of the fifth plague.

Those people who put their trust in kingdoms other than God's will suffer greatly, both mentally and physically, as these powers collapse upon this earth. They will GNAW THEIR TONGUES for pain.

It must be painful to watch the powers in which you have trusted collapse around you. This is why Christians must ALWAYS trust in God. His kingdom will never fail.

31. Where did the sixth angel pour out his vial of wrath? (16:12).

It was poured out upon the Great River Euphrates.

32. What is the symbolic meaning of the great River Euphrates? (16:12).

Although there is a literal Euphrates River which originates from two main sources in the Armenian Mountains and flows into the Persian Gulf, we must determine how it is used symbolically in this passage. In the Old Testament, the actual River Euphrates was the eastern boundary of the land which Israel possessed (cf., Genesis 15:18; Deuteronomy 1:7-8; 2 Samuel 8:3-4). If we translate this meaning into symbolic language concerning the church today, it becomes A SPIRITUAL BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE DEVIL. Therefore, the Euphrates River is used to symbolize the spiritual boundary between the ways of righteousness and ungodliness.

33. What is the symbolic meaning of the water? (16:12).

The boundary between righteousness and ungodliness is the Law of Christ, or the New Testament. It is the gospel. The gospel is the symbolic meaning of the WATER of the great Euphrates. Just as water is a necessary life-giving substance which man must have in order to sustain his physical life, the gospel is the necessary life-giving substance of our spiritual lives. This water, or the gospel, is the dividing line between the ways of righteousness and unrighteousness. Those who obey the gospel, or partake of this spiritual water, will move from the place of unrighteousness to the place of spiritual righteousness, the church.

34. Who are the following?

- 1) **The dragon...***Forces which oppose God.*
- 2) **The beast...***Forces which oppose God.*
- 3) **The false prophet...***Forces which oppose God.*

35. From where do the frogs originate? (16:13).

They come from the MOUTH of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

36. Who do these frogs represent? (16:14).

They must represent false teachings or maybe threats of persecutions which come from the forces represented by the symbols. Coming OUT OF THE MOUTH indicates that the words spoken by the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet is that which affects men. These words or teachings are described as unclean spirits which appeared like frogs. Why frogs? Maybe it just indicates that these words spoken go OUT IN EVERY DIRECTION. Maybe it was used because one of the Ten Plagues in Exodus was that of frogs.

37. What do these frogs do? (16:14).

Working miracles, they go forth to kings of the earth and of the whole world to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

38. What is the great day? (16:14).

Judgment Day

39. What battle is fought on this great day? (16:14).

THE final battle. A spiritual battle.

40. **Where are these people gathered together? (16:16).**
Armageddon
41. **What does the first part of the word Armageddon (har) mean?**
Mountain
42. **What events took place in the valley of Megiddo which were indelibly printed on the minds of the Jewish people?**
Throughout the ages the Israelite nation had mourned many times because of events which had taken place in this valley. E.g., Zechariah 12:11.
43. **What did the Valley of Megiddo symbolize to the Jewish people?**
Great sorrow and mourning
44. **From the above information, what is the symbolic meaning of Armageddon?**
Symbolically, a mountain would refer to a massive amount of almost anything. In our language today, if we have a huge quantity of some item, we may say we have a mountainous quantity. These people who follow the spirits of devils (v. 14), are going to be gathered into a place called ARMAGEDDON, or mountain of sorrows. They will be gathered into a place where the amount of sorrow they will undergo will be indescribable. They will suffer beyond our greatest imaginations. This is the 6th Plague. Armageddon is not a battle at all. It describes the immense grief those people will feel who have disobeyed God when Christ gathers them together at His 2nd Coming.
45. **Compare the actual meaning of Armageddon to the meaning the “religious world” applies to it today.**
The overall meaning of the 6th Plague shows that when men refuse to obey the gospel of Christ, God will turn them over to their evil ways. He will deliver them over to follow the ways of Satan which are described as the unclean spirits coming out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. When Christ comes again, they will be gathered together into a place of immense sorrow, figuratively called Armageddon. Here they will lose the final battle of THAT GREAT DAY when the devil and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire to be tormented forever and ever (20:10).
46. **Where did the seventh angel pour his vial of wrath? (16:17).**
Into the air
47. **What do the events of this seventh plague represent?**
This will be God’s final and everlasting plague which He will POUR OUT upon all those who follow Satan.
48. **What does an earthquake symbolize? (16:18).**
The final conclusion of all things which God has planned for man
49. **What will happen to Babylon at this time? (16:19).**
Divided into the parts
50. **What do islands and mountains represent? (16:20).**
ISLAND is used in the Old Testament to represent leaders among the people of the nations (Isaiah 41:1; 49:1; 59:18).
51. **What does the great plague of hail represent? (16:21).**

This is a figurative description showing the severity of this final plague which God will levy against those who have followed the ways of the devil.

52. What period of time has the seventh plague described?

Judgment Day and afterward

53. Discuss the meaning of the seventh plague.

The final plague of eternal hell will be so great that we cannot begin to understand it as physical men. Living in a physical body, we can only understand physical pain, thus the words chosen.

54. Discuss the overall meaning of the series of seven last plagues.

The seven plagues correspond closely to the series of seven trumpets (8:6—11:19). The trumpets sounded a warning. They warn people of events which are to take place here on earth and, for the most part, affect the spiritual part of their being. The plagues generally describe the problems and torments which those people will suffer who do not submit their lives to God.

Questions Based on LW's End of Chapter 16 Questions

True/False

01. ____ The Seven Plagues describe problems and torments people will suffer who do not obey God.
02. ____ The Seventh Angel poured out his vial on the sun.
03. ____ The dragon, the beast, and the false prophet all symbolize forces which oppose God.
04. ____ Repentance resulted from the pouring out of the fifth vial.
05. ____ The Fourth Plague teaches that the teaching and preaching of the gospel will torment those who refuse to accept it.

Fill in the Blanks

06. Revelation ____:____ helps to interpret the meaning of the phrase, THE SEA, in verse 3.
07. FIRE is used symbolically to represent the many _____ and _____ a _____ must suffer as he strives to live a _____ life.
08. In the Third Plague, God again, shows that those who _____ Christians will _____ themselves because He had _____ that it be so.
09. Revelation 11:6 says that the TWO WITNESSES (_____) have the power to _____ the earth with all _____.
10. The boundary between righteousness and ungodliness is the _____ of _____, or the _____.

Place the symbol in the space next to its description:

11. _____ Judgment Day.
12. _____ Leaders among the people of the nations.
13. _____ Pains and anguishes which sin will cause man to suffer on earth.
14. _____ Certain people who have shed the blood of saints and prophets.
15. _____ A spiritual boundary line between the people of God and those who follow the devil.

Answers to Revelation 15 Questions: [(01) True, 7; (02) True, 14; (03) False, 17; (04) True, 3; (05) True, 18; (06) spiritual, oppose, God, 1; (07) trials, life, Christian, 6; (08) obey, gospel; (09) four, beasts, 15; (10) only, word, God, 18; (11) White Linen, 13, 19:8; (12) Singing the Song of the Lamb, 8; (13) Fire, 5; (14) Golden Girdles, 14; (15) 7 Last Plagues, 1].

B L O O D V C P O U R L
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| BLOOD | CITY | EARTH | EVERY | FELL |
| GATHER | GREAT | HEARD | HEAVEN | JUDGED |
| MOUTH | PAIN | PLAGUE | POUR | PROPHET |
| RIGHTEOUS | RIVER | SCORCH | SORE | TEMPLE |
| THERE | TONGUE | VIAL | VOICE | WATER |

