

THE RECLAMATION PERIOD

Scripture Reference: Revelation 15-16

Last session we spent some time doing some review as we pieced together a timeline depicting the events we have covered so far.

QUESTION?	From last session, what was the last event we've discussed chronologically?

If you go back to session ten, we discussed the Seven Trumpets which our outlined in **Revelation 8-11**. As the seventh trumpet was the last event we looked at chronologically, can you recall what happens in the seventh trumpet?

Before we get into **Revelation 15** this session, we first need to look at some timing issues that are going on with this seventh trumpet.

In **Revelation 11**, what two climactic events take place just prior to the sounding of the seventh trumpet? _____

These events pertain to the “two witnesses”. According to **Revelation 11:3**, how long will these two witnesses prophesy? _____

As we have established in earlier sessions (including last week’s review), the two witnesses begin their prophesying at the midpoint of the tribulation, or the 3 ½ year mark. Therefore, doing some simple math, we see that it is the end of their prophesying that also marks the end of this 7 –year period – the 70th Week of Daniel. John says they will prophesy for *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*. In the Jewish calendar, that is exactly 3 ½ years.

So, with the end of the prophesying of the two witnesses also comes the end of Daniel’s 70th week. But, we are told even more about the end of the 70th week.

Read again **Revelation 10:7**. Here is an amazingly key passage. John writes, “*the mystery of God will be finished.*” According to this verse, when does this take place?

John says this *mystery* will be complete or finished when the seventh angel is *about to sound*.

QUESTION?	What is this “mystery of God” to which John refers?

Maybe something Paul writes can shed some light on this question. Read **Romans 11:25-26a**. Paul links the term “mystery” to the time of the fullness of the Gentiles and the salvation of Israel. One writer has this to say, *“Thus the events associated with the blowing of the seventh trumpet are at the heart of the cosmic conflict between God and Satan. In essence they are the focal point of our entire end-times study.”*¹

With the sounding of the seventh trumpet where we see the Temple of God in heaven open up where we can even see the Ark of the Covenant, this marks the salvation of Israel, the fullness of the Gentiles. The 70th and final week of Daniel’s prophecy is over.

O but there is much more to study. So what now? We’re still in **Revelation 15** and have more to go. Let’s see what now happens just after the end of the 70th Week.

Read **Daniel 12:11**. According to Daniel, from the time the daily sacrifices are taken away and the abomination of desolation is set up (when Antichrist proclaims himself as God or Messiah) there will be 1290 days. The starting point for these 1290 days is the midpoint of the tribulation. As we discussed earlier, the last half of the tribulation is 1260 days (**Revelation 11:3** and **Revelation 13:5**). This means that following the close of the 70th Week of Daniel, there will be a thirty day period (1290-1260=30).

So what will transpire in this 30 day period? That is the subject of this session.

Christ Goes to Edom

Back in **Revelation 12:6** John had mentioned that “the woman” fled into the wilderness where God would care for her for “one thousand two hundred sixty days.” At the end of the 70th Week, that time is up. If you recall from Session 11, the land to which the “woman” flees is that of Edom. Now let’s read **Isaiah 63:1-3**. Just prior to Isaiah writing this, he states in **Isaiah 62:11** that the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the world that salvation is coming and will seek you out.

¹ Robert Van Kampen, *The Sign* (Crossway Books: Wheaton, IL, 1992) pg. 372.

As we study the messages in this section of Isaiah, we see that the context is the return of Christ and the restoration and salvation of Israel. That places the events of Isaiah within the time frame of the events just following the 70th Week.

From where does Isaiah say the “*One who is in glorious apparel*” is coming? _____

Isaiah says Christ is coming from Edom – out of Bozrah. In ancient days, Bozrah was the capital city of Edom. Micah also speaks to this event. Read **Micah 2:12-13**.

Interestingly, Micah refers to the “*sheep in a fold*.” The Hebrew word for “fold” is none other than *Bozrah*.

Finally, Habakkuk also describes Christ’s coming from Edom. Read **Habakkuk 3:3-6, 12-13**. In this passage, Habakkuk refers to “Teman” which was an ancient village in Edom. Additionally, he refers to “Mt. Paran” which borders Edom and Sinai.

This passage is also significant in that it mentions Christ’s “*going forth for the salvation of His people...*”. This is a reference to the ultimate salvation of Israel (pointing to our exact timing). Another significance lies in that Christ will “*strike the head of the house of evil to lay him open from thigh to neck*.” Of course, the “head of the house of evil” refers to Antichrist.

So the **first** event of this 30 day period is the coming of Christ to Edom to rescue the “woman” and begin His move to destroy the Antichrist in the great Battle of Armageddon and claim absolute dominion over the earth.

REVELATION 15

Now we are ready to continue through Revelation. Read **Revelation 15**. After chapter 11, John shifted gears in chapter 12-14 with another “sign” that appeared which took him back to the time of the tribulation. Now, we have another shift in **Revelation 15:1** as John sees another great sign in heaven. This sign brings him back to where he had left off in chapter 11 – after the sounding of the seventh trumpet.

John writes that there are seven more angels which have the last seven plagues, for in them the wrath of God is _____.

QUESTION?	What all does John see in this sign in Revelation 15:2-8?

We know we are back to the timing just following the seventh trumpet because verse 5 discusses the opening of the “temple of the tabernacle of the testimony”. This is a reference again to the Ark of the Covenant (Testimony) which we saw at the end of chapter 11.

THE BOWL JUDGMENTS

Now let’s read **Revelation 16:1-21**. In chapter 15, John writes that these last seven plagues will complete the wrath of God. Now, as we get into chapter 16, let’s see what these last seven plagues of God are that all take place in this 30-day period.

First Bowl:

Read **Verse 2**. What happens when the first bowl is poured out upon the earth?

Who is affected by this first bowl? _____

Second Bowl

Read **Verse 3**. What happens when the second bowl is pouted out upon the earth?

Who or what is affected by this bowl? _____

What would be the impact of this on humanity? _____

Third Bowl

Read **Verses 4-7**. What happens when the third bowl is poured out onto the earth?

Who or what is affected? _____

How will this impact humanity? _____

Fourth Bowl

Read **Verses 8-9**. What happened with this bowl? _____

How did mankind react to this plague? _____

Fifth Bowl

Read **Verses 10-11**. What takes place when this bowl is poured out upon the earth? _____

Again, how did mankind react to this plague? _____

Sixth Bowl

Read **Revelation 16:12-16**. What takes place when this bowl is poured out? _____

This bowl is a little different. This bowl is one not of mere judgment and torment upon the earth, but this bowl is preparatory in nature. The great Euphrates river dries up providing an avenue of travel for the “kings of the east.” Then we see demons go forth from Satan, the beast, and false prophet out to the “kings of the earth”. These demons are pictured as “frogs.”

What is the purpose of these demons going out? _____

According to verse 16, what is the name of the place where this “battle of the great day of God Almighty” will take place? _____



☼ **Megiddo**

The word “Armageddon” is Hebrew for “Battle of Megiddo” or “Mount of Megiddo.” Either way, we know that his battle takes place in the plains surrounding the mountainous city of Megiddo which is about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. Throughout history, Megiddo has been a very strategic location as the city overlooks the primary travel route of the ancient people who were traveling from areas in Asia Minor south to Egypt and vice versa. There have been many epic battles fought in the plains surrounding Megiddo and in the Valley of Jezreel.

1. Barak’s victory over the Canaanites (Judges 4)
2. Gideon’s victory over the Midianites (Judges 7)
3. King Josiah’s defeat and death at the hand of Pharaoh Neco of Egypt (2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 35)

Upon visiting this battlefield, the infamous French Emperor and military genius Napoleon Bonaparte claimed that this valley is the greatest battlefield he had ever seen.

It is to this battlefield – this valley – that the demonic forces will draw the kings of the earth. This looming battle will be the great battle where Christ will ultimately destroy the Antichrist and the false prophet – but that is a later session.

The Seventh Bowl

Read **Revelation 16:17-21**.

QUESTION?	What all takes place in this final bowl?

The wrath of God is all but complete. The only thing that now remains to conclude this 30 day period of Christ “reclaiming” the earth is the final judgment of Babylon (**verse 19**). In our next session, we will study God’s judgment on Babylon as we look at **Revelation 17-19**.