

At this point in Revelation everyone has heard the gospel and been warned of what is coming (14:6-11). The believers are with Jesus on Mount Zion (14:1). The unrepentant have hardened their hearts and refused the love of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10<sup>i</sup>).

*<sup>1</sup> Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."* Revelation 16:1 A voice from within the temple commands the seven angels to pour forth the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth. Only God knows when everyone who remains is so hardened that they will not turn to Him for forgiveness and instead insist on living in rebellion toward His goodness and righteousness.

Unlike many commentators, I do see the events of Revelation in somewhat of a chronological order with occasional forward looks. Unless we stretch the interpretation to extreme symbolism, these vials of wrath can only come at the end of the age, the last portion of the final seven years. They are so all-inclusive in their destruction that they fit Jesus' description of great tribulation Matthew 24:21 *<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.*

When we read this chapter, our fallen nature is likely to be aroused and offended. That is because our fallen nature downplays the seriousness of sin. If you have been following the messages you saw something of the holiness and grace of God and His many efforts to turn man from sin. We saw it in the warnings to five of the churches. We saw in chapter 4 and 5 the display of the glory of Jesus and His sacrificial death, along with the worship He receives from all who understand what He has done for mankind. In the seals we saw how He allows calamity to turn men's hearts to what is eternal, and when that is not enough, we see it in the trumpets of tribulation. And yet those judgments fell on only a third of the earth. Then we saw in chapter 11 the faithful witness of the church with miraculous signs while the world grew even harder so that it changed Christmas to the day the witnesses were killed (11:10<sup>ii</sup>).

In chapter 12 we see clearly that Satan is behind the persecution of God's people, even trying to kill Jesus at His birth in attempt to keep Genesis 3:15<sup>iii</sup> from being fulfilled, the promised crushing of Satan's head. When even crucifixion did not stop God's plan of salvation, Satan went after the people of God and continues to do so. In chapter 13 we saw that Antichrist insists that all people worship him and will not allow anyone to buy or sell unless they take his mark (13:16,17<sup>iv</sup>). Believers' families will starve while facing rejection from society. He will be allowed to conquer our physical bodies, making martyrs of all who will not take His mark (13:7<sup>v</sup>). Then in chapter 14 we saw that we will be with our King in His kingdom, referred to as Mount Zion, and the work in us will be complete (Philippians 1:6<sup>vi</sup>). At the end of chapter 14 we saw the world get three final warnings from three angels who proclaim to all the gospel and warn of what is to come in these vials of wrath. That chapter ends with the harvest of the firstfruits, which is a description of the believers gathered to Jesus, an explanation of why we are seen in heaven with the Lamb. It is followed by the harvest of the grapes to be crushed, the wrath of God on those who reject the Lamb and choose to be their own lords (14:17-20). That theme runs all the way through chapter 18.

Chapter 15 began with an announcement of the seven angels coming out of the tabernacle of God in heaven. The saints in heaven praise God for His righteous judgments. They are perfected, so they see the righteousness in the coming judgments and the necessity of them. One of the living beings gives seven bowls of wrath to these angels. Revelation 15:8 <sup>8</sup> *and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.* Which brings us to this chapter in which the bowls are poured out on the earth.

<sup>2</sup> *So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.* Revelation 16:2 The seven angels clothed for priestly duty exited the temple with the seven bowls of wrath. The Bible does not flinch at putting holiness and wrath together. The holiness of God makes His wrath on evil a necessity. Those attributes were the reason for the flood that wiped out the entire population of the earth except for the eight souls in the ark. The thoughts and intentions of the hearts of mankind had become only evil continually (Genesis 6:5<sup>vii</sup>). Now, after the seals and the trumpets have warned man of the futility of idolatry and three angels have announced to the whole world the choice of accepting or rejecting the gospel, all who remain on the earth are without excuse. Their hearts have become as evil as those before the flood. Just as Pharaoh and the Egyptians who did not leave with Israel had seen their gods were meaningless and yet chose to remain and even enter the sea to their own demise (Exodus 14:23<sup>viii</sup>), so the people of the earth will be hardened to the point of choosing wrath over the goodness and graciousness of God (Romans 2:5<sup>ix</sup>).

Someone will surely say, “But God is love!” That is the impression we have of Jesus at His first coming to offer salvation to all who would receive it. Now Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah is dealing with the hardened hearts just as He dealt with mankind with the flood and with Egypt in the Red Sea. God never changes (Malachi 3:6<sup>x</sup>). Holiness demands justice. “*The soul that sins shall die,*” said the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 18:4<sup>xi</sup>), reiterating God’s warning to the first couple (Genesis 2:17<sup>xii</sup>).

Jesus prophesied of the days we are reading about in Matthew 24. He warned us that everyone would be judged by their deeds, and that the only way to God is through the sacrifice of Himself as a ransom for many (John 14:6<sup>xiii</sup>; Matthew 20:28<sup>xiv</sup>). He warned that if we do not lose our life in this world to find life in Him, that we would not be able to keep our life (Matthew 16:25<sup>xv</sup>). We cannot separate Jesus from His words recorded in the Gospels. He warned us that whatever would lead us into sin must be cut off from our lives, for it is better to enter into heaven without those things than to find ourselves cast into hell where the worm never dies and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:43,44<sup>xvi</sup>). The Jesus of the Gospels is the same Jesus who sends out these seven angels in their holy attire to execute judgment on those who remain on the earth.

The first bowl of wrath reminds us of the suffering of Job when he was afflicted with boils. This plague will afflict all those with the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. That means that the saints are either no longer present or they are protected. Listen to the description of Job's sores. <sup>7</sup> *So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.* <sup>8</sup> *And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes.* Job 2:7,8 Job’s afflictions were to refine him, but these sores from God through

the angel with the first bowl are a judgment, just as the Lord punished Egypt with boils while Israel remained unharmed (See Exodus 9:9-11<sup>xvii</sup>).

The human body is an amazing and beautiful creation. However, in the hearts of many it has become an idol. Some people live for their body, to make it what they think is desirable. That is why the cosmetic and fitness industries are multi-billion-dollar businesses. Some people look for the perfect body of others to satisfy themselves. That is why the pornography world is another billion-dollar business. Idolatry of the human body is one of the most common idols of our day. Like the plagues on Egypt's gods, these seven bowls of plagues fall upon the idols of our day. The worship of the human body is breaking the first two of the ten great commands: to have no other gods and to not worship an image. Turning God's good gifts into idols reminds us of Israel taking God's gifts and using them for idolatry (Hosea 2:8<sup>xviii</sup>; Ezekiel 16:17<sup>xix</sup>).

*<sup>3</sup> The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.* Revelation 16:3 The second bowl is poured into the sea. (See 8:8<sup>xx</sup> - the second trumpet) This plague reminds us of one of the plagues on Egypt, when the Nile turned to blood and the fish died (Exodus 7:17,18<sup>xxi</sup>). The sea is a food source for much of the world. Every living thing in the sea dying would be catastrophic! The smell would be unbearable! Algae provides a lot of our oxygen. There has been reoccurring toxic red algae blooming on the Florida coast recently. Imagine the oceans turning a thick red! It would also disrupt trade by sea. When our ports back up we complain about the supply chain crisis. Imagine if all shipping stopped! What would happen to islands and the many countries that depend on imported food? The Antichrist denied the right to purchase food to those who would not worship him (13:17<sup>xxii</sup>). Now God is withdrawing the ability to obtain food to those who worship the Antichrist. They are reaping what they have sown. If one had a conscience, he or she might be convicted that this what they did to believers.

*<sup>4</sup> The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. <sup>6</sup> For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!"* Revelation 16:4-6 What a blessing that the world is full of clear refreshing water. The third bowl of wrath affects the world's drinking water, rivers and springs. Would this include well water too? What would people drink? Water is our most essential need for life. Three days without it and our life is in danger. Does that mean that these plagues come so close together that it will only take a week, and in the process end all human life on earth? Or will there be some other way to obtain water, and the plagues cover the last three and a half years?

The angel over the waters declared this affliction is justice from the Holy One who is and who was. In chapter one the description added, "and is to come" (1:4<sup>xxiii</sup>). That looked forward to the coming age when God would step in and end evil. That day will have come when the bowls of wrath are poured out. It is justice for these people spilling the blood of the saints and prophets. That is why they deserve to have only blood to drink. It is the law of sowing and reaping (Proverbs 22:8<sup>xxiv</sup>). If there are still believers on the earth, how would they survive? If some people convert who have not taken the mark convert, they may be executed as soon as they are found out.

*<sup>7</sup> And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"* Revelation 16:7 I believe this is a connection with the saints under the altar who were crying out, "How long until our blood is avenged?" Revelation 6:9,10<sup>xxv</sup> They also declare these judgments are true and just. It was their blood the angel was referring to which was shed. We are seeing through the saints' song, the angel's declaration, and the martyrs' proclamation that these bowls of wrath are true justice.

A friend of mine explained the reason people will end up in hell. It is their choice. Hell was made for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41<sup>xxvi</sup>), but people choose to go there rather than heaven because of their hatred of Jesus and their prideful hearts. I was looking at something on YouTube and it was followed by a man claiming Jesus was just a man, if there was such a man, and we do not need him. The vitriol was surprising! It reminded me of what these people who remain on the earth will be like.

*<sup>8</sup> The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. <sup>9</sup> They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.*

Revelation 16:8,9 The fourth bowl of wrath is poured on the sun and people on earth are scorched. This is one plague which we do not see a parallel in Egypt. (See possible connection with Exodus 9:23<sup>xxvii</sup>). We know solar flares can do this. We take our sun's stability for granted, as well as our perfect distance and manner of our orbit. We are protected from radiation by the magnetic field of the earth which has recently been shifting at an unusually rapid rate. The heat would exasperate their need for water that is not available.

After these four plagues, you would think that people would recognize they are wrong and repent, but just as with most of Egypt at the time of the Exodus, they will harden their hearts. They would rather suffer His wrath than repent and give Him glory. They do not know that every knee *will* bow (Philippians 2:10<sup>xxviii</sup>)!

*<sup>10</sup> The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish <sup>11</sup> and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.* Revelation 16:10,11 The fifth bowl brings darkness symbolic of the darkness of what the beast has taught. This too is reminiscent of Egypt in which God was showing his superiority to the sun god Ra. In Exodus it is described as a darkness that can be felt (Exodus 10:21,22<sup>xxix</sup>). Cursing the God of heaven for the pain and sores sounds like the first plague continues through all these bowls of wrath. It is so painful that they gnaw their tongues! They may have been complaining about the heat from the sun and lack of water, so now they get total darkness. Will fire and flashlights not give light during this plague? Again, they refuse to repent of their deeds, which include killing the saints, idolatry, sexual immorality, and similar actions.

*<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. <sup>14</sup> For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.* Revelation 16:12-14 The sixth bowl dries up the Euphrates for the kings of the east to cross. Though the sores seem to continue, it seems that the other plagues are like the plagues in Egypt in that one plague must end before the

other begins or there would not be water to dry up. This adds to the anguish for just when you think it is over something else strikes.

The unholy trio speak such lies and delusions (unclean spirits) that the kings of the whole world gather to fight God. It is hard to fathom how people could think that after those plagues they could fight the Creator. God will allow them to gather against Him in the Valley of Megiddo (19:19<sup>xxx</sup>).

I can imagine all these plagues will be blamed on Christians' obstruction of doing something to control climate change. While ignoring that the driver of climate is the ocean currents and seeing the computer models fail repeatedly and that scientists admit fudging the data, and even predicting that almost nothing can be done to really curb CO2 emissions, anyone who does not embrace the existential climate disaster is called a climate denier, a flat-earther, ignorant, even destructive. So of course, the plagues will all be blamed on Christians' and their God.

*<sup>15</sup> ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") <sup>16</sup> And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.* Revelation 16:15,16 Then the voice of Jesus breaks into the vision. He reminds them of some of the things He said before. He comes like a thief (3:2,3<sup>xxx</sup>; Matthew 24:42<sup>xxxii</sup>), meaning unexpectedly. Blessed are the ones who are clothed and ready (3:18<sup>xxxiii</sup>). Paul tells us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and not gratify the sinful nature (Romans 13:14<sup>xxxiv</sup>). He is our wedding garment (Matthew 22:11-14<sup>xxxv</sup>).

Who is Jesus talking to in this verse? Are there saints still on the earth protected from God's wrath as Goshen was protected from the plagues? Or are these the few who had not received the mark who were converted during this time? Another idea is that these are Jews who will refuse the mark and finally come to faith in Jesus (Zechariah 13:1<sup>xxxvi</sup>).

We may think that these punishments are harsh, but we can see in the response that those being punished are truly un-redeemable. After receiving abundant blessings from God, life, sustenance, natural pleasures, and the offer of the free gift of salvation paid for by the death of His own Son, all they can do is curse God and gather to war against Him. They gather in the Valley of Megiddo, a great plain where many battles have taken place. Currently it is filled with agricultural fields. We will read about that battle in chapter 19.

It is as if God gives them the opportunity to give it their best shot by drying up the Euphrates so they can all gather to futilely declare they would kill God and take His place. But imagine if they succeeded. They would cease to exist, for Jesus holds all things together (Hebrews 1:3<sup>xxxvii</sup>) And if they still existed, they would kill one another to see who gets to be the new god.

**We will be standing with the Lamb of God, or we will join the forces against Him.** We are wise or foolish, humble or proud. There is no in between. How easily we fall for lies fed to us by leaders and how wrong they can be even when well-intended. We must know the Word and walk in the Spirit to keep from being deceived.

*<sup>17</sup> The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" <sup>18</sup> And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. <sup>19</sup> The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make*

*her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.* <sup>20</sup> *And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.* <sup>21</sup> *And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.* Revelation 16:17-21 *The identification of “Babylon the great” with “the cities of the nations” points to this being the destruction of the wicked world system that opposes God and the gospel.*<sup>xxviii</sup> The final bowl is poured out and the reign of mankind comes to an end. This will complete God's wrath on the unrepentant on the earth. A lightning storm like we have never witnessed with its accompanying thunder. Also, there is the greatest earthquake ever witnessed. It divides Babylon/Jerusalem? into three sections, the cities of the nations are shaken so badly they cease to exist (Zephaniah 1:17<sup>xxix</sup>; 2:1,2<sup>xl</sup>; 3:6<sup>xli</sup>). Islands are washed away in great tsunamis. Mountains are leveled in the shaking. I cannot imagine how anyone could survive. If that was not enough, 100 pound hailstones hammer the earth. This is the cup of God's wrath promised in 14:9,10<sup>xlii</sup>. It is the harvest of the grapes being crushed in the wine press that we read about in 14:17-20<sup>xliii</sup>.

Finally, those who survive bow their knee... but not yet. In fact, the survivors again utter their curses toward God. This is why I say there will be no one in hell who would ever surrender their life to Jesus. All they can do is curse God and hope there is no such thing as hell.

It seems the seventh bowl follows Armageddon. The point is that rebellious man refuses God's grace, will not be turned at His discipline, curses Him for all He does to save them, and they will receive what they deserve. Every day we decide which side we will be on. The world's propaganda is so enticing. Its promises seem to offer happiness and fulfillment. We are bombarded daily with its advertisements, entertainment, so-called knowledge, and testimonies of how wonderful it is to live for this life. **Revelation more than any other book of the Bible pulls off the mask and shows us what is really happening. It is a war over the souls of mankind.** Satan desperately wants you to join him in his temporal pleasure so that you will side with him against God. Jesus graciously offers salvation and sanctification and the power of His Holy Spirit to resist the world and lay down our lives for Him and for others so that we might be His eternal bride. Let the truth of Revelation open our eyes to the results of our choices.

Questions:

- 1 What did Jesus say about this time in history?
- 2 How have the previous chapters led up to this point?
- 3 Why do holiness and wrath go together?
- 4 Compare with the flood and the exodus.
- 5 Discuss the effects of the first bowl.
- 6 Discuss the effects of bowl 2 and 3.
- 7 Who is speaking in verse 7 and why?
- 8 Review plagues 4, 5, and 6.
- 9 What shows us these people are unredeemable?
- 10 Consider the finality of the seventh bowl!

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**i 2 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

**ii Revelation 11:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

**iii Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

**iv Revelation 13:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, <sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

**v Revelation 13:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

**vi Philippians 1:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**vii Genesis 6:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**viii Exodus 14:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

**ix Romans 2:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

**x Malachi 3:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

**xi Ezekiel 18:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

**xii Genesis 2:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

**xiii John 14:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**xiv Matthew 20:28 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**xv Matthew 16:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**xvi Mark 9:43-44 (KJV)**

<sup>43</sup> And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: <sup>44</sup> Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

**xvii Exodus 9:9-11 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth *with* blains upon man, and upon beast. <sup>11</sup> And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.

**xviii Hosea 2:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.

**xix Ezekiel 16:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore.

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**xx Revelation 8:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

**xxi Exodus 7:17-18 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD, "By this you shall know that I am the LORD: behold, with the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water that is in the Nile, and it shall turn into blood. <sup>18</sup> The fish in the Nile shall die, and the Nile will stink, and the Egyptians will grow weary of drinking water from the Nile.'"

**xxii Revelation 13:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

**xxiii Revelation 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

**xxiv Proverbs 22:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail.

**xxv Revelation 6:9-10 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. <sup>10</sup> They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

**xxvi Matthew 25:41 (ESV)**

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the.

**xxvii Exodus 9:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

**xxviii Philippians 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**xxix Exodus 10:21-22 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, a darkness to be felt." <sup>22</sup> So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was pitch darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

**xxx Revelation 19:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

**xxxi Revelation 3:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

**xxxii Matthew 24:42 (ESV)**

<sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

**xxxiii Revelation 3:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

**xxxiv Romans 13:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**xxxv Matthew 22:11-14 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. <sup>12</sup> And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen."

**xxxvi Zechariah 13:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> "On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

**xxxvii Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,



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<sup>xxxviii</sup> James M. Hamilton Jr., *Preaching the Word: Revelation—The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, ed. R. Kent Hughes (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 321

<sup>xxxix</sup> **Zephaniah 1:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

<sup>xl</sup> **Zephaniah 2:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,

<sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect —before the day passes away like chaff— before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD.

<sup>xli</sup> **Zephaniah 3:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> “I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant.

<sup>xlii</sup> **Revelation 14:9-10 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

<sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

<sup>xliii</sup> **Revelation 14:17-20 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

<sup>18</sup> And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” <sup>19</sup> So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. <sup>20</sup> And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.