

**What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. Last week I completed the study of Revelation Chapter 14. When time expired we were about to begin a study of Revelation Chapter 15.
2. Before we continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Now let's see what we can learn from chapter fifteen of the Book of the Revelation. The rather short chapter describes another scene in heaven and introduces the reader to the seven bowl judgments. It has been translated:

**KJV**

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Rev 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Rev 15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

Rev 15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

**NIV**

Rev 15:1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

Rev 15:2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God.

Rev 15:3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb:  
"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways,  
King of the ages.

Rev 15:4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are  
holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been  
revealed."

Rev 15:5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the  
Testimony, was opened.

Rev 15:6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were  
dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

Rev 15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden  
bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his  
power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels  
were completed.

1. Chapter fifteen and chapter sixteen go together because they describe two aspects of  
the same set of events - the seven final judgments upon planet earth.

2. Revelation chapter fifteen, as earlier noted, is the shortest chapter in the Book of The  
Revelation but it is by no means the least important.

3. It reveals a joyous yet solemn scene in heaven as preparation is made for the final,  
most dreadful judgments of the entire tribulation.

4. As we have noted one judgment after another has gotten successively more severe,  
and now God reveals to John the final sign of a coming punishment on a Christ rejecting  
world.

5. Tim LaHaye has written of this chapter: "... it reveals three things.

(1) it concludes the events revealed in chapters 10-15 concerning visions in heaven or  
conditions on the earth to the middle of the Tribulation period.

(2) it serves as an introduction to the Great Tribulation, the latter half of the Tribulation  
described in chapter 16, when the seven angels pour out the bowls of God's wrath.

(3) it reveals important truths concerning the wrath of God."

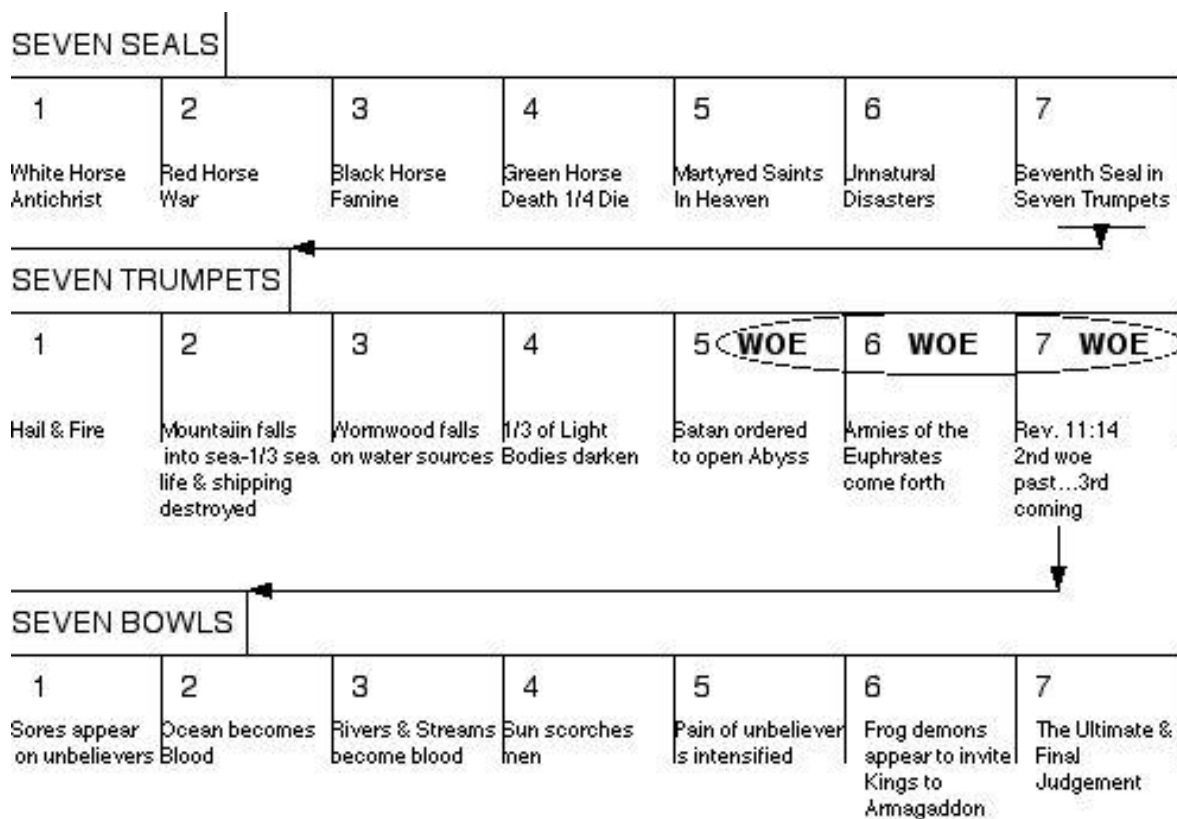
6. As you can see Mr. LaHaye assumes the seals and the trumpets occur in the first half  
of the Tribulation. This may or may not be accurate.

7. The seven bowls are poured out in the Great Tribulation, the last or seventh taking  
place near the Second Advent of Christ.

8. We will study the bowl judgments in chapter sixteen but I think it might help at this  
point to list the seven bowls judgments:

- (1) sores appear on the bodies of all unbelievers
- (2) the ocean becomes blood
- (3) rivers and streams become blood
- (4) the heat from the sun intensifies burning the skin of unbelievers
- (5) the pain of unbelievers intensifies as darkness pervades
- (6) the Euphrates dries up and a vast armada of orientals appear
- (7) unprecedented earthquakes appear destroying city after city

9. Let's again review our chart of the seals, the trumpets and the bowl judgments:



10. The seals are in the main an overview of what will occur in the Tribulation; beginning with the appearance of the Antichrist and ending with destruction of planet earth.

10.1 It is difficult to place some of the seals and unless the Scriptures make clear when the event or events occur, you should only assume such will occur during the tribulation.

10.2 The Trumpets are even more difficult to place in "a proper chronological order" for many would seem to occur in part in the first half and part in the second half; and then others are clearly events which occur just before the Second Advent.

10.3 Again, unless the Scriptures make clear when the event or events occur, you should only assume such will occur sometime during the Tribulation.

11. As Tim LaHaye has written: "In chapter fifteen we are about to see a tale of unprecedented judgment from a righteous God."

Let's review the *Doctrine of Judgments*:

### Introduction

1. The Scriptures anticipate a coming judgment by God on all men. Such was the expectation of the Psalmist as he wrote Psa 96:13.

Psa 96:11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

Psa 96:12 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

Psa 96:13 they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

2. Paul confirms the same in Acts 17:31. All judgment has been committed to Christ Jesus. (Joh 5:22-24)

Acts 17:31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Joh 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

### The Subject of Judgment

1. The subject of judgment is a large one and encompasses several specific actions on the part of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- There is a judgment of the cross

Joh 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,  
Rom 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Gal 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 9:26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Heb 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- The judgment of the believer in chastening

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

Heb 12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Heb 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Heb 12:8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Heb 12:9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Heb 12:10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

- The judgment of the believer's production at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Rom 14:10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

1Co 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

1Co 3:13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

1Co 3:14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

1Co 3:15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

The self-judgment by the believer

1Co 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1Jo 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psa 32:3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.

Psa 32:4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

2. With the exception of the judgment at the Bema, which has been thoroughly taught in our *Doctrine of the Bema*, all of the above judgments are non-eschatological judgments.

3. It will behoove us to consider the four judgments which have eschatological implications under a single heading.

## Eschatological Judgments

- The judgment of the nation Israel

Eze 20:37 I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

Eze 20:38 I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people -- everyone whose name is found written in the book -- will be delivered.

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

- The judgment of the nations

Mat 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

Mat 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Mat 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Mat 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

Mat 25:36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Mat 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

Mat 25:38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

Mat 25:39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

Mat 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Mat 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Mat 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

Mat 25:44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

Mat 25:45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Mat 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Isa 34:1 Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it!

Isa 34:2 The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter.

Joe 3:11 Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD!

Joe 3:12 "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

Joe 3:13 Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow -- so great is their wickedness!"

Joe 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joe 3:15 The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

Joe 3:16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

- The judgment on the fallen angels

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home -- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.



Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison  
Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth -- Gog and Magog -- to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Rev 20:9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- The judgment of all unbelievers at the Great White Throne

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Rev 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

4. The eschatological judgments are to determine who will go into the Millennium with King Jesus and who will be placed in Sheol.

5. Clearly, this doctrine is an overview of the subject, therefore, it should be studied in conjunction with the *Doctrine of Sheol* and the *Doctrine of the Bema*.

6. Chapter fifteen and chapter sixteen go together because they describe two aspects of the same set of events - the seven final judgments upon planet earth.

7. Revelation chapter fifteen, as I noted last week, is the shortest chapter in the Book of The Revelation but it is by no means the least important.

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10. Let's again review the seals and the trumpets by way of a narrative.

### The Seals

1. The first seal is a picture of the Antichrist who comes on the scene of history immediately after the Rapture – The White Horse.

2. The second seal is a picture of the great war which begins just before the Second Advent - The Red Horse.

3. The third seal is a picture of the great famine occurring as a result of that war - The Black Horse.

4. The fourth seal is a picture of the death of many; particularly emphasized are the deaths of the unbelievers, this because there is also a picture of hades; We find here that a fourth part of the earth's population is destroyed - The Green Horse.

5. The fifth seal speaks of the many saints martyred in the Tribulation; they are seen in heaven in white robes depicting their positional sanctification - the martyrs under the altar.

6. The sixth seal is a general description of several unusual disasters like earthquakes, sun turning black, moon becoming blood etc.; this sixth seal would certainly seem to occur at the Second Advent – the unnatural disasters.

7. The seventh seal encompasses the seven trumpets; the seven angels with the seven trumpets are seen as part of the seventh seal beginning in chapter eight.

Rev 8:3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne.

Rev 8:4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

Rev 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

Rev 8:6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.

End Lesson Taught 8-23-2017

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