

Revelation 16 – The Vials

I. The First Four Vials – Verses 1-9.

A. Their General Significance.

1. The great voice:
 - a. What does it say?
 - b. What authority does it have?
2. How should we understand these four vials – are they real judgments and plagues on the creation, or are they more symbolic?
 - a. Compare these with the first four trumpets in Rev. 8:6-13.
 - b. Is the number four significant?

B. The Meaning of Each.

1. The first vial:
 - a. Where is it poured?
 - b. What effect does it have?
 - c. Are the elect affected by it? Why do you think that is? (Compare with the plagues in Egypt.)
2. The second vial:
 - a. Where is it poured?
 - b. What is the effect?
 - c. What effects might this have on the daily life of man living on earth at this time?
3. The third vial:
 - a. Where is this poured?
 - b. The effect?
 - c. How would this affect daily life?
 - d. The angel of the waters speaks of a just reward: how is it so?
 - e. Notice the response in vs. 7. (See Rev. 6:9-11; 8:3-5)
4. The fourth vial:
 - a. Poured out where?
 - b. Its effect?

C. Their Combined Effect.

1. How does the destruction compare with that of the seals? Trumpets?
2. How would these affect the Antichristian kingdom?
3. What effect do these fearful plagues have on men's hearts?

II. Revelation 16:10-21 – The Battle of Armageddon

A. What Leads to this Battle.

1. How do the first four vials prepare the way for this great battle?
2. The fifth vial:
 - a. Where is it poured? What is the symbolism of a seat (throne)?
 - b. What effect does this have?
 - c. The result:
 - 1) What is the meaning of the darkness? Is it literal or symbolic?
 - 2) The effect on men?
 - d. How does this make way for the battle?

B. The Gathering of the Nations (The Sixth Vial).

1. Where is the sixth vial poured?
 - a. The effect: Does this literally happen?
 - b. The Euphrates:
 - 1) Try to find it on a map. What does it divide? (Compare Gen. 15; 18; Deut. 1; 7; I Chr. 18:3)
 - 2) Thus what does it separate today?
2. The unclean spirits:
 - a. How are they described? Why?
 - b. Where do they come from? Is there any significance to the fact that they come out of mouths?
 - c. What is their eventual effect?
3. The nations are gathered at Armageddon.
 - a. The literal meaning of Armageddon is Mt. Megiddo.
 - 1) Try to find it on a map of Israel.
 - 2) What happened there? (See Judges 5:19ff.)
 - 3) Why is this referred to? Do you think the final battle will really be fought there? What (in light of the victory in Judges 5) is the idea of this place?

C. The Scene of the Battle (The last vial poured out.)

1. Where is the seventh vial poured? Why?
2. The great voice:
 - a. From where?
 - b. Whose voice?
 - c. "It is done." What is finished?
3. Then what happens? (Compare Ezek. 38:1-6; 8-12; and 18-23.)
 - a. What is Babylon?
 - b. On whom did the hail stones fall? How heavy is a talent?
 - c. How close is this to the end and to Christ's return?