

The Book Of Revelation: Lesson 11

## The Seven Last Plagues

**Memory Text:** “ ‘Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested’ ” (Revelation 15:4).

This subject has got to be one of the most serious subjects in the entire Bible. So important that God devotes an entire chapter in His last day book to a study on it. We see in this study that God indeed draws lines. Put another way, there is coming a time when God’s mercy and grace will no longer be on offer to those who remain unrepentant. One day, according to the Word of God, His wrath will be poured out, without any mercy mingled with it.

Don’t be surprised by that. We’ve already seen it before. In the time of Noah, God said that He even repented that He had made man. The earth was so wicked that He decided to cleanse it with a flood of water. We saw it in microcosm at the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. These cities were so prodigiously wicked that God said enough is enough. They filled up their cup as it were. They had crossed the line. There was no going back, and God said, “That’s it,” and He poured out fire and brimstone and the places were destroyed. Now again at the end of time, according to God’s Word, we see His wrath manifested once more.

Keep this mind. Even though the Bible talks about serious things, we don’t study them so we can be pessimistic, negative, and long-faced. We study them so we can be educated, encouraged, and enlightened, so we can know God’s plans, and know Him personally. That way we can face the future with confidence.

### **What Armageddon Isn’t**

You hear a lot about Armageddon, but not that much about the seven last plagues. That’s interesting because Armageddon comes within the context of the seven last plagues. The devil knows that if he can get the world sidetracked and get our attention off exactly where it ought to be we’ll miss the issues and won’t be ready for His coming.

We want to investigate this subject and find out what the battle of Armageddon is: when it will be fought; where it will be fought, who will be alive on the earth at the time of the battle of Armageddon. Politicians routinely refer to, or have referred to Armageddon. During the Cold War, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said several times that he felt like we were standing on the very edge of Armageddon.

But Armageddon isn’t going to take place tomorrow because the Bible says that there are other things that have got to take place before Armageddon can.

**Revelation 14:6-9.** We see in Rev. 14 God's great message of mercy going to a dying world. Those who receive the mark of the beast will drink the wrath of God.

**Revelation 15:1:** "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete."

Armageddon comes in the context of the seven last plagues. The seven last plagues are visited upon people who receive the mark of the beast. And even though we know what the mark or the authority of the beast is, we know that it hasn't come as a test issue to planet earth yet. Therefore, the seven last plagues won't come for a while yet, and if they won't come for a while then Armageddon won't either.

I would be loath to even hazard a guess as to how long we've got. We know enough to be able to say that Jesus is coming soon. Certain signs have got to be fulfilled first, and they are being fulfilled rapidly, but we're not there yet.

### **Why Seven Last Plagues?**

We can learn something about the nature of these plagues by considering that they are the seven *last* plagues. Where do think John got this plague imagery from? Firstly, God showed Him plagues are going to come. He chose to call them the seven last plagues because plagues have fallen before in the history of this earth. Back in ancient Egypt. Now there weren't seven plagues then, there were how many? There were ten plagues. The first three plagues affected God's people and His enemies, but the seven remaining plagues only affected the enemies of God.

What happened back then? God's people were captive. They were being forced to compromise their faith. They were being prevented from worshipping God in Spirit and in truth. And they were being exposed to, even inculcated in the principles of false worship. God's desire was to deliver His people, so He sent a deliverer.

When Pharaoh was not willing to let the Israelites go, God visited judgments upon them—the first three plagues upon everybody, then the seven last plagues just upon Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Finally after the seventh of the seven last plagues Pharaoh said, "You can go!" And out they went; through the Red Sea, and on to the Promised Land. That was a scale model of what's going to happen down here at the close of time (see 1 Cor. 10:11). So if you want to know about the end go back to the history of God's people and it will teach you much.

In a similar vein, finally down here at the close of time, a heathen ruler (the devil), being represented by the antichrist of Bible prophecy, will be forcing and enforcing false worship upon the inhabitants of planet earth. Finally God says, "You are going to let My people go. I'm going to get them out of there," and He visits the enemies of God with seven final, or last plagues.

After the seventh of the seven last plagues, it's not the Red Sea that's going to open up, it's the sky that splits wide open, and Jesus will be revealed, riding down the

great corridor of space, with all of the angels in glory, coming to the earth to gather up His people and take them on into heaven with Him. What happened at the Red Sea is a scale model of what will happen on planet earth down at the close of time.

### What Are The Plagues?

There's a lot to learn as we study the seven last plagues, and we'll find that they're a whole lot more than about bloody water, blisters, and boils.

#### Plague #1 – Grievous Sores

**Revelation 16:1, 2.** In Rev. 13:15 it is said that those who refuse to take the MOB will receive physical punishment. The idea being that if you do take the MOB you will avoid physical punishment. And it is proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that those pushing the MOB are not able to deliver the physical protection they had promised.

You see there are many people who would receive the MOB in the last days because they are afraid to suffer for Jesus sake. They are not confident that Jesus is able to stand with them and deliver them down at the close of time. So they choose to stand on the easy side. The first of the seven last plagues makes clear that all our protection in is Jesus Christ. We could put it this way: **all our physical security is in Jesus.**

The Word of God says, "For in Him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28a). Our physical circumstances are bound up in and our protection is in Jesus Christ. If we trust Him with our bodies today, we can trust Him with them then.

#### Plague #2 – Seas & Fountains Turn To Blood

**Revelation 16:3.** The sea becomes like the blood of a dead man. What do you think will happen to the world then? It will be especially difficult to export oil from one side of the world to the other. Automobiles, textiles, paper, or anything you can think of, the economy of the world is going to grind to a halt.

And this is interesting, cause it is said that if you don't take the MOB you won't be able to buy and sell, or in other words, if you do take the MOB you will be able to buy and sell. And what the second of the seven last plagues teaches us is that those promising financial protection are unable to give it, and we ought to get use to the idea that all of **our financial security is in Jesus Christ.**

Economic ruin is coming to planet earth (see Rev. 18:8, 9, 11). There will be those who take the MOB because they are fearful that if they don't they won't be able to buy and sell. "How will I provide for my family? How can I pay the rent, or the mortgage? How will we keep the heat on during the winter? How on the earth will we get by?" Ladies and gentlemen, weak character will always go with the crowd in a time of crisis. You can learn to trust Jesus now to the extent that you will believe that He will provide for you then.

It says in the Word of God that: “He will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure” (Isa. 33:16). Our financial security is in Jesus. He pledges to take care of you. God has promised to honor those who honor Him. And we honor God when we put Him first in all of our financial decisions.

### **Plague #3 – Rivers Turn To Blood**

**Revelation 16:4.** In Rev. 13 it is said that if you don’t take the MOB you’ll be put to death, or put another way, if you do take the MOB you’ll be able to live. It will be said that if you are a non-conformist your blood will be shed. And Jesus, to satisfy their blood thirstiness says, “If it’s blood you want, then it’s blood you’re going to get,” and He gives them blood to drink (vv. 5, 6).

Here is something we can know my friend: **all my life is in Jesus Christ.** The Bible tells us:

**Psalm 91:8-11:** “Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.” You can be sure. Just as God’s people were protected during the seven last plagues in Egypt, God is going to protect His saints down here at the close of time when the seven last plagues fall.

We read in the Bible that one day very soon church and state are going to unite once again. And my friend, if you look at what’s happening in this country, you see movements taking place, gathering steam and strength that have got to convince you that we are heading in that direction. Church and state will unite again, and the MOB will be enforced by law. It will be said that this will be the penicillin for all of societies ills, and that this will be the cure for all of the world’s problems. Instead of things getting better, they’re going to get a whole lot worse.

What’s it going to take to have faith enough to stand for Jesus in that day? The answer’s really simple. All it takes to stand for Jesus then is to have faith to stand for Jesus now. Don’t go borrowing tomorrow’s trouble, and worrying about tomorrow today. Instead, stand for Jesus now while you have the opportunity to do so, and know He will develop faith in you that will enable you to stand for Him down here at the close of time.

### **Plague #4 – Men Scorched By Sun**

**Revelation 16:8, 9.** Have you ever heard it said that folks who don’t get it right with Jesus the first time, will get a second chance later on? Well here are people who are lost, and they’ve got to know they’re lost, and instead of falling on their faces and apologizing to God for their stubbornness and recalcitrance, they shake their fist in God’s face and they blaspheme Him because of what He’s allowing to take place. Friend, if we’re not ready when the Lord says enough is enough, there’s

not enough time in eternity to allow us to get ready for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

When the Lord says that's it there won't be any chances given later on (Rev. 22:1). Thank God that He gave us a chance today to know Jesus and respond to His Word, what do you say? Thank God He speaks and says, "You can know Me, and be joined to Me, and you can have eternal life through faith in My Son Jesus Christ."

The Bible says that God's going to turn up the heat. At the time He does that the day of the sun is being enforced by law

### **Plague #5 - Darkness**

**Revelation 16:10, 11.** People had been looking to the beast for light, and now they understand that instead of light there's only darkness. This is the day that the Amos 8:11 is talking about, but it will be too late then. People are saying, "We got it wrong. We followed these traditions, we followed these teachings, and instead of them leading us toward heaven they've led us to a whole heap of trouble, and we're suffering here under the wrath of God. This is not full of light. This instead is full of darkness."

But it's too late. It's famine time now. Even if you could find yourself a Bible the Lord has shut the door, and He says, "I've already decided. I'm coming whether you're ready or not. And if you're not going to be ready now, you're not going to be ready ever." Friend, then it will be too late to turn.

Today, it's not too late to embrace the lovely Jesus. Today it's not too late to gaze at His nail scared hands and His nail pierced feet. Today, it's not too late to learn about grace and mercy, and how to have faith in God's goodness and His love towards you. Today it is not too late to receive what Jesus did for you at Calvary. Today it is not too late to say, "God take my heart as sinful as it is. Just take it and make it your own." Today it's not too late, but one day it will way too late, but it's not now.

### **Plague #6 - Armageddon**

**Revelation 16:12-15a.** There are those who are suggesting that when Jesus comes as a thief, He gathers all His people and gets them out of here before the trouble comes. See what the Bible says here? Six plagues have fallen and the Lord Jesus hasn't come yet. Six plagues have fallen and He says, "I come as a thief." Six plagues have fallen and Jesus hasn't returned to take anybody back to heaven. He's on His way, but He hasn't arrived yet. He's almost here. He's coming but six plagues and then He says He's coming

### **Local-Literal, Worldwide-Spiritual**

**Revelation 16:15b-16.** We're not going to understand Armageddon without referring to the OT scriptures upon which the book of Revelation is based. When we go back to the OT scriptures you make some interesting discoveries. In the OT God would speak about Israel, a literal place in a local area. Israel was that place on the

edge of the Mediterranean Sea. When He spoke of Israel it was literal and it was local.

But down here in the close of time when God is writing about these things in the book of Revelation, He's not dealing literally and locally now. He's dealing spiritually and worldwide. And if that's a new concept to you, let me show you the weight of evidence that helps us see that this is so.

In Jer. 50:33, 34 Israel is being persecuted by ancient Babylon. In Rev. 17:6 the church is being persecuted by symbolic Babylon. In Dan. 3:13 Israel is forced to worship an image. In Rev. 13:15 all are forced to worship the image of the beast. In Dan. 4:30 literal Babylon is called "great." In Rev. 17:5 symbolic Babylon is called great. You see how that works?

There's more. In Jer. 51:13, 14 Babylon sat upon many waters. In Rev. 17:1 symbolic Babylon likewise sits upon many waters. Isa. 44:27, 28 God dried the river Euphrates, literally. Rev. 16:12 again the Euphrates is dried up. You discover that today spiritually. In Jer. 51:6-8 Israel is told to flee fallen Babylon. Rev. 18:4 spiritual Israel is called out of spiritual Babylon. Isa. 41:2, 25 Israel is rescued from the east. Rev. 16:12, again the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Now let's understand what this means, the drying of the river Euphrates, because it happened before. God's people were held captive in Babylon. God raised up a man named Cyrus who would be the deliverer of God's people. He would overthrow the power of Babylon and Babylon would fall, setting the stage for God's people to go home.

### **Euphrates & The Kings Of The East**

Now what happened was this. Cyrus came down to Babylon, and Babylon was virtually impregnable. The city had tremendously high, thick walls surrounding it, so you couldn't just huff and puff and blow the walls down, you had to do something a little bit different.

Here's what they did. The river Euphrates flowed right through the middle of the city and they diverted the river. And when they diverted the river they marched right into the city of Babylon on the dry riverbed. The river Euphrates was dried up preparing the way for the kings of the east – the deliverers that came from the east.

So how do we apply this in the last days? Again, Babylon sits upon many waters. That which makes Babylon powerful is the water she sits on, and in prophecy water represents multitudes of what? People. Without all those people saying, "Yes, " to Babylon she has no power. So now when people say, "This is darkness and not light," Babylon's support base dries up.

This is preparing the way for the kings of the east. Not the armies of Japan and China. The Bible says Christ is going to come like that lightning, shining out of the

east says (Matt. 24:27). This takes place to prepare the way for Jesus and the angels of heaven to come back.

Just as water supported ancient Babylon, all those people support modern, spiritual Babylon. Instead of solving all of the worlds' problems when church and state united, things got a whole lot worse in a hurry. Support dries up. And just as Pharaoh's magicians worked miracles to convince Pharaoh that the gods were with him, Satan plays his master card and works miracles down in the close of time.

**Revelation 16:13, 14a.** This sets everyone up to be swept away in Armageddon. We already know that miracles of a spiritualistic nature will be worked down here at the close of time. If you don't know that the "dead know not anything," then you are sitting duck to be swept away by some of the most powerful deceptions ever to come upon planet earth. The devil will work miracles. Maybe they will say, "Miracles are worked and maybe the gods are with us after all. Maybe God is truly on our side." And all that happens is that they are gathered to the battle of Armageddon.

### **What Is Armageddon?**

Now one of the popular scenarios is that Armageddon is a battle involving Arabs, oil, and some sand in the Middle East. But we stop and think about that, that has nothing to do with your salvation. The same people that teach you can be saved or lost over a tattoo or a chip in your hand or forehead (there's nothing salvational about that) will tell you that Armageddon's all about folk fighting about oil in the Middle East. What does that have to do with you relationship with Jesus Christ? Zero!

Revelation's far more spiritual a book than that. Everything about this last day battle has to do with your relationship with Jesus. And we find that Armageddon involves the people of God. Let me show you that the devil is seeking to sweep away God's people down in the close of time, and set them up for eternal ruination.

**Revelation 16:16.** I'd like to share this idea with you. "Armageddon" is taken from the words "Har" "Moed". "Har" means mountain, and "Moed" means place of congregation. So whereas people say that Armageddon is going to be in the valley of Megiddo, Armageddon doesn't mean valley of anything. "Har" means mountain.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Bible tells us that Armageddon represents something that means "mountain of congregation." The devil is seeking to draw the inhabitants of planet earth to the mountain of congregation, that finally they would be ruined forever, that finally they would yield their allegiance to him, and be lost and not saved. What is this mountain of congregation all about?

Remember when Lucifer rebelled in heaven and what he said he wanted?

**Isaiah 14:13-14:** “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”

The mountain of congregation is a phrase given to this place where the devil wants to set himself up to receive the worship of the world. And finally miracles are worked, finally threats are made, “You will follow me, and if you don’t I’ll coerce you. If you don’t I’ll threaten you.” Everything the devil is doing is seeking to lead you away from Jesus and to the place where you would yield your worship to him alone.

Armageddon, my friend, is a spiritual battle. Nothing to do with shots being fired in the Middle East at all. Satan wants to assume the place of God, and in order to do that he has had to build his appeal down through the millennia around worship. Through the ages he has woven a masterfully deceptive web of truth and error. Now in the end time, the devil wants to work through the beast to enforce his mark of loyalty upon everybody living here on planet earth.

So Armageddon represents Satan’s last-ditch effort, final attempt to draw the world into his web of spiritual destruction. It’s the final phase of the final battle for the eternal destinies of everybody on planet earth. And you’re involved. It’s a spiritual battle. He works one last time to get the worship that belongs only to God. And if you won’t give it willingly he’ll seek it by force. And if it still won’t come then he will threaten to destroy anybody who will not yield.

### **Jesus & His Army**

Now if we left it there, this would nearly be overwhelming. Friend, the Bible offers hope. God has an answer to all of this. Watch Him do it in **Revelation 19:11-16**. It talks about the battle of Armageddon being finished and being won by Christ Jesus the Lord. Army’s, and horses, and weaponry – all images of a battle, of war. You see Jesus hasn’t forgotten about you, and He won’t forget about you. Jesus is going to come and deliver His people. Amen? Thank God Jesus is on His way. Christ is coming back soon!

### **Plague #7 – Earthquake & Hail**

Now before He comes back, there’s a seventh plague. **Revelation 16:17, 18, 20, 21**. The weight of that is about 70 pounds. And these hail stones hurtle from down out of the sky, and you can imagine what 70 pound hail stones are going to do. Every last monument that man has erected to his own glory will be destroyed and swept away.

In the last days you’re going to be left with nothing, but Jesus. And if you don’t have Jesus you’ll know what it means to have nothing. If you have Jesus in that day, you’ll be confident you have everything because Jesus will be all that you need. Thank God for Jesus Christ. Thank God that Jesus is coming again. Thank God that we’re on the winning team in the battle of Armageddon when we are teamed up with Jesus.