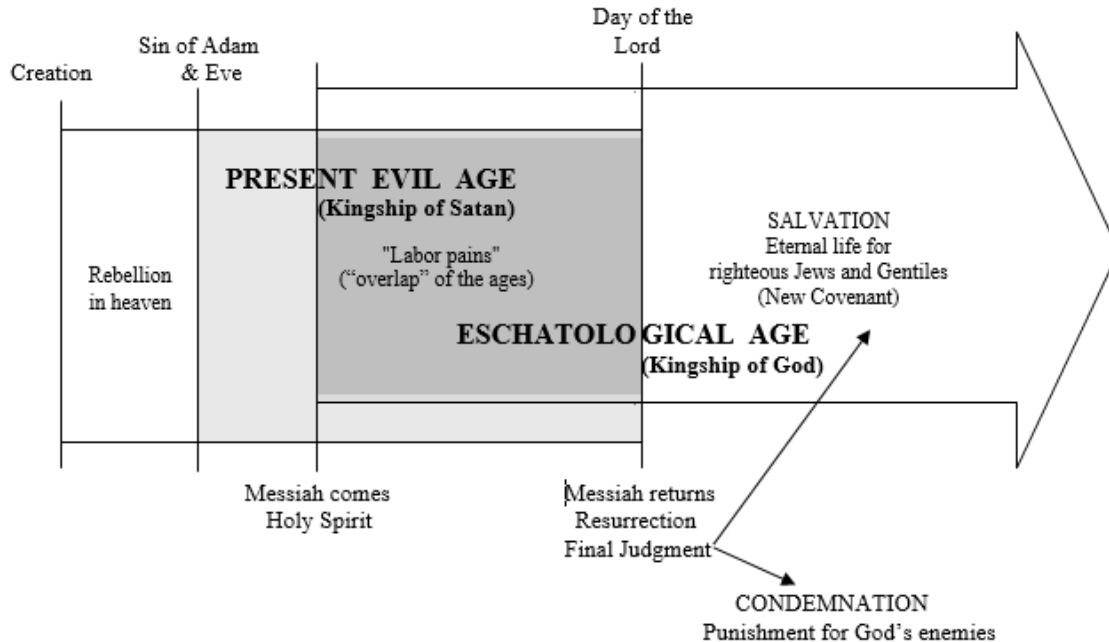


## APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

### Session 19: Visions of Salvation and Destruction (Revelation 14-16)

#### STRUCTURE OF JOHN'S THIRD VISION OF THE FUTURE (Rev. 12:1-22:6)



#### A. The “Labor Pains” (Revelation 12-13):

1. Satan (the dragon) makes war against Christ (the male child) and is defeated (Revelation 12)
2. Satan (the dragon) makes war against Christians (the rest of the woman's offspring) through:
  - a. Political powers (the beast from the sea) (Revelation 13:1-10)
  - b. Religious powers supporting the political (the beast from the land) (Revelation 13:11-18)

#### B. Images of the Final Judgment, which brings the Salvation of God's covenant people and the Destruction of his enemies (Rev 14:1-22:6)

1. Salvation: The song of the redeemed and announcement of the Final Judgment (14:1-13)
2. Destruction: The harvest of the earth and grapes of wrath (14:14-20)
3. Destruction: The seven last plagues or seven bowls of God's wrath (Revelation 15-16)
4. Destruction: The fall of Babylon (17:1-19:4)
5. Salvation: The wedding supper of the Lamb (19:5-10)
6. Destruction: The victorious Christ and great supper of God (19:11-21)
7. Destruction and Salvation: Climax (20:1-22:6)

#### SONG OF REDEEMED & ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL JUDGMENT (Rev. 14:1-13)

- #### A. Verse 7 is key: “The hour of [God's] \_\_\_\_\_ has come.”

B. Revelation 14:1-5 (the Redeemed):

**<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps. <sup>3</sup>And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as firstfruits to God and the Lamb. <sup>5</sup>No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.**

1. 144,000 (compare Revelation 7):
2. "His name written on their foreheads":
3. "They sang a new (*kainos*) song"—compare Revelation 5:9 and 14:3 ("new song"), 2:17 and 3:12 ("new name"), 3:12 and 21:2 ("new Jerusalem), 21:1 ("all things new):
4. "They did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure (*parthenos*)":
5. "They follow the Lamb wherever he goes":
6. "Purchased (*agorazō*) from among men":
7. "No lie was found in their mouths":

C. Revelation 14:6-13 (the Condemned):

1. Revelation 14:6-8:

**<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel (*aiōnios*) to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup>He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."**

**<sup>8</sup>A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."**

- a. "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!"

Compare Isaiah 21:9b: "Babylon has fallen, has fallen!  
All the images of its gods lie shattered on the ground!"

- b. "The maddening wine of her adulteries" (compare Revelation 17:4, 6):

<sup>15</sup>This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. <sup>16</sup>When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them." (Jeremiah 25:15-16; compare Isaiah 51:17, 22; Ezekiel 23:31-34)

2. Revelation 14:9-13 (compare Revelation 13:11-18):

<sup>9</sup>A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup>he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever (compare Genesis 19:24, 28). There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." <sup>12</sup>This calls for patient endurance (*hypomonē*) on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

### **THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH (Revelation 14:14-20)**

<sup>14</sup>I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. <sup>15</sup>Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." <sup>16</sup>So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

<sup>17</sup>Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. <sup>18</sup>Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." <sup>19</sup>The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. <sup>20</sup>They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

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! (Joel 3:13; compare Isaiah 5:1-7; 63:1-6; Jeremiah 2:21; Ezekiel 19:10-14; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; John 15:1-8)

### **THE FINAL JUDGMENT AS SEVEN PLAGUES/BOWLS (Rev. 15:1–16:21)**

<sup>15:1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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 <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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."

<sup>5</sup>After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>16:1</sup>Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." . . .

1. The First Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:2; compare Exodus 9:8-12):

<sup>2</sup>The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.

2. The Second Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:3; compare Exodus 7:14-24; 11:1-12:30):

<sup>3</sup>The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.

3. The Third Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:4-7; compare Exodus 7:14-24):

<sup>4</sup>The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. <sup>5</sup>Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; <sup>6</sup>for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." <sup>7</sup>And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

4. The Fourth Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:8-9; contrast Exodus 10:21-29):

<sup>8</sup>The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. <sup>9</sup>They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

5. The Fifth Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:10-11; contrast Exodus 10:21-29):

<sup>10</sup>The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony <sup>11</sup>and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

6. The Sixth Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:12-14, 16; compare Exodus 8:1-15):

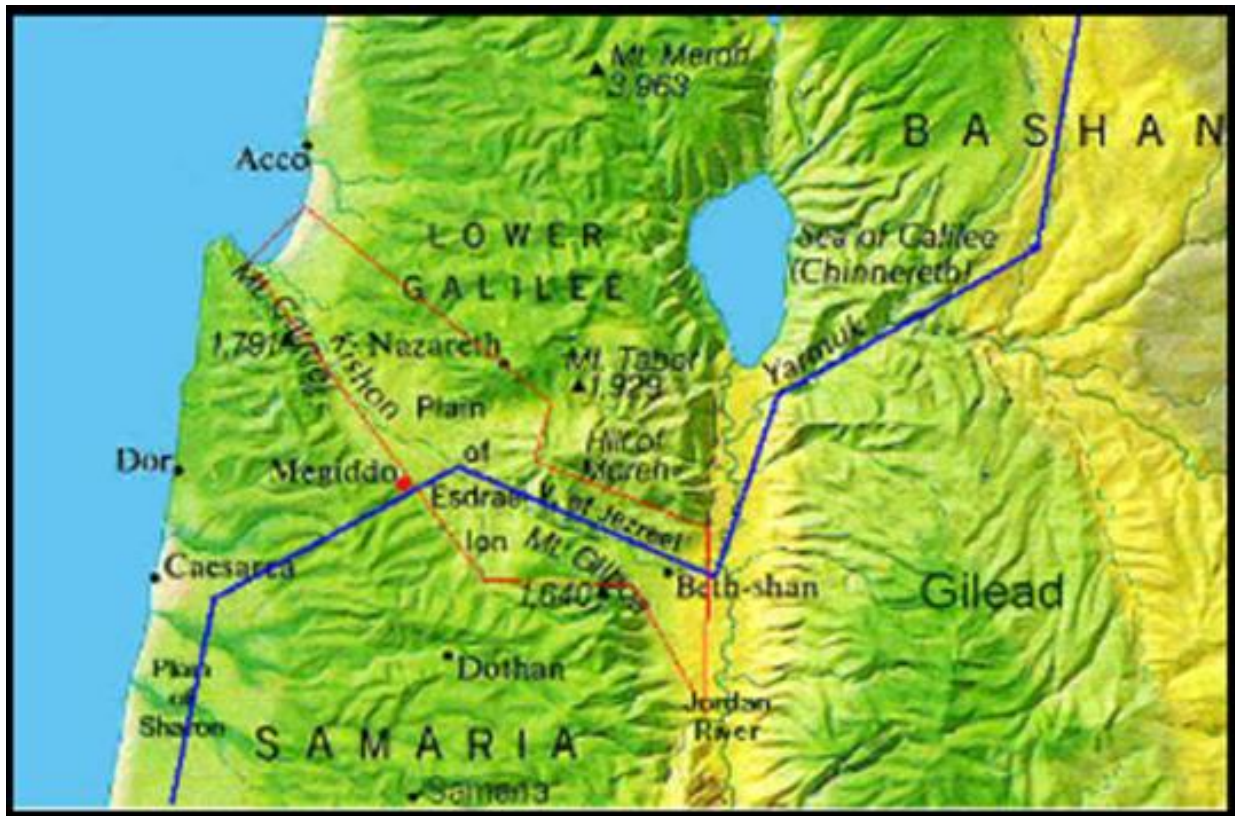
<sup>12</sup>The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. <sup>13</sup>Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup>They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. . . .

<sup>16</sup>Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

- a. “The great day of God Almighty” (v. 14):

Satan gathers his forces for battle to “make war” (compare Revelation 17:2, 12-14), and God gathers His forces to meet them (compare Joshua 3:15-17).

- b. Armageddon (Hebrew *Har-Megiddo*):



“Armageddon” might also refer to Mount \_\_\_\_\_ (see 1 Kings 18)

7. The Interlude (Revelation 16:15; compare Revelation 7:1-17 and 10:1-11:14):

<sup>15</sup>**"Behold, I come like a thief!** (Compare Matthew 24:43 // Luke 12:39; 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 4; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3.) **Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."**

8. The Seventh Bowl of Wrath (Revelation 16:17-21; compare Exodus 9:13-35):

<sup>17</sup>**The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!"** <sup>18</sup>**Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake** (*seismos*—compare Haggai 2:6-7; Hebrews 12:26-29; compare also Revelation 6:12-17; 11:13). **No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake.** <sup>19</sup>**The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath** (compare Revelation 17:1-19:4). <sup>20</sup>**Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.** <sup>21</sup>**From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.**

<sup>6</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: "In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. <sup>7</sup>I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come.... (Haggai 2:6-7)

<sup>26b</sup>[God] has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup>The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things (such as human kingdoms)—so that what cannot be shaken (i.e. the Kingdom of God) may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our "God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:26b-29)

## CONCLUSION (REVELATION 15-16)