Saved To Serve

Pastor Andrew Henriques
www.prophesyagain.com

Revelation 16:
The 7 Last Plagues, Part 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the sixth plague of Revelation 16 and understand how to practically be prepared for these last days.

2. Upon which river will the sixth angel pour out his vial? Revelation 16:12 _____

3. Does this plague literally refer to the Euphrates river? Revelation 17:15; Isaiah 8:7 *Note: It could not be literally referring to that river drying up since during the third plague, the rivers were turned to blood and drying it up would not have much affect on the wicked.*

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4. Which nations do the Euphrates river represent today? Revelation 9:14; see also the quotations and image below.

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"**The four angels here mentioned, that were bound in the great river Euphrates and that were at this time to be loosed**, refer to **the four great sultanies—Bagdad, Damascus, Iconium, and Aleppo—of which at that time the Mohammedan power was composed.** The command to loose these signifies, in short, the letting loose of all the elements of Mohammedanism for the final sweeping away of the last element of the Empire of Rome." {GNT 72.2} (The Great Nations of Today by Alonzo T. Jones)

"**When the sixth angel sounded, a voice was heard, saying, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.** The river Euphrates must here be taken for a symbol of that kingdom of which it was the principal river, which was the Ottoman or Turkish Empire. **The four angels are supposed to mean the four chief Sultans of which that Empire was composed. These were Iconium, Aleppo, Damascus, and Bagdad.** They were loosed so that they should hereafter have not simply the power of tormenting, but of destroying." {TBI 264.2} (The Biblical Institute by Uriah Smith)

5. What does the drying of the Euphrates represent? Exodus 14:22-27; Joshua 4:23; 5:1; 6:1-5, 20; Jeremiah 50:35-40

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"**The sixth angel pours out his vial upon the great river Euphrates. This is a symbol of the Ottoman empire, and the drying up of its waters denotes the utter consumption and overthrow of that power.** And the way seems to be even now preparing for that consummation. Under this plague three unclean spirits go forth from the dragon, beast and false prophet, that is, Paganism, the Papacy, and apostate Protestantism. In this we behold the work of spiritualism which has already made such headway in the world. **Some have even concluded that we are already under this sixth plague because of the decline of the Turkish power, and the work of spiritualism. But before the Euphrates can be entirely consumed, there must be a process of the drying up of its waters, and before the spirits can go out of the mouth of the dragon, beast and false prophet, they must win their way into the hearts of these powers.** We now see the preparatory work going forward: the strength, resources,

influence of the Turkish power are growing less and less, and the spirits of devils are making their way into the high places of the earth. **Under this plague we behold the completion of this work; and it cannot, from present indications be far distant.**" {TBI 230.2}

6. Read Revelation 16:13. Out of whose mouths did the unclean spirits like frogs originate?

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7. Who does the beast power represent? Revelation 13:1-3; John 10:30-33; Mark 2:5-7 _____

8. Who does the false prophet represent? Revelation 19:20; 13:13-15; Deuteronomy 13:1-3

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9. **Note:** The dragon power has a few applications in scripture. Primarily, the dragon represents Satan (Revelation 12:9). The dragon power also represents the nations of the world under the influence of Satan (compare Revelation 12:4-5 with Matthew 2:1-18 and Ezekiel 29:3). However, for this application, the dragon power points to **spiritualism** being used by Satan to unite the nations of the world, apostate Protestants in America, and the Papacy to war against God and His saints. Let us confirm this point.

10. **Note:** What is spiritualism? Here is a definition of spiritualism from the encyclopedia Brittanica:

    Spiritualism, in religion, a movement based on the belief that departed souls can interact with the living. Spiritualists sought to make contact with the dead, usually through the assistance of a medium, a person believed to have the ability to contact spirits directly. Some mediums worked while in a trancelike state, and some claimed to be the catalyst for various paranormal physical phenomena (including the materializing or moving of objects) through which the spirits announced their presence. https://www.britannica.com/topic/spiritualism-religion

11. In Revelation 12:9, Satan - the dragon, is also called the serpent. What lie did the serpent tell Eve in Genesis 3:4-5?

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12. Read Exodus 7:8-13. What did the magicians do which involved a serpent?

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13. **Note:** Read Revelation 16:14. Now that we have defined the dragon power, spiritualism, it is clearly seen that **miracles of deception** will be used to unite the whole world (the nations) with the beast power (Papacy) and the false prophet or the apostate Protestants of America.

14. What will be the result of this threefold union? Revelation 16:14; 19:19

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"When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, **our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions**, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near." {Mar 190.2}

15. What are the two great errors Satan will use to bring the whole world under his deception? Genesis 3:4; Matthew 15:9; Ezekiel 20:16

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"**Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.**" **{GC 588.1}**

"As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. **Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.**" **{GC 588.2}**

16. What are some modern forms of spiritualism which Satan is now using to prepare people to join this unholy, three-fold union to war against God in these last days? Judges 21:25; Ecclesiastes 8:11 **Answer:** do what thou wilt (to each his own); God does not condemn - just love; yoga (finding inner peace, God is within you); Jesus had no existence before creation, & more.

"Satan beguiles men now as he beguiled Eve in Eden by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. "Ye shall be as gods," he declares, "knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5. **Spiritualism teaches "that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead." And again: "Each mind will judge itself and not another." "The judgment will be right, because it is the judgment of self.... The throne is within you." Said a spiritualistic teacher, as the "spiritual consciousness" awoke within him: "My fellow men, all were unfallen demigods." And another declares: "Any just and perfect being is Christ."** {GC 554.1}

"Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. **Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil. God's justice, His denunciations of sin, the requirements of His holy law, are all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the Decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned.**" {GC 558.1}

"**Another dangerous error is the doctrine that denies the deity of Christ, claiming that He had no existence before His advent to this world. This theory is received with favor by a large class who profess to believe the Bible; yet it directly contradicts the plainest statements of our Saviour concerning His relationship with the Father, His divine character, and His pre-existence**. It cannot be entertained without the most unwarranted wresting of the Scriptures. It not only lowers man's conceptions of the work of redemption, but undermines faith in the Bible as a revelation from God. While this renders it the more dangerous, it makes it also harder to meet. **If men reject the testimony of the inspired Scriptures concerning the deity of Christ, it is in vain to argue the point with them; for no argument, however conclusive, could convince them.** "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14. None who hold this error can have a true conception of the character or the mission of Christ, or of the great plan of God for man's redemption." {GC 524.2}

17. What will the world expect as the result of this threefold union? 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3; Isaiah 8:12. Also, see quotation below.

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"Papists, Protestants, and worldling will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, **and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long- expected millennium.**" {Mar 190.4}

"**When our nation [the United States] shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism."** {Mar 190.5}

18. Where will the kings of the earth be gathered on that great day of God Almighty? Revelation 16:14, 16

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19. What is the significance of that place in Scripture? Judges 4:13-15; 5:19; 2 Chronicles 35:23-25; Zechariah 12:11 **Answer:** It points to the mourning of the wicked and the deliverance of God's people.

"…**known in the Hebrew as Megiddo, and in Greek as Armageddon. The word itself means "the place of the troops," and the history of battles fought there, typifies the last great contest between nations under the sixth plague**. In the days of Deborah, the prophetess, the armies of Israel fought against Jabin, the king of the Canaanites whose captain was Sisera. God wrought for Israel, and the victory called forth the song of Deborah and Barak. "The kings came and fought, then fought the kings of Canaan in Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; they took no gain of money. They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." In the valley of Megiddo, Josiah, king of Israel, was slain by Pharaoh Nechoh, who was passing by that valley to the stronghold of the Abyssinians on the Euphrates. The death of the Jewish king caused great lamentation, called "the mourning of Hadadrimmon"; and looking forward to the time of the end, the prophet Zechariah says, "In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddo." {1905 SNH, SSP 284.1}

20. **Note:** Through the various forms of spiritualism, Satan is uniting his forces under his banner. Today, there is a growing movement of ecumenism among denominations and religions, where they set aside their distinctive doctrines and unite together as one. They think they are fulfilling Jesus' prayer in John 17:21-23, that His people may be one as He and the

Father are one. However, since they are laying aside Bible truths, they are being deceived by Satan and are united under Satan's banner. While thinking they are doing God's service, they will seek to kill God's people (John 16:2).

21. What is God's admonition while the kings are being gathered to battle against the great day of God Almighty? Revelation 16:15

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22. As we close, let us compare Revelation 16:15 and Mark 14. What did Jesus tell his disciples just before the crisis of the cross in Mark 14:38?

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23. What did they do instead of watching and praying? Mark 14:50

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24. To understand why the disciples forsook Jesus and why many are forsaking and will forsake Jesus, read Mark 14:51-52. How does it describe the linen cloth on the young man's body?

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25. What does linen represent? Revelation 19:8

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26. **Note:** This shows us that the disciples had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). Likewise, many professed Christians today are just Christians in name only but when the final test comes, few will remain. A blessing is left for those who heed Jesus' words to watch and pray and also the apostle James' words in James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Our minds must be settled now to follow Jesus, come what may. As we see many people leaving the army of Christ to join the ranks of Satan, it should encourage us to be more steadfast in the faith.

"Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? **Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason. The nation will be on the side of the great rebel leader**." {5T 136.2}

"**Now is the time when we should closely connect with God,** that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. **Which side will you be on?**" {5T 137.3}