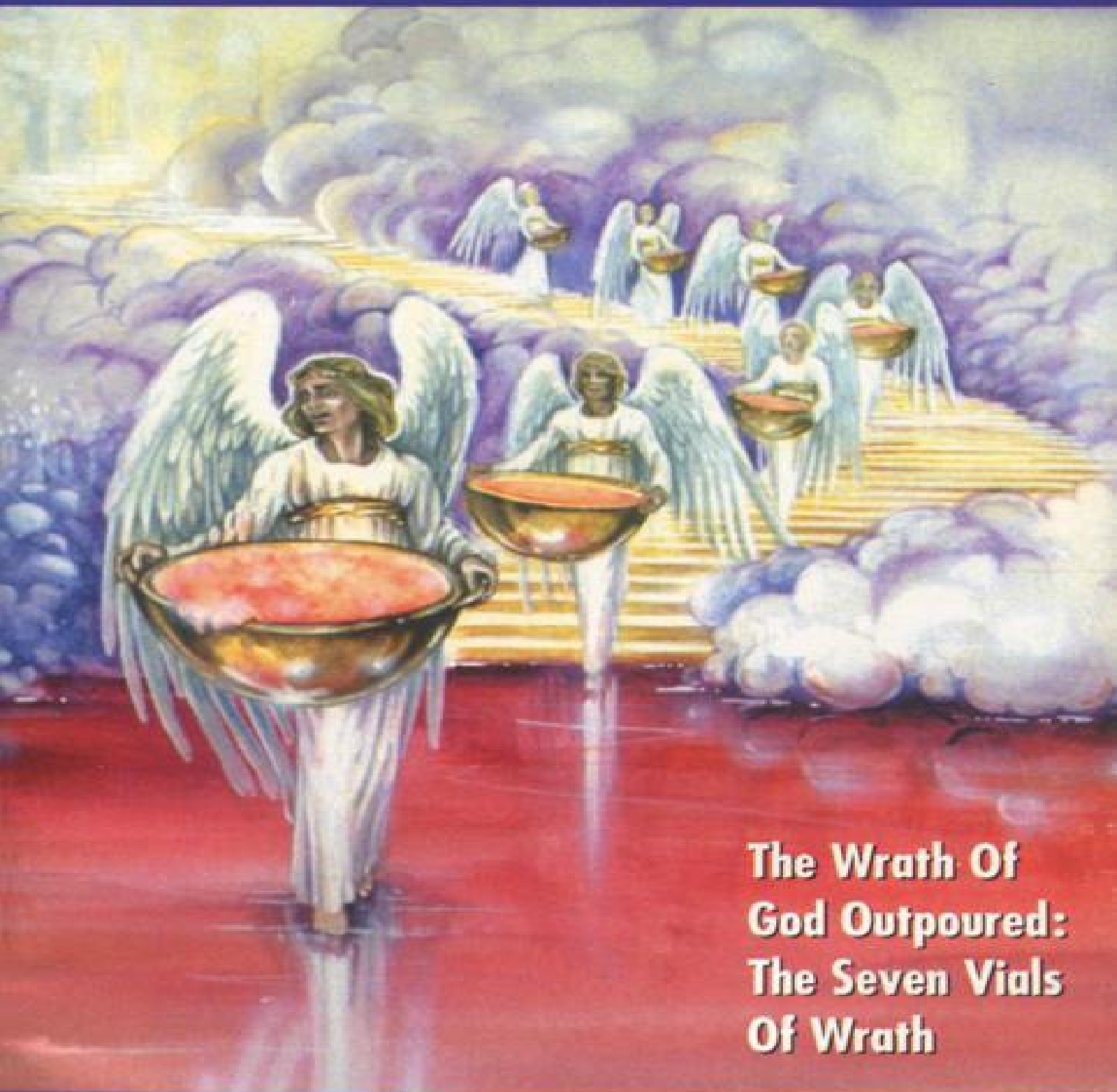


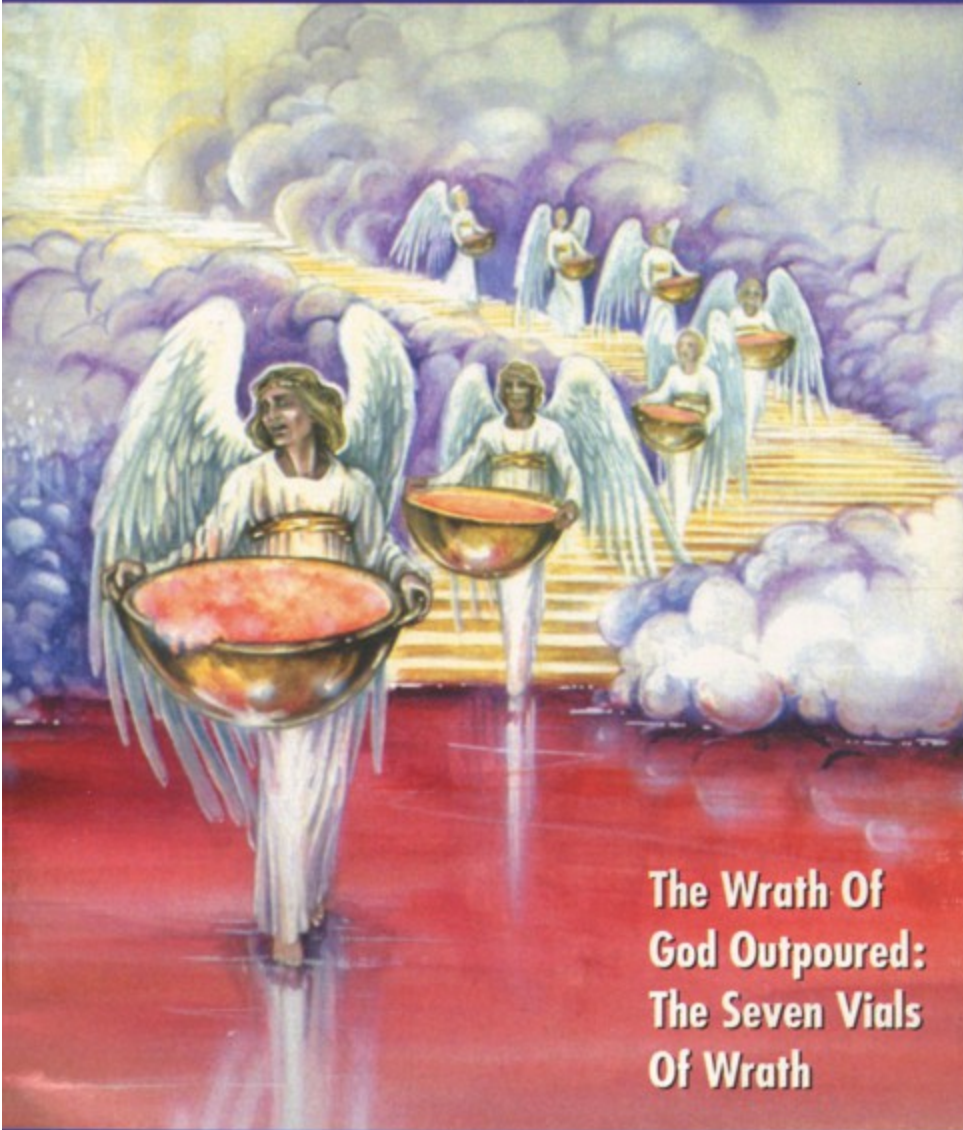
THE SEVEN VIALS OF WRATH



**The Wrath Of
God Outpoured:
The Seven Vials
Of Wrath**

MORRIS CERULLO

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INTRODUCTION

THE SEVEN VIALS OF WRATH

The Wrath Of God Outpoured

Revelation chapters 14-16

This is the eighth in a series of twelve books in which

we are opening the prophecies of the end times revealed to the Apostle John and recorded in the Book of Revelation.

In chapters 1 through 11, the Apostle John received

successive revelations of the final days of time. He viewed

tremendous scenes of worship in heaven, the opening of

the book with seven seals, and the sounding of the seven trumpets as God's judgment was poured out on this world.

In Revelation chapters 12-14, John introduced seven important personages: The sun-clothed woman, representing Israel; the dragon, representing Satan; the man-child, representing Jesus Christ; Michael, representing the angels; the beast out of the sea who is the world dictator; the beast out of the earth, a religious leader who is a false prophet and supports the world dictator; and the 144,000 representing the remnant saved out of the Tribulation.

As the scene in Revelation chapter 14 opens, we see 144,000 on Mt. Zion with the Heavenly Father's Name written in their foreheads. The number 144,000 is symbolic of the faithful, those who have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony—God's spiritual Israel.

Jesus promised to all who overcome,

The Seven Vials of Wrath

I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Revelation 3:12)

What John sees in this magnificent vision is the glorious sight of the redeemed of all ages, from every nation, tribe and tongue. They are with the Lamb and are singing a NEW SONG, a song that only the redeemed can sing:

And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (Revelation 14:1-3)

Suddenly—right in the midst of this glorious scene—
three angels fly through the air with three final warnings
to those who remain on the earth...

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CHAPTER 1

THREE ANGELS, THREE WARNINGS

1

Just imagine the glorious scene of worship and praise
described in Revelation 14:1-5:

.. The Lamb of God (Jesus), standing in magnificent
glory.

.. Those who have overcome the enemy, singing a
glorious song of praise to their Redeemer.

.. A voice from Heaven that sounds like the voice of
many waters.

.. The voice of harpists playing their harps..

.. Then-right in the middle of this glorious scene—
there is a divine interruption. Three angels come flying
through the air, each with a message for those who remain
on the earth.

THE FIRST ANGEL

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:6-7)

The first angel proclaims the Gospel to the world giving mankind a final opportunity to repent and worship the true and living God. There will not be anyone who can say, "I didn't hear... I wasn't warned... I didn't know."

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

There will be a universal proclamation of God's Word.

Every nation, every kindred, every tongue and people will hear.

The message will be loud and clear:

Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and

earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. (Revelation 14:7)

Everyone will know that the hour of God's judgment has come. They will be forced to make a decision to worship either the Antichrist or the true God of the universe. This end-time message will not be a "watered down" version of the Gospel. It will be a warning of the coming judgments and a clear call to repentance.

THE SECOND ANGEL

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. (Revelation 14:8)

The second angel announces the coming fall of Babylon the Great, the apostate church. Those who have compromised with the world, those who have polluted the Church, and those who have perverted the Word of God will be warned of the destruction that is soon to come upon them.

In chapter 16, we will learn how the vials of God's

wrath are poured out in judgment upon the wicked and in chapters 17-18 we will learn about the fall of Babylon. But here, before the final wrath of God falls, a last warning is given.

THE THIRD ANGEL

8

Three Angels, Three Warnings

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:9-11)

The third angel warns of coming destruction upon all those who take the mark of the Antichrist. Every person

who takes this mark will know exactly what they are doing and they will know the consequences.

Those who refuse to take the mark of the Antichrist will not be able to buy and sell and will face death, but they will rejoice around the throne of God forever (Revelation 7:14-17).

Those who take the mark of the Antichrist will be able to buy and sell and will escape the wrath of the Antichrist, but they will not escape the wrath of God. In the end, they will be eternally tormented in the lake of fire. They will have no rest, night or day and the smoke of their torment will ascend forever. Forever is a long, long time!

A PROMISE TO GOD'S PEOPLE

These three messages will be proclaimed throughout the earth to warn, to call the lost to repentance, and to prepare people for what is coming. Beloved, this is the message that the end-time Church must proclaim to the world! God has revealed His end-time plan to us. We must be faithful to seek out every opportunity to proclaim the pure unadulterated Word of God, to warn, and to call

The Seven Vials of Wrath

others to repentance while there is time.

Three angels, three final warnings... But the third angel also bears a message of hope for God's people:

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Revelation 14:12-13)

The third angel declares that those who keep the commandments of God and maintain their faith in Christ are blessed. Saints who die in the Lord will rest from their labors and their work for God and His Kingdom will follow them, even in death.

As soon as the three angels have completed their announcements, John witnesses another awesome scene as a beautiful white cloud appears in the heavens...

CHAPTER 2

THE FINAL HARVEST

2

In the remaining verses of Chapter 14 following the announcements of the three angels, the Apostle John is given a glimpse of the final end-time harvest of the earth:

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered

the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.
(Revelation 14:14-20)

In verse 14, Christ is revealed to us as the Lord of the harvest. John saw Jesus seated on a cloud. He had a crown on His head which is the crown or wreath of victory that belongs to Him as the great conqueror.

The time for the final harvest of the earth has come and Christ is ready, as he is holding a sickle in His hand.

An angel comes out of the Temple and cries out with a

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

loud voice, "*Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe*" (verse 15).

The command is given to Jesus by the Father—the great Day of the Lord has come! In response, Jesus thrusts the sickle into the earth and it is reaped.

Joel prophesied concerning this coming Day of the

Lord, when this final harvest occurs. He said:

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:13-14)

In verses 14-15, we see the first phase of the harvest, which is the gathering of the righteous from the earth.

Jesus, Himself, revealed that He was Lord of the Harvest, and spoke of a day when “... *he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner: but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*” (Matthew 3:12).

Jesus talked with His disciples concerning this final harvest. He said; “... *and at the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn*” (Matthew 13:30).

Jesus compared the final reaping on earth to a harvest where wheat is gathered from among the tares and the tares are burned. The wheat are the righteous, the tares are

the wicked.

When Christ returns, He will thrust in the sickle and reap the harvest of this earth. The saints living on the earth then will be separated from the unrighteous, gathered up to meet Christ in the air, and then the wrath of God will be poured out upon the wicked on the earth.

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The Final Harvest

John also saw an angel coming out of the temple in heaven with a sharp sickle. Another angel, who had been given power over fire, told the angel with the sickle, "*Put in your sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe*" (verse 17).

First, John had seen Christ separating the righteous from the wicked and gathering the saints from the earth.

Now, in verses 17- 20, we see the wrath of God being poured out upon the wicked. The phrase, "*vine of the earth,*" refers to the wicked—all those who are enemies of God who have still refused to repent.

Look at the word "*winepress*" in verse 19. In Bible days,

grapes were trampled by foot in a trough called a winepress, which had a duct leading to a lower basin where the juice collected. Throughout the Word, the treading of grapes is symbolic of God's divine wrath being poured upon His enemies.

In these verses, God revealed to John that when Christ comes He will separate the righteous from the wicked, gather up the saints, and tread the winepress of God's wrath upon the wicked.

Notice where the winepress is going to be trodden—without the city (verse 20). This refers to the city of Jerusalem.

When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came as the meek and mild Lamb of God. At His second coming, however, He will come as a mighty warrior prepared for battle. In chapter 19, we are given a glimpse of Christ as this mighty conquering King, descending out of heaven when *"He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty"* (Revelation 19:15, RSV).

With this opening scene in Revelation 14, the great day

of the Lord has begun. The final wrath of God will soon be

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

released upon the earth.

14

CHAPTER 3

A VICTORY CELEBRATION IN HEAVEN

3

The time for the outpouring of God's wrath has come!

John is filled with awe as he sees seven angels who have the seven final plagues to be poured out upon the earth:

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

Before the seven vials of God's wrath are poured out upon the earth, however, John witnesses a great VICTORY CELEBRATION in heaven! There, before the throne of God on the crystal sea of glass, were thousands upon thousands of saints who had come out of the tribulation and won the victory over the Antichrist. These saints had

harps and were singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb:

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 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. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 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. (Revelation 15:1-4)

This song was a song of DELIVERANCE and

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VICTORY!

For just a moment, let's go back in time to when God's

people were captives in Egypt. God drew a line between His people and the Egyptians. God placed His seal of protection upon them and kept them from the plagues that He sent upon Egypt. God provided a way of deliverance for them.

Through the sacrifice of the paschal lamb and the blood being applied to their doorposts, they were delivered out of the land of Egypt. By eating the meat of the lamb, they were given strength for their journey.

At the crossing of the Red Sea, God delivered Israel out of the hands of their enemies and when they were safely on the other side, they had a great victory celebration (Exodus 15). All Israel joined together rejoicing and praising God for His great deliverance. Miriam led the women, who took their timbrels and sang and danced before the Lord. They sang the Song of Moses:

Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and he

is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war: the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy. And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble. And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said,

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A Victory Celebration in Heaven

I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them. Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them: they sank as lead in the mighty waters. Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee,

glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Thou stretchedst out thy right hand, the earth swallowed them.

Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation. The people shall hear, and be afraid: sorrow shall take hold on the inhabitants of Palestina. Then the dukes of Edom shall be amazed; the mighty men of Moab, trembling shall take hold upon them; all the inhabitants of Canaan shall melt away. Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of thine arm they shall be as still as a stone; till thy people pass over, O Lord, till the people pass over, which thou hast purchased. Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O Lord, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the Sanctuary, O Lord, which thy hands have established. The Lord shall reign for ever and ever. For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel

in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. (Exodus 15:1-21)

Can you imagine two and one-half million Israelites standing safely on the banks of the Red Sea rejoicing and singing this great song of victory? Can you see them dancing and shouting for joy?

Can you imagine how the powerful presence of God must have hovered over them at that moment?

The Egyptians had followed the Israelites in hot pursuit. They boasted that they would overtake and

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

destroy the children of Israel and divide the spoils. But, as the Israelites stood on the banks of the Red Sea, they watched God pour out His wrath upon their enemy.

At this great victory celebration, Israel sang praises to God for delivering them out of the hands of their enemies.

Not only were they grateful for God's deliverance out of

the land of Egypt, they were confident that God would lead them safely to the Promised Land. They knew that God's seal of protection was upon them. They were not afraid because they were not depending upon their own strength. They were depending upon God's unlimited faithfulness and great power to deliver them. They were trusting God to lead them to the land He had prepared for them where He would dwell with them.

This victory of the children of Israel over Pharaoh and the Egyptians is a foreshadowing of the great victory of all God's redeemed over Satan, the Antichrist. Here, in John's vision, we see God's spiritual Israel—His chosen, anointed ones—standing safely on the banks of the heavenly promised land, the home God has prepared for them, having a great VICTORY CELEBRATION!

Like Israel, they have seen the enemy destroyed. The enemy said "I will pursue and overtake," but God triumphed over the enemy!

Beloved, the enemy may be making threats against you even now. You may feel as if you will be overcome by his

onslaughts. He may be hot on your trail, so to speak. But God will deliver you if you will continue to trust in Him and follow His commands. Just as Israel, you will stand on the other side of your difficulty rejoicing in victory! Just as He did for Israel, God will guide you until you "pass over" safely into your Promised Land. He will bring you in and plant you in the "mountain of your inheritance"—in the

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A Victory Celebration in Heaven

place He has reserved for you. Rejoice-for God reigns over every circumstance of your life. He is greater than the Red Sea! He is greater than the Antichrist! He is the Almighty God!

As the Redeemed of God stand on that crystal sea of glass waiting for God to avenge their blood and pour out His wrath upon the Antichrist and all those who have taken his mark upon their hands or foreheads, they sing the Song of Moses and the Lamb. This song is referred to as the "song of Moses" and of the Lamb because it is the Lamb of God Who leads us to this great victory:

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

(Revelation 15:3-4)

Go back and study this Song of Moses carefully and you will see the great victory that Christ the Lamb has already won for us!

After their great victory, the children of Israel sang, *"In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed.*

In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling"

(Exodus 15:13).

This is the song of the redeemed, triumphant Church who will stand before the Throne of Almighty God in Heaven. Just as God supernaturally delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt with mighty signs, wonders and miracles, He will manifest His supernatural power in our midst and bring us to our Promised Land.

God held back the waters of the Red Sea until all the children of Israel had walked across on dry land to the

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

other side. Then, He destroyed the Egyptians and caused the water of the Red Sea to cover them.

By the power of His mighty, outstretched arm, God will again deliver us today out of the hand of the enemy until the people He has purchased with the blood of the Lamb have passed safely over into that glorious home He has prepared!

All the nations will see the hand of God upon His people and those who attempt to destroy us will have God's wrath poured out upon them. Just as God supernaturally brought the children of Israel into the promised land, He will bring the redeemed into the holy dwelling place that He has prepared where we will live forever with Him!

Do you really comprehend the great victory that God has planned for His people? The Church triumphant—the

redeemed of all the ages—will stand before Him and sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb, a song of ultimate victory over the enemy!

Remember, revelation must be appropriated. It must be acted upon before it produces power. God has revealed this great scene of victory to strengthen you.

.. And I've got news for you! You don't need to wait until you get to Heaven to experience total victory. In fact, you don't need to wait one more day, one more hour, or even one more minute. Today is the day of victory and deliverance for God's people!

You may be thinking to yourself, "But, Brother Cerullo, you just don't know what I'm up against. You don't know the problems I am facing." Whatever you are facing, God will bring you through to total victory as you keep your faith and confidence in Him.

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A Victory Celebration in Heaven

The mighty warrior, King David, expressed great confidence in God in the face of adversity. He said that

when the kings of the earth gather together against the Lord and His people that God laughs at them—He actually makes fun of them! All the powers upon the earth combined are just a tiny speck of dust compared to God's great power and glory.

Whatever your circumstances are, God is saying to you: Ask of Me, and I will answer you. I will give you victory. I will strengthen you with My right hand. Has not My Word declared it unto you this day? Have you not heard Me gently speaking to you that I will take care of you? My hand is upon you. You are My beloved child. I will lead you. I will protect you and I will make you to walk the path of victory that I have chosen for you. Lean on My strong arm. Do not worry or become fearful for I, the Lord thy God, will cause My strength to flow through you until you are amazed at what I have accomplished through you.

Place your confidence and trust in Me now. Am I not worthy to be trusted? Have I not proven Myself to you? Come up higher, My children, to a new place in Me, above

the cares of this life, above those things that pull you down to defeat. This is the day that I have chosen to show Myself strong in your behalf. You are My people. I have provided a dwelling place for you and I will lead you safely home.

Receive the word of the Lord! God has declared His faithfulness to you. Make a declaration of your CONFIDENCE, your DEPENDENCE, your TRUST—and claim victory in the Name of Jesus! This is your time for prophetic fulfillment!

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CHAPTER 4

THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

4

The temple of the tabernacle of heaven was opened and John saw seven angels, clothed in pure linen with golden sashes across their chests. These seven angels proceeded out of the opened sanctuary to release the final plagues, which are the final wrath of God poured out upon the wicked:

And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 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. 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. 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. (Revelation 15:5-8)

One of the four cherubim (referred to as beasts in the King James version) gives each of these seven angels a golden vial—a bowl—full of the wrath of God. As they prepare to pour out these vials of God's wrath, John sees the temple filled with the smoke of God's glory. The glory of His Holy Presence is so great that no one is able to stand or enter into the sanctuary until the seven bowls of His wrath are poured out. The day of God's mercy has passed. There is no more time for repentance, no more time for intercession. The final moment has come and all is ready.

As God's power and glory filled the temple in Heaven,

John heard a mighty voice coming from the temple:

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The Seven Vials of Wrath

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth. (Revelation 16:1)

The angels hastened to obey! In rapid succession they poured out the vials, one by one. Remember that all of these plagues are directly from God and they each have a supernatural cause.

THE FIRST ANGEL:

The first angel poured out his vial upon the land:

And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image. (Revelation 16:2)

The first plague is similar to the plague of boils that came upon the Egyptians (Exodus 9:8-12). Malignant sores broke out upon the people who had the mark of the

Antichrist.

His mark, you will remember, is the numerical symbol of 666 placed on the forehead or the right hand. We saw in Revelation 7:1-3 that God's people were preserved with the mark of the Father in their foreheads. Satan, too, has his mark. God's seal is one of divine protection. The Antichrist's mark is the seal of doom. It is the brand of Hell.

The sores experienced by these rebellious people will be extremely painful and full of corruption.

THE SECOND ANGEL:

And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. (Revelation 16:3)

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The Seven Last Plagues

When the second angel poured out his vial of wrath, the sea turned to blood like that of a dead man coagulated and rotting. Every living thing in the sea died.

Previously, when the second trumpet was blown, the

sea was affected and one-third of the shipping industry was lost. Here, the devastation will be so much greater that the shipping industry will be totally destroyed because of the sea lanes being clogged with dead and dying fish and decaying plant life.

THE THIRD ANGEL:

And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (Revelation 16:4-7)

The third bowl is similar to the second, except that instead of the seas, the rivers and drinking water sources are ruined.

The vast oceans and rivers act as God's great air conditioner—sweeping away the impurities of the air and balancing nature. The plankton plants in water also supply

the majority of the earth's oxygen. When the oceans and rivers suddenly turn to blood—possibly because of billions of dying fish—the waters will become putrid. Foul smelling air will sweep across the world from the decaying fish. The fishing industry will collapse, many people whose diet consists chiefly of fish will starve, and the oxygen supply of the entire world will be diminished. The Book of Revelation reveals interesting things about
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the activity of angels. It seems that a special angel is assigned to the waters of the earth and he will proclaim justification for this awful judgment.

THE FOURTH ANGEL:

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. (Revelation 16:8-9)

The fourth angel adds his vial to the mixture of God's

wrath outpoured and the sun is affected and begins to scorch mankind with its intense heat.

Down through the ages, many cultures have worshiped the sun as the sustaining force of life. In this judgment, God reveals that He—not the sun—is the sustainer of the earth.

We have all experienced heat waves from time to time, but add to this excruciating heat wave the fact that there is no drinking water, and you will begin to understand its intensity.

One would think that this experience would drive men to repentance, but instead they blaspheme the Name of God. The Greek word for "repent" means to "change one's mind"—meaning that it is not simply a matter of forsaking sin, but a transformation of one's attitude regarding it.

These evil men and women refuse to repent.

The best commentary on the judgment resulting from this fourth vial comes from the Prophet Malachi:

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be

stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

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(Malachi 4:1)

THE FIFTH ANGEL:

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds. (Revelation 16:10-11)

The vial carried by the fifth angel plunges the earth into darkness. It is also specifically directed against the capital city of the beast's empire—his seat of government—as it further aggravates the sores resulting from the first bowl (Revelation 16:2). The pain is so intense that they gnaw their tongues—the same tongues that they have used to curse and blaspheme God.

This judgment is to be understood literally. The

Prophet Amos declared:

Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. (Amos 5:18)

Nahum echoed these same thoughts:

Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. (Nahum 1:6-8)

A similar picture was painted by Zephaniah:

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness. (Zephaniah

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1:15)

Christ's own prediction was that "... in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall

not give her light.” (Mark 13:24). "

THE SIXTH ANGEL:

And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. (Revelation 16:12)

The sixth bowl of judgment comes in two parts:

1. The drying up of the River Euphrates in preparation for the Battle of Armageddon.
2. The release of demonic forces that will bring the rebellious armies of the world to the Valley of Megiddo for the purpose of opposing the Lord.

When the sixth angel empties his vial, the River Euphrates dries up, opening the way for the armies of the east to march on Israel. On a world map, it is easy to see the strategic position of this body of water. Africa, Palestine, and Arabia are southwest of this river. Russia, China, India, and Iran (Persia) are to the northeast. The Euphrates is the line of separation.

Then, just prior to the pouring out of the seventh vial,

John sees a parenthetical vision:

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them

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together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue

Armageddon. (Revelation 16:12-16)

What could convince the kings of the earth to concentrate their forces on this one spot? The only answer is the devastating, deceiving power of lying spirits.

The frogs that John saw symbolize the propaganda of the Antichrist, Satan, and the False Prophet. These false spirits will deceive the whole earth and gather them for the final battle, the Battle of Armageddon.

Actually, the expression "Battle of Armageddon" which is often used to describe the decisive battle between the Antichrist and his forces and Christ, is really referred to in Scripture as "the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

In the midst of this scene, the Holy Spirit inserts an admonition:

Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. (Revelation 16:15)

"I come as a thief" refers to the unexpected arrival of Jesus in His second coming. This is true of His first coming also—the rapture. The admonition for both events is to be prepared.

THE SEVENTH ANGEL:

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an

earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of

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the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. (Revelation 16:17-21)

As the seventh angel poured out his vial, John heard a great voice coming out of the temple in heaven from the throne of God: *"IT IS DONE!"*

Lightning flashed! Thunder roared! A great earthquake—greater than any other earthquake man has ever seen—rocked the earth with a force so strong that John saw every island and mountain moved out of its place.

As if this were not enough, great hailstones—weighing

one hundred pounds—began to fall out of the skies upon the wicked. But even after all these great plagues, men still refused to repent. They continue to curse and blaspheme God.

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CHAPTER 5

HEAR THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT

5

Make no mistake about it, judgment is coming. Our minds cannot conceive the full intensity of the judgments God has revealed through John's vision.

You have seen the awesome judgments that will come upon the world—the pain, sorrow, death, and destruction.

Millions upon millions are going to face these awful judgments and eternity in hell unless we warn them. If ever there was a message that should motivate God's people into action, **THIS IS IT!**

What are you going to do in light of the revelation you have received regarding God's wrath that will be poured out upon this earth?

Do you "hear" what the Spirit of God is saying to the Church? God does not want us to sit back with our hands folded, He is saying:

- Look around you. Do you not see the signs of the end? It is time for My people to open their eyes, to listen to My voice, to rise up, to warn, to weep and mourn for that which is soon to come upon the earth.
- There is no time to be caught up with your own selfish interests and insignificant, endless worries. I have chosen you, and called you out from the nations of the earth to be a light upon this earth.
- That light has grown dim. My people have not labored long in the fields harvesting souls into My

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kingdom. They have been occupied with building up treasures upon the earth. They have been occupied with the pleasures of this life. They have been occupied with building their own houses. They

have struggled to make a name for themselves among their friends and loved ones. All this have they done, and have not put My kingdom first.

- Behold, today is the day for you to rise up in new power. You are My end-time army. It is time to march! It is time to blow the trumpets and sound an alarm. Cast off the cares of this life. You have a work to do that no one else can do. Do not hold back. As you go forward I will lead you. Do not linger, wondering: "What shall I do?" Begin where you are.

- As you go forth, My words will be in your mouth, and as My Word goes forth it will save, it will heal, it will deliver all those who are oppressed by Satan.

- Do you hear Me calling? If you do, hearken unto My voice, and I will do a new work in your life, and you will be to Me a strong and mighty sword in this great end-time battle to push back the enemy that has come to destroy My people.

Receive the word of the Lord!

God is giving us our marching orders!

God is revealing His end-time plan for a two-fold purpose:

1. To let you know that you will escape these judgments if you will remain faithful to Him.
2. To blow the trumpet in Zion—to warn those who are lost without God. You must begin to act upon the revelation God has given you.

You must WATCH!

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Hear the Voice of the Spirit

You must WARN!

You must SNATCH souls out of the fire!

As a soldier in God's end time army, you are commanded to WATCH.

... no one, not even the angels in heaven, nor I myself, knows the day or hour when these things will happen; only the Father knows. And since you don't know when it will happen, stay alert. Be on the watch (for my return). My coming can be compared with that of a man who went on a trip to another country. He laid out his employees' work for

them to do while he was gone, and told the gatekeeper watch for his return. Keep a sharp lookout! For you do not know when I will come, at evening, at midnight, early dawn or late daybreak. Don't let me find you sleeping. Watch for my return! This is my message to you and to everyone else. (Mark 13:32-37, TLB)

Jesus said we should be alert and watch for His coming. He warned: *"Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame"* (Revelation 16:15).

We must "keep our garments" by being cleansed of all sin in our lives and walking in holiness before Him.

The Apostle Paul warned that Christ will return during a time when people are saying there is peace and safety. He said:

For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as travail comes upon a woman with child and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that

day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:2-6, RSV)

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The great Day of the Lord is coming as a thief in the night. It will be sudden and unexpected for sinners, but God's chosen ones will be waiting, watching, warning, and working. Paul said, "*So then, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*"

Are you spiritually awake, aware of His soon coming, and preparing for the day you will see Him face to face?

As we wait for His coming, we must have a spirit of expectancy and be ready at any moment for Christ's return.

As a soldier in God's end-time army, you must warn those around you that the Day of the Lord is near. God has made you a watchman:

So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto

the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

As a soldier in God's end-time army, you must snatch souls from hell:

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; they said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions. It is these who set up divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And convince some, who doubt; save some, by snatching them out of the fire; on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (Jude 17-

23, RSV)

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Hear the Voice of the Spirit

God is calling us TO WATCH! TO WARN! TO
SNATCH souls from hell! *"He that hath an ear to hear, let
him hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches."*

With the pouring out of the seventh vial, the third woe
is past—the cup of God's wrath has been poured out
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