

The Voice of Truth # 521

The Grape Harvest

Now, with your Bibles in hand, open at Revelation 16:10 and hold it, will you, for just a moment. In our study of the 16th chapter of Revelation, we have found that the first four bowls of the wrath of God, poured out upon a Christless mankind, constitutes what the Bible calls the grain harvest spoken of in Revelation 14:14-16.

We come now to the study of the last three bowls of wrath which fill the details of the grape harvest of Revelation 14:17-20. When the fifth angel pours out his bowl of wrath upon the throne of the beast, the hatred and rebellion of the beast and his whole kingdom are so incited as to set the whole world on fire with complete revolt, against the Lord Jesus Christ. Her grapes are fully ripe for the Lord Jesus to trample the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, which will end in utter destruction of the present satanic world order.

I had a letter from a man this week. He said, take my name off your mailing list. I don't want any more of your trash. I believe in a loving God. I believe in a merciful God. I don't believe in a God of judgment.

If you don't believe in a God of judgment, you know nothing about a God of love or a God of mercy. Let me say frankly to you, I don't care who you are, unless you know something about the God of judgment, you know nothing about the God of love. Unless you know something about the God of justice, you'll never know anything about the God of mercy.

This (the 5th bowl of wrath being poured out) will mean the clearing of the earth, completely of Satan, fallen angels, demon spirits, and wicked humanity or, silencing the voice of every rebel forever. Praise God, that day is coming.

As we go into the study of these last three plagues, I want to call your attention again to the fact that the bowls of wrath poured out by these seven angels will be literal, just as the plagues of Egypt were literal, and worldwide, as the plagues of Egypt covered the entire land of Egypt. With this in mind, let us read Revelation 16:10,11. **And the fifth angel poured out his vial, or bowl, 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.**

This plague corresponds to the ninth plague of Egypt, as recorded in the tenth chapter of Exodus. The fifth angel pours out his bowl of wrath upon the throne of the beast, the throne that Satan had given him in Revelation 13. No doubt this throne will be located in rebuilt Babylon on the Euphrates River; We'll come to that in our studies of 17 and 18 chapters, which was Nimrod's ancient capital in the land of Shinar. When this angel pours out his bowl of wrath upon the throne of the beast, his kingdom becomes full of darkness, it literally became darkened. This is not an eclipse of the sun or the moon, but it is a worldwide darkness that comes over the kingdom of the Antichrist that can be felt just as the Egyptian plague of darkness. Just how long this darkness lasts, we're not told. But we find in verse 11 that they are still affected by the judgment of boils from the first bowl of wrath.

These plagues overlap each other because these angels pour out their bowls of wrath one after the other. This is a darkness that no light is able to penetrate. Even the light of the sun, moon, and stars cannot penetrate this darkness with their rays of light. If the light of the sun cannot penetrate it, neither can any artificial light. This is a curse coming directly from the hand of God, from the center of His kingdom, even unto the uttermost limits, this darkness can be felt. Isaiah prophesied of this darkness, **Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people.** Joel prophesied of this darkness, **The day of the Lord cometh, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness. The sun shall be turned into darkness.** Then the prophet Nahum said, **Who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.** The Lord Jesus Christ prophesied of those days, **In those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the**

moon shall not give her light. Those are going to be awful days, won't it? Let me repeat. The darkness which comes over the kingdom of the Antichrist is literal, just as the Egyptian darkness was. I might say the Egyptian darkness is a type of the worldwide darkness over this kingdom of the beast. Add this plague of darkness to the afflictions of the other bowls of wrath, and you can understand something of the terrible distress of the inhabitants of the world. John said they gnawed their tongues for pain, which means they bite their tongues, they chew them, they gnaw them, as the best deliverance from their miseries. Their tongues have spoken blasphemies, and they themselves punish their own tongues.

The whole earth becomes a hell of wickedness, and as a result, it becomes a hell of darkness and torment. This outer darkness is a sign of the internal spiritual darkness of their wicked hearts and minds.

Then John said, **they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores and repented not of their deeds.** Instead of cursing themselves for their wickedness and for their sins, they cursed God for interfering with their pleasure. Men do that today. They will not honor God even under all their miseries. They gnaw their tongues with pain and rage instead of turning in a spirit of prayer and repentance unto Jehovah. They are compelled to acknowledge Him as the God of heaven, but only to heap new blasphemies on His name. These outpourings of the divine wrath of a sin-avenging God make hell. There is no turning from sin. There is no seeking of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no turning unto the God of heaven. My friends, while sin lasts, hell must last.

At this point, we find that the inhabitants of the world have so rebelled against the Word of God and against the Christ of the Word, that the very spirit of perdition has settled upon the entire world, except the few of God's elect who are left, and there is no hope for them; **They repented not of their deeds.** This leaves God no alternative except to utterly destroy them. When you will not repent, sinner, it leaves God no alternative but to destroy you. We are living in the shadow of these coming events. The world's situation today, in its rebellion against God's Word, and the Christ of the Word, is a shadow of the days of the pouring out of the bowls of the wrath of God by these seven angels. I've never witnessed such rebellion against the Lord Jesus Christ as we have today, and it's

going to grow worse. Every stratum of society is in utter rebellion against the Christ. Face this fact, for you to reject Christ means that you'll be cast into outer darkness, where there'll be nothing but weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, with no hope of ever being rescued. Why do you want to rebel against God? Why do you want to live in your rebellion? Why will you fight God, sinner, who has made a way for your escape through Christ Jesus our Lord. Why not stop and think on your way and begin to cry unto God to break your rebellious heart and bring you before him as a guilty, lost sinner that he may pardon you? You have just a moment of time in which to live. Why not look to Christ, the way of escape? You are condemned Sinner, in the condemned cell, waiting the day of doom. You are gathering together the dust of your condemned cell and calling it riches. You are weaving the straws from the straw of your condemned cell into a crown, and in your madness, you're playing the king, not realizing the word doom is written across the door of this condemned cell.

Sinner, wake up! and look to Christ, cry for mercy, and God will hear you and deliver you from going down to the pit. It's Christ or hell. It's Christ or judgment. It's Christ or the wrath of the Almighty God. Now, which are you going to take? Go look in the glass and ask yourself the one question; do I want Christ, or do I want hell? Will you do that, sinner?

John goes on to tell us why they blaspheme the God of heaven; because of their pains and their sores. This means that they blame God for their condition. They have chosen sin and Satan, and they have chosen to worship Antichrist, yet they blame God for their condition. Those lost, wretched souls are in their evil ways, and John said, **they repented not of their deeds**. That is, they willed not to repent. They have set their minds against Almighty God. They have steeled their wills against every one of His entreaties. Yes, they recognize that the God of heaven is pouring out these bowls of wrath upon them. They're conscious that God lives, that God is. They're conscious that He's in heaven, and they cast their eyes up to heaven and accuse Him and blame Him for their condition. Remember this is worldwide, my friends. Think about it, worldwide. Every individual, with the exception of a few of God's elect that's left, are looking up to heaven and accusing God and blaming Him for everything. Is that your condition today? Every man out of Christ is in rebellion against God. I know you can't break that rebellion by your

own power, but listen, awakened sinner, you can cry unto God to break it. Stop accusing God; Stop blaming God. No sinner ever comes to the place of salvation until he justifies God and blames himself. Sinner, take the blame or go to hell. God's law is just and righteous altogether. God is right. You are wrong. Admit to yourself that it is so. Admit to God that it is so. I had to do it. Take your place as a guilty sinner before God. Let him shut your mouth, that he may pardon you for Jesus' sake, who died for your sins. There's no reason under the sun for you to go to hell. Sinner, cry! Sinner, call! Arouse yourself out of your state of lethargy and indifference. See your doom! Feel your condemnation and ask God to deliver you while opportunity waits and the door of grace is open unto you, because Christ died for such a sinner as you and one day, the door of grace will be closed.

I'm accused of stirring up people. I hope that's so. You need to be stirred. Your heart needs to be open. You must see yourself as a lost sinner. You must see yourself stripped before a sovereign God of all your self-righteousness. You must see yourself naked before God. You must see yourself as a bankrupt sinner, a spiritual castaway. You must see yourself guilty before God. You must see yourself as a son of Satan, and under the judgment with Satan. You must see yourself as an unrighteous sinner with no claim upon a holy God. You must see yourself as a fit subject for hell, as a hell-deserving sinner before you'll ever see your need of Christ and cry unto Him for mercy and become a beggar upon the dunghill. May the Holy Spirit unclothe you and may you be made to see yourself as a sinner who deserves to go to hell, until you're made to cry out unto God for mercy in Christ Jesus. I don't want to see you cast into outer darkness, my son, my daughter. You may say, I don't believe what you're preaching. My friend, it is so whether you believe it or not. Go on in your unbelief. Go on in your rebellion. Then when you wake up in hell, you'll say, wish that I had listened. But it'll be too late then. I wish I could sit down by your side and plead with you, awakened sinner. May the Holy Spirit open your heart and turn you to Christ. May he do it. Oh, I'm pleading with you grandchildren this morning. I'm pleading with you children. I'm pleading with the members of this church. I'm pleading with you out in radio land. I'm pleading with you across the nation. Down, sinner, down at the feet of Christ while the door of mercy is still open.

Now let's look at the sixth bowl of the wrath of God. Look at that 12th verse, the 16th chapter. **And the sixth angel poured out his vial, or bowl, upon the great river Euphrates. And the water thereof was dried up that the way of the kings of the east, or the kings of the sun rising, might be prepared, and I saw three unclean spirits, spiritual beings, like frogs, come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of demons, 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 together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon.**

We are now at the end of the tribulation period. The wrath of God is falling thick and fast. Everything is shaping up for the last great battle, the battle of Armageddon, in the plain of Esdrelon. when the kings of the earth shall be gathered together against God's anointed, the Lord Jesus Christ. Isn't that awful? Satan knows that the Lord Jesus Christ is soon to return to this earth to take over. He's no fool from that angle. You modernists don't believe that Christ is going to return, but Satan knows it. Therefore, Satan is making his last stand to prevent his coming. Satan believes the word of God, and Satan knows more about the book of Revelation than you and I do. If you will read Revelation closely, you'll find expressions like this, Satan knows that his time is short. Brother, Satan knows. He's no doubter. He's no modernist. Satan knows.

So, in order that Satan may gather the kings of the east or the kings from the sun rising of the sun, for this great battle, God dries up the Euphrates River. We see this in the pouring out of the sixth bowl of judgment. The Euphrates River is mysteriously smitten and dried up that the kings of the sun rising may have an easy passage for their armies to join the great infernal crusade against the Lamb of God. It is God who dries up the river. The river Euphrates is first mentioned in the second chapter of Genesis. This river is the eastern boundary of the land of Palestine. This river is 1,800 miles long and varies in width from 300 to 1,200 yards wide, with an average depth from 10 to 30 feet deep. The kings from the sun rising are from the countries of Japan, China, India, Russia, Persia, and all the other oriental countries. Remember, God here is talking about the literal river

Euphrates. When Jehovah God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, He dried a passage through the Red Sea; then opened a way across the Jordan River. These were not only openings for God's people, but for judgments upon the wicked. The Egyptian army was drowned in the Red Sea. The opening of the river Jordan was the destruction of Jericho, and the overthrow of the Canaanites in the land of Palestine. Isaiah refers to this sixth plague when he says, **With his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, (the river Euphrates) and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod.**

Zechariah prophesied in these words, **He shall pass through the sea with affliction, and shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the river shall dry up. and the pride of Assyria shall be brought down.**

We found, when the sixth trumpet sounded, that four angels were loosed there at the river Euphrates, which brought deadly affliction to the Christless hordes of the earth. Here the river comes again to notice, for further judgment upon a Christless world. God has his own way of destroying the wicked. Laugh, if you please, but you're in the hands of a sovereign God, and you will not escape the judgment of a sin-avenging God. No, you won't.

When the river is dried up, no doubt the kings of the East are very joyous over the fact that now the barriers are broken, and they can march on Palestine as God is favoring them, not realizing that they're being drawn to their own destruction and damnation, and that in this crusade they will never return, but be thrown into the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of a sin-avenging God. Now that the Euphrates River is dried up to open a way for the kings of the east to join the kings of the west, how is God going to bring the kings of the sun rising, and their armies, together with the kings of the west and their armies, against the Lord God of heaven for this final destruction of Satan's world order? We are told how in that 13th verse, Revelation 16:13, listen, **And I saw three unclean spirits, spiritual beings, like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils (or demons), working miracles which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty.**

And they gather them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon. Now you listen. Now hold your seat and listen. We have an example of this in the Old Testament, in the case of King Ahab, when his wickedness and impenitence was come to the full and God was determined to make an end of him; the Lord asked the question in the presence of the host of heaven, Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead? And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him; I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all of his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also. Go forth, and do so. Behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all of Ahab's prophets. Now that's what he's going to do to the world. As a result, he believed his lying prophets and went to battle at Ramoth Gilead, and from there he was taken back home a dead man, and the dogs licked up his blood.

So here God repeats this on a worldwide scale to bring together all the kings of the earth, the mighty men of the earth, all their advisors, all their aides, all their assistants, with multitudes of photographers and newsmen; by permitting unclean spirits to go forth from the evil trinity, the dragon, the antichrist, and the false prophet, working miracles, and lying wonders; they arouse all the kings of the earth, over a hundred nations with their entire armies, and incite them to gather together at Megiddo, in the plain of Esdrelon, in the heart of Palestine, thus leading them to their own destruction. The fullness of iniquity has come, and God sends forth the lying spirits. How does he do it? Now, here are some observations I want to call your attention to, because I know you're saying, how can these things be? First, the scripture says they are spiritual demons. Literally, they are spiritual beings. If you'll go back to the sixth chapter of Genesis, you'll find that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the sons of God were angels, taking the form of men and cohabiting with women, and the union produced a race of giants that hastened the judgment of God upon a Christless world by the flood; by which the world was destroyed, except Noah, who found grace in the eyes of God.

If you'll turn with me to the New Testament, you'll find the statement made by our Lord when talking about his return to this earth again. Listen, **But as the days**

of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. He also likened the days of the coming of the Son of Man to the days of Lot, listen; likewise also as it was in the days of Lot. They did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Now how is it in the days of Noah and Lot? Jude tells us, listen, **angels which kept not their first estate,... giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh.** All right, then, in the end time, before our Lord returns, we can expect an invasion of this world by fallen angels who will cohabit with women, producing a race of giants, which we know as demon-spirits or unclean spiritual beings. It will be, no doubt, these demon-spirits who will be ambassadors of the Antichrist, going forth under his direct orders to perform miracles, lying wonders, and signs for the sole purpose of deceiving the kings and queens of the earth, the mighty men, the generals of the army, and the very armies themselves, and the whole of mankind. They'll incite them and work up a passionate frenzy of hate against the Lord Jesus Christ and his return to this earth. At this end time, there is such a rebellion against the Lord Jesus, such rebellion against the Lord God of heaven, such a hatred for the Word of God, and such an enmity against God's people, they'll be crying, let us break the bands asunder. Let us kill him and take the vineyard ourselves. We will not have this man, Christ Jesus, to reign over us. And so they go marching to Palestine, the kings of the entire earth, with one sole purpose, to kill the Lord Jesus Christ.

My friend, there is such a revival of devil worship and communication with demon spirits at this very moment that this can be taking place right now. That is, fallen angels invading the human race, which will bring about this very thing. Now you study demonology. You study the worship of demons. The whole world, now, is turning to demon worship, and there is such a communication of women with demon spirits, until this thing could be taking place right now in certain sections on this globe.

Another observation I call your attention to is, these unclean spirits are like frogs. Frogs are creatures of the night. They are croaking creatures of darkness. They live in the slime and filth of the world. These frogs remind us of the plague of frogs in Egypt. Even the Egyptian magicians had power to bring forth more frogs after Moses and Aaron had brought up the plague of frogs from the Nile River. Yes, these frog-like creatures come forth out of the quagmires of the earth to do their wicked work amidst the world's evening shadows. They creep and croak and defile and fill the ears of the nations with their noisy demonstrations of lying wonders, and satanic miracles, until they set all the kings and armies of the earth in a frenzy for the final crushing out of the Lamb and of His kingdom, if it lay in the power of Satan to do it. You're made to wonder, probably, why are they so successful? But you must remember that the kings of the earth are under the sway of the Antichrist. They are in utter rebellion against the Lord God of heaven, against the Word of God, and they will not repent of their sorceries, thefts, fornications and wicked deeds. The spirit of delusion has so settled upon the world until they are marching to their doom and don't know it. They are so deceived, they are so corrupt, and the spirit of lust and fornication has so seized upon the heart of the world as a whole, until the only thing they have in mind is the satisfaction of their lust, the obsession to kill the Son of God, so that they can continue on in their sin and lust.