

# The First Vial (Taught by Joshua Van Horne)

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*How It All Ends*

By Joshua Van Horne

**Bible Text:** Revelation 16:1-2

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I've never taught Sunday School before so y'all are my test class or whatever right here. But I am excited.

A little bit of review from last week, what Pastor Bill was talking about. In chapter 15:4 it says, "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." And Pastor Bill took us back in Psalms to a bunch of different chapters throughout there and was referencing King David and how he was writing the Lord is worthy of the worship from all the different nations, and although, nowadays, we do have people from all nations that are worshipping him, Pastor Bill brought out the fact that the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecies in Psalms and here in chapter 15 of Revelation was in the millennial kingdom when we will rule and reign with Christ on the earth.

That's what we talked about last week and this morning we're going to go over the first two verses of chapter 16 and the first vial of the wrath of God. Let's go ahead and read,

"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.  
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 worshipped his image."

So, pretty cut and dry, not a whole lot of things here in these first couple of verses, but we'll try to extrapolate what we can from here. The first question I have is: whose voice is coming from the temple? Anybody have any ideas? God? Why do you say that? So, you've got God, Jesus. I would tend to agree with you on that. Anybody else have anything else. Brother Walter? So, you're saying that you think it's God?

The only other possibility that I saw, looking through the Scriptures, in Revelation we have a voice of one coming out of the temple and that's in 14:15, "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 he goes on to say a bunch of other stuff but it was another angel that came out of the temple crying with a loud voice. So, we know that in the past, there was

an angel coming out of the temple crying with a loud voice. A possibility. I tend to agree with Brother Walter and Brother Ryan that I think it's the voice of God and the voice of Jesus coming from the temple.

The other question I have, I have a bunch of them this morning that we'll hopefully get to answer but: what is this temple and where is it? 15:5, let's look there, "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." So, this is the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony and doing some research on this, I never had realized before but in the Old Testament when Moses was given the pattern for the tabernacle on Mount Sinai, in Hebrews it says that he patterned it after what he saw in heaven. I thought that was pretty cool. It was in Hebrews 8:2 and 5, we can turn there real quick and look.

Pastor Bill called and asked me yesterday, he's like, "Are you nervous about teaching tomorrow?" I'm like, "You know, I'm really not nervous. I don't mind standing in front of a big group of people but the one thing I'm concerned about is getting through all my material and being, ten minutes into it. Hopefully we can last all the way."

Hebrews 8 and let's start in verse 1, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."

So, I think it's a pretty safe assumption to say that this temple here in Revelation 16 we've got the voice coming out of is the same temple that the tabernacle was patterned after in Exodus.

Another thing, as Brother Walter also pointed out in the last verse of chapter 15, this temple is also symbolic of the presence of God at this time because it's filled with the presence of God and it says smoke and stuff is coming out of it. That's another note to make there.

Now, the next thing we have here is the seven angels" "saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." Who are these seven angels? Yeah, obviously we know that the angels are messengers of God, they are servants of God to do his will. They are not human, obviously. I don't know why, but they're just not.

The first time that we see these is back in 15:1, these specific seven angels and it says, "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." So, that's the first time we see these specific seven angels mentioned. There are several other references to seven angels: you have the seven angels of the seven churches which are found in the first three chapters and you also have the seven angels with the seven trumpets. Now, these specific seven angels in 15 and 16 that have the vials of the wrath of God are also mentioned later on in the book of Revelation and I forgot to write down the reference for those, but later on in the book of Revelation it has specific tasks that these angels were given afterwards.

We don't know if these were all three different instances, the seven angels with the seven churches or the seven angels with the trumpets or these with the seven vials are the same group or not but... (something perpetually happens...) Are you talking about Revelation 1:8? (...) and 8:2? Revelation 1:20, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches." 8:2, "And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."

Obviously, in the book of Revelation, angels are a big part of what's going in the vision that John has. Multiple times you see angels going forth to do the work of God.

The next question I have: a vial. Anybody have anything different than vial in the authorized version? A bowl. Anything else? Bowl and vial. Alright, so it appears that we have a bowl. I never even heard the vial before so I guess it's an old English word, but they have these bowls of the wrath of God that they're taking out and pouring out on the earth.

Alright, we talked about this a couple of weeks ago, I don't know if it was last week or the week before but why wrath? It's talking about the "vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." Why is God using his wrath here? Why is he pouring out his wrath upon the earth? (repented) They haven't repented? They don't believe and they will not. What else? (...) All good answers. (Revelation 14:8-12) The best answer that I could come up with from Revelation: obviously we can look through the Scriptures and we can see many different times where the wrath of God is mentioned and we could say, "Okay, well, it was because of this. It was because of this. It was because of this." But in Revelation, in this immediate context and where we're talking about, the best answer I could come up with is: because he is worthy of worship and the followers of the beast are worshiping him instead.

We also have the fulfillment of the prophecy, like what she was talking about, that the angels were saying that, Revelation 14:9-10, let's look it up. "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." So, again, in chapter 16:2, the vials being poured out upon those that have the mark of the beast and worship his image, so what the angels were prophesying would happen, Revelation 14:9-10, is now taking place here in chapter 16:2.

(...) Right, they did not repent of their deeds and that's why the wrath of God is being poured out on them. You can also look here in chapter 15:4, "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." So, God is worthy of praise and he deserves all of our adoration.

(...) And wasn't yet fully measured out (and it was another 400 years) I don't remember the exact reference for that but it does ring a bell.

Brother James, go ahead. (...) God is a jealous God and he wants the praise and worship of his people, of his creation and when the praise that is due to him is being given to the beast and he has been rejected, then obviously, you could see why the wrath of God would be poured out on the earth on those that have the mark of the beast and worship his image.

When does this occur in the timeline that Pastor Bill draws up on the white board or that crazy schematic thing he has on the screen? When does are these vials or bowls being poured out? (the end of the...) Yeah, the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation. Actually, last night, I have to admit, a lot of the studying I did was last night at the last minute because I was out in the field all week and trying to read my Bible with a red light headlamp. Yeah, not that conducive, but, me and my wife did a Blue Letter Bible search through the book of Revelation and there is actually no reference in Revelation to a seven year tribulation. We actually get that idea from Daniel 9, talking about the 70<sup>th</sup> week. From Revelation we know that the beast comes on the scene during the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation so, obviously, if these people are the ones that have received his mark and have worshiped his image, then this is falling in that last 3 ½ year period.

Does anybody have any questions or comments at this time? I'll do my best to answer them or deflect them to Pastor Bill. (The events culminate...) What you're talking about there, I'm a big Civil War buff so I like to read stuff about that, the Civil War and American History and whenever you're reading, there is a particular book that I read, it was by Shelby Foote, it's a 3 volume book. It's really amazing. I don't know why I'm getting off on this rabbit trail, but anyway, you can only write about one thing at one time, is what you're saying. So, he could say, "Over in Virginia, McClellan and Lee were having this battle over here," and he has to write about that in this chapter and in the next chapter he could say, "Well, while that was going on you have Beauregard and one of the other northern generals having something going on in Tennessee." It's like several chapters later, but yet it's going on at the same time. Do you understand the concept?

Any other questions or comments? (...) Okay, you said it's worldwide and that comes up to another question that we have. How do we know it's worldwide? (all people...) Good point. It says in verse 2, "upon the men which had the mark of the beast and upon them which worshipped his image." So, those that have the mark of the beast are the ones that this judgment is coming upon.

So, therefore, the next question would be: who are the people that have the mark of the beast? So, if you go back to Revelation 13:16, he says, and this is the second beast that came up, also known as the false prophet, "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." So, right back here in chapter 13, we see that the second beast is enforcing, that all people on earth are receiving the mark of the beast. Then in chapter 16, we're seeing that God is pouring out his wrath upon all those that have the mark. So, therefore, you can see that this is talking about this is a worldwide judgment that is being poured out.

Are there any exceptions to this whole earth idea that the wrath of God is being poured out upon the whole earth? Are there any exceptions to this at all? Everybody is getting this noisome and grievous sore? (the elect...) The elect, exactly. (they refuse the mark) Exactly.

Pastor Shawn preached a message, I don't know if it was last Sunday night or two Sunday nights ago, talking about in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 that those that belong to Christ are not appointed to wrath and he went back in Exodus and showed that when the plagues are coming down upon the land of Egypt, that God was sparing his people, Israel. Even so much that a plague that was complete darkness and all the land of Egypt, that somehow you would have this wall of darkness and light in the land of Goshen where the children of Israel were there was light and the people of Egypt were in darkness.

So, is God capable of making everybody in the world that had the mark, receive the sore, and those that did not, those that were elect, to not get the sore? Of course he is. You know, we have the examples in Exodus of the plague of the flies, the plague of the cattle, the plague of the hail and the plague of darkness where it specifically mentions that God was protecting and shielding his people from the plagues and from the judgments of God. And also, it's pretty clear here in verse 2 that it says that this judgment, this vial, is being poured out upon those that have the mark and those that worship his image.

What does this sore sound like? The sore, this noisome and grievous... who has another translation for noisome and grievous sore? (loathsome...) In other words, it ain't a good thing; it's not something you want. In reference to Exodus where we've been drawing the parallels to, what does it sound like? The plague of the boils, right? Let's go and look that up, Exodus 9:8-12. I think looking on all the parallels that Pastor Bill had between Revelation and Exodus, I think this was parallel #32. So, there are a lot of parallels between them, 32 to be exact so far between Revelation and Exodus. And Revelation is really the final exodus of God's people from Egypt or this world.

Exodus 9:8-12, "And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up

toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast.” Does anybody have another word for “blains”? (sores) “And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.”

A couple of other interesting things about this sore: the other time that this Greek word, I think I might have written it down. (Deut 28....) I think this is pretty cool. You know, just like Pastor Bill does, when you can look in Exodus, the second book of the Bible, and you can look in Revelation, the last book of the Bible and you can see parallels between the two of them. We serve the same God in the Old Testament as in the New Testament as in now and that will come in the future when this prophecy is fulfilled.

The other time that this sore is mentioned is in the New Testament, the same Greek word is when Jesus was telling the parable of Lazarus and the rich man and he says that Lazarus had the sores and the dogs came and licked him. So, this is not a good thing that you want to have.

I apologize if I'm not as energetic and animated as good as Pastor Bill.

The Greek word is helkos. It means “a wound, especially a wound producing a... it's gross. Job is another example of someone in the Bible that had boils or sores and it says that “he scraped them with a potsherd.” You definitely see the wrath of God. When you look back in Revelation and you see in the preceding chapters the people who at the time were thinking they were doing the right thing, “Oh, who is like the beast? Who is able to stand against him?” And then, later on, now you see it's God Almighty who can stand against him and he will bring them to ruin and he'll throw them in the Lake of Fire.

I've got five more minutes. Where have we seen this mark before? What is it? (666...) Where do we get that from? Let's go back to Revelation 13. This is when the mark, the image, the beast, the second beast, all of this stuff is first mentioned and that's where we know who these critters are. 13:18, “Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.”

(Does that clearly say?) Well, in Revelation 13 it also says that the second beast caused all that would not take the mark to be put to death. (...) We can sit here and debate all day as to exactly what it looks like and exactly what it's going to be and we would not be any further off than where we started. All we know is that in the future there is going to be some method of identifying those that belong to the beast and those that worship him from those that do not. And those that do worship him are going to have the wrath of God poured out upon them according to Revelation 16 at the first vial.