

THE SUPREME COMMANDER TAKES CHARGE

Revelation: 16:1-21

Introduction:

- A. Up until this time God has permitted the dragon, the devil, to punish the people of the earth, even His own saints who have grown cold spiritually and have worshipped the creature much more than the Creator.
- B. Now, after His people have renewed their commitment to God and gotten busy preaching the everlasting gospel; now, after they have suffered the torments of Satan because they refused to be branded with his brand and worship his image; God has raptured them all into His heavenly presence, and they are displayed standing on the sea of glass with harps and singing for joy.
- C. God shall now pour out His own wrath upon the sinful, God-rejecting multitudes of this world.

I. LEARN THAT THE LAST PUSH TO VICTORY IS BY DIRECT ORDERS FROM HEAVEN.

- A. This command did not come from an angel, speaking for God.
- B. Verse 1 declares “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.”

II. LEARN HOW DREADFUL IS THE WRATH OF GOD.

- A. Verse 2 -- noisome and grievous sore upon men –foul and painful ulcers – severe and malignant.
- B. Verse 3 – the sea became as the blood of a dead man and all life in the sea died.
- C. Verse 4 – the rivers and fountains of water became as blood.
- D. Verse 8 – the sun was given power to scorch men with fire.
- E. Verse 10 – the earth was plunged into darkness.
- F. Verse 12 – the Euphrates river is dried up
- G. Verse 17-21 – thunders, lightings, greatest earthquakes of all time, the great city divided into three parts, cities fall, Babylon given the cup of the fierceness of God’s wrath, every island vanished and mountains disappeared, great hail falling out of heaven.

III. LEARN WHO SHALL SUFFER THE WRATH OF GOD.

- A. Verse 2 – those who have the mark of the beast and worship his image.
- B. Verse 6 – those who have shed the blood of saints and prophets.
- C. Verses 9, 11 -- those who have refused to repent and give glory to God.

IV. LEARN THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL NOT SUFFER THE WRATH OF GOD.

- A. Verse 2 -- People who have not the mark of the beast; people who refuse to worship his image – people who have repented of their sins and trusted Jesus.
- B. These are people who have been saved following the rapture; they had heard the gospel, but had delayed answering God’s call to salvation.
- C. The rapture of the saints and the demand to worship idols finally bring them to repent of their sin and trust Jesus for salvation.
- D. Verse 15 – These are those called blessed and warned to watch and keep his garments.

- E. Evidently, these are those who shall survive to the end of the tribulation and shall repopulate the earth during the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 65, 66; Zechariah 14)**

V. LEARN THAT THE EVIL TRINITY WORKS TO BRING THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TO BATTLE GOD'S LITTLE LAMB.

- A. Verses 12 – 14 Names the dragon (Satan), the beast (anti-Christ) and the false prophet as working miracles to draw the kings of the whole world into the battle against the little Lamb of God.**
- B. Verse 16 identifies the gatherings place for the battle that will end the war to end all wars as ARMAGEDDON.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. If there are those who have refused God's call to salvation for a long time, the truth of this lesson should cause them to repent of their sin and trust Jesus for salvation.**
- B. This lesson should cause all of us who are saved to redouble our efforts to reach the lost with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.**