

Revelation Lesson 9

Reading: Revelation 14-16

Memory Verse: Revelation 15:3-4

Definitions:

Millennium – the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth with believers

Blaspheme – to curse God or sacred things

After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNLqXCv_8EfsGXfFmOwJ7paMt29S35SO0bqFzou6lwQJyxsQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

What Will It Take?

For the first 32 years of my life, I did not believe in life after death and thought that any time spent thinking about what happened when you took a dirt nap was a waste of time. I heard the plan of salvation a number of times (I do not know how many), and I understood it but was not interested. I had read the magazine (*Time*, I think) that proclaimed God was dead, and that was fine by me. I chose to ignore God and everything having to do with him. I joked about hell as a place where I would meet my friends. I thought the Bible was a great work of fiction, full of errors and fairytales. Jesus Christ may or may not have lived, and the people who believed in him were weak fools who needed a crutch to get through life. He was OK for shy, reserved women and young girls, but a real man did not need him. I enjoyed trying to corrupt anyone foolish enough to witness to me. Life was a big party, and if there was an afterlife, it would be an even bigger party. I was in a very real way embracing hell and its commitments. I thought very badly of myself, and I guess I did not think I deserved heaven. I did not realize how true that was and how I could do nothing ever to deserve it on my own.

The change process started when a fellow I dealt cocaine with was murdered in a bad drug deal. I went on a longer than usual drug and alcohol binge, was arrested, and sought treatment the next day. In treatment, they used alcoholics anonymous (which was founded by two evangelical Christians). There is much emphasis placed on “God as we understand him.” I did not understand him. God in his wisdom sent a friend into my life. She shared her faith, and one evening we listen to some music by Don Francisco. One song, in particular, struck me. It was based on Matthew 11:28-30. I had never heard that before, and it had a major impact on my life. Several weeks later I spent two weeks in northern Wisconsin camping by myself. Sometime during the first week, I understood what God was saying in Matthew 11:28-30, and I gave my life to Christ.

William

Revelation Lesson 9

Voices from Heaven (14:1-20)

144,000 (vs. 1-5)

This scene on Mount Zion looks ahead to the second coming of Christ that inaugurates the millennium. The 144,000 mentioned in chapter 7 stand on the mountain with Christ the lamb. They wear the names of both the father and the Lamb, indicating that they are saved through faith in Christ. And these pure ones sing praise to God on his throne.

Six Angels (vs. 6-20)

Next, John sees six angels who all have messages to give. The first flies in mid-heaven, announcing the eternal gospel, God's judgment, and God's last invitation to worship him. The second angel announces The Fall of Babylon, Satan's headquarters. That city and its fall are described in chapters 17 and 18. Then an angel announces God's wrath on those who worship the beast. That judgment is torment with burning sulfur forever.

Before the next angel speaks, John comments on the patience and reward of the saints. Those who are martyred for their faith will receive eternal rest.

The fourth angel cries out for judgment on the earth. A fifth one comes out of the temple in heaven with a sickle to reap judgment. Encouraged by the last angel, he begins to do so. The picture is one of picking and pressing grapes because the people on the earth have produced a bumper crop of wickedness and corruption. This wine press of judgment is the final battle of Armageddon, the last war on earth.

Preparation for Final Judgments (15:1-16:1)

The final judgments are the vials or bowls of chapter 16. But before they start, John sees those who remain faithful to God singing on a sea of glass. They sing the song of Moses and the lamb, the memory versus for this week. (Moses' song is recorded in exodus 15:1-19). Notice that they do not complain about the suffering they have endured.

Next, the heavenly Holy of Holies opens. The Angels with the bowl judgment plagues exit. Indicating the judgments are imminent.

God's Bowl Judgments (16:2-21)

When a voice gives the order, the angels pour out their judgments on the earth. Similar to the Egyptian plagues, they are directed in rapid session on the beast and his worshipers.

Revelation Lesson 9

First Bowl: Malignant Sores (v.2)

These sores are painful, running, festering boils – not something most people would wish on their worst enemies. Think about how miserable people will be because of the pain.

Second Bowl: Seas to Blood (v.3)

When the seas turned to blood, all the living creatures in them die. Just imagine the stench that will accompany this judgment! Plus, without seafood, a great portion of the world's food supply will be lost.

Third Bowl: Fresh Waters to Blood (vs. 4-7)

The second judgment is repeated with the rivers and freshwater springs. There go the drinking water and additional food, resulting in more deaths. The angel's song indicates that the blood represents that of tribulation believers and prophets who have been killed.

Fourth Bowl: Scorching Sun (vs. 8-9)

With that kind of heat and no water, people will feel like they are living in a desert with no oasis.

But just like the previous rounds of judgment, men do not turn to God. Instead, they blaspheme *the name of God, who had control over the plagues, but they refuse to repent and glorify him.*

Fifth Bowl: Darkness (vs. 10-11)

This darkness is accompanied with tremendous pain and agony. Still, men blaspheme God and do not repent.

Sixth Bowl: Invasion from the East (vs. 12-16)

The Euphrates River dries up, paving the way for the kings of the East (the Orient) to invade Israel. They march in to the battle of Armageddon.

Seventh Bowl: Earthquakes (vs. 17-21)

This last earthquake is greater than any previous one, splitting the city of Jerusalem into three parts. It is accompanied by 100-pound hailstones. But men still blaspheme God and do not repent.