

REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Week 10 – March 11-17 – *Revelation 15-16*

LEADER NOTES

As we continue in our study of Revelation, this week we must see that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's plans. God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow and He will bring justice to the earth. Keep pressing forward in our study together.

Please remember to ask your groups about gospel connections and conversations had in the previous week. You can complete the form [here](#).

COMMUNITY

Open the group by caring for one another and allowing a moment for everyone to have a place to belong.

Start the group by taking prayer requests, finding out about people's week, and praying for one another.

Opening Questions:

- *What's one thing that's stood out to you about our study in Revelation so far?*
- *What are you hoping to learn more about in the rest of our study?*

SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

THE POINT

Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's plans.

The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,

O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

O King of the nations!

4 Who will not fear, O Lord,

and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come

and worship you,

for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. 7 And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, 8 and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,

“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.

It is what they deserve!”

7 And I heard the altar saying,

“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!”

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 15-16.

STUDY NOTES

In a passage like this, it can be easy to get lost in the weeds. Symbolism and figurative language are so prevalent that we might actually miss the main point if we're not careful. Remember, the point of this passage is to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's plans—even His plans for the end of all things. It's not an accident that the words of Jesus on the Cross are spoken again here by the One who sits on the throne (Revelation 16:17).

This passage shows us that God has always punished sin. It reminds us of the punishment He poured out on Egypt with similar plagues. God will not let sin go unpunished. However, this text also clearly points to the fact that God always makes a way for sin to be forgiven. While the world curses God for His wrath, those who have placed their faith in the Passover Lamb know what He means when He says "It is done." We know that God fulfills His promise to punish sin, and it is a great comfort to know that God will one day give sin and evil the final destruction it deserves. But even sweeter still is the knowledge that this same God fulfills His promise to make a way for His children to receive His mercy rather than His surely coming wrath. Praise the Lord that it is done!

As you lead your group in discussion be sure everyone recognizes this:

1) God is the Same Forever

There's an intentional connection for John between Exodus and these plagues. He's trying to show us that the wrath at the end of times is deeply connected to God's wrath for all time. This isn't God acting out of character. It's Him making good on His eternal covenant. God punishes sin and He's been doing that for all of history.

2) Jesus Delivers Justice

In this passage we see God's justice both through His wrath and His mercy. Regardless, God is always just. This reminds us of our present hope in times of trouble. Though it may seem that the bad guys always win, that no good deed goes unpunished, or that all that's been done wrong to you has been ignored, God is reminding you that He will one day punish sin and evil finally and ultimately. We must remind our hearts to hope in the sure justice of God.

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What are some things in your life that make you question God's justice? How does this passage teach us to trust and hope in the midst of those doubts?
- God's wrath isn't something new and it's not something just for the end times. How does that affect our everyday lives? How does that affect our view of God?
- Why is it important to know that all of God's promises find their fulfillment in Jesus?
- Do you sometimes feel afraid thinking about the end of the world? How does the finished work of Jesus on the Cross change our view of the end times? How does it bring us comfort instead of fear?
- What is the most encouraging thing to you about Revelation 15-16?

COMMISSION

As you wrap up your group, it is imperative that everyone knows we go into the world on mission for Jesus. Use this time to focus everyone to live on mission as you leave.

You won't live for Jesus if you don't trust Jesus. How can this vision of Jesus change how you are going to live as you leave here?

Who in your life needs to know Jesus?