

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 25 (16:1-9) The Seven Deadly Drinking Cups

**Introduction:** We are now moving into the climax part of the Book - Armageddon. The millennial reign of Jesus Christ, the eternal reign of Jesus, the destruction of heaven and earth and new ones made. All this is to come. REVIEW some of the previous studies leading up to this point.

Verse 1 was added to the last study. Let's do a quick review:

- "great voice" - the voice of God. God is fair, just, never forces Himself, but He does use nature, people, wars, etc. to show Himself, but will never shove one's volition or will aside and force anyone to do anything. God is giving the world another chance through all these judgment, using extreme methods of trying to get people to believe before it is too late, for after Jesus Christ comes back, there will be no more salvation offered.
- "seven angels" - serving angels
- "vials" - judgment cup, goblet
- "pour out" - mankind has become religious, but is still lost. More people are going to hell over religion than anything else - Satan is behind all the false religions and therefore deceiving people about the truth that all rests in Jesus Christ. Remember the man from Tarsus, brilliant, had set at the feet of the greatest Jewish teachers, he became very religious, hated all Christianity, began to persecute Christians and was very fanatical. He approved Stephen's death but something affected him in what he saw that day. On his way to Damascus to persecute Christians, God used an extreme method to bring Saul to his senses. Remember his being struck blind, hearing Jesus' voice and all that took place on the side of the road? Saul became a believer in Jesus Christ, he was converted. Extreme measures but effective with Paul. God is going to use the most extreme methods He has ever used to try to get the world to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ.

v2 - "sore" - God is going to affect the bodies of the people, their health (remember Job?)

- "greivous" - malignancy - doesn't kill, an extreme way to use illness as a way to point to God. God does not send illness to you or me or anyone else just to punish us. God, however, CAN USE that illness. God does not punish us by making us sick because we did something wrong. There are certain principles of health, excessive this or that brings about certain illnesses. HERE, the last weeks before Jesus comes back, God is using sickness to try to turn mankind to Him.
- "mark" - these are those worshipping the Roman dictator who have submitted to his political system.
- "image" - these are those who worship his religious system. These are the people during the Tribulation worshipping and following the dictators. Through this sickness God is trying to get people to look up and accept Jesus. ONLY on sick beds do some ever look up. Many are healthy all their lives until one day something dreadful happens, sickness, death, and the only way left is to look up, then God uses some things to SHAKE a person, to wake him/her up.

v3 - "sea" - God is now striking at the food supply of mankind. How many lives are dependent upon the sea and what it has within its waters? Nations are dependent upon it, fish, seaweed, food supply. When a nation loses its food supply, it panics and rightly so. It is said that if our trucks stopped running for 30 days our country would have a shortage of food like it has never seen before. Food supply will be affected, all sea life will be destroyed. Think of the consequences.

v4 - "rivers" - fresh water

- "blood" - stagnant, spoiled. Water is absolutely essential. All our cities sprang up where there was abundant water. You can do without a lot of things for a long time, but you cannot do without water. We have the best water in all the world. How many of you have let the bucket down into a well and then drew it up hand over hand with a rope or a pulley? Running water we have today. How many remember

wash day? How many buckets of water did you have to "draw" and carry? How about carrying water to the field hands, those working in the fields? Then Saturday night baths. Everybody taking baths, in the same tub (ever had to be last?). Water was carried and then heated for that Saturday night bath. Water is absolutely essential and we think nothing of it today, BUT GOD IS GOING TO TAKE AWAY, destroy fresh water. Remember Moses and the plague on the water in Egypt? God is trying to shake the world into believing in Jesus Christ.

v5 - Here is the most important verse in this study - its about God.

- "angel of waters" - God's angels have duties and this one is in charge of the water. Water is a grace gift of God.
- "thou art righteous" - God is doing extreme things, making people sick, cutting off the water, BUT the angel says, "thou art right every moment in the past, the present, and the future..." God is right and perfect all the time, perfectly righteous.
- "O Lord" - Don't ever listen to anyone blame God for this or that which has befallen him/her. God is righteous and He doesn't have to stoop to tricks to punish you. God was righteous when He made man. God was righteous when He allowed Jesus to be crucified. God turned His back on Jesus for three (3) hours but He was still righteous. God has always been perfect. This is one of the greatest verses about God, a picture of the perfect character of God. Why do people criticize God? Because they don't have all the facts but the angels do. God is using extreme measures hoping to turn mankind from hell to Jesus Christ. Remember the story about the young man caught stealing, was taken to jail, then to court. The judge was the young man's father and the sentence was to either repay the stolen money or go to jail for several years. Knowing his son didn't have any money, the judge adjourned the court temporarily, took off his judicial robe and stepped down to where his son sat. He took out his check book and wrote a check for the amount his son had stolen. The newspapers carried the story of how the judge was true to the law and then showed such great compassion. This is EXACTLY what God did when Jesus Christ died on the cross. YES, God was righteous at the cross.

WHAT KIND OF GOD DO WE HAVE? Read this verse.

- "shalt be" - this is not in the original text
- "judged thus" - all that God is sending, food shortage, water ruined, health affected, all this and God is still just.

v6 - What have all these people done to be treated so?

- "shed the blood" - they have slain millions of believers during the Tribulation.
- " blood to drink" -
- "are worthy" - worthy to get such judgment. (worthy to us means good). They are getting exactly the kind of judgment they deserve.

v7 - "altar" - altar where the prayers were heard from the martyrs.

- "judgments" - judgment always belongs to God. Retaliation belongs to God. God will repay in the right time in the right way.

v8 - "power" - this is not in the original

- "to scorch" - a great heat wave. Millions will be burned by the sun. 93 million miles away, not close enough now, a layer of protective Ozone shields us from the rays, but destroy this, move the sun a bit and mankind will be burned by the sun. God is trying to warn mankind this last time. How will they respond? NOTICE THE NEXT VERSE:

v9 - "repented not" - meta-na-a-o is to change the mind - about Jesus Christ. Does not mean feeling sorry about one's sins. Never does the Bible mean to feel sorry about sins in order to be saved. **IT IS CHANGING THE MIND ABOUT JESUS CHRIST.** When you change your mind about Jesus Christ, everything else will also change.

This is evangelism by extreme methods. God is going to try about everything to get mankind to change their minds and accept Jesus Christ. Our God is just, righteous, perfect and everybody has a chance and millions have chance after chance.

So now we see how gracious God is He is not willing that any should perish, and is going to go as far as He can to get the world to change it's mind before it's too late. There will be a time when people cannot be saved.

Stay with us as we continue our study of this marvelous book of the Revelation.