

WHICH WAY, AMERICA?

Night 18

Armageddon and the
Seven Last Plagues

Events to take place *prior* to Christ's Second Advent:

1. Gospel to the whole world (Matthew 24:14).
2. Three angels' messages preached to all the world (Revelation 14:6–10).
3. Whole world tested on worship and obedience (Revelation 14:7, 9, 12).
4. Whole world tested on the issue of worshipping the Creator on the *true* Sabbath (Revelation 14:12; Exodus 20:8–11).
5. Sunday law enforced *before* Jesus comes (Revelation 13:15–17)

1. Where do the seven last plagues come from?

Answer: The angels carrying these seven last plagues come forth from the temple in heaven (Revelation 15:5, 6) where the “ark of his testament” is located (Revelation 11:19), and inside the ark is God’s law. This shows us that the plagues are punishments (judgments) from God upon the wicked (those in Babylon – Revelation 18:4) who have chosen to break His commandments.

2. Has Babylon led the whole world to break God's law in these last days?

Answer: “I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day. The Catholic Church says, No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep holy the first day of the week. And, Lo! The entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church” —**Father Enright, President of Redemptorist College.**

3. Will the righteous be here on the earth during the seven last plagues?

Answer: We notice that these plagues are called the seven *last* plagues. This implies that there must have been some *first* plagues, or earlier plagues. Ten plagues were poured out upon the kingdom of Egypt by God prior to delivering His people, the Hebrews, from Egyptian slavery (see Exodus 7–12). The first three of those plagues fell on both the Egyptians and the Hebrews. The last seven of those 10 plagues fell only on the Egyptians. Israel was in Egypt during the plagues but was protected by God when they were under the blood (Exodus 8:22; 9:6, 26; 10:22–23; 12:3, 7–13). God protected His people *during* the plagues, and delivered them *after* the plagues. This history was written for “our learning” (Romans 15:4). God’s faithful, the “saints” who are under the blood will also be protected during the seven last plagues (Psalm 91; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 7:1–3).

In Revelation 16:15 Christ tells His people to maintain their watchfulness and their faith in His righteousness, lest they “walk naked” (fail to be clothed with Christ’s righteousness when He comes – compare Matthew 22:1–14). Revelation 16:15 clearly shows us that Christ has not returned to the earth yet. The second advent takes place *after* the seven last plagues, or at least not before the seventh plague.

4. Will anyone “be saved” during the plagues (be able to accept salvation)?

Answer: Sadly, no. Revelation 15:8 tells us clearly that during the plagues, “no man was able to enter... the temple.” When the seven last plagues begin to fall, every individual’s destiny has been fixed forever (see Revelation 22:11–12).

The Seven Last Plagues (an overview of Revelation 16):

Plague one – Noisome and grievous sore (boil) (vs. 2):

- Punishment – For worshipping the beast and breaking God’s health laws.

The first plague reveals:

1. That Probation has ended
2. Who’s on God’s side / who’s on the beast’s side
3. All the false healers
4. Those following the Bible’s laws of health

Plague two – seas turned to blood (v. 3):

- Punishment – For putting economic advantage before obedience to God.

Plague three – rivers and fountains turned to blood (vs. 4–7):

- Punishment – For seeking to slay God’s saints (those keeping Sabbath).

Plague four – sun scorches men (vs. 8–9):

- Punishment – For breaking the Sabbath (seventh day) and worshipping on the day of the sun (Sunday).

“In ancient Babylonia the sun was worshipped from immemorial antiquity” – *The Worship of Nature, Vol. 1, p. 529.*

“The sun was a foremost god with heathendom... Hence the church [Catholic Church]... would seem to have said, ‘Keep that old pagan name [Sunday = day of the sun]. It [Sunday] shall remain consecrated, sanctified,’ and thus the pagan Sunday, dedicated to Balder [sun-god], became the Christian Sunday, sacred to Jesus” – *The Catholic World, p. 809.*

Plague five – darkness on the seat of the beast (vs. 10–11):

- Punishment – For rejecting the light of truth (God’s Word) and following tradition.

“Sunday is founded not on Scripture, but on tradition, and is distinctly a Catholic Institution” – *Catholic Record, Sept, 17, 1893.*

Plague six – Euphrates river dried up (vs. 12–14):

- Punishment – For following Babylon

During the sixth plague the “great river Euphrates” is dried up. The ancient city of Babylon sat upon this river. In Revelation 17, we see a modern, spiritual Babylon which God says “is fallen” (Revelation 14:8), which also “sits upon many waters” (Revelation 17:1). The waters here represent the many people who support the false religious system of spiritual Babylon (Revelation 17:15). The “drying up” represents the withdrawal of spiritual Babylon’s support system, because during the fifth plague (darkness on the “seat of the beast”), the world begins to realize that they have been deceived by spiritual Babylon. This “drying up” prepares the way for the Kings of the East—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who will destroy Babylon and deliver the people of God (see Matthew 24:27). In the Old Testament, it was Cyrus, God’s shepherd, a type of Christ, who came from the east, “dried up” the Euphrates, conquered Babylon, and then set ancient Israel free (Isaiah 44:26–28; 45:1; 46:11).

Before the water dries up, the three unclean spirits of Babylon (the dragon = paganism; the beast = the Church of Rome; the false prophet = apostate Protestantism with all its false prophecies about the end-times) circle the world to gather mankind for the final battle against God.

Armageddon (v. 16):

There is no place on earth called Armageddon. The text clearly tells us that the word Armageddon is in Hebrew. What does Armageddon in Hebrew mean? Mountain of Slaughter.

“Armageddon: This term is derived from Har, which means a mountain, and Megiddo, in Manasseh in Galilee.... ‘Megiddo’ comes from a root meaning to ‘cut off’ and consequently means ‘slaughter’ (cf. Joel 3:2, 12, 14).” —*New Commentary on the Whole Bible*.

This is not a literal place, but rather a state of mind where the whole wicked world is “ripe” for slaughter (see Revelation 14:18).

Plague seven – great hail (vs. 17–21):

- Ultimate Punishment – For seeking refuge in lies rather than in obedience to God (compare Isaiah 28:17–20 and 2 Thessalonians 2:8–12).

“At that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Daniel 12:1).



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