

Things to Come

#19 Here Comes the Judge (Rev. 14:14-20, 15:1-8)

I. Introduction

John finishes his encouragement of the saints and now moves back into the theme of judgment. First (chapter 14), he describes that judgment as a kind of harvest and then (chapters 15 and 16) he outlines the seven bowl judgments.

Note: Chapter 15 is preparatory and helps interpret what is coming. Chapter 16 is descriptive with details.

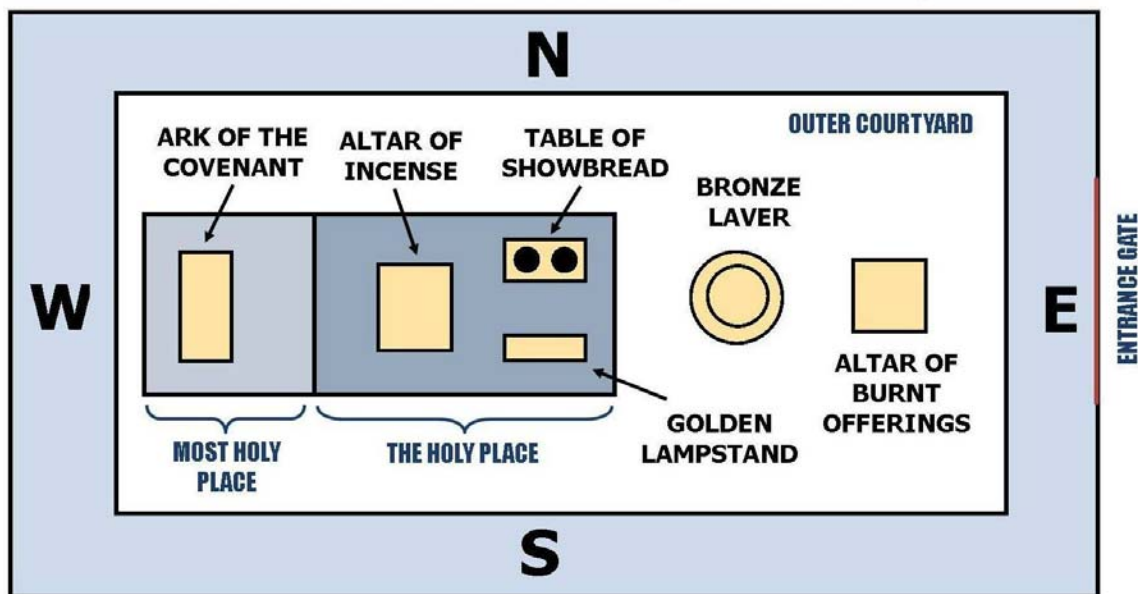
II. The Harvest (14:14-20)

- A. "The son of man seated on a cloud" –Christ (See Matt. 26:64, John 5:27, Dan. 7:13-14)
- B. Divine judgment: a harvest (See Hos. 6:11, Joel 3:13, Matt. 13:30,39)

The images:

- 1. Unmixed wine in a cup (vs. 10)
- 2. Grain harvest (vs. 14-16)
- 3. Vintage harvest (vs. 17-20)

- C. The altar: likely the altar of incense



D. The result

"trampled in the winepress" (vs. 20)

"blood rising as high as the horses' bridles"

"1,600 stadia":

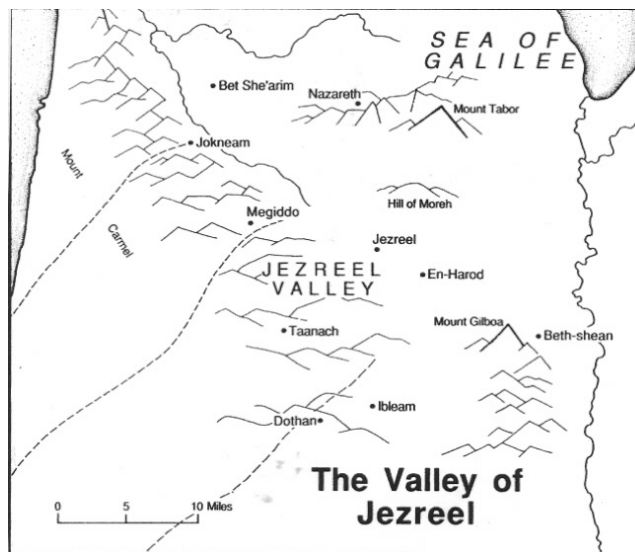
Measurements in the OT: usually measured by the length of time it took to walk it ("Three days time" Gen.30:36)

In the NT, a stadium or furlong was about 606 ft. (Luke 24:13), a mile was around 4860 ft. (Matt. 5:41).

A note regarding the Valley of Jezreel: It means "God sows." (Also known as the plain of Esdraelon)

It is a flat and very fertile plain that stretches from Mt. Carmel in the west to Bethsan in the east. It was part of a major trade route and throughout history became "a corridor for invading armies."

Jezreel and the city of Megiddo are synonyms for violence and bloodshed (see Hos. 1:4-5). The word "Armageddon" (Rev. 16:16) is a combination of the two Hebrew words "har"-mountain or range of hills and "mgiddown" which comes from a root meaning "to slaughter or cut off." Thus it conveys "mountain of Megiddo."



III. The Announcement of the Seven Bowls Judgment

(The seventh trumpet=the last seven plagues) See Rev. 15:1-8

A. God's coming judgment

"...what should stop the heart of sinners is what God will do. Throughout human history God has poured out His wrath in judgment on sinners. God's wrath and judgment were constant themes of the OT prophets." (John MacArthur)

Matt. 10:28. *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."*

Joel 1:15 *"Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty"*

Zeph. 3:8 *"Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger."*

God's wrath falls into maybe three categories:

1. A result of a "sowing and reaping": Gal. 6:7-8
 2. A cataclysmic judgment like the Flood: Gen. 6-8
 3. An eternal wrath that never ends: I Thess. 1:10, 5:9
- B. The seven angels with seven plagues
- "plagues"-a blow or a wound. These are deadly blows that kill.
- C. "Sea of glass", mixed with fire- associated with God's judgment (See Num. 11:1, Deut. 9:3, Isa. 66:15)
- D. "Those victorious over the beast"-believers redeemed during the tribulation (See 6:9-11, 7:9-17, 12:11, 17, 14:1-5, 12-13)
- E. "Harps of God"-associated with praise (5:8, 14:2) Note that they are the only musical instruments described in heaven.
- F. "The song of Moses" (vs. 3-4)

A word about songs recorded in the OT:

1. Moses' song after the parting of the Red Sea: Ex. 15:1-18
2. Note: This song was sung in the afternoon service of each Sabbath, celebrating the sovereignty of God.
3. When water was given in the wilderness: Num. 21:17-18
4. A song of remembrance before Moses' death: Deut. 31:19-22
5. Deborah and Barak's victory: Judges 5:1-31
6. At the restoration of worship in Hezekiah's day: II Chron. 29:27

G. "The song of the Lamb"

This was first heard in chapter 5:8-14. It extols the character of God and anticipates the time when all the nations of the world will come and worship before God.

H. "The seven angels" and the "bowls filled with the wrath of God"-these bowls are swallow saucers that can be quickly hurled down for an instant kind of judgment. They are similar to those used for incense.

I. "The smoke"-representative of God's majesty (see Ex.19:16-18)

IV. So What?

II Thess. 2:9-11 *"The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie"*

Remember, God does harden obstinate, callous hearts that fail to respond to His patient calling. He hardened the heart of Pharaoh (Ex. 10:27, 11:10). He hardens the hearts of sinners (Rom. 9:18, 11:8). It appears that He may harden hearts of those in the Tribulation who have rejected the message of Christ.

The message to our lost friends and family members: Don't wait!