

Chapter 10

THE FIRST SIX VIALS**REVELATION 14*****Talking Image***

We had gotten down to verse 12 in Revelation 14, but there is something in 13:15 that I forgot to mention, and that is the talking image. The talking image is a television. John described what he saw, which was something he had never seen before. It is not some kind of statue that is made to talk. It is not anything like that. This is a method of communication for the false prophet. You remember the two horns had to do with journalism and education. In the field of journalism would be television in which the image moves and talks. It is a talking image. We have it in place today, and if you want to see a talking image, just turn on the TV and you will see a head sitting there just talking away.

Joe: How would a person worship that because the fact is everybody watches TV?

V: Yes, and when the image is that of Antichrist, the people will worship him. Already people worship movie stars whose images appear on the big screen and on TV.

Joe: And that is of concern to me.

Taking the Spiritual Mark

V: Yes, and let me speak to that. Last week we talked about taking the mark spiritually. As you turn on the television today, your family is being invaded with political correctness, and if they accept that political correctness, that is taking the mark on the forehead, the spiritual mark. If they put that political correctness into effect, it is taking the spiritual mark on the hand. There is going to

come a time, however, when a physical mark is going to be required to prove political correctness. Those who have been politically aligned with this talking image being used by the false prophet will come to a point where they have to make a decision: Do I take the physical mark? If they are saved they are going to come to their senses at that point, and they are going to say, “Oh, no, my God, how could I have let you down?” because they have taken the spiritual mark in their thinking and in their behavior. They have followed the crowd, the popular crowd all the way to the point—in the other chapter I said to the wall—of making that final decision of whether to take a physical mark.

At that point, when it comes to the physical mark, even our stupid Christians are going to wake up. If they are not saved, the propensity for the spiritual mark is going to lead right into the physical mark, and they are going to say, “Yeah, give it to me! give it to me! Let me identify with the politically correct crowd because I have identified with that crowd my whole life.”

Political Correctness

This business of taking the spiritual mark is happening today. Even if you do not watch that talking image, political correctness is going to come at you in a variety of ways, and it is going to be highly persuasive. It is going to come at you in economics. It is going to promote an economical position. For example, the politically correct church will hold to its tax exemption at the cost of not being able to express the truth in politics. The church can-

not support a political candidate, or even provide voting report cards for fear of losing its tax exemption. Thus its witness is darkening further (trumpet #4).

Political correctness is going to come at you in relationships. If you are going to be spiritually exclusive to the point of following Jesus alone, then your community or society will not accept you. You cannot preach against the abominations because the majority of society will already be involved in them. Homosexuality, divorce, gay marriage, pedophilia, pornography, witchcraft, drugs, etc., will be totally accepted as normal.

Or political correctness is going to come at you in religious overtones like you are an exclusionist or you are a reactionist. Your theology may not be broad enough to admit the other religions or even the liberals of your own religion.

There are many ways that political correctness is coming at us right now. The false prophet is getting that message out there. It is bombarding the people. It is coming in subtle ways too. Even entertainment shows a position being put out there that is introducing homosexuality as just an alternative life style. In the classroom we are getting bombarded with homosexuality and values clarification and all of that kind of stuff too. So even in that realm Satan is propagating political correctness.

Art forms are taking the same tact. We are giving our tax money to the National Endowment for the Arts. Hey, man! Look at that terrible stuff. But you are being encouraged to get on board and get politically correct. We have a majority of the people against these art forms, but yet they are still there. Most of our government stinks to me, folks, because check the mark on their hand, check the mark

on their head. They give one message out of their mouth when running for office, and think and do something entirely different when elected.

Mary: I do not know if anybody heard the debate between Gore and Bradley last night when both of them expounded upon the rights gays should have not only in the military but everywhere. It just made me turn over and watch the World Series.

V: The new heroes of our political correct society are the homosexuals.

Homer: I have a question. Back in chapter 12 when the serpent cast the flood of water out of his mouth at the woman, is that the church going against Israel?

V: No, that is religion going against Israel, and I particularly think it is Islam.

Steve: There was an article on the news and then I read it in the paper, too, about some people who had gathered in Israel, on the Mount of Olives, I believe, or wherever Christ is supposed to come back. The result was that they were arrested. They had not done anything but were arrested because the Israeli government said that they were likely to cause trouble. Some were sent home as well. That is probably not significant except that it is a beginning to what they are going to do to Christians. Just the fact that we carry the name targets us for pressure to be politically correct or to be punished if we do not conform.

V: Yes.

Joe: This worship of the beast, I think I follow you, but these are people just going along with all this political correctness.

V: Yes, it is an attitude, and that is the spiritual mark. Now you can watch television, and just because you are not bowing

down to it does not mean you are not worshipping the beast. All you have to do is agree with it. To take the spiritual mark on your forehead is to agree with a politically correct system.

Pete: If you just keep on watching it even though you know it is wrong, is that agreeing with it?

V: No, but it may be opening your mind to something, and the Lord says to flee temptation.

Ted: Something that the Lord showed me was when I was doing pretty good, I thought. I was studying the Bible just about everyday, spending time worshipping the Lord just about everyday, but the first thing I did was pick up the *TV Guide* to see when there would be an opportune time for me to worship the Lord. I wanted to see what was going to be on TV that night. It is easy to get caught up in worshipping the TV instead of worshipping the Lord.

V: And some of that is worshipping yourself. It is a self-indulgence kind of thing.

Sybil: I have found the past several years now that the best station and mode for the boob tube is the O-F-F mode. That is where mine stays.

Jerry: I think that we have to keep in mind what Jesus said. Jesus said that our eyes are the lamp of the body, and if our eyes are full of light, then our whole body is going to be full of light. But if our eyes are full of darkness, how dark we will be. Think about what we take in through our eyes and what we take in through our ears. It will have an effect on our lives because it affects our heart condition.

V: Yes, it will.

Tom: Jesus said that it is not what a man takes into his mouth (Matthew 15:11) that makes him unclean, but it is what comes out of the desires and the nature of the heart like murder and evil thoughts. We are taking in all the politically correct garbage and music via TV. What we watch and listen to may affect our hearts.

V: Yes. I think the mark, the spiritual mark that we are talking about here makes your heart become like that. Then everything that comes out of you agrees with that heart which agrees with that mark. Your deeds, then, become the same as your thoughts. I think that would be a pretty accurate statement.

This business about the spiritual mark is some serious stuff, people, and I want to encourage you to stand against the tide because you are going to be all alone. If you are looking for comfort in numbers, it is over with for you. Do not look for that. If you can find just one to stand with you, you are very fortunate. So hang tough and stay strong to the Word. Resist going with the crowd because the crowd is like a stampede going over a cliff.

Betty: Dr. Vinson, it seems like I am inundated with people who continually send stuff, and I disagree with about half of what they are doing, but God is not leading me anywhere else. You hear this political correctness from different churches and different groups. I disagree with most of it, but I am still supposed to be here I think. How do you stand, how do you know? Do you stand alone on every issue? Do you stand alone on the important issues, and how do you deem which is which?

V: I do not know how you do it. It is a matter of wisdom. A lot of it is trial and error, and I suspect that you have not stood on

the right side of some issues. But every one of us will take a beating on the way we stand if we are going to stand true.

Sybil: I do not watch TV any more. I have listened to a particular program and their stand on the Catholic Church, but the other night he made it sound like their new movie, *Megacode*, declared that it was the church's fault that Hollywood has been putting out such terrible movies. I mean, I just turned it off. I will not turn it on again. According to him, we did not stand behind them in the same way that we did not stand behind people like Cecil B. DeMille who, he said, was a staunch Christian. He made it sound like it was the church that had caused Hollywood to go evil.

V: We left off last week in verse 12. Here is the patience of the saints.

Patience of the Saints

Revelation

14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Now this patience business we have talked about, the standing under the burden, and denying your flesh (see Chart 10.1). Your flesh is not going to want to stand under the burden. It is going to want to throw the burden down and flee and indulge itself, but this is where the saints stand. They stand with keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Right here, under this burden is *kenotic* sacrifice, patience.

The lure is about taking the mark and worshipping the beast, joining up with Babylon, the world system, which is the opposite of the *kenosis*. Climbing and indulging yourself opposes the patience of the saints. Standing against those things in the arena and staying under the burden, not shying away from sacrifice, suffering, and pain but hanging in there is

the patience which saints of today must endure.

Patience is not this thing we call patience today. Patience has changed. The patience that we think of is that we cannot lose our temper. Today's kind of patience (the popular definition) is not to lose your temper. The patience that he is talking about is *hupo-meno* which is to abide under. To abide means that is your life, Brothers. That is where you live. You stay there under the burden.

The mark is now being promoted. The spiritual mark soon is going to progress to a physical mark. Worshipping the beast, acceptance by the politically correct, economic success, self indulgence, all of these are going to be the burden for you to resist. If you stand under the burden with patience, then you are rejecting all of that political correctness.

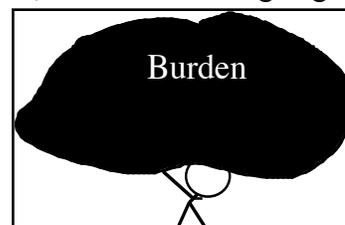


Chart 10.1

If you accept it, then you are getting out from under the burden. Then you will be free to have a good time in life just like all the other people, and just run right through life with the crowd and have it made.

Tim: I found out how the masses are doing this. People do not know the Word of God. The whole fight is against the Word. We do not have to wonder about what is right to do. The Word of God has told us. It is right there in the Word for everybody that reads the Bible from Genesis to Revelation or Matthew to Revelation. But what the politically correct "Christians" do, is look at the Word and say, "Well, that does not mean that." So, like you said, your burden is the standing there by yourself because they want to take the doctrine and twist it or make it

appear like it means something else. So the key to the church is that you have to get in there and study that Word and know what Jesus meant. Their opinions do not matter because the Word of God has already given what is right and wrong.

V. and students: Amen.

Tim: The other day I was listening to David Jeremiah on the radio, and he was talking about his son who goes to school at a state college. He was in a classroom where they were talking about homosexuality and submission. Well, there was a group of feminists in there who got up and derided the Bible's requirement for submission. Well, David Jeremiah's son, David, is a Christian. He got up and said, "I am going to defend what the Bible says," and he began to go into it, and they shouted him down, but he stood his ground. He said, "I will stand by the Word of God, I do not care what you people say."

V: That is glorious. Young David is a strong man.

The Martyrs under Antichrist

REVELATION

14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed [are] the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

This is a statement about those people who are going to be getting saved after the rapture. God says these are special people. I mean, they are going to pay with their lives, and God is saying, "Blessed are every one of these that get saved and die after this point in time." This point in time is past the last trump. This verse describes people getting saved after the rapture and after the beast is on the throne and after there has been an im-

plementation of a policy of killing Christians. Those not taking the mark must die. These people are going to get saved, stand up, and say, "I did not take the mark, and I am not going to take the mark." They will get their heads whacked off. This, God says, is a blessed person. "Write it down." He says, "Write this down."

Jack: Would these be people who were left behind after the other Christians were raptured? I can imagine them saying, "Well, you know what? They were telling us the truth, and it might not be too late. From this point on, I am standing up for God."

V: Yes, and notice what their decision point is going to be. It is not too late for them. However they know that they are going to die if they accept the Lord, but they will accept Him anyway. They look death right in the face and accept the Lord. So God said, "Write it down, blessed are these."

Jack: What are their works?

V: They are going to give testimony. They are going to speak. It is the same kind of works as the thief who testified on the cross. They will say, "I have faith in Jesus Christ, and I will not recant that faith even if you kill me." Man that is big-league works right there. Their sacrifice is going to have the same effect as the blood of the martyrs had in the Middle Ages. That blood became the seed for revival. As these new martyrs say, "Count me in. I am going for the Lord," they will be executed. Those observing these new martyrs are going to think, "Man, he is giving his life. There is some reality to this thing. Count me in, too." He, in turn, will be dragged off. Then the wife observing is going to say

Jack: Would not the works that follow them be the people that hear them and decide to follow them?

V: I think that is part of it. But they are going to be a very blessed group of people.

The Harvest of the Earth

REVELATION

14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud [one] sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

14:16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.

14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

14:18 And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

14:19 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

14:20 And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs.

Two Kinds of Reapings

Here are two kinds of reapings. This refers back, for me, to the Law of the Harvest. Two kinds of reaping will occur in this kind of harvest: two kinds of reaping and two kinds of sowings.

The Law of the Harvest

Galatians

6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Reaping Christians

The first kind of reaping is by the Son of man (14:14), and that is the Lord. The Lord is going to reap that group of people who are going to die here, and who are described in verse 13. Those Christians who die after the rapture are the Lord's reaping out of the earth. He is swinging that sickle into the earth, and here come more saints into the Kingdom. We are going to be up there, and as they enter we are going to be shouting and glorifying the Lord, and grabbing them and saying, "Man, you did good! You did good!" They are going to be coming into heaven. That is the reaping of the Son of man when He sickles those into the Kingdom.

But there is another reaping, and that is the reaping that is to the flesh. "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."¹

Reaping Unbelievers to God's Wrath

Revelation

14:17 And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, . . .

Now this is an angel. The first reaping was by the Son of man, the Lord. He took His sickle and reaped into the Kingdom, and

¹ Galatians 6:8.

then here comes an angel with a sickle, and he is going to be reaping the harvest to the flesh. It is described as the vine of the grapes that are fully ripe. This angel, then, thrusts in the sickle and gathers the vine. The grapes of wrath are being reaped by an angel, and they are being brought into a press, a winepress. These grapes are going to be trodden down outside the city. The blood will run 200 miles and as high as a horse's bridle. You need to see here that this is a parenthetical description of life on earth after the rapture.

Bob: I am trying to understand. The grapes of wrath are those who received the mark or those who did not receive the mark.

V: Received the mark. You see after the rapture there are going to be two kinds of people, those who do not receive the mark and those who receive the mark. Those who do receive the mark are going to have God's wrath poured out on them, and that is the kind of wrath that is being described here. This is analogical description. They are not going to be put into some kind of press and then stomped. That is a description of grapes.

You have complete freedom to disagree with me, but here is where I am coming down on this. This stuff is being signed to John. So, he writes what he sees. When he sees a television, he writes, "An image." He saw an image, and it was a talking image. That is all he could see. The way he is writing, you see, is based on the signs that are given him. It is not a dictation where the Lord says, "Write down this information." He was describing what he saw. It was an image, and life was given to the image so it could talk. He saw the image. Then he writes down, "I saw an image,

and life was given to it so it could speak."² That is the way it goes.

He looks over here, and he sees the grapes being harvested. You know what he saw? Grapes. And the grapes were put in a container, and they were trodden down, and it was the wrath of God that was trodding it down, and how that was pictured, I think, is an angel not saying, "Oh, you wonderful grapes," but "you sorry grapes" and stomping down hard. Then he saw blood that was 200 miles long and six feet deep.

Double Entendre

Betty: Sea of blood.

V: That is what he saw. But what does it mean? That is the picture that I want to bring to your mind—what does it mean? Now if you take the signs literally, and are looking for the exact signs, the only way that is going to work is that there is a double entendre. If there is not a double entendre, then you are looking for something that is not going to be there. Double entendre means both literal and sign interpretations are valid. But you have to come back to how this whole book is set up.

What God said in the beginning of the book is that it is a book of signs, and it was signed to John by God through Jesus to an angel to John, and it was not dictated. It is not a book of words, it is a book of signs. If the signs have a double entendre, and sometimes I find myself saying, "Yes, it is a double entendre," and then I will read a little, then I run to the opposite and say, "No, it is only a sign."

Taking it literally I could have said, "Man, there is blood 200 miles long and 6 feet deep. That means they are going to grab these peo-

² Revelation 13:15.

ple and put them in the press and stomp the blood right out of them.” That is a kind of literal thinking. Then I think, “If I am looking for the blood, if I am looking for these little things as if they were words that came to John, then I could be deceived, and I will miss the signs.”

At one time I was at double entendre. Today I am over here at signs. I want you to be thinking now because I do not have a lock on the truth. None of us have that. We are all searchers together. I need for you to be thinking along these lines as well. I do not mind telling you what I think for that is my job. That is what I do. Most of you tell me what you think. (Laughter)

Jill: Do you think that this book of Revelation has been so sociologically impressive that the grapes of wrath have pretty much the same meaning all the way down through English literature?

V: Yes, sir, I surely do.

Wanda: What is an entendre?

V: It is an intentional meaning. If you have a double entendre in a book of signs, you could have that sign as one of the meanings and the literalness of it as the other meaning. So an earthquake as a sign to me is a disruption of the secular forces, but as a double entendre it would be a crack in the earth as well—both meanings at the same time.

Betty: If I understand correctly, when John received the sign, for example the television, the image, then he is going to explain that in what he understands. Is that correct?

V: That is correct.

Betty: Because it is like trying to ask a primitive man to explain that microphone to me. He is going to look at that, and he is going to think in terms of what he knows. God

gives him the sign, then he is going to sit there and explain it in what he is familiar with. I do not have a problem with that.

V: That is right. Most of the Bible is words from God. You see what I am saying? This particular book, however, is signs from God. Words are signs, but they are narrowly interpreted signs, but when you see a lion, for instance, what does that mean? So you see a sign is a much more generic kind of thing, much bigger, and you do not have any words to describe what the meaning is. All the words are used in describing the sign. But that is left to John under the guidance of the Spirit. So the Spirit is using John’s vocabulary, and He is bringing out the words that are consistently true all the way through. You are not going to see this zigzag stuff where the sign changes meanings in this book because that would lead to chaos. It is constant in meaning.

Paul: God has always used visions for His prophets, though. He did it with Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. God often gave visions.

V: Absolutely. These visions are about things that are coming. It is visual, and it comes in through our eyes. Here is John looking at this scene, like a drama, and it unfolds in front of him. He is seeing all this weird stuff, and he describes it. It is still weird. Then we look at it, we have people that talk about these fire-breathing people, you know, these two witnesses blowing fire out of their mouths. Flames thrown out in various directions and all this kind of thing. You have then the sea, and you have the lions and the leopards, and some people talk about these flying saucers and all this kind of stuff because they have gone to the literal method of interpretations. They have started inter-

preting the book as if it were a wordbook rather than a sign book.

Henry: Basically this is saying that there were a lot of people that got tromped.

V: Yes. The people's lives are being sucked out of them by the oppressive society that is lacking in justice and light because the church has been raptured.

Henry: I mean the description of the amount of blood would mean that there were an immense number of people killed.

V: It would practically be the whole population of the earth that is suffering from the terrible rules of Antichrist. The people getting saved are being killed by Antichrist, but these people are not the ones described as grapes of wrath.

Henry: And I think that is the message that he is trying to say. And John may have seen what looked like a sea of blood, and he knew then that it had to be a tremendous number of people.

V: That is the interpretation that I am landing on today. Do not hold me to it tomorrow.

Joe: Okay, but it is interesting where this takes place at least in the Bible that we have. He is describing these grapes of wrath and the sickle that the angel uses to reap the harvest of the flesh, and we are getting ready to hit the seven plagues last.

V: That is right.

Joe: The complete wrath of God in this stuff is . . .

V: It is going to come down on all unbelievers. All unbelievers are going to participate in this second reaping.

Oscar: You think the second sickle reaps the grapes. That is like foretelling the seven plagues, right?

V: Yes.

Oscar: That will kill all the rest of the people.

V: Yes, if killing means sucking the life out of the people via suffering under Antichrist. This part about the Son of man sickling is going to fulfill all that in verse 13. All those will die in the Lord from this point on. There is going to be a big harvest—a big one of tremendous Christians who are willing to die for their faith. They are going to be our superiors.

Who Gives the Orders, and Who Does the Work?

Before we leave this chapter, let me tell you this part. This is an exciting thing. I want you to see how much God's servants are doing. I want you to see that every activity, every activity, not one is excluded, is done by the hands of God's servants. God's servants are doing all of this. God is not doing any of this. He is doling out responsibility to angels, to the four elders, to all of the saints. You see there is a delegated responsibility. Now that is not something new. I want you to hear this now. This is not a new thought. This is not a change of activity that is suddenly taking place at that point over here in the future. This is God's operating style right now. You are God's hands, His feet, His mouth, everything. When God does something in this planet, guess who does it? You!

Now when you start reversing that, you get up in the morning, you say, "Oh, Lord, I have Your work orders all lined out for You today. Here is what I need for You to do. I need . . ." And you give Him His working

orders, and you go about living your life. You say, "Have You got all that done, God?"

Where is your responsibility? Is it your responsibility to give Him His working orders so that you sit in the temple, and then you send God out with the sickle, and He starts harvesting for the Kingdom, and you say, "I have my prayer list for You." You see where I am? We have this thing so backward, and it is normal for our flesh to be backwards. The world's brainwashing has already ruined us! We must turn our perception around and see that God gives the orders, and you do the work. And our churches need to be told this, and to drop kick them if you have to, to get this thing turned around.

Jerry: Exactly. Where do we find the actual warning of humanism?

V: Humanism is in the mystery Babylon, but there is a mix. Humanism and religion intersect. In that intersection you have moved over into the waters, and so when you are dealing with Babylon you have the upside down *kenosis*, and you have the humanistic philosophy. When you are dealing with the waters, you are dealing with the religious aspects of humanism.

Tom: Henry Blackaby says that prayer is not the means of getting God adjusted to us but a means of getting us adjusted to God.

V: Yes. Our prayers have become very strange. I catch myself for I am brainwashed, and I start saying, "Lord, This is what I need" instead of relating to God as God, and saying, "What is the adventure that you have for me today? In that adventure will you please help me to deny myself, pick up my cross, and follow you?" Instead of "Lord, this is what we need," you make a list, and then you go about your life as if it is your life, and you are waiting for God to do His part. He has al-

ready done His part. He is the one that gives out the orders. By all means take your requests to God, but you must receive your orders from Him also.

In this description here about reaping, God sends the angels out, and the angel says, "Hey! Son of man, stick your sickle into the earth." Then He sends another angel out, and He says, "Hey angel, stick your sickle in and reap the grapes of wrath."

The prayers of the saints come up as the incense, the sweet smell in His nostrils, and the angels even play a part in that (Revelation 8:3ff). They bring the incense in, and they open it up, and the incense rises and God says, "Okay, I agree." It is time for the harvest to take place." I wanted to bring that out before we left the Law of the Harvest because it is very good.

REVELATION 15

Revelation

15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, [and] over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous [are] thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true [are] thy ways, thou King of saints.

15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for [thou] only [art] holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Sea of Glass

Here is this sea of glass, you know what the sea of glass is, that is the perfect church.

That church is the church that is made up of those who have died. It is the sea of glass. There are no waves; it is crystal clear. What you see is what you get. It is mingled with fire. Do you know what fire is? The Word of God, the *puros*, the purity is there in the sea. It has no filthy ingredients in it.

So here is the perfect sea, and standing on the sea are those who were martyred. They are standing on top. You see in this time, before death, in order to have your life, you must lose it. In order to be a leader you must be a servant. It is the person who serves, who sacrifices, who follows the *kenosis*. The one who goes down in humility and self-denial is the person who is going to be elevated in the end. Prior to death, elevation is a temporal thing. After death elevation turns into descent, not to hell, but to descent in terms of where you are in the sea.

Here are, then, these people who gave all including their lives in order to receive Christ and glorified Him with their stance. They stand on top of the sea. Listen! They are on top of the sea! They are going to be our bosses. You see the people who get the furthest down in the *kenosis* are going to be elevated the highest up. Jesus Christ went all the way to the cross. He is going to be right smack dab at the top. But there are going to be some folks right under Him. And there are going to be some under them, and some under them, and some under them. Way down near the bottom there is going to be Tim. (Laughter.)

Tim: Dr. V. will be close by, too. (Much laughter.)

V: That is right.

Tim: Then Dr. V. is going to have his hands full.

Beth: There is probably going to be a lot of us down there.

V: *Touché*.

Paul: Is there a significance in the word seven in the last plagues?

V: Yes, the plagues are going to be universal.

Paul: You know in the Bible, a lot of times when they really want to emphasize something, they say, "Holy, Holy, Holy"? Say something three times. I was thinking this today, you know the number of the man is six, six, six. Maybe it is saying man, man, man.

V: Whoo, whoo! That is good. That is really good Paul.

Mary: I heard somewhere, I can't remember what the source was now, but somebody said that the number six, six, six, referring to the Antichrist, is the number of hairs on his head. A secret number that only God would know.

V: I had not heard that, but I like Paul's idea. This is good. I think that is worth some consideration.

Victory through Death

We have a victory described here. Those who have gotten the victory over the beast and his image and his mark and the numbers of his name have victory, but it cost them their lives. You see victory for Christians is through death. Listen! Victory is through death! God wants you to have victory, but the only way you can have victory is through death. Victory for you right now is through self-denial, *i.e.* dying to self.

Now at this point in time under Antichrist, it is going to be an actual physical

death, but right now for you to have victory, it must be through death as well. You have to declare a death sentence on your desires, on your plans, on your wants, on all of these kinds of things. You see, you have to declare a death to them because the first step of discipleship is self-denial. You have to be able to say no to yourself. If you want to have victory, and you want to have it right now, there is only one way, and it is the same way as these martyrs right here under Antichrist, and that is death to self. It may not be a physical death for you, but it will include the privations that you may encounter for your body in doing the things God is doing.

Hear what I am saying! We have had many of our forefathers who had a very short spurt of glory, glorifying God in their lives, but it was like a shooting star, and it burned out. I am not saying to you that that is bad. I want you to hear this. God may call you to be a shooting star. But you need to be wise in how you invest your life. Please do not burn out on unprofitable busy work. Make your life count because that is the only one you have. Bring in a profit because you are going to be judged on your works. Your works will follow you the same way the works of these martyrs followed them. Let us make sure you make your life count. You have only one shot, so hit the ball out of the park.

Before we leave this I want you to see the Song of Moses and the Song of the Servant of God and the Song of the Lamb unite the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints, and the Lord here. These saints who are singing these songs have to do with both Testaments. I also want you to see that these martyrs who are standing on the glass have the harps of God, and the harpers are the ones who lead in the harmonizing of the saints. It would be nice, it would be wonderful, to be in

that first layer under the Lord. It would be wonderful to be in that next layer under the Lord. It would be wonderful just to have a harp, to be able to lead in the harmonizing of the saints. All of that is up there for you to pursue, and God gives you a commandment to pursue it. He says, "Lay up treasure in heaven,"³ a commandment. We need to do just that.

I want you to see one more thing before we leave this: When they bless God in verse 3 they say, "Thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways."⁴ Just and true. You remember how we talked about the light, the sun and the moon being darkened by 1/3? That is truth and justice, and now the song is Truth and Justice. The light is going to be brilliantly clear here. There is not going to be any darkening because instead of us being the source of light in darkness, in this dark world, we are going to be standing in the presence of that perfect light. There will not be any darkening of that perfect light. So truth and justice will be there instead of this darkening which is here now.

Announcing the Seven Plagues

Revelation

15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of

³ Matthew 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

⁴ Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous [are] thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true [are] thy ways, thou King of saints.

the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.

15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Now here again is a delegated responsibility for the angels are going to dispense the wrath of God. God is using His servants over and over again, which is consistent throughout Scripture, and He is looking to do that with us today.

REVELATION 16

Revelation

16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

I expect that that voice came from God unless God told an angel standing with Him in the Temple saying, "Go tell them now to dispense the wrath." But anyway it is a voice coming from God delegating work to the angels having the bowls. They have the Word now, and they are going to do the work.

Vial 1: Grievous Sores

Revelation

16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and [upon] them which worshipped his image.

Now here is the first vial, and it is going to land on everyone that has the mark of the beast on them. Those people are worshipping the beast. This is a grievous sore. I suspect that what John saw was a visible sore. I think that means a disease, and I think that disease is going to be a disease that is specifically pertaining to political correctness.

What comes to my mind today is AIDS because homosexuals have that. I do not

know if that is the only one, if there are all kinds of politically correct diseases, but they are manifested to John as sores because he is seeing something with his eyes.

In the Old Testament the plagues that were done on Egypt were visible, and they are preparing us for another look at the end of the New Testament. That new look is even a newer look because the old words are being used to describe these visions, but the meaning is left for you and me to discern. Even John had to discern the meaning because he was not given words in the ear to write. He was given signs to describe.

Henry: Do you have any idea why John was using the words noisome and grievous? Referring to the sore.

V: I looked up that word, and it has the word evil in it. And so it is an evil disease.

Carl: It does not have anything to do with noise?

V: No, it is not that at all. It is an old English word, and it has a Sixteenth Century interpretation of a Greek word that means evil and troubling.

Jerry: The first thing God always mentions is sexual immorality when He describes evil.

V: I really think that AIDS is here, but I think there are other things in here as well because he uses the word sores. I think there are several kinds of diseases, such as AIDS and herpes.

Vial 2: Death of Souls in the Sea

Revelation

16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead [man]: and every living soul died in the sea.

The penalty on the apostate church is that it is going to become putrid, a putrefied blood. Nothing alive in it. Not a living soul in it. Every person in that worldwide institutional church will be spiritually dead. This is the church that is going to come up under the Antichrist, and it is going to be a politically correct church, and it is not going to have all this stuff about “you must be saved by Jesus, and Jesus alone.” There is going to be that multitude of ways into salvation, and it is going to be an ecumenical kind of approach.

Jerry: So it is going on now.

V: Yes, it is! It is happening now. We are running as fast as we can to this stuff.

Jerry: This apostate church, are these going to be the lost members of the church?

V: Yes, because by this time the only saved people will be those who are not acceptable in that church. They are going to be in the streets running for their lives and seeking food and shelter because they do not have a mark in order to buy and sell. They are being turned in to the authorities by their neighbors and by their relatives, and they are just going to be perceived as the scum of the earth just like it describes the heroes of faith in the book of Hebrews where it says, “They lived in holes in the earth, despised by all men,” and it says of them that the “world was not worthy.”⁵ We are going to be returning to that old scenario for all the true saints, and those so-called “Christians” in the institutional church are not going to be suffering like the true saints. That is happening today. I

⁵ 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

11:38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and [in] mountains, and [in] dens and caves of the earth.

know of saints not accepted by churches, I mean, good saints, like the president of one of our conservative seminaries. It is going to come to the point where to confess Jesus Christ openly and to follow Him will mark you as a person unfit for the church. When that vial of God’s wrath comes out, that church is going to be turned into a dead and putrefied institution that will result from a total exodus of all true saints. It is going to become an institution of Antichrist.

Vial 3: Rivers and Fountains Became Blood

Revelation

16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

There are your good old preachers. All of your paid vocational ministers in this church that has become putrid. They, too, become blood. After all, the blood and putrefication of all the members rests with them. Their hands are bloody.

Jack: All this has to do with religion, right?

V: Yes, sir, vials two and three. Number one is not religion. Number one is on those who are just the population of the earth. Vial number two is on the church, and vial number three is on the clergy. Now let us get a commentary from the angels about the clergy.

Indictment of the Clergy

Revelation

16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

The vocational clergy have earned it. They have participated in the physical killings

of the true clergy, and they participate in the spiritual killings of their church members. They have blood on their hands and blood to drink.

Revelation

16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments.

You need to take Church History to see about this shedding of blood of the saints and the prophets because our history is filled up with this. It will break your heart. If you have not had Church History, do not be afraid of it. Take my Church History. I will guarantee you, you will pat your foot in my class. You will jump up and down. The excitement is like this that you are experiencing right here. We get excited. Both our history and our future is something to get excited about because our forefathers have paid the price.

Sybil: This would be through the ministers that are on earth that are leading the one-world religion that have persecuted those that were left after the rapture, and said, "They are teaching theology that is not politically correct. Send them to Antichrist."

V: Right, and so there is going to be this great shedding of blood and the turning in of the people by their neighbors, by their relatives, and by everybody that knows them. They are going to get their heads whacked off because we are going to see them standing in heaven with their heads off. They are the ones that stand on top of the sea. They have their heads chopped off, and they are standing on top of the sea with their harps.

These others in the institutional church though are in their nice, wonderful robes. They receive a good fat payroll, they have a great pension working, they are not going to say anything against the accepted doctrine of the beast, and everybody is going to "amen,

my wonderful brother." The only way you can tell the difference between that person in that church and that person out there in the world is by their robes. Their behavior is going to be identical. They are going to march to the same drummer. They are going to have the same thoughts and the same deeds. Even today, there is a lot of difficulty in distinguishing between a Christian and a non-Christian.

Tim: There is the one book that everybody might want to read, *The Woman Who Rides the Beast*.

V: Oh, boy! That is a good one.

Tim: That one made me sick at what happened to the saints.

V: Yes, that is a good one. Dave Hunt is the author of *The Woman Who Rides the Beast*. You read that book, and you are going to wonder how he managed to stay alive.

Vial 4: Scorching Fire from the Sun

Revelation

16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

All right, you remember how we talked about the sun and the moon darkening, and how it only darkened 1/3, but the sixth seal was a total blackness? Truth and justice are going to be totally taken out of this world. We are not talking about where you cannot see to walk around. It is not that kind of darkness. We are still going to have sunlight. The sun will be beaming down and the moon is going to be shining at night, but there is going to be such a darkness in the minds, the working of the minds, that truth is going to be

a lie, and a lie is going to be truth. Good is going to be bad, and bad is going to be good. Justice is going to be injustice, and injustice is going to be justice. And when the darkening proceeds and proceeds and proceeds then this angel in his wrath is going to pour out his vial on the sun and the light is going to increase.

Now here is what the light is. It is not that the sun is going to just start scalding you, and you are going to start blistering all over. That is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about the truth and justice coming into the minds of the people who have decided to walk in darkness and join in the darkness. It is now penalty time. Here is one with AIDS who is going to say: "I joined in with the crowd, and it was considered the good and noble thing to do, and now I am dying. Why?" It is going to dawn on them that if they had not joined in, they would not be where they are. "If I just had not done that. Why did I do that? But what I did has to be right because the beast declared it so. I cannot repent of that."

You see, they are going to continue in their blasphemy, but they are going to be scorched with truth and justice because truth and justice is the Law of the Harvest. When you sow to the flesh, you reap corruption.⁶ When you say, "I can sow to the flesh, and I am not going to reap corruption because the beast says I am going to have the happy life," you are going to arrive at a destructive end. The person wearing the mark of the beast will think: "I sow my seeds to the flesh, and now the corruption comes in, and now I am being corrupted. The beast said that I would not be corrupted, but I am being corrupted. What is going on here?" They are going to be caught in

the dilemma of seeing the truth, the scorching, brilliant justice coming in, you see, and they are continuing to hold to this abominable confession and allegiance to the Antichrist because their minds are darkened. But the realization of justice and retribution is becoming crystal clear. They are caught in that coming together of those two immovable forces. The only way you can get out of this dilemma is to repent. Give up on the abominable, and go into the light, and that is why you are called children of the light.

Jill: I was just thinking at the beginning of this lesson about this statement that they repented not.⁷ Could it be that at this particular time God has withdrawn from them the ability to repent?

V: No, unless they have taken the mark of the beast.

Jill: You do not think so? They have the ability . . . ?

V: They have the ability, but it is a willful choice.

Jill: After the scorching?

V: After the scorching. It is a willful choice. I have experienced these people. I have actually seen them.

Jill: Are there really people like that?

V: Oh, when the scorching truth of reality comes down on them, they turn away from it. They are caught in the dilemma between two immovable things. One is their allegiance to the lie, and the other one is the undeniable truth that you are reaping corruption.

Jill: That would be perhaps a little bit of conditioning or brainwashing or something.

⁶ Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

⁷ Revelation 16:9.

V: Oh, it has plenty of that: deception, brainwashing, all of that is involved, and it is involved in us.

Jill: When they see the truth, do they not have a mind?

Joe: I think Paul says that, and correct me if I am wrong, but he says they were going to be sent a powerful delusion⁸ that will sear their consciences. But when they see the actual truth and justice it is going to be like a crushing blow to them. It is just going to boom. It is going to hammer them big time. But they still are not going to repent because of the delusion, the powerful delusion, that they believe a lie. Those people are toast then.

V: It is going to scorch them.

Joe: Would you say that here is the verdict that light comes into the world, but men hated the light and would not come to the light because their deeds were evil.⁹

V: Right, they loved darkness.

Vial 5: Darkness

Revelation

16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

So in the midst of this light, there is absolutely total darkness in the whole realm because anybody who follows the beast is in total darkness. We have reached the end now of that seal dealing with darkness where it is

⁸ 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

⁹ John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

now totally dark, but yet the scorching, brilliant light is scorching the people. Then it says they gnawed their tongues for pain because they are caught in the dilemma

Revelation

16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Here they are caught in the jaws of a dilemma, and they cannot get out because they want to hold both sides together. So, they blame God, blaspheme Him, and maintain their current paths of lies and destruction.

Henry: That is the worldly sorrow that leads to death is it not?¹⁰

V: Yes, the worldly sorrow that leads to death is a sorrow for suffering the consequences but without a true repentance. Their behavior is not going to change. Thus their persistence in the destructive behavior will result in death.

Henry: We are stiff-necked.

V: Yes, a stiff-necked people.

Homer: Man, we are! We blame God for it.

V: The blame game is to blame God! This will always result in destruction.

Vial 6: Drying up the Euphrates

Revelation

16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

You know what the Euphrates is? It is a river. You know what river means? Clergy. You know what the clergy of the east is? Is-

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

lam. And so Islam, the clergy, and the preaching of Islam are going to dry up enough to allow Islam to join all the other religions to come against the people of Christ, the real people of Christ. They are even going to join the church of Christ, the apostate church of Christ. The harlot is going to be joined with Islam so “Christianity” and Islam is going to join together. If you want to know how, read *A Woman Who Rides the beast*. Mary is the uniting factor between Islam and Christianity.

Wanda: You know that the latest catechism of the Catholic Church declares that a person who believes in Islam has salvation because he believes in the one God.

V: If that is so, they are already uniting.

Steve: You are saying that Islam and Christianity are going to be joining together?

Pete: The apostate Christianity.

V: They will join together in order to defeat real Christians. All of this preaching of destruction is going to dry up.

Now we come to a parenthetical, and after it we will stop and pick up in the next chapter.

Unclean Spirits Like Frogs

Revelation

16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [come] out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, [which] go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed [is] he . . .

That is you.

16:15 . . .that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Let me talk to you about the frogs. Frogs are amphibians. Amphibians are at home on earth and in water. Frogs are the demonic influences with the same message in the earth and in the church. Amphibian. They are equally at home in the government/society and in the church. They have only one message, but I do not know what that message is. I cannot discern that from here. The message is equally relevant for the earth as it is for the sea. It is going to unite them both tightly together in a common cause.

Tom: Could the medical field unite the world by offering healing?

V: It could be. I just do not know, but there it is.

Beth: Is the Unitarian Church doing that today?

V: Yes, they are doing that today, but I do not know if that is the message of the frogs. This could be something that I do not know about. There are a lot of amphibians today because we are bringing the world’s methods into our churches—bring it on, bring it on. Does it make money? Bring it in here!

Sybil: One-world government, one-world religion.

Jack: Two days ago they had a marine funeral for a tree at Annapolis, Maryland.

V: A funeral for a tree?!?!?

Let me just warn you one more time! Watch! keep your clothes. Some of you have worked hard and denied yourselves. You have some clothes. Work and be diligent to keep

your clothes because, folks, you can end up naked. I do not care how well you have done, you can end up naked. Watch! Be careful! Keep your clothes.

Mary: When Jesus talks about the signs at the end of the age, he declares that the times

of distress will be unequalled. He said, "If God had not cut the times short, not even the elect would survive." Is this it?

V: This is it; yes, ma'am, this is it.

Chapter Questions

1. What is the spiritual mark?
2. Describe the patience of the saints.
3. Who is reaped by the angel's sickle?
4. What is the sea of glass?
5. Describe the first six vials.