



ONE PLUS GOD

**Get going: We don't have forever to get into forever  
A study on Revelation**

**Dr. Wynand de Wet (aka Pastor Wayne)**

**Week 9**

**Time for grace will run out...**

**One Plus God Ministries**

**Missions Minded, Every Day, Everywhere.**

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## **Revelation: Lesson plan**

Lesson 1 — September 3 — Who is Jesus? (Rev 1)

Lesson 2 — September 10 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 1 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 3 — September 17 — What Jesus expects from His Church, part 2 (Rev 2 & 3)

Lesson 4 — September 24 — In the throne room with God: Father, Lamb, and Spirit (Rev 4 & 5)

Lesson 5 — October 1 — Judgement and Grace (Rev 6 & 7)

Lesson 6 — October 8 — The Church has a mission (Rev 8 to 11)

Lesson 7 — October 15 — The Christmas-story through the eyes of Revelation (Rev 12)

Lesson 8 — October 22 — Evil attempting to imitate God (Rev 13)

Lesson 9 — October 29 — Time for grace will run out... (Rev 14 to 16)

Lesson 10 — November 5 — The efforts of Darkness will intensify, yet come to an end (Rev 17-18)

Lesson 11 — November 12 — God's triumph over a one-sided war (Rev 19 to 20)

Lesson 12 — November 19 — God's complete reign is coming soon! (Rev 21 to 22)

**Revelation 14:1-5, Singing a song to the Lamb!**

After the news about evil’s dark moves in Revelation 13 a bright encouragement from heaven is just what we need—by now we know this is very typical of Revelation’s structure! Identified in a very special way with the names of the Lamb and the Father all believers are gathered in the presence of God in the “capital city” of the new Kingdom (v. 1; Is. 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-3). They sing in an amazing way (v. 2) a new song (v. 3) as people who had been made new, and now live as such (v. 4):

- They keep themselves pure as soldiers would who recognize the fact that they are in a war (Dt. 23:9-10; 1 Sam. 21:5; 2 Sam. 11:8-11);
- They follow the Lamb just like faithful disciples would do (Mk. 1:18, 8:34), no matter where He goes, even if it would lead to suffering or death (Mk. 8:35);
- As those who had been purchased at great cost they are now the first fruits of the great harvest of believers who will follow (1 Cor. 15:20, 16:15);
- Finally, they are those who walk in the truth and are totally spotless/pure/blameless, in other words completely ready to sacrifice themselves in service to God (v. 5; see also Ex. 29:1; Lev. 4:3, 5:15).

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### Revelation 14:6-11, Three important messages

Three angels deliver three important messages:

- God is not simply relentlessly, without a break, busy executing one judgement after another. There are so many opportunities to hear His grace, accept His call to repentance, and be saved! Here is another one: The first angel proclaim again to everyone (v. 6), with a loud voice (v. 7a), that it has now become crucial to repent, give God the glory, and worship the true Creator God (v. 7b)!
- Throughout Revelation we find Babylon (with a direct association to Rome as was often done in the ancient world, as we also find in 1 Pet. 5:13) in opposition/contrast to the heavenly Jerusalem. The angel announces its fall in the past tense to show the certainty of what is to follow (v. 8a). Evil, represented here with Babylon/Rome is misleading many by creating a drug-like effect on the people, constantly alluring them to idolatry and immorality (v. 8b). Adultery here, as we often find elsewhere in Revelation too, also include committing spiritual “adultery” by not being faithful only to the relationship with God.
- The third angel warns that God’s wrath will come undiluted (v. 10; see also Jer. 25:15-18) to those who would choose to worship the evil one as his property (v. 9). The intensity of this judgement message is striking, and without end (v. 11; see also Is. 34:9-10).

The messages are clear: There is grace, for sure, but we need to be careful...a day and a time will come when grace will run out... Repent, before that happens!

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**Revelation 14:12-13, Blessing upon blessing to those who stay faithful!**

Once again we find it...blessing in the midst of the most intense judgement announcements: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them" (v. 13)! During this time of intense judgement believers need to endure patiently what comes their way as they move forward in obedience and faithfulness (v. 12). There is no doubt about it: The only way to live in the Lord is to die in the Lord (v. 13)!

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**Revelation 14:14-20, Harvest time!**

Christ is surely coming for the final, judgement day as the "sharp" sickle is portraying (v. 14). The time will come, and the harvest will be brought in (v. 15; Mk. 4:29). It seems that the wheat harvest is here referring only to the bringing in of the *believers*, as there is now mention of winnowing (v. 16).

We also find a second harvest (v. 17), this time for the grapes (v. 18). The grapes however go into the "great winepress of God's wrath" (v.19; Is. 63:3), where they are trampled "outside" the city (v. 20a; Joel 3:2; Zech. 14:4-5). Clearly this is referring to the *non-believers*, rather than the believers who will be found inside the city (Rev. 22:14-15). The following scene is horrific: From the winepress blood is flowing for about 180 miles (1,600 stadia), covering Israel from north to south (roughly the distance from the Syrian border to Egypt in that time period).

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**Revelation 15:1-8, Preparation for the final series of 7 bowls, filled with God’s wrath...**

Our theme for this lesson seems to be fitting: Time for grace will run out... Verse 1 states that this is the last plagues, because the wrath of God has been completed. We can clearly define a progressive intensity. The sea of glass from Rev. 4:5-6 is now mixed with fire—God is judging right from the throne on which He sits (v. 2a)! And then, in the midst of fierce judgement we yet again find the encouraging image of victorious believers (v. 2b), holding instruments of worship (v. 2c), and singing a song of salvation and victory (vv. 3-4; Ex. 15:1-19; Dt. 31:30-32:43)!

The two tablets with the 10 commandments are present in this final judgement as the ark, the Testimony (see Lev. 16:13), is present in the tabernacle (v. 5). These angels are dressed like priests (v. 6a-b) and guests who are done working and now about to celebrate in the wedding of the Bridegroom (Jesus) with His bride (Church). They stand ready to receive and return the answer of the prayers of the saints from Rev. 5:8 and 8:3-5 (v. 7). During this time of final judgement God’s glory is filling the entire temple, now closed, with no chance anymore of slowing it down, or stopping it till it is all done (v. 8).

Progressive intensity indeed...

Grace...and time...are running out. Living faithfully, patiently, and obediently, while testifying with a great urgency are all very important virtues...!

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**The bowls and the plagues in Revelation 16**

We find in chapter 16 a clear correlation with the plagues in Egypt. We can identify at least these:

Bowls	Plagues
Bowl 1: Painful sores (v. 2)	Plague 6: Boils (Ex. 9:8-12)
Bowl 2: Sea turns to blood (v. 3)	Plague 1: Nile turns to blood (Ex. 7:14-25)
Bowl 3: Fresh water into blood (vv. 4-7)	Plague 1: Nile turns to blood (Ex. 7:14-25)
Bowl 4: Scorching heat of the sun (vv. 8-9)	Plague 9: Darkness (Ex. 10:21-27)
Bowl 5: Darkness (vv. 10-11)	Plague 9: Darkness (Ex. 10:21-27)
Bowl 6: Euphrates dries up; 3 evil, frog-like spirits (vv. 12-16)	Plague 2: Frogs (Ex. 8:1-15)
Bowl 7: Natural disasters (vv. 17-21)	Plague 7: Natural disasters (Ex. 9:13-35)

**Revelation 16:1-9, Extreme judgement, yet no repentance...can that be?!**

The wrath of God is now being poured out upon all (v. 1; Lev. 26:21; Jer. 10:25). The first bowl only affects people who are loyal to the evil one (v. 2). The second bowl has huge implications: Without life in the sea providing enough food for the Roman Empire would be a huge challenge, but also the total economy would have taken a significant hit (v. 3)! The same would apply to the third bowl (v. 4)...

In the midst of these harsh judgements verses 5-7 remind us that this is not God simply being revengeful. He is acting according to His holy and righteous ways. His is the Holy One (v. 5), Who is executing a fair judgement (v. 6), and addressing the prayers of His children (v. 7).

The fourth bowl is even more intense: Not only is the sun hot, but it is also scorching people (v. 8)! Yet, even in the midst of all of this we find that people still refuse to repent and glorify God (v. 9)! This must be breaking God’s heart... Is your heart also broken for what breaks God’s heart...?

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### **Revelation 16:10-21, Progressive intensity...yet, cursing rather than repenting...?!**

The fifth bowl is hitting the beast dead-center (v. 10a)! The confusion in the dark (v. 10b), and the excruciating pain of people gnawing on their tongues must be terrifying (v. 10c), yet people continue to curse God, and refuse to repent... (v. 11). Unbelievable!

The sixth bowl dries up the Euphrates, in other words both the borders of the Eastern Roman Empire and Israel disappears (v. 12)—on the other side of the ancient Euphrates we would find the Parthians who were greatly feared. *God* is therefore opening up the way for all who is evil to come together and join hands for the final battle, that will be on *His* great day (vv. 13-14; see also Ezek. 38-39 in the background). One cannot but smile for the irony in this! However, the intensity of the events also has to catch one's eye: The three evil spirits are now for the first time in Revelation working together as an evil trio, clearly working an angle of false propaganda against God—all three spirits come from the mouths of the dragon/beast/false prophet (v. 13). The leaders of the world are being targeted to gather in Armageddon (vv. 14, 16).

However, before we can go any further, the saints are once more encouraged by a message from Jesus Himself: We need to be alert, awake and dressed for action (v. 15; see also Mt. 24:43)!

Keeping in mind that Ezekiel 38-39 is in the background of the Armageddon references, we can clearly see that the references is to a final and significant battle. Most scholars would connect the Hebrew *Harmageddōn* with the city of Megiddo in the Jezreel valley, where many battles had been fought over the ages (Judges 4-7; 1 Sam. 31; 2 Kings 23). We will dig more into some possibilities of what this war could look like when we get to Revelation 19:11-20:10. For now it should suffice to mention that there will surely be one big, final push from evil in the end, but even this happens under God's control, with Him ending in victory!

Things are speeding up indeed, as we now find no break in the text between the sixth and the seventh bowls. Moving right along the seventh angel emphasizes this strongly: "It is done" (v. 17)! Tremendous natural disasters follow (v. 18), with cities collapsing under God's wrath (v. 19), islands and mountains disappearing (v. 20), and totally out-of-proportion hailstones falling from the sky (v. 21a). Yet, people still curse God, and will not repent... (v. 21b)!

This is calling upon believers to remember: Time for grace will run out...therefore we need to use the grace-filled time we still have to reach the lost...quickly...soon...with a deep sense of urgency!



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**Resources**

We are called to obediently follow God, and stay totally faithful to Him through to the end. We are also called to actively following Him during this time, continuously making a difference with a sense of urgency. George Müller was a man who did just that. You will enjoy this great book, "George Müller: The guardian of Bristol's orphans" by Janet & Geoff Benge, about the life of a man who didn't just walk by the need, but stopped, cried out to God, and immediately put efforts in motion to make a difference!

This is available in a Kindle version on Amazon.

## Want to dig deeper, or just stay connected?

- Email pastor Wayne/Wynand with your questions/remarks at [wynand@OnePlusGod.org](mailto:wynand@OnePlusGod.org).
- Call pastor Wayne/Wynand at 567-356 2007.
- Connect with us on Facebook:
  - Pastor Wayne/Wynand: <https://www.facebook.com/wynand.dewet.7>
  - One Plus God Ministries: <https://www.facebook.com/OneplusgodMinistries>

## References

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