

The Revelation Chronologically Arranged

Seven Vials — Chapters 15–16

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Seven Vials

In Chapter 15:1,5-8 is declared that God's holiness must be vindicated by pouring out the seven vials of His wrath. The area affected is not confined to the Roman earth as it is with the trumpets (except in the case of the fifth.) This is a noticeable difference between the trumpets and vials which in the main run parallel and are somewhat similar.

The First Vial. Shows extended subjugation to the Roman beast and the sore anguish of his worshippers.

The Second Vial. Extends apostasy over the foreign masses of mankind.

The Third Vial. All the former sources of satisfaction become God's retribution upon those who had shed the blood of His saints.

The Fourth Vial. Extreme despotic oppression scorches unrepentant men who in turn blaspheme God.

The Fifth Vial. Here it is the Roman beast's kingdom so darkened that unrepentant men gnaw their tongues that blaspheme God, as a foretaste of the blackness of darkness for ever!

The Sixth Vial. Here, preparing for the end, we see Satanic hosts gathering together the Assyrians and kings of the world with their armies for the war against God at Armageddon (19:11-21).

The Seventh Vial. Verse 15, "I come as a thief," is warning in view of the seventh and last vial — the finality of this series of judgments. "It is done," (verse 17) accords with "should be completed" (10:7); (see 11:15;) "in them the wrath of God is completed"

(15:1); and "the seven plagues ...completed" (15:8 N.T.) Note these distinctions: the seventh trumpet includes both the displacement of kingdoms and wrath on the rebellious nations. The seventh vial is the demolition of all civil and imperial governments, whereas Armageddon was open warfare. Brings us to the end of Daniel's seventieth week, the end of the times of the Gentiles, the end of Gentile world dominion, the end of man's day. This last seventh vial has to do with the civil world empire.