

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,
11 And blasphemed the God of*

heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

THE FIFTH VIAL

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

"Ye Shall Know the Truth"

We already have learned that the first three of the seven vials were poured out in the sixth-seal age. The fourth vial was poured out on the sun, the New Testament, so that the church might be stirred. Now, the fifth, sixth, and seventh vials are poured out in this seventh-seal ministry. They are actually a repetition of the first three vials, set forth in a clearer manner.

According to Revelation 18, Babylon was to get two cups. The sixth-seal ministry gave her the first cup, and the pouring out of these three vials again is very necessary. The seventh seal is necessary because we have people today who are ignorant of the truth about the Church of God, and they don't know what Babylon really is. God returned with these three vials in a little more implicit manner so that people can have understanding in this generation. God loves the honest hearts of this generation just as much as He loved honest hearts of past generations.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth." It is up to God to get the truth to you, and He will. No matter how man tries to lie on it, kill it, or crush it down, God is going to get the truth to mankind; then it will be up to you as an individual what you ego about it.

Revelation 16:10 says, "And the fifth angel [or messenger] poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness . . ." We are hard on that beast because it bears an influence.

This thing has shed an influence that still exists and is affecting movements of men clear down to our day and time.

The seat of the beast means "the extremity, or the extent, of his authority." When he poured out this vial on the seat of the beast, he was pouring it out on the extent of his authority. This beast got his seat and authority from the dragon, paganism, and the dragon got his from the devil.

Holding the fact that the beast got his authority to speak, or to operate, from the dragon, I'd like to make a statement: none of Roman Catholicism's authority can be run back to God or the Bible. It is all of the devil, a deceptive work; there is no God in it. There is no light or truth in it whatsoever. This deception, nevertheless, has risen up in these last days of time until it has been considered just another faith and takes its place right along with true Christianity. Friend, we need to have our minds straitened; this thing in the Bible is called the synagogue of Satan.

This spirit of the beast, which is going out to the whole world, has affected us more than we realize. Whenever the church takes the attitude: "If a man wants to believe that, it's his business" we are saying, "If he wants to go to hell, let him go." What if someone has taken that attitude about you? When you were lost, somebody carried a burden; somebody infringed upon your affairs; somebody brought an awakening in your life. This devil I

am preaching against is sealing people, through these many different religions, into a lost hell. At the same time he is doing that, he is putting an indifference upon the hearts of God's people. Church of God, when you really get awakened you'll be astonished at the work that God would have you do.

The Kingdom of Darkness

When he poured out his vial on the seat of the beast, the beast kingdom was full of darkness. "His kingdom" again simply means the extent of his authority, whatever he has authority over. However far his kingdom reaches, it is full of darkness. There is no light in it.

You may ask, "How far does the extent of his authority reach?" We read in Revelation 13:8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Verses 12 and 13 say that it causes those in Protestantism to make an image to the beast and to worship the beast. Protestantism worships this beast by setting up their human organizations and building an image to that beast.

The extent of his kingdom can be told by the type of the corresponding plague that fell on Egypt. Remember, those plagues correspond. Babylon is spiritually called Egypt because it is holding men and women, who should be serving God, in darkness and sinful bondage. It is deceiving them, making them feel

they are serving God when they are not serving God at all; they are worshipping the beast. For the same reason that God poured the plagues out on literal Egypt—to set His people free—God is pouring out plagues on false religion.

Our Scripture text says that his kingdom is full of darkness. In Exodus 10:21 and 23, we read of the literal plague of darkness which was put on literal Egypt: "And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. [God not only hid the sun, moon, and stars from the Egyptians, but my friend, according to history, He so moved on the atmosphere that they couldn't even light a candle.] They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." This is a mystery that the world can't understand yet, how He can put light in one person while the one sitting right beside him is in complete darkness. When He poured out the plague of darkness in the Old Testament, how far did it reach?—Every Egyptian. Everyone who wasn't an Israelite had darkness. Now, when this fifth vial was poured out and disclosed this darkness, how far did it reach? To everybody whose name wasn't in the Book of Life.

Anyone who has never been truly born again and is not walking in the light does not have his name written down in heaven. I don't care how many churches they have joined, how good of a character they have, or how morally good they are, if they have never been born again, they're in darkness and heading for a devil's hell. The Bible draws the line. If you don't have your name in the Lamb's Book of Life, even though you attend a Church of God congregation, you are in darkness.

God help us to see that this is a picture of spiritual darkness which covers the beast's kingdom. Brother, if you are going to keep light in

your dwelling, you must walk in the light. Whenever you refuse, as did Pharaoh, you are going into darkness. It is just that simple.

The spirit of the second beast is working today, trying to get us to compromise. God has no time for compromisers. Pharaoh tried to compromise with God, but God let him know that He doesn't compromise. If God allowed compromisers, how would we know where the path is? How would we know how much compromise He puts up with? Where is the stopping place? It is right at God's Word. The Word puts you in or it puts you out; it gives you light or leaves you in darkness.

Babylon Has No Cure for Sin

Revelation 16:10 says, "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." These old spirits would make you feel that things in religion are actually getting better, but let's just consider the picture before us in this tenth verse. Back in the sixth-seal age, when they poured out the first vial, it just fell as a noisome and grievous sore. According to Isaiah, that sore was sin, a sore that only Jesus can heal. Babylon has no ointment for sin. By the time we get over to the seventh seal, those sores have become so bad that people are gnawing their tongues, the pain is so bad. This is a picture of how much more corrupt our world is today than in the sixth-seal age.

Right in a world where people who don't understand will tell you that things are getting better, the sore of sin is worse. Our world is suffering more from sin than it ever did. We have a symbolic picture in this Scripture of how much worse sin is getting all the time. We have multiplied kinds of religion, but the sin business isn't being cured. The church has so failed that religious leaders are looking to the government and politics to try to clean up

our nation. The only thing, however, that will ever clean it up is the men of God back in the pulpits and some people, who live the message of truth. The same thing that turned the world right side up in the morning time of the church can turn it right side up today.

You may ask, "Why is God so stirred?" We are in the final days of Armageddon, and too many people don't know who their enemies are. How in the world are you going to fight a battle when you don't even know who your enemies are? There are many white-washed religions which are enemies to the cause of Christ. The second chapter of Colossians, verse 23, talks of will worship. Will worship covers multitudes of religious sects, and there is no power of God in it. What is will worship? "Start doing better; do the best you can; you'll just have to overcome; you need a stronger will-power." That is will worship. You are not worshipping God; you are worshipping your own will. That is a million miles from getting on your knees and saying, "I couldn't help myself, but Jesus reached out and saved me and turned my life around." The religious world is full of wilt worship.

"Beware of Dogs"

Why was Jesus so against the seat of the beast? Matthew 23:1-2 tells us: "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat." Moses was the interceder of the Old Testament; God put him in that seat. He never, however, put a one of the scribes and Pharisees in. They climbed up on their own and took authority. They took a seat and power, and tried to operate under the God-given authority that God had given Moses.

Christ would have us to know the true characters of men so that we may not be imposed upon by great and mighty names, titles, and pretensions to power. He tells us

about the wolves, or false religious leaders. They are sitting in preacher's seats, but God never called them. They come to you with sheepskins, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. They have one thing in mind: destroy the flock. They desire to lead away some disciples after themselves, or to build up something for themselves.

Philippians 3:2 says to "beware of dogs." The rest of Paul's writing lets you know who the dogs are people who profess Christianity but haven't got it. They are right in among the saints. How can you tell they are dogs? Every week or so they return to their vomit. They repent on Sunday, and by Thursday they are playing around in sin again.

We want to encourage and strengthen every weak Christian, but we have to beware of dogs. They will affect you. The devil will work through them to tear you down. He'll have you believing that nobody can hold an experience because that individual can't. In 2 Corinthians 11:13, he spoke about deceitful workers. He wants us to understand these things so that we can know where to stand upon our guard. There are still wolves; they may claim to be shepherds, but they're wolves. There are still dogs, and there are still deceitful workers.

We have to own the fact that true religion has been greatly hampered and hindered by men who sit in seats or in positions not according to God's direction. Because those scribes and Pharisees sat in Moses' seat, they thought they had a right to govern God's people and tell them what they ought to do and what they ought not to do. They got so far off that they began to add to the Law.

The scribes' job was to write the Law out on paper and hand it out to the people. They moved up in Moses' seat to the place that they felt they could tell people what was best for them, whether it was according to the Word or not. They would add to the Law and take away from the Law. They ended up

teaching people the commandments of men, and telling them it was what God wanted them to do.

Jesus Is the Head

That is what false religion is doing clear through the extent of the seat of the beast. Every head of every religious organization that sits in the seat that belongs to Christ is an imposter and a blasphemer. Brother, Moses' seat was never filled until it was filled by Jesus. There was no interceder, or head, for New Testament Israel until Jesus came.

In Deuteronomy 18:18-19, God told Israel: "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him." He was talking about Jesus. Whenever any man gets to the place where he thinks he can sit in the seat as authority and instruct people, regardless of what the Bible says, he has climbed up into a seat that does not belong to him, and God is putting the heat on that seat.

My friend, it begins with the seat of the beast, and then it is the seat of the bishop, and the seat of many pastors and heads of local bodies. The extent of that seat is far. God never put any Pharisees or Sadducees in Moses' seat. God never put any man in that seat as the head of the church; Jesus Christ is head of the church; just as Moses was the head back there.

Hebrews 1:1-2 tells us: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son . . ." Brother, when He rose from the dead (Acts 2:32-33), He took His seat at the right hand of the Father. When He took His seat at the right hand of the Father, He became the New Testament interceder and the New Testament

head of God's people. God is stirred when any man rises up and claims to take that seat as vicar of the Son of God.

So when this vial was poured out on the seat of the beast, his kingdom was full of darkness. Friend, when you put the truth on the thing, you begin to see how dark that kingdom becomes. If there were more truth preached over the country, it would appear a lot darker. There is nothing that makes darkness as dark as the light beside it. That is why the devil wants to curb the light from shining forth.

Brother, in too many places of worship, a Roman Catholic in his lost condition can come in and sit down and feel right at home. There is nothing said to stir him whatsoever. People can come in out of Protestantism, bound under the extent of the seat of the beast with their human head and their commandments of men, and feel right at home. There is a difference between wanting people to feel welcome and feeling at home. We want every sinner to feel welcome, but we don't want him to feel at home in the church. He is in a far-off country, and he needs to come home.

The beast's kingdom is full of darkness because man sits in the seat that belongs to God alone. God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. But man sits in the seat, and that is why God is putting the heat on it.

Strong Delusion

Let us consider 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [speaking of the second coming of Christ] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God [he was speaking of the Pope of Rome right here, the seat of the Pope], or that is worshipped; so that he as God [I want you to see why the kingdom is full of darkness] sitteth in the tem-

ple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

"Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. [When Paul was writing this, the time hadn't come yet; the Roman Empire was still holding this thing down. It couldn't come to the state of papalism yet, but he knew the time would soon come when the Roman Empire would so change that church and state would be one, and the church would be ruling over the state.]

"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: [In other words, the spirit of it already works; the foundation was being laid for the Pope to take over. You are just getting in good shape to find another way and another god when you refuse God and His Word. I want to tell you again, there would have been no people for the Pope to reign over if God's people had stayed true. Papalism had its beginnings, my friend, in people who had fallen away from truth. John said that every antichrist went out from us. Friend, it yet remains to be seen what we can do if we will be faithful to the message of God's Word.] only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming [right back to that sun shining in full strength again]: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 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."

Here is your darkness. Brother, you are in darkness and sealed in it

when God turns you over to a delusion and lets you believe a lie and be damned, lets you believe you are right when you are wrong. Friend, don't play around with God. If you don't have a love for the truth, you ought to have. Something has killed your love if your love has waxed cold. He sent strong delusions because they didn't love the truth. They went along like a lot of people do now. They attend where it's preached, but they grump and groan, find fault with it after they go out, and only halfway live it.

You can mechanically measure to everything that the pastor preaches, but if you don't have a deep love down in your heart for that truth, if the love of God isn't shed abroad afresh through the Holy Spirit, if charity isn't there that loves and rejoices in the truth, you will still go to hell. Consider Ephesus; she was still doing lots of things. Jesus rejoiced in their works, but told them they had left their first love. Their love had waxed cold.

How can you tell when the beast spirit begins to work on you? An earmark of the beast spirit is that you begin to oppose what God says, and you begin to exalt yourself. When you begin to oppose God, you start exalting yourself. Come on, it is more than the Pope who has that spirit. Oh, yes, it went out to the whole world. It is knocking on your door and on my door. If you have the love of God in your heart, that spirit will work to kill it.

The Deceivableness of Unrighteousness

In verse 10 Paul talked about the "deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish." One of the marks of the beast is the deceivableness of unrighteousness. It is the deceivableness of false religion which makes you feel that because you made some moves, you are right even though you are unrighteous.

Come on, what is the mark of the

beast? The deceivableness of unrighteousness. How does he do it? With all signs and lying wonders. My friend, there are false signs of every kind. People have signs from speaking in tongues to working false miracles. People are deceived, believing they are a member of the church, but living in unrighteousness all the time. Well, I am here to tell you right now, there is nobody saved who is living in unrighteousness. I don't care if you can turn flip-flops and jump and shout; when you hit the ground, if you are still living in sin, you are not a child of God.

Tongues is in the Bible. It is one of the gifts of the Spirit, where it's needed, but is never a sign that you are a Christian. No, sir. Somebody may say, "These signs will follow them that believe." Yes, every one of those signs that follow them who believe is nothing more than the works that a Christian will do in helping a world, but not one of them is a sign to the Christian that he is saved. Why? You are saved by faith, not by a sign of any kind.

Second Thessalonians 2:12 says that they "... believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Such a kingdom will never have light, because they love darkness rather than light. There are many in religious movements today who love it just as it is: dead, formal, and cold. They never will have light because they don't want light; they don't want fire. They love darkness. They love quietness. They love formality. Sure, they love their forms of godliness, so they will never have light. God doesn't force-feed you with light. He does not press light in upon you.

There is only one choice, either the strait way or the broad way. God doesn't have two churches, a cold one and a hot one. If you want darkness, God will give you darkness. If you want formality, God will give you formality. God was feeding old Israel on manna, and they wanted flesh. So, He gave it to them until it ran out their nostrils. In

other words, they got sick of it. That kingdom will never have light, so there is no need in sitting around Babylon.

Somebody may say, "I'm down there. If there is any place that needs light, it's down there." Well, brother, the darkness in Egypt was so dark they could feel it. A man couldn't even light a candle. When God gets the truth to you and tells you to come out of Babylon, you can't help them by staying there. He would have healed her, but she won't be healed. He would have given her light, but she wants darkness. The cry is to, "Come out of her."

You can't shine your light in this darkness. This darkness is so dark that your light will not work down there. There is no light to be shed down there. God said, "Come out of her, my people." There is only one way to get out of that darkness: "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear, son (Colossians 1:12-13).

The Light of Life

In Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul told us as Christians to put on the whole armor of God because we are warring against spiritual wickedness in high places. We don't have carnal weapons because we are not fighting a carnal warfare. We need to realize there is spiritual wickedness in high places, in the rulers of the darkness of this world. When you are sure you have on the whole armor of God, then take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and pray much. This is the call to God's army. We have implicit instructions.

Jesus said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." You have the light of life when you know how to live a Christian life, when you know how to live free

from sin. Babylon is in darkness; that is why they still contend that you must live in sin. They don't have the light of life. Oh, they talk about some light on repentance and confession, but they don't have the light of life. They don't have light on knowing how to live a Christian life, free from sin. If you will let Jesus translate you out of darkness into light and then follow Him, you will have the light of life. He will show you how to live pleasing to God.

Getting back to our Scripture text, because men and women are not following Christ, but following the beast, you see their sores, or their sins, keep breaking out. The more pain they suffer from sin, the more they blaspheme the God of Heaven. How do they blaspheme the God of Heaven? By bowing before and submitting to rites, ceremonies, and forms of godliness that are put forth by men who are sitting in Christ's seat. When you submit to them and let them be your god, let them take authority over your life and command you, you are blaspheming God.

In the darkness of false religion, there is no power to truly repent. They blasphemed God because of their pains and sores, and they repented not of their deeds. If they had repented of their deeds, their sores would have healed. The sore of sin will heal with real repentance of your deed. In their darkness, there is no power to repent, so they just have penance, lent, and all the other rituals, never bringing man to a real experience of repentance.

Compromise

When God first sent Moses to free His people, we see a picture of Pharaoh trying to compromise. It is a picture of how the devil will try to work through a worldly-minded individual yet today. It is one of his favorite resorts. When Moses asked Pharaoh to free God's people so they could serve Him, he said, "Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land [of Egypt]" (Exodus 8:25). Here is a

picture of that which is spiritually called Egypt; it is a picture of servitude, or sin. Pharaoh tried to compromise by letting them worship in Egypt.

The devil, through false religion yet today, is saying that you can worship God if you want to, anywhere you want to, as long as you stay in sin. As long as the Israelites stayed in Egypt, Pharaoh still had control over them. And the devil is saying to man yet today: "As long as you stay in sin, I don't care if you worship God. I still have control over you."

Moses told Pharaoh that they couldn't worship God in Egypt. Why? It was a land of bondage, a type of the bondage of sin. Pharaoh then said, "I will let you go . . . only ye shall not go very far away . . ." (verse 28). In other words, you can just go over the weekend, but you have to come back. A lot of people have that kind of religion; they just have it over the weekend. The old devil says, "Yea, you can go worship over the weekend, but I want you right back on Monday, living like the devil again." The devil doesn't mind you making little starts for God, but he doesn't want you to go very far.

Pharaoh continued to try to compromise (Exodus 10) with Moses, but Moses said, "We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go: for we must hold a feast unto the Lord" (verse 9).

From the first time Moses visited Pharaoh, Pharaoh got the message. When God said to loose His people to go to serve Him, His message was to loose them all together, to go forever and never to come back. Those were the terms God was talking about here, and Pharaoh got the message. When Moses told him that everyone and everything had to go, Pharaoh said; "Not so: go now ye that are men, and serve the Lord; for that ye did desire. And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence" (verse 11). Well, when Moses got

outside and stretched out his rod, the plague of locusts fell and began to eat up everything.

Verses 16-17 tell us: "Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste [Remember, that whenever you take such an attitude as that at God's man, it will just be a period of time until you'll be calling on him. There is a God who still rules the universe, and you don't have the last word. God always has the last word.]; and he said, I have sinned against the Lord your God [Pharaoh confessed, but it wasn't real], and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once [for what reason?] . . . that he may take away from me this death only."

Everything was dying. The locusts had taken everything, and he was going to die because he couldn't get any food. Why did he repent? For the same reason people do today: because they are in trouble, and they feel if they repent, God will help them out of their trouble. They don't really repent because they are going to quit sinning; they only repent because they are in trouble and want God to lift the trouble. Well, my friend, that leads us up to our message. Pharaoh, told Moses to get out, that he didn't ever want to see his face again. Moses said, "Thou hast spoken well; I will see thy face again no more" (verse 29).

God Delivers

In Exodus 11:2 the Lord instructed Moses, "Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold." God knows how to keep the record even. The Egyptians had worked the Israelites for no wages, but when God brought them out, they came out loaded with silver and gold; they had been paid good wages for every hour they worked. While Egypt was busy mourning over their firstborn and while Pharaoh was mourning over his first-

born, Moses was leading Israel, singing, towards the Red Sea and out of Egypt.

I will seal the message with this—God's will is going to be done. Where you fit into it is up to you. Whether you live in the darkness and under the plagues of rebellion is up to you, but God's will is going to be done. When God says, "Let My people go," He means it.

Friend, we are shaping up into a final battle of Armageddon. You may have played around, but within the very near future, everybody is going to know which side you are on. God is calling for you to run up your flag. The very word *Armageddon* points to a showdown. Right out there over the last hill is a final judgment. God is not going to bring a confused multitude up to the Judgment. The Word of God is putting people in or out, on the right hand or on the left hand right now. When He calls, we'll be in our respective places. This preliminary judgment lets us know where we stand; we're either saved or lost; we're either in darkness or in light; we're either following the beast or the Word and Spirit of God.

Friend, the extent of the seat of the beast is far reaching, right down to the human heart. The beast spirit has never stopped; it is still reaching out. And then on the other side, thank God, God has never stopped. The Holy Spirit is still reaching, enlightening, drawing, pointing, and guiding every one who will allow Him to do so.

Message from 10-13-85 issue of
The Gospel Trumpeter