

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

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 wor-

shipped his image.

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.

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

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.

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

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

THE FIRST THREE VIALS

Brother Emerson A. Wilson

Why Plagues?

It is no coincidence that these plagues correspond with the plagues which God poured out on old Egypt. Babylon (false religion) is spiritually called Sodom because of the ludeness that goes on under the cloak of religion. It is spiritually called Egypt because it holds many of God's people in bondage just as literal Israel was held in Egyptian bondage.

We have studied about those who stand on the sea of glass (the Word of God) mingled with fire (the Holy Spirit). They sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. They are songs of God's glory and of divine deliverance. Just as Moses saw Israel have a wonderful, magnificent deliverance, here is a people who has been miraculously, delivered, not only from sin and the power of sin, but also from the bondage of false religion. They have victory over the beast (Roman Catholicism), his image (Protestantism), and over his mark and the number of his name.

If we are going to understand these plagues, called the seven last

plagues, we must go back and look at Egypt because this condition is spiritually called Egypt. Many of God's people who actually belong to Zion are held in bondage in these religious organizations. God is using the plagues today for the same reason He used them on literal Egypt. He only had one reason for using the plagues: to see His people delivered so that they might serve Him.

God's people have become bound in different religious organizations, and God is saying, "Walk in the light of this truth." But the people say, "We can't because our church doesn't teach it that way." God is therefore saying to them: "Come out of her, My people, and come back to Zion." The whole reason for the plagues back in literal Egypt was to loose God's people so they could be free to serve God. The reason for the plagues on Babylon, which is spiritually called Egypt, is to loose God's people so they can come back to Zion where they belong and truly serve God and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

There is one thing strangely different about the plagues back in

Exodus and the plagues here in the Revelation message. The plague that was the sixth plague in Egypt is the first one here in the Revelation. When God poured out the plagues on Pharaoh, those noisome, grievous sores all over them was the sixth plague, but here it is the first plague.

There is a reason for this. Every time that Moses would take his rod and bring forth a miracle and pour out a plague, Pharaoh would get his sorcerers and magicians to do the same thing. But when he got up to the sixth plague, of sores falling all over the people, the sores also fell on the magicians so that they could not work their magic. So God just gets rid of the falsities right with the first blow; He pours the sores out first, then we get the frogs and fire later on. He pours out the sores first so that all the falsities will get busy digging at their sores, and they will not bother the man of God.

Only Moses and all the children of Israel were free from the sores. Now let us get it straight, if this truth makes you sore, you are an Egyptian, spiritually speaking. You have never been born again and

you do not belong to Israel, because the sores do not fall on Israel. God just moved the sixth plague up to the first place in order to expose these New Testament false prophets who want to stand up and match their wits against a man of God.

Confirming Their Unbelief

God sent Moses down to Egypt to deliver a people. Every sign that Moses was given to convince the Egyptians that God was true, these fellows came out and, through their sorcery and magic, tried to imitate. Every time God moved the heart of Pharaoh a little bit, these magicians came along and confirmed his unbelief just exactly as false preachers do yet today. Unbelief would not be so great if it were not for the false preachers who confirm people in their unbelief.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 3:1-5: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves. . . . Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." My friend, false religion today is full of forms of godliness, but denying the real power thereof: from such we must turn away. What does this have to do with Moses or Pharaoh's magicians? Verses 6-9 say: "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres [Pharaoh's two leading magicians] withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall, proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was."

These false preachers only have a form of godliness, but deny the power of salvation. They are out here telling you that they sin and everybody sins. What is the use, however, of having church if we

cannot find deliverance from sin? The power of salvation is to deliver you from the power of sin and through the power of the Holy Ghost make you able to reign over sin, the flesh, and the devil right here.

False religious leaders withstand us when we preach this truth, and they have corrupt minds just as Jannes and Jambres who withstood Moses. Just as they encouraged Pharaoh in his unbelief, my friend, these fellows are encouraging people in their unbelief today.

In verse 9, Paul tells us that they shall proceed no further because their folly shall be manifest unto all men, even as theirs also was. He likens these corrupt teachers to Jannes and Jambres and says that their folly shall stop. These modern-day teachers and preachers who have brought perilous times into the religious world, their folly will be stopped.

How will their folly be stopped? Paul instructed Timothy to, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Timothy 4:2). A false preacher may have crept into your house with a doctrine through a pamphlet or a radio message, but if you will study the Scriptures, my friend, it will put an end to their folly. The preaching of the Gospel will put an end to their folly, at least to those who will listen to it.

This is why Roman Catholicism in their beginning burned the Bible. They cannot carry on their folly if the Word of God is loose. That folly cannot work where the truth is preached. So, what puts an end to that folly?—Searching the Scriptures and preaching the Word as it is.

If you will search the Scriptures and if you will heed the preached Word; my friend, it will bring an end to this folly just as it did with old Jannes and Jambres. They were right there in the plagues of darkness, flies, of rivers turning to blood, and a lot of other things; but when God got enough of it and just pour-

ed sores out on them, their folly came to an end.

Truth Reigns

So in the Revelation message God moved that plague, right up to the first place and poured it out on the earth. Everyone who has the mark of the beast or who worships the image of the beast gets sores all over them. They get sore, and the next thing you know, you do not see them around. I have no debates with false preachers—I hardly ever see them. Why? They cannot stand the truth. They do all their talking out where they can slip around. They cannot come face to face because the truth puts a sore on them.

False doctrine cannot prevail where the Scriptures are read and studied and where the Bible is preached. Notice Revelation 16:7, which says, "And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments." When true and righteous judgments are poured out, the folly, or fun, of false religion comes to an end.

When Protestantism killed the Word and the Spirit, the two witnesses, they lay dead in the street for 350 years, from 1530 to 1880. They made merry over them and sent gifts one to another (Revelation 11:10). When you get right down to the depths of Protestantism, it has no use for the Word and the Spirit. Why? They have their own dogmas and their own creeds. The Word and the Spirit are the true vicars of the church, and they made merry over them while they lay dead in the street. But they are alive today.

Revelation 11:11-12 tells us that the Spirit of life from God entered into them and they ascended up to heaven (the church) in a cloud (a cloud of people). When you get to laying down the truth through the Spirit of God, a lot of the merry-making in false religion comes to an end.

That noisome and grievous sore fell on men who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image.

The mark of the beast is to have the spirit of the beast, the teaching of the beast, and the name of the beast. A beast name is any name but the Bible name.

We have showed you in previous messages how Protestantism built an image to Roman Catholicism. When Protestantism first began, through the labors of Martin Luther and other reformers, they got the name Protestantism from the word protest, because they protested Roman Catholicism. It was not many years, however, according to the Revelation and according to history, until they turned right around and built an image to the first beast. Not everybody who is out in Protestantism is worshiping the beast or worshiping his image, but the Bible says for God's people to come out of her or they will end up worshiping that image.

God Means Business

Let us go back to the original happening so that we may learn more about these plagues. We read in Exodus 9:1-11: "Then the Lord said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh, and tell him, Thus saith the Lord God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For if thou refuse to let them go, and wilt hold them still, Behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thy cattle which is in the field, upon the horses, upon the asses, upon the camels, upon the oxen, and upon the sheep: there shall be a very grievous murrain.

"And the Lord shall sever between the cattle of Israel and the cattle of Egypt: and there shall nothing die of all that is the children's of Israel. And the Lord appointed a set time, saying, To morrow the Lord shall do this thing in the land. And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died: but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one. And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hard-

ened, and he did not let the people go.

"And the Lord said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains [blisters] upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians."

The first lesson God wants us to get right here is that every plague is poured out because God wants His people loose to serve Him. The second lesson teaches us that if a lesser judgment will not work on you, God will use a stronger one. There is truth all through the Old Testament for us to learn. Those things, according to the Apostle Paul, happened unto them for our ensamples that we might learn from them. We will learn that when God says, "I want My people loose to serve Me," that is what He means. If bringing one plague on you will not loose you, He will send a worse one.

Mark this down, God is determined for people to be free to serve Him. He wants people to serve Him and Him alone. He is a jealous God. How we need to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and submit to His way. We must get rid of the hypocrisy and come square with God. What more is He going to have to do to get you to come square? Whatever it takes, He will do it.

He will stop at nothing to bring you to a place of humbling yourself. He would like for the preaching of the Gospel to do it, but if that will not do it, He has a lot of other ways. He may take your job, He may take your health, or He even may take a

loved one. You may wake up and humble yourself over a little casket by a grave side. God would rather you humble yourself before that, but if it takes it, He will send anything. When He did not stop in giving His only Son, when He did not stop in giving the pearl of great price, the most wealthy thing that Heaven had, He will not stop at spending some other things to get you saved.

Divine Retribution

God spoke to Pharaoh time after time through Moses. How many times has God knocked on your heart's door? You would think He would give up, but God says to the Holy Spirit: "Go to him again. Go to him again. Deal with him once more."

Well, Pharaoh refused to do it. The longer he refused, the harder his heart became, the more his unbelief built up, and the harder God had to lay plagues down until He finally took the firstborn. Thousands of Egyptian homes had funerals the next morning. Only the Israelites were exempt again, because they had applied the blood of the Pass-over lamb to their doorposts. That is why this group in the fifteenth chapter of Revelation not only sang the song of Moses, but they also sang the song of the Lamb. Thank God for the Lamb. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, whereby His blood keeps the destroyer off of our homes.

Sometimes God shows men their sins in the punishment He gives them. He told Moses and Aaron to get some ashes out of the furnace. The Hebrew version says that He told them to go get some ashes out of the brick kiln. What was a brick kiln? That was where Pharaoh had the Israelites. They pressed bricks every day of every week. When they first went down, Pharaoh supplied the straw for them to press bricks, but before long, he made them gather their own straw and still produce just as many bricks as

they did before. The lesson here is that God may use some of your past sins for your own punishment. When God told Moses to go to those brick kilns, get some ashes, and stand right in front of Pharaoh, He wanted Pharaoh to do some remembering. When Moses threw the ashes toward heaven, it came back down (according to the Septuagint version) as a hot dew from heaven. Every where it hit man or beast, it made a blister and that blister turned into a boil. It fell on man and beast, including Pharaoh. Don't you think old Pharaoh did not do some thinking when Moses took the ashes out of the very furnace where he had held such a hard hand on the Israelites? The hand of God was bringing retribution, and He does it yet today.

The magicians could not stand; they had to run because the boils were on all the Egyptians. Right here, their folly was made manifest; they could not stand before Moses. It is just the same today. When God's Holy Spirit gets to anointing the man of God and the Word of truth goes forth, it will still put blisters on false religion.

Only Moses and the Israelites stood without any blisters on them. Do not tell me that this truth does not divide people. You can talk all you want, but only the people who are in the divine order of God can stand where the plagues are being poured out. Everybody else, just like the magicians; run off the field.

Now God is no respecter of persons. This old eternal-security doctrine is devilish. God will blister you just as much as an out-and-out sinner whenever you turn and refuse to walk in His way. God, speaking to His own people, said in Leviticus 26:21, "And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins."

Egypt was in darkness and did not know better, but we as Christians know better. I merely have gone back to the Old Testament so we could have a better understand-

ing of these plagues. God has not changed His mind.

How Are You Repaying Him?

Let us read Deuteronomy 31:29 and 32:1-6: "For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands. Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth . . . Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. [But what had Israel done?] They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children [God's true children were not spotted all over with leprosy]: they are a perverse and crooked generation. Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?"

God is pleading with a people; He is asking yet today: "Sinner friend or hypocrite, is the way you are living the return you are making to God for all His favor to you?" God is your maker; He has furnished you strength today to live, and He furnishes you gray matter so you can think. Every way you look, He has blessed you. Is this the way you are repaying Him for His goodness to you? Is this the way you want to repay Him?

In the New Testament Jesus spoke the same words in a little different way. He said in John 10:32, "Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?" He had done nothing but bless them. He fed them, just as He is feeding you. Some people feel that they are feeding themselves, but I would like to see them if God shuts off the sup-

ply. Brother, He can put you where you cannot even get welfare.

When Jesus came down here, all He did was feed the multitudes, heal the sick, cast out devils, and bless people everywhere He went. Here, however, were the Jews rising up against Him with stones in their hands. He asked them in so many words: "Which one of the good works are you stoning Me for? Are you stoning Me because I fed you? Are you stoning Me because I strengthened you? Which one of the works are you stoning Me for?"

Now God is asking you that today, sinner friend. He has done nothing but good to you, yet you rebel and refuse to serve Him. You must have something against Him. He wants to know which one of the good works you are holding against Him. Think about it a little bit. God wants you to serve Him, friend.

The Sore of Sin

Moses said, "Is not he [God] thy father?" Isaiah 1:2-6 tells us: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth [here the truth is still pointed toward earth]: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

"Why should ye be stricken any more? [Why do you wait for God to pour out other plagues?] ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the soul of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment."

This is a picture of the noisome and grievous sore that was found

on men when the truth was poured out. What is it? The sore of sin, which is noisome, grievous, and putrifying. It has never been bound up or mollified, never been closed.

Now, what is the picture of the sores, the noisome sores which have never been bound up or mollified? The word mollified means "made less severe." The sore of sin in the Old Testament was leprosy, a disease with no cure. Every Bible student knows that leprosy is a type of sin, and none but Jesus can cure it. So, my friend, in the realms of false religion, here is man with these putrifying sores, sin getting worse in his life, and it has never been mollified or closed up. Why? False teachers tell him that he cannot be delivered from sin, that he cannot get healed from sin. They tell him that he sins more or less every day; it therefore never is mollified.

Our nation is the most religious nation in the world. Church attendance has more than quadrupled itself. We have spent more billions on church edifices than any nation, maybe several nations put together, but our nation is more corrupt. While church attendance is going up, sin is being loosed and running more rampant every day. Why? These places do not teach a Gospel that will close it up, mollify it, or heal it. The reason it has never been mollified is because there has never been any ointment poured out.

The Songs of Solomon 1:3 says, "... thy name is as ointment poured forth. . . ." Thank God, if you will come in full faith and confidence in the name of Jesus, my friend, you can find a cure for the sin business. The sore can be healed. Why? He knows how to heal the sore of sin.

False religion, according to the Prophet Jeremiah, just cries, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. They pour healing powder on a cancer and get it to heal over from the outside; but if it is in your bloodstream, you may heal it up here, but it will break out somewhere else. Jesus does not do that; He is the Great Physician. Thank

God, He goes right to the core. He goes to the heart of the individual and heals it from the inside out, and when it is healed, it is healed. It is closed up; it is mollified.

God wants His people to serve Him. You cannot serve Him while still living in sin. According to the sixth chapter of Romans, you are either the servant of sin or the servant of God. There is no middle ground. We are a servant of God or a servant of men. You cannot serve two masters a bit more than you can go down two roads at the same time.

So, my friend, there is a noisome, grievous sore on men who have the mark of the beast and worship his image. Why? Because they are not worshipping God. They have not given their lives to Christ. Through the image that Protestantism has built, they are worshipping the beast, Roman Catholicism, so they have his mark and the number of his name.

Soul Killers

Let us continue with Revelation 16:3. It tells us, "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." That sea was the one this first beast came up out of (Revelation 13:1). Now here is a vial of judgment that is poured out on the sea. According to our previous studies, this sea is the foundation principles out of which papalism arose to rule the world.

In Revelation 12:16, when the dragon (symbolizing the pagan Roman Empire-Christianity's first opposer) was cast down by Christ and the ministry of truth, he was wroth at the woman, the true church, and he shot out of his mouth a flood. We have proved to you by the Bible that that which came out of the mouth of the dragon was the false doctrines and all those other heresies which he used to carry away the church.

My friend, those heresies moved

many of the true church until there was a falling away. Revelation 8:8 shows you a mountain on fire, Mount Zion, falling into the sea and the sea putting out the fire. Out of that very sea rose up this beast, papalism. Now that sea is made up of these many erroneous doctrines and commandments of men that Rome in its papal state rose up out of. So when this vial is poured on the sea, it is poured on those foundation principles out of which papalism rose up to rule the world.

When they poured this vial on the sea, it became as the blood of a dead man. Now what does that mean? Until truth is poured out, people think Roman Catholicism is all right, that it is just another faith and that it has life-giving qualities in it.

My friend, there is nothing about any of the teachings of Roman Catholicism that can give you life. How much life can you get from the blood of a dead man? This thing is not life-giving; it kills souls.

You will notice back in the eighth chapter of Revelation when the trumpets were blown, that just a third part of the sea became blood and only a third part of the creatures died; but it had developed by the time these vials were poured out until the whole sea was as the blood of a dead man, and every living soul in it died.

What is it a picture of? According to the Bible, until every little child comes to the age of accountability, he is alive unto God (Romans 7:9). Those first living souls that are killed by the Roman Catholic Church are those little children. They start with them at a preschool age and begin to teach them this devilish doctrine. Little by little, they bring spiritual death upon them and cause them to sin against God.

We Need to Fear Dead Religion

I am going to show you how the devil has deceived us. If a doctor

would open up a practice next week in your city and start shooting dead men's blood into your children, you know what would happen. We would have him out of town; he would not be able to practice. Well, this thing is not killing bodies; it is killing souls, living souls.

There is nothing in this sea, nothing in the doctrines of Rome's teachings, that will lead you to Christ. Her teachings will lead you to the priest, to the Pope or to Mary. So when the truth is poured out on this sea, that which looked like it was just another faith along with all the other faiths, became as the blood of a dead man. Remember the essence of our study: God is saying, "Turn My people loose that they can serve Me." Why does it say it is as the blood of a dead man? There is no life-giving qualities in it.

In John 6:53 Jesus said, ". . . Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." He came right on down in verse 63 and said, ". . . the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." We eat His flesh when we eat His Word. We drink in of His blood when we drink in of His Spirit. The life that was in the blood was His Spirit. He not only shed His blood, but He also laid His life down on Calvary so that you and I can partake of His life through the Spirit of God. Catholicism cannot offer you the Word or the Spirit; it is as the blood of a dead man. Not only can it not give you life, but it also will corrupt your life just as sure as we are here.

I want to tell you that people today are not afraid enough of false teachings. It is right where many get affected. The morning-time Church of God preachers warned their people to stay away from false teachings. When somebody comes to your door, do not let him in, whether he comes through a pamphlet, radio station or however he comes, do not let him in.

Give heed to what Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:15-18: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a work-

man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

John told us that false doctrine will eat on you like a canker. It will eat in on your spiritual soul like a cancer. until it takes every bit of spiritual life out of you. So when John talks about the sea turning to blood, and of people who had life going down into it, he is telling what false doctrine will do to your soul.

Fountains of Waters

Let us read Revelation 16:4, which states, "And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood." What are the rivers and fountains of waters? He is talking about Protestantism with the many offers that they make man for salvation.

Rome is offering salvation by her many formal rites and ceremonies. In the realms of Protestantism, they also are offering salvation to man through their many formal rites. There are Protestants who think they are saved because their mother had them christened when they were seven-days old. Where did that come from? It comes from Roman Catholicism, right back to the image. There are others who think they are saved because they were sprinkled and took a catechism class. Where did that come from? That is exactly what Rome does.

Rome's dogmas, creeds, and formal rites which she offers man as a way of salvation are called the sea that this beast rose up out of. Protestantism, operating in a smaller degree and more diversified manner, is called the fountains of waters, or the springs. The third angel poured

out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters.

Jesus likened the water to the Word. He told Nicodemus, ". . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). He was not referring to water baptism here. If that were the case, then Simon the Sorcerer would have been saved because he was baptized in water, but his heart was not right; he was still in the gall of bitterness. When Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of the water and of the Spirit, He was using the water just as it was used in the Old Testament. God promised through the prophet that He would: ". . . sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean. . . I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes. . ." (Ezekiel 36:25-27). The first thing you must be born of is the Word. First Peter 1:23 says that we were, ". . . born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Paul said the same thing in Ephesians 5:25-26: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." So when we talk about the fountains of waters, we are talking about the multiplied ways of salvation offered by false religion, but the Bible teaches only one way.

The Fountain

The Prophet Zechariah prophesied that there would be "a" fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, just one (Zechariah 13:1). Mr. Webster says that a fountain is "a natural or artificial spring of water, the head of a river." There is only one fountain for salvation, and there is only one river of the pure water of life, just one. Protestantism, however, offers many fountains, many waters, many rivers, many ways to Heaven, many modes of salvation,

but there is only one.

Zechariah said, "In that day there shall be a fountain opened . . . for sin and for uncleanness." The fountain was opened when Jesus hung on the Cross. When the soldier went by and ran the sword in His side, out flowed blood and water: the blood cleanses us from all sin and the water is the water of life which comes into our lives through the Spirit of God, the application of real salvation. So there is only one fountain for sin and for uncleanness.

False religion also purports that there are many waters, but Jesus says there is only one. When He met the woman at the well He said, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. . . . whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:10-14).

My friend, this is "the" water, water that Jesus Christ alone can give. There are not many waters, there are not many fountains, and there are not many rivers in the truest sense. On the last great day of the Feast of the Passover, the priest would always go to the pool at Siloam, get a pitcher full of water, pour it out and quote Isaiah 12:3, "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

He did that year after year, but one day Jesus was there. When the priest finished pouring out the water, Jesus stepped up and said: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. [Thank God, the Scripture has been fulfilled.] He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

So the fountains and waters are the many ways that false religion

offers man salvation. Well, when this third angel poured out the truth on them, they became blood. When he poured it out on the sea, it became as the blood of a dead man, but these fountains and rivers became blood.

Again, it is just as the plague was back in Egypt. When Moses stretched out his rod upon the fountains and rivers in Egypt, they became blood. Exodus 7:24 tells us, "And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river."

This is a picture of people today, digging around, trying to find something fit to drink. Brother, sister, you will never find it among the rivers of water that God has laid judgment upon and turned into blood. You will never find "the" water that satisfies the soul in the realms of Babylon (false religion) and the confusion out there. God has laid judgment on it. When the water was turned to blood, it was not fit to drink. Verse 21 tells us that "the river stank," and Babylon today is a stench in God's nostrils. Here again, we see divine retribution. What did God do with Pharaoh? God had Moses get the ashes out of the very furnace where Pharaoh had made God's children sweat. No doubt, the Israelites had shed much blood at the end of the Egyptian's whip. Well, they wanted blood to drink, so God turned their fountains and rivers into blood. Even so, false religion shed the blood of the prophets and killed the Christians.

The blood of Jesus Christ was shed by false religion. Someone may contend, "Oh, the Roman soldiers killed Him." Yes, but the Jews gave the commandment. We read in John 19:6-7: "When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." The

same thing is true today: many things are not being done by the law of God; they have a law of their own.

Revelation 16: 5-6 says: "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. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy."

God Will Deliver

Let us read Isaiah 49:24-26: "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the Lord am thy Saviour arid thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob."

The first thing he let you know is that God will deliver you if you will allow Him. He can even deliver a lawful captive. A lawful captive is one who has been confined by his own sin. He has been taken captive lawfully; he deserves captivity. God will even set him free. My friend, He will take the prey away from the mighty one. It makes no difference how strongly Satan and spiritual death, the mighty conquerors of man, may try to hold him, God will deliver him from the mighty if he will allow Him.

Of those who refuse to let God deliver them, He says that "they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine." Sweet wine, or new wine, is so mild that it requires a large quantity of it for you to become intoxicated. It is just as we learned about Jesus, that we partake of His blood when we partake of His Spirit. He was saying here in prophetic language that He

will cause you to eat your own flesh and drink your own blood. He will cause you to follow your own sayings, your own ideas and get drunk on your own spirit. When that happens to you, there is a good possibility that you will never get help.

I have met a lot of people who have become drunk on their own spirit. You can tell them what the Bible says, and they will tell you: "I don't feel it is that way. I feel that man can do this or that and still please God. I just don't believe you have to live as closely as you say you have to five."

We Must Face God

Let us now consider Romans 2:4-9: "... despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; [Have you really thought upon the goodness of God, sinner friend, and the forbearance of His longsuffering?] not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life [we receive eternal life when we get saved, but we have to labor to keep it]: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil. . . ."

What are we going to do with these plain Scriptures? Some people do not believe that God plagues people in order to awaken them, but what are they going to do with these Scriptures? Everybody wants to leave all of that in the Old Testament, because we are over here in the New Testament. Thank God for the New Testament! Thank God for the blood of Jesus that speaks better things than that of Abel. Thank God

for the power of the Holy Spirit, but all this only makes us more responsible and causes God to be stirred at us in a greater way when we rise up against a greater light than the morning church ever had.

Verses 8-11 tell us: "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."

The Bible tells us that God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalm 7:11). Every one of us, sooner or later, has to face the wrath of God. Friend, if you will face Him, humble yourself and beg forgiveness, thank God, God will make you a new creature. He will bring you from the side where the plagues are over to where the blessings are.

On the other hand, if you stubborn up against Him and refuse to give in to Him, mark it down, there is going to be tribulation, anguish, sorrow, heartache, and misery. Then you are going to face a final judgment seat where the wrath of God is going to be poured out without mercy upon you. You will have to face the wrath of God.

Do not ever let the enemy make you feel that you are just not going to face up to it. Everybody has to face up to it. The only difference is, some do it now and their sin goes on ahead to the judgment. They know if they die today that when they come up to the judgment, Jesus is going to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the full joy of the Lord."

Other men's sins follow them to the judgment, when they refuse to repent and confess. They have to be dealt with one by one at the judgment. He will render unto every man according to his deeds, and there is no respect of persons with

Him.

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