***REVELATION***

**Ch. 15-16**

Chapter 15 and 16 go together.

**Chapter 15** describes the vials, while **chapter 16** shows the events caused by the vials.

 1) Rev. 14 seemed to end with the Battle of Armageddon, but now John goes back and gives more detail.

 2) Re-stating in more detail is common with prophecy, and with Hebrew literature in general---**Gen. 1:1-2:7, 2:8-25**

 3) This reminds us that Revelation is not strictly chronological in its arrangement.

**I. The Presentation of the Vials Ch. 15:1**

 A. An Angry presentation

 1. There are 2 Greek words in the bible to express anger:

 a. ***Orge*** (anger from a settled disposition)—Most common word for God's anger in the New Testament

 b. ***Thymos*** (a volatile, passionate anger)---used only 11 times, and 10 of the 11 are in Revelation!

 2. This idea of seven last plagues is also in **Lev. 26:21**

 a. These seven last plagues are God’s judgment on a disobedient and contrary world.

 B. An Aimed Presentation---“Filled up”

 1. "To reach an end or an aim."

 2. God’s wrath will finally reach the end to which it has been aimed

**II. The Intermission of the Vials**---**vs. 2-4**

 A. These verses are stated parenthetically

 B. Some see an allusion to the Red Sea and the deliverance from bondage.

 1. We see plagues, Moses, the tabernacle, and the cloud of God's glory in this chapter

 2. This chapter shows the ultimate Exodus, the freedom of God's people from a sinful and persecuting world.

 C. The individuals shown here are tribulation Martyrs

 1. Even though the Antichrist kills them, they have victory over the beast – they are not losers.

 2. The early church consistently described the day of martyrdom as “a day of victory.

**III. The Administration of the Vials ----vs. 5-8**

 A. **Exo. 25:8-9** and **Heb. 8:9** remind us that the tabernacle Moses built was based on a heavenly pattern.

B. No one could enter because of the glory and power of God----**Vs. 8**

 C. This implies that nothing could be done to hinder this judgement

**Ch. 16**

One form of interpretation has been to view the vials as merely an enlargement on the trumpet judgments.

There is undoubtedly much similarity between the trumpet judgments and the vial judgments.

***In both the trumpets and the vials:***

 1) The first in the series deals with the earth 5) The fifth with darkness

 2) The second with the sea 6) The sixth with the Euphrates River

 3) The third with rivers and fountains of water 7) The seventh with lightning, thunder, and an earthquake.

 4) The fourth with the sun

However, the first 4 trumpets deal only with 1/3 of the earth, while the vials seem to be universal---**16:2** mark

 1. Apparently affects all those with the Mark of the beast which would be world wide