

PROPHECY EXPO

What Kind of Merciful God Sends Plagues on the Earth?

I. Immediately after the three angels message a white cloud appears and on the cloud is the Son of Man

A. A white cloud is emblematic of power and presence of Jesus

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, `This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!'"
(Matthew 17:5; NASB14; SP951)

"I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. "And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed."
(Daniel 7:13-14; NASB635; SP875)

B. Note that Jesus has a crown on His head, because He comes to the earth as the King

"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand."
(Revelation 14:14; NASB196; SP1220)

C. He also has a sickle in His hand, because He has come to reap the earth's harvest for the earth's wickedness is to its full measure

"Then He who sat on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped."
(Revelation 14:16; NASB196; SP1220)

"Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great."
(Joel 3:13; NASB650; SP892)

D. Just as in the days of Noah, many people were at the point of almost deciding to follow God; they just never could that last step on to the ark

"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."
(Joel 3:14; NASB650; SP892)

"And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."
(Luke 17:26-27; NASB62; SP1023)

E. Jesus begins the harvest of evil, when the crop of wickedness is at its peak

“Then another angel, the one who has power over fire, came out from the altar; and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, “Put in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, because her grapes are ripe.”
¹⁹ So the angel swung his sickle to the earth and gathered *the clusters from* the vine of the earth, and threw them into the great wine press of the wrath of God.
²⁰ And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood came out from the wine press, up to the horses’ bridles, for a distance of two hundred miles.”
(Revelation 14:18-20; NASB196; SP1220)

F. Ripeness is the answer to the question, “Why doesn’t Jesus come now?” Jesus will come when this earth is ripe for the harvest

“Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with *their* mocking, following after their own lusts,
⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.”
⁵ For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God *the* heavens existed long ago and *the* earth was formed out of water and by water,
⁶ through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.
⁷ But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.
⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”
(2 Peter 3:2-9; NASB189; SP1201)

II. Before the plagues are poured on the inhabitants of the earth, th

A. The singers are those who were victorious over the beasts

“And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.
³ And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.”
(Revelation 15:2-3; NASB196; SP1220)

Song of Moses

“I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.
² “The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will extol Him.
³ “The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name.
⁴ “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea.”

"Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!

⁴ "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

(Revelation 15:3-4; NASB196; SP1220)

"How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Your countenance.

¹⁶ In Your name they rejoice all the day, And by Your righteousness they are exalted.

¹⁷ For You are the glory of their strength, And by Your favor our horn is exalted.

¹⁸ For our shield belongs to the LORD, And our king to the Holy One of Israel."

(Psalm 89:15-18; NASB432; SP609)

B. A hymn of praise precedes the coming of the seven bowls of the plagues

"And the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean *and* bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes.

⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever."

(Revelation 15:6-7; NASB197; SP1221)

III. The 7 plagues represent the fullness of the wrath of God

"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

(Revelation 16:1; NASB197; SP1221)

IV. The plagues fall on those who have defiantly resisted God and persecuted His people

The Seven Last Plagues, Revelation 16

1. Loathsome and malignant sore, verse 2
2. Sea became blood, verse 3
3. Rivers and springs became blood, verse 4
4. Sun scorched men with fire, verse 8
5. Throne of the beast became darkened, verse 10
6. River Euphrates was dried, verse 12
7. Lightning, thunder, earthquake, voice "It is done!"

V. Results of these plagues reveal the true character of the wicked; they blasphemed God. They were truly unrepentant and unworthy of mercy. They would hate redemption, like they hated the Redeemer. The merciful thing for a Merciful God to do is put them out of their misery

“Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.”
(Revelation 16:9; NASB197; SP1221)

“And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.”
(Revelation 16:11; NASB197; SP1221)

“And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.”
(Revelation 16:21; NASB197; SP1221)

“Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.
(Leviticus 24:16; NASB94; SP130)

VI. The three Hebrew boys, on the other hand, were loyal to God, no matter what God was planning to do

"Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, *very well*. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?"

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

¹⁷ "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

¹⁸ "But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."
(Daniel 3:15-18; NASB630; SP869)