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Today's Study: "Prophecies 12 & 13"

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Hello! I'm Larry Wilson.

This is Webinar #16 discussing my book, "Jesus' Final Victory."

Today's presentation concerns "Prophecies 12 & 13."

To save time, I assume that you have read these prophecies. If you do not have a copy of my book, you can freely download it www.wake-up.org (click on the red button titled Topical Studies).

My motto for this webinar series is simple:

"The more you know about apocalyptic prophecy, the more you will benefit from it."

I want to begin by saying a few words about Prophecy 12. Christians rarely hear anything said about these verses and they are profoundly important!

In fact, there is a great deal of confusion today about the events that will transpire during the 1,000 years because the final verses in Prophecy 12 are [so poorly](#) understood!

Many Christians have been led to believe that Jesus and the saints will reign on Earth during the 1,000 years, but this teaching is not biblical!

In fact, it is quite dangerous! Here's how:

When the devil physically appears on Earth at the fifth trumpet, he will masquerade as Almighty God. He will tell the world that he has come to establish the kingdom of God on Earth a thousand years and his lies will perfectly align with what many people already believe!

Do you see the problem? This is a prophetic calamity in the making.

May I remind you of another prophetic calamity?

Many Jews could not believe that Jesus was the Messiah because their prophetic beliefs would not permit it.

Case in point:

Mal 4:5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes."

Many Jews interpreted this verse to mean that Elijah would first appear before Messiah appeared.

No Elijah = no Messiah.

When John the Baptist began baptizing people in the Jordan River, a group of priests from Jerusalem went out to see what was going on:

John 1:19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

John 1:20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

John 1:21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

John 1:22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John 1:23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

What the Jews did not realize is that Elijah would have appeared before the destruction of the world (the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord) if Israel had been redeemed the seventy weeks! (If Plan A had remained effective.) Because Plan A was abolished and Plan B was implemented, Jesus directed His disciples to consider John the Baptist one day, John was a substitute for Elijah. Jesus said:

Mat 11:11 "I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Mat 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, [the gospel of] the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men [devout men] lay hold of it.

Mat 11:13 For all the Prophets and the Law [the Scriptures have] prophesied [of my appearing] until John.

Mat 11:14 And [now that I am here] if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come [and go before me]."

Consider the possibility:

1. A false teaching is put in place for many years (Jesus and the saints will reign on Earth).
2. A demon appears, masquerading as God and he claims that he has come to establish the kingdom of God on Earth for a thousand years.

How effective could such a delusion be?

Overwhelming!

When Prophecies 12 and 13 are properly understood, a populated Earth during the 1,000 years is not possible.

OK, let's jump into the middle of Prophecy 12 and start with the third angel's message (I assume you have already watched last month's presentation).

Third Message:

Rev 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand,

Rev 14:10 he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur

in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb."

To make sure that we are on the same page with this serious threat, let's do a "what, when, where, why and how" exam.

What is the third angel's message?

Answer: It is a threat/promise from God -- that if anyone worships Lucifer (the beast) or receives his tattoo (the mark), God will deliberately punish that person with burning sulfur.

When is the third angel's message given?

Answer: The third angel's message begins with the fifth trumpet -- when a glorious Lucifer and millions of fallen angels are released from the Abyss (the spirit realm) -- to physically appear before the inhabitants of Earth.

Where will the third angel's message be heard?

Answer: This threat will be heard by every person living on Earth. Each person will be fully informed. God will see to it that there will be no exceptions. Everyone worshipping Lucifer and receiving the devil's tattoo will be tortured with burning sulfur -- there will be no excuses.

OK, now that we have examined the what, when, where, let's get into the why and how.

Why will the third angel's message be given?

If you recall from our study on Prophecy 8, the devil and his angels will be released from the spirit realm when the advance of the gospel of Christ stalls. About two years into the Great Tribulation, most everyone will have made a decision, for or against the gospel presented by the 144,000.

At this point, Jesus will introduce a "game changer" so that if possible, He can save more people. Jesus will release the devil and his angels from the Abyss so that they might physically appear and rule over the entire world.

Lucifer has wanted to rule over the world ever since he led Eve and Adam into sin. Now, his wishes will come true.

Jesus permits this for several reasons. Here are two:

1. Jesus wants the wicked to see evil personified. He wants the wicked to behold the total opposite of His government and character.
2. Jesus releases the devil and his angels from the spirit realm so that the wicked will realize that in God's universe, we are an inferior creation. We are enormously inferior -- both physically and intellectually.

The devil and his angels will be evil giants having powers that we cannot duplicate and there will be no safety from them -- unless we have the seal of God.

In the simplest of terms, Jesus will permit the devil and his angels to overpower mankind and take control of the whole world so that, if possible, some of the wicked will wake up and behold their desperate need of a Savior.

2 Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one will [look like the coming of Christ, but it will] be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

2 Th 2:10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

2 Th 2:11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

2 Th 2:12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness."God will not condemn an ignorant person. However, He will condemn a rebellious person.

What keeps a person from confessing or believing truth?

Answer: When a person loves something more than righteousness, he cannot accept advancing truth.

This explains why God will put His righteous demands "in our faces" during the Great Tribulation. He will test the inhabitants of Earth and He will see what each person loves most.

The Bible says that a time is coming when people will refuse to believe the truth and be saved, so God will send "a powerful delusion."

This powerful delusion is the physical appearing of Lucifer with millions of his demons. Here's the situation:

God has given every person the power of choice.

During the Great Tribulation, God puts the inhabitants of Earth in a situation where everyone has to make a choice. Our choice will determine our eternal destiny.

God will test each of us to see if we love truth and righteousness. Of course, those who love self, lies and wickedness cannot love truth and righteousness.

In effect, the living will judge themselves. God sets up the test and our choice determines our eternal destiny.

The process is quite simple.

First, God will select and empower 144,000 people as His spokes-people.

Then, He will scare "the be-jeebers" out of the whole world by suddenly killing 25% of the world's population and fatally ruining the nations of Earth.

The devastation caused by the first four trumpets will be so traumatic that the whole world will be in shock...

The magnitude of God's wrath will be so surprising and so encompassing that mankind will be reduced to silence so that God's 144,000 servants might be heard.

A couple months after the Great Tribulation begins, mankind will humbly respond to God's wrath by creating a crisis government to appease God so that His wrath will end.

But here is "the gottcha:"

Those willing to put their faith in God and obey Him will be punished by the crisis government.

Those obeying the demands and laws of the crisis government will have to reject the gospel presented by the 144,000.

As you can see, the contest between doing God's will and obeying Babylon's laws will be distinct.

Everyone will have to make a choice as to whom they are going to obey. After approximately two years, when the devil and his angels physically appear, the devil will masquerade as Almighty God.

The wicked will go along with "the great delusion," they will believe his lies and they will be condemned to die in a fire of burning sulfur -- because they refused to love truth.

Through His servants, Jesus will tell the whole world that if anyone worships (obeys) Lucifer and receives his mark (a tattoo), that person will die in a fire of burning sulfur.

This threat is designed to get the attention of wicked people who are still willing to listen.

The third angel's message will be heard by every person and everyone will be fully informed of the consequences.

Finally, how will the world be warned? Prior to the Great Tribulation, Jesus will select and empower 144,000 people. These people will be located all over the world, in each "geographic cell."

The 144,000 will speak the words of Jesus (the testimony of Jesus) and everyone will hear what Jesus has to say.

Think about this: The testimony of Jesus will be spoken through the lips of the 144,000 and heard by every living person on Earth!

Now that we have examined the what, when, where, why and how of the third angel's message, we are prepared to proceed.

We learned in Prophecy 11 (the story of the Two Witnesses) that when the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation is reached, every person on Earth will have been tested and made his decision.

God's offer of salvation will be finished -- completed.

This explains why the Two Witnesses are killed. Their work is finished.

This means there will be two distinct groups of people on the 1,260th day:

Group 1. Those who put their faith in Christ, the Creator, obey His commandments, passed the test of faith, had their carnal natures removed and received the seal of the living God.

Group 2. Those who did everything possible to avoid suffering and death. They rejected the gospel of Christ because it "cost too much." They went along with the demands of Babylon and when the devil appeared, they bought into his deceptions and miracles. Along the way, they blasphemed the Holy Spirit, they committed the unpardonable sin and when the devil required them to wear a tattoo, they went along -- fully knowing it was evil, but at least, it wasn't death.

So here they are:

Group 1 has the seal of God.

Group 2 has the mark of the beast.

When day 1,260 arrives, all choices will have been deliberately and willfully made and there is no further change or possible crossover -- the wicked can't

remove the tattoo and no one can remove their sinful natures and receive the seal of God.

It is finished. The testing time is over, two groups of people are clearly distinguished and all decisions are final.

Jesus will end the 1,260 days of testing by saying,

Rev 22:11 "Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."

Now that you know how the people of Earth are separated into two groups of people at the end of the world, the scene described at the end of Revelation 14 is easy to follow:

Rev 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one "like a son of man" with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

This scene represents the harvest of the world. (Not the ingathering of the harvest, but the harvest itself.)

During the three and a half days the wicked on Earth are rejoicing and sending gifts, Jesus will be told to "swing His sickle" over the Earth and end God's 6,000-year-offer of salvation.

Rev 14:15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

Rev 14:16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested."

Why is Jesus told to swing His sickle?

Conflict of interest is the problem. Jesus is man's Creator and Intercessor. As the Savior of mankind, He cannot close the door. Thus, the Father (who is in the temple) tells Jesus via an angel when "enough is enough."

Rev 14:17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.

Rev 14:18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe."

Rev 14:19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

Rev 14:20 [Descriptor] They [the wicked represented by the grapes] were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia [about 200 miles, the general length of the nation of Israel in John's day].

Rev 15:1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues -- last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

Note: The seven first plagues are followed by the seven last plagues. The seven trumpets contain God's wrath mixed with mercy. The seven bowls contain God's wrath with no mercy.

Rev 15:2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, **those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name**. They [this is the 144,000 who are in Heaven before the seven bowls begin] held harps given them by God

Rev 15:3 and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Rev 15:4 Who will **not fear you**, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? [Remember first angel's message?] For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, **for your righteous acts** have been revealed."

Meanwhile, the wicked on Earth will party on....

Rev 15:5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, **the tabernacle of the Testimony** [the Ark of the Covenant], was opened.

Remember. . . . Rev 11:19 "Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm."

Rev 15:6 Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests."The executioners of God's wrath. . . are dressed in clean, shining linen and they wore golden sashes around their chests.

Justice in God's court is highly exalted, justice is righteous and fair. There is nothing shady or hidden from sight. Justice and mercy are the two cornerstones of God's government.

Going back to Jesus sweeping His sickle over the Earth....

I like to call the last scene in Revelation 14 **"the end of mercy."**

Consider the situation: For 1,260 days, Jesus Himself spoke through the lips of the 144,000. The testimony of Jesus Himself was heard by the whole world! Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the 144,000 did everything possible to save sinners.

The outpouring of Holy Spirit power for 1,260 days will be unlike anything the world has ever seen.

The wicked will have to struggle against the internal pressures of the Holy Spirit to remain wicked!

By the time the 1,260th day of the Great Tribulation arrived, everyone had been tested and made a firm decision as to whom they will worship: The Creator or the impostor.

Everyone will have the seal or the mark.

When Jesus waves His sickle over Earth, His action represents "the reaping."

In ancient times, reaping occurred before harvest. Reaping meant **cutting off** the fruit from the ground.

Certain crops, like barley and wheat were cut off with sickles and left to dry in the field a few days before the harvest was gathered into the barn.

So it is. On the 1,260th day, Jesus will cut down the harvest.

Before the harvest, the grapes (the wicked) will be gathered up and thrown into

the winepress of God's wrath [the seven bowls].

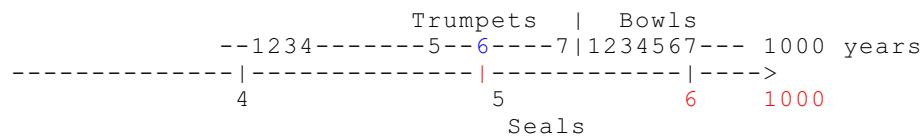
The wicked will be forced to drink, without mercy, the bitter dregs in these bowls and when that is done, a harvest of good fruit will be gathered into God's house.

You're probably wondering, so what does this have to do with Jesus and the saints reigning on Earth during the 1,000 years?

Actually, everything!

Here's how:

The Bible says that Jesus will appear in clouds of glory during the sixth seal/seventh bowl. (Rev 16:17-21; 6:12-17; 19:11-21)



At the Second Coming, Jesus will destroy **all** of the wicked who are alive on Earth.

Why? **All** of Group 2 committed the unpardonable sin. No further redemption is possible.

Group 2 rejected the clearest evidences of truth. Nothing more can be done for them.

The whole world was given time -- 1,260 days, the testimony of Jesus Himself, the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the 144,000 and still, the wicked rejected the will of God. Instead, they chose to rebel.

The wicked blasphemed the Holy Spirit, rejected the testimony of Jesus (the truth) and received the mark of the beast to save themselves.

Therefore, at the Second Coming Jesus commands all of the wicked to die (the sword that comes out of His mouth). The wicked simply drop dead and the birds will eat their flesh.

But wait! There's more.

For those wicked people who actively engaged in persecuting God's people -- such as the leaders of Babylon, the enforcers of Babylon's laws and those who participated in Lucifer's one-world- church-state, there will be a special treat.

These people will be killed by fire. Notice what John saw:

Rev 19:19 "Then I saw the beast [the composite beast, Babylon] and the [ten horns, the ten] kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army [Jesus and His angels].

Rev 19:20 But the [composite] beast [Babylon] was captured, and with him the false prophet [Lucifer] who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he [Lucifer] had deluded [deceived] those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them [two beasts -- the composite and lamb-like] were thrown **alive** into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

Rev 19:21 The rest of them [the wicked] were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh."

All of the wicked will be slain at the Second Coming.

What happens to those few saints who are still alive when Jesus appears?

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Th 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

The dead saints and the living saints will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air.

Why in the air?

Jesus said:

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go [there] and prepare a place for you, I will come back [here] and take you to be with me that you also may be [there] where I am."

It is important to understand that the wicked dead (starting with Cain) are not resurrected at the Second Coming.

It is also important to understand that all of the wicked who are alive on Earth are slain at the Second Coming.

Finally, it is important to understand that the saints, both the dead and the living, will be taken from Earth to meet Jesus in the air at the Second Coming.

Earth will be desolate during the 1,000 years.

None of the wicked*, from Cain to the Second Coming are resurrected until the end of the 1,000 years.

*Exception: Those who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus will be resurrected to see Him return, but they will be slain when Jesus commands the wicked to die.

Rev 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen."

Look at the words of John immediately following the Second Coming -- especially notice the timing:

Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 20:5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This [the resurrection of the saints] is the first resurrection.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the **first resurrection**. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign** with him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, [the wicked will be resurrected and] Satan will be released from his prison [solitary confinement]

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Rev 20:9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire [burning sulfur] came down from heaven and devoured them."

During the 1,000 years the saints will determine the amount of suffering that each wicked person must "pay back." Those who hurt others must experience the same hurt plus penalty and interest. This is the golden rule.

OK, we have covered a lot of material on Prophecy 12.

So, let's move forward into Prophecy 13, the seven bowls.

According to my calculations, the seven bowls will occur over a period of seventy days. If true, each plague could last ten days.

The seven bowls are not discussed very often because most Bible students do not think they are particularly relevant.

It is true they will occur in the future, but they reveal some information about God's love and character that is helpful right now!

Before we examine the seven bowls, notice how they are divided into two groups:

1-4 Plagues on Individuals

5-7 Corporate Plagues

1. Ugly and painful sores
2. Oceans turn to blood
3. Rivers and springs turn to blood
4. Scorching heat

5. Painful blindness on Lucifer's officials
6. Kings of the Earth gathered for
Armageddon
7. Hailstones weighing 100 pounds each and a sword that comes out of Jesus'
mouth

Remember, all of the wicked will receive the mark of the beast. Therefore, all of the wicked will experience one or more of the first four bowls.

These painful judgments can be considered "pay back" for those who preyed upon God's saints.

The last three bowls are directed at the defiant religious and political leaders of the world and those who aligned with them against God's people. As King of

kings and Lord of lords, Jesus intends to destroy the clergy, the kings and the soldiers that took defiant positions against His authority.

In fact, the fifth bowl is directed at Lucifer's theocracy. The officials and employees of Lucifer's one-world-church-state will all be blinded in a single day! This startling event will do three things.

First, the wicked will be forced to admit that the glorious being masquerading as Almighty God is, in fact, the devil. No God would blind his loyal servants and destroy his government. Since Lucifer cannot prevent this plague from taking place, he is not the omnipotent God he claims to be. He is the devil! Oh no! The 144,000 were right after all. Oops.

Second, when all of Lucifer's government officials are blinded, it will be as though Lucifer's government "drops dead." The really good news is that Lucifer's 42 months of persecution against God's people will come to a screeching halt.

Third, because the ten kings will be forced to admit that Lucifer is the devil during the fifth bowl, Lucifer will undertake a new and final initiative. This final initiative brings us to the sixth bowl.

During the sixth bowl, the devil send three demons to visit the ten kings of Earth. They will confess that Lucifer is the devil and they are his demons. Then, they will explain that Jesus is about to appear and their only chance at survival is their union with Lucifer and his demons.

To make their invitation valid and believable, they will perform amazing miracles, giving the ten kings a glimmer of hope in overthrowing Jesus and his angels.

The outcome of this visitation is sickening: The ten kings, fully knowing that Lucifer is the devil, will join forces with the devil to make war on Jesus as He appears.

What does the sixth bowl teach us?

1. Sin causes all people to do stupid things.
2. When it comes to survival, sinners would murder God (if possible) to save themselves from death.
3. Sin causes all sinners to become predators. Predatory behavior occurs when one party takes something from or advantage of another party.

At the end of the seventh bowl, Jesus will totally destroy the wicked, raise up the saints and desolate the whole world.

Finally, Earth will rest from the curse of sin for one millennial day.

Jesus will destroy the ten kings and their armies by casting them into a lake of fire at the Second Coming and the rest of the wicked will drop dead when He commands them to die.

(This command is represented as sword that comes out of Jesus' mouth.) The seven last plagues are puzzling to some people. They ask, "Why would a God of love torture people? Isn't torture the invention of the devil?"

These two questions are reasonable because the Bible says that God is love.

However, the phrase, "God is love," means more than many people realize. Divine love is the perfect balance between mercy and justice. God's actions are always consistent with the principles of justice and mercy.

Should a predator suffer the harm he inflicted on someone else? God says "yes." An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and a bruise for a bruise.

Can a predator make restitution for his wrongs and avoid divine justice?

Yes! Pay back all that you owe, plus penalty and taxes. Make things right as far as possible. Yes, some things cannot be made totally right, but something can be done for the victim that will be restoring.

God's ways and actions are often misunderstood because the principles of love are often misunderstood.

According to infinite wisdom and changeless consistency, God knows when mercy is appropriate and when the demands of justice are required.

This balance is always perfect because God is love personified! God's actions demonstrate what love is and what love is not.

Given this eternal truth, the seven bowls have to be understood as the justice side of [an expression of love](#) because they are sent from a God of love.

The seven last plagues will accomplish several purposes which include vengeance, exposure, and discovery. A few words about each might be helpful.

1. Vengeance

There is an important distinction between vengeance and revenge. Vengeance is a [righteous process](#) that lawfully achieves justice.

When a disinterested party (that is, a person having no relationship with the parties involved) imposes a lawful sentence on a predator or perpetrator of a crime on behalf of an injured party, he or she exercises vengeance.

On the other hand, revenge is another word for retaliation. When a interested party (that is, a victim or person related to a crime) exercises revenge, he or she imposes a sentence on a predator which they deem appropriate.

The problem with revenge is [that justice is usually ignored](#) to satisfy a passion of hatred.

In other words, the person exercising revenge will often go beyond the equity which justice requires (because of hatred) and become a predator himself!

When God implements redemptive justice, He seeks two objectives.

The first objective is the restoration of the victim, the second objective is the punishment of the predator.

However, when predators become so defiant that repentance and restitution are not possible, the Lord rises up and punishes the predators [without mercy](#).

"With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.'" (Genesis 19:15)

The world was destroyed in Noah's day because predators passed the point of return.

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for the same reason.

The Bible speaks clearly. God will surely punish those who violate the golden rule and harm others.

Because God loves everyone the same, His love for victims of crime moves Him to extract justice from predators.

"But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (Exodus 21:23-25)

In Bible times, **after restitution** was extracted from a predator, **punishment** for the offense then followed.

Depending on the nature and severity of the crime, punishment could mean exile, imprisonment, flogging, slavery or death. For example, the Lord told Moses,

"Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. He must surely be put to death." (Numbers 35:31)

God's system of justice requires restitution from every predator.

This fact explains why the saints reign with Christ for a thousand years.

(They will reign as temporary judges.)

After the saints are taken to Heaven at the Second Coming, they will examine the records of those who harmed them to determine the amount of "pay back" each wicked person should receive. (1 Corinthians 6:1-3) Then, as sitting judges, the saints will sentence their predators to suffer as they did.

Judicial equilibrium will be achieved. The Golden rule demands it.

The sentence imposed on the wicked will be carried out in the lake of fire.

The Bible teaches the idea of a "lingering Hell" because the wicked must suffer according to the dictates of the golden rule: As you did unto others, the same will be done unto you.

When each wicked person has experienced the required suffering, he will then die the second death. He will cease to exist. He will die a death that has no resurrection, no recovery.

This background information has been presented on God's justice because the seven last plagues must be understood within the context of extracting restitution (plagues 1-4) and defiance (plagues 5-7).

Demons will keep the wicked enraged at God's saints during the Great Tribulation. The wicked will impose unimaginable cruelty and hardships on God's people and there will be no justice for God's despised people.

Of course, the watchful eye of Jesus will not miss a single predatory act. Recording angels will capture every thought, word, and deed because Jesus will personally see that justice is served at the appointed time.

At the end of the day, a God of love will repay the wicked with **a double measure** of the suffering they imposed on His saints.

The apostle Paul was well acquainted with persecution and He wrote, "Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." We should never forget these words:

". . . . I will repay, says the Lord."

2. Exposure

Another purpose for the seven bowls is exposure. As I said earlier, Jesus will expose the devil's clever masquerade during the fifth bowl.

There is a powerful irony in the fifth bowl.

People who refused to see any light in the gospel of Jesus Christ will no longer be able to see the god of darkness they chose to serve.

When the world observes the painful blindness and the administrative devastation imposed on the devil's officials and employees, when the world sees that Lucifer cannot undo or cancel the impact of this destructive plague upon his own government, the wicked will have to admit that "a higher power" has punished the one who claimed to be Almighty God.

Thus, the devil will be exposed for who he really is.

Then, the kings of the Earth and those wearing the mark of the beast will be distressed with great fear. They will hate the devil and loathe themselves. They will remember the testimony of the 144,000, but it will be too late. The wicked will realize that their destruction is inescapable.

3. Discovery

When the sixth bowl is poured out and Lucifer's empire "drops dead," the wicked will be devastated with the realization that their rebellion and efforts to save themselves from the wrath of God is not enough. To counteract this realization, Lucifer will send out three of his most powerful demons to the ten kings of Earth.

These demons will inform the ten kings that Jesus will soon arrive and destroy the whole world. Therefore, Lucifer has sent them to invite them to join forces with his angels to make war on Jesus when He appears. "This," they demons will say, "is your only hope for survival."

Two interesting facts will emerge during the sixth bowl:

First, the Bible predicts the ten kings of the Earth will join forces with Lucifer's demons fully knowing that Lucifer is the devil and that his angels are demons.

Consider the ramifications of this union for a moment. To save themselves from death, the ten kings will knowingly and willfully unite with the devil and his demons in an attempt to destroy the Creator of the Universe.

Second, the actions of the ten kings prove that sin has the same effect on human beings as angels. All sinners become predators. Under the right circumstances, all sinners would attempt to destroy a God of love if possible.

If we were one of the ten kings, we would be no different!

A sinner's love for self is so unlike the love of a sinless being.

Sinless beings exalt righteousness, truth and the two universal laws of love whereas those ruled by the carnal nature selfishly exalt survival, wickedness and lies.

The Cross of Calvary proves that our Creator, Jesus Christ, was willing to cease to exist so sinners might be saved from the penalty for sin.

This is infinite love in action!

Contrast the actions of Jesus with the war waged against Jesus at the Second Coming.

The sixth bowl demonstrates why sin and sinners cannot be tolerated in God's universe ever again.

Look at this discovery process:

During the Great Tribulation, the inhabitants of Earth will be put into a spiral of increasing distress. As circumstances become more desperate, a sharper distinction between sheep and goats will appear. One group will choose the way of divine love. They will worship the Creator and love one another.

The other group will grasp at every straw to save themselves from suffering, hardship, and death only to incur the winepress of God's wrath, extended suffering and death.

Love for God will take the sheep in one direction and love for self will take the goats in a predatory direction.

As tribulations escalate, the wicked will prey on the saints and one another to survive. The wicked will take the saint's possessions and treat them with shameful contempt.

God's saints will be robbed of their possessions, tortured, imprisoned, and killed for rebelling against Babylon's laws.

When each person has chosen his spiritual destination, that is, sealed as a sheep or marked as a goat, God's offer of salvation will end.

Then, Jesus will execute vengeance for His helpless saints.

He will lawfully punish the wicked with seven last plagues and holy angels will declare that God is righteous in His actions! Justice will be served.

Unrepentant predators will suffer according to the suffering they have caused. "For we know him who said, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' and again, 'The Lord will judge his people.' It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

I don't have time to cover all seven bowls, so I am going to close with some comments on bowls 3 and 6. (I hope you will study Prophecy 13 in my book after watching this video.)

Third bowl:

I am paraphrasing, but I imagine that when the time comes for the wicked to drink from the third bowl, Jesus will say something like this to the angel having the third bowl:

"Many of the wicked participated in the slaughter of my saints and prophets, the 144,000. Since they were bloodthirsty, take away their water and give them blood to drink."

{4} The third angel poured his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and the springs of water became like blood [just like the ocean had turned to blood in the previous plague.]

And the drinking water became poisonous for everyone that had participated in the murder of God's people. The agony suffered by the murderers was intense. They were hungry, thirsty and the agony they suffered was unbearable.

{5} The angel with the third bowl spoke to Jesus: "Eternal God, you are **just and fair in these judgments**, for you have judged righteously.

{6} For these devil worshipers have shed the innocent blood of your saints and prophets and you have given them blood to drink."

{7} Then, the mighty angel who stood at the Altar of Incense also responded: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, your vengeance is righteous and your actions are justifiable."

Sixth Bowl:

(Again, I am paraphrasing:)

{15} While Lucifer's demons were busy uniting the kings of Earth, Jesus spoke a word of encouragement to His waiting saints. "Behold, I am on my way. Do not be discouraged. You will soon be blessed, therefore, stand firm in your faith and remain alert. Do not fret over the coming war. I will strip my enemies of their weapons so their nakedness and shame will be fully exposed."

{16} As they prepared for war, the ten kings of Earth found themselves in a great predicament which is called Armageddon in the Hebrew tongue.

Note: Armageddon **is not** a geographical location. The term Armageddon consists of two Hebrew words that are joined together to create a colloquialism. This colloquialism in English means, "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea."

In other words, there is no solution, no escape, no Savior, and no place to go. Literally translated, the Greek words *har* means mountain and *ageddon* refers to Megiddo, a plain where kings Ahaziah and Josiah died.

You should recall that during the days of Elijah, a defining contest between the gods of Baal and Jehovah took place on the top of Mt. Carmel.

When it became clear that the prophets of Baal could not call fire down from Heaven to consume the sacrifice, the gods of Baal were proven false. When Elijah prayed and fire fell from Jehovah, Israel saw that Baal was a worthless god. According to Deuteronomy 13, Elijah legitimately killed Jezebel's 450 prophets (and this made her furious).

In a similar way, the kings of the Earth will unite with the devil and his demons to destroy Jesus when He appears. But the wicked will find there is no contest on the mountain top and there is no direction to go but down into the grave.

As I said, the word Armageddon is a contracted word. The first portion of the word points to a mountain top -- a pinnacle experience and the second portion of the word points to a plain where two of Israel's kings died. King Josiah was told that he would die if he went out to fight Pharaoh Neco at Meggido, but he went nevertheless. The meaning of Armageddon is simple: Anyone who fights against God will perish.

Before we close, consider the condition of the ten wicked kings during the sixth bowl. They once were confident and loyal to Lucifer, but now they see that their loyalty was misdirected and their confidence misplaced.

They were once part of a powerful world government, but now they are powerless and broken. They were deceived and after their eyes are opened to the truth, they will realize that there is no chance of survival other than to knowingly unite with the devil.

The wicked will look around on Earth and see that everything is dead or dying.

The wicked will still be suffering from the boils of the first bowl, the oceans will be dead, the springs of water will be poisoned, the heat is unbearable, and their great savior turns out to be none other than the devil himself.

The whole planet will be in ruins.

It will be as hostile to life as sin is to happiness.

The kings will wear a crude tattoo imposed on them by their demonic leader, yet they continue to oppose a God of love, the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Because their hearts were hardened by rebellion and hatred, they will voluntarily unite with Lucifer in an effort to destroy Jesus when He appears. Such is the delusion and curse of sin.

{17} The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air and from the temple, a loud voice was heard saying: "It is finished!"

When these words echo through Heaven, the angels, the elders, and the four living creatures will become jubilant.

Finally, the plan of redemption is consummated. The knowledge of good and evil is complete. The behavior and nature of sin has been fully disclosed.

A God of love has given mankind every possible opportunity for salvation. From now on, no one can intelligently question God's love and righteousness ever again.

All that remains is the destruction of the wicked and the rescue of His saints!