

Discussion 18

The Seven Vials

(The Wrath of YHVH is Poured Out)

Primary Reading:

- Revelation Chapters 15 & 16
- 1st Nephi 3:232-237 (RAV) / 14:15-17 (OPV) :: The Wrath of God is on the Mother of Harlots

Passages for Comparison:

- Revelation 15 => nothing :: Setting the stage for pouring out the vials
- Revelation 16:1 => Zenos 2:28 :: A Voice Saying: Pour out the Vials
- Revelation 16:2 => Zenos 3:41-42 :: 1st Vial Poured Out - A Grievous Sore
- Revelation 16:3 => Zenos 4:15 :: 2nd Vial Poured Out - Death to All Sea Creatures
- Revelation 16:4-7 => Zenos 6:13-15 :: 3rd Vial Poured Out - Rivers Turn to Blood
- Revelation 16:8-9 => Zenos 7:17-18 :: 4th Vial Poured Out - Scorching Heat from Sun
- Revelation 16:10-11 => Zenos 8:12-13 :: 5th Vial Poured Out - Darkness, Pain
- Revelation 16:12-16 => Zenos 9:60-63 :: 6th Vial Poured Out - Rivers Dry Up
- Revelation 16:17-21 => Zenos 10:48 :: 7th Vial Poured Out - The Air? And Hail

Objectives:

- Consider multiple ways to view the events tied in with the Vials
- Consider the most reasonable ways to prepare oneself for these things.

Reading:

Nephi :: The Wrath of God is on the Mother of Harlots	
1st Nephi	Discussion Ideas
<p>3:232 [14:15]. ¶ And it came to pass that I beheld that the wrath of God was poured out upon the great and abominable church, insomuch that there were wars and rumors of wars among all the nations and kindreds of the earth;</p> <p>3:233 [14:16a]. And as there began to be wars and rumors of wars among all the nations which belonged to the mother of abominations, the angel spake unto me, saying:</p> <p>3:234 [14:16b]. Behold, the wrath of God is upon the mother of harlots;</p> <p>3:235 [14:16c]. And behold, thou seest all these things;</p> <p>3:236 [14:17a]. And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil,</p> <p>3:237 [14:17b]. Then at that day, the work of the Father shall commence in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, who are of the house of Israel.</p>	

15:all :: Setting the stage for pouring out the vials

Revelation	Discussion Ideas
<p>15:1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.</p> <p>15:2. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.</p> <p>15:3. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.</p> <p>15:4. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.</p> <p>15:5. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:</p> <p>15:6. And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.</p> <p>15:7. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.</p> <p>15:8. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.</p>	

16:1 :: A Voice Saying: Pour out the Vials

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.</p>	<p>2:28. And it came to pass that I heard a voice like unto a shofar call from out of the temple of heaven, saying to the seven angels of the seven dispensations: Go thy ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of YHVH upon the earth.</p>	<p>Interesting that this happens at the end of chapter 2 in Zenos, which is before the dispensations even start, but in the book or revelation, its at the end when the dispensations are all over. Do you have any thoughts on why it would do that?</p>

16:2 :: 1st Vial Poured Out - A Grievous Sore

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:2 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 worshipped his image.</p>	<p>41. And it came to pass that Michael went forth, and poured out his vial upon the earth;</p> <p>42. And there fell a noise as a loud crying, and they which had the mark of the leviathan upon them, and which worshipped his image, were cursed with a sore curse.</p>	

16:3 :: 2nd Vial Poured Out - Death to All Sea Creatures

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:3 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.</p>	<p>15. And it came to pass that Metatron poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man, and everything that did live in the sea died.</p>	

16:4-7 :: 3rd Vial Poured Out - Rivers Turn to Blood

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.</p>	<p>13. And it came to pass that Gabriel poured his vial out upon the waters; and they became as blood.</p>	
<p>16:5 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.</p>	<p>14. And it came to pass that I heard Gabriel say: Thou art righteous, YHVH, which art, and was, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus;</p>	
<p>16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.</p>	<p>15. For these have made war against thy people, YHVH, and shed the blood of thy servants the prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.</p>	
<p>16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.</p>		

16:8-9 :: 4th Vial Poured Out - Scorching Heat from Sun

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.</p> <p>16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.</p>	<p>17. And it came to pass that Raphael poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with the judgment of fire.</p> <p>18. And mankind was scorched with a great heat, and cursed the name of Elohim, and they repented not, nor did they come to give Them glory.</p>	

16:10-11 :: 5th Vial Poured Out - Darkness, Pain

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,</p> <p>16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.</p>	<p>12. And it came to pass that Haniel poured out his vial upon the seat of the leviathan; and his kingdom was full of darkness;</p> <p>13. And these gnawed their tongues from the pain of it and blasphemed the Elohim of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds, but cursed the Torah of YHVH.</p>	

16:12-16 :: 6th Vial Poured Out - Rivers Dry Up

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.</p> <p>16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.</p> <p>16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the</p>	<p>60. And it came to pass that Zadkiel poured out his vial upon the great rivers and the waters in them dried up.</p> <p>61. And I saw as it were three unclean spirits leap out from the mouth of the leviathan and out of the mouth of Cain,</p> <p>62. And these spirits of abaddon went about working false miracles unto the kings of the earth and unto the whole world,</p>	

<p>whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.</p>	<p>63. For they shall gather to battle Elohim Shaddai, gathering these together to control all trade and commerce upon the earth;</p>	
<p>16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.</p> <p>16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.</p>		

16:17-21 :: 7th Vial Poured Out - The Air, and Hail

Revelation	Zenos	Discussion Ideas
<p>16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.</p>	<p>48. And it came to pass that Uriel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying: It is done.</p>	
<p>16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.</p> <p>16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.</p> <p>16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.</p> <p>16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.</p>		<p>Any ideas which city is the “Great City”? Is that Babylon?</p> <p>Doesn’t Babylon cover the earth at this point in the narrative? How does it divide into three parts? Why divide into 3 parts, and not tell us what the three parts were?</p> <p>Isn’t Israel inhabiting the Isles of the sea? Aren’t we supposed to flee to the mountains? Why would those two things be eliminated? What’s really being said here?</p>

Discussion:

Lamen and Lemuel once asked Nephi whether the teachings contained on the plates of brass were to be understood temporally or spiritually. And Nephi replied that the things he had been teaching them (from Isaiah) were to be taken both temporally and spiritually. He then went on to explain how various temporal fulfillments of Isaiah's prophecy would unfold. He didn't explain the spiritual side of how they would be fulfilled. Are we to apply that same logic here? Are these things both physical and metaphorical?

If these things are metaphorical, how do we apply them? Does each vial apply to the journey of the soul as it works its way along the straight and narrow? If so, are these punishments for our mistakes, or are they tools for overcoming our weaknesses? Or are they merely plateaus we reach along the way?

If these are to be fulfilled physically, how much of them were fulfilled in their respective dispensations, and how much will be fulfilled "at the end" before the return of the Resurrected Lord to the earth? Even if they are exactly as drastic as they are described here, what is the best way to prepare for them? Will stocking up on plenty of fresh water be the solution to avoiding the effects of God's wrath?

If the Wrath of YHVH is against the church of the mother of harlots, why is he wrathful at them? Is it because they are harlots? Or is it because of the tyranny they are inflicting on the church of the lamb of God? Do you suppose the Lord's people will be caught in the crossfire of his wrath, when the purpose of his wrath is to come to their aid? Somehow I doubt it.

Is there anything we can possibly do to adequately prepare for whatever might unfold from these events as they are poured out, other than to develop a relationship with God, and make sure we are walking in Teshuvah, and not wandering in rebellion?