

Redemption Church of Bristol
Revelation 15-16 Worksheet

What are our allusions and references?

- The Plagues
 - These allude to Exodus, where God sent plagues to get Pharaoh to repent.
- The Song of Moses
 - Ex 15:1-8 or Deut 32. Both speak of God's victory over evil.
- The Temple was opened
 - In Rome, the Temple of Janus was opened as a prelude to war. This signals that God is getting ready for the final battle with Babylon and with the dragon.
- The Temple filled with smoke
 - At climactic moments when the glory of God comes (Ex 19:18, 40:34, 1 Kgs 8:10-11), the Temple/Tabernacle/Mt Sinai are covered with the cloud of God's presence.
- Armageddon
 - Most scholars think Armageddon refers to the Israelite plain of Megiddo. Several decisive battles happened there (Judg 5:19, 2 Kgs 9:27, 2 Chr 35:22). The plain of Megiddo is where invading armies would enter Israel.

Key Verse & Reflection:

- Rev 16:9 - "But they cursed the name of God, who had authority over these plagues, and they did not repent and give him glory."
- The plagues are meant to turn the people of Babylon around. This is their last chance to get it right. The Temple has been opened, the glory of God is coming, all that is evil is about to be destroyed. God is giving them one more opportunity to turn around.
- Instead, they use the plagues as an excuse to curse God rather than repent, thus readying themselves for judgment.

Conclusions & Questions:

- God is patient.
 - Pharaoh is given 10 opportunities to repent before the judgment of God comes.
- Where are we Pharaoh?
 - Are we grateful for God's patience? Or do we use it as an excuse to embolden ourselves? Where have we become fat in our sin?
- Where are we Israel?
 - Where are we suffering under sin? Do we trust that God sees us? That God's apparent slowness is an act of grace rather than apathy?
 - Can we pray for even Babylon to be saved?
- God will come.
 - When sin reaches its full measure, God will come and destroy it.
 - Are you ready for the cleansing of God?