

Revelation, Week 7

God is the Creator of all things, and He has a design and plan for all He created.

God planned for the failures of Adam and had a pre-designed plan for Adam's seed. We can see this in:

Ephesians 1:4 NIV For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight

Revelation 17:8 tells us there are names "written in the book of life from the creation of the world".

God had a purpose in the beginning and the purpose remains unchanged.

God's purpose for His people and His planet remains unchanged but his methods of accomplishing His purpose has changed many times throughout history.

Revelation makes it clear to us that His Chosen people include both Israel and the Church.

Revelation 21 (figuratively) presents His chosen people as the "wife of the Lamb" in the form of the New Jerusalem.

This is **One City** which is said to have **12 foundations identified with the 12 Apostles of the Lamb** and **12 Gates which are identified with the 12 tribes of Israel.**

It is the eternal picture of a Holy City where God and all his chosen people will dwell together!

God's Purpose for Creation is clearly expressed in the Command-Blessing given to Adam and Eve.

Gen. 1:27-28 NASB God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Adam's Stewardship Calling:

Live God's way.

Love God's way.

Lead God's way.

The book of Revelation reveals God bringing to conclusion the very things He began at creation.

Remember: this is why Jesus is identified as the Second Adam who would redeem the first Adam's lost inheritance.

Think of it this way, whatever God concludes doing in Revelation He must have started in the beginning chapters of Genesis.

What God purposed in the beginning was not abandoned as a failure.

Ephesians 1:4 NIV For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

The plan for Redeeming Lamb of God was in existence before Adam was ever created!

Revelation 13:8 tells us Jesus is the “the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”

This is why the understanding the purpose and person of Redeeming Lamb is central to understanding the happenings in the book of Revelation

Before we come to redemption’s glorious conclusions and possess our fully redeemed inheritance our God must remove the enemies of the Lamb and His Redeemed.

Revelation 15:5-6:1 NIV After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. 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. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth.”

The temple in heaven is prominent in the Revelation:

- Remember God’s purpose would manifest through both Israel/Moses and Church of Jesus.
- The angels were dressed in clothes that were similar to the priest of the Old Testament
- These images of tabernacle and the priestly angels indicate that this is a priestly function and not actions rooted in hate, spite, and/or anger.

Romans 1:18 NIV The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

*Romans 1:32 NIV Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things **deserve death**, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.*

*Connect this with Rev. 16:5,6 NIV Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were; 6 for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink **as they deserve.**”*

God’s wrath is already being revealed but there is coming a day when his wrath will finish its work.

- *Rev. 15:1 ESV Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them **the wrath of God is finished.***
- *Rev. 16: 17 ESV The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a **loud voice** came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, **“It is done!”***

The 7 bowls of God’s Wrath (Revelation 16)

Wrath is poured on the Earth – resulting in harmful and painful sores.

*Revelation 16:2 ESV So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and **worshiped its image.***

George Beasley-Murray “the mark of the beast on their bodies has penetrated their souls, instilling in them the hostility towards God and His holiness which is characteristic of beast himself”

Worship is so important because we become like what we worship.

This is why God warned against idolatry.

Idolatry occurs when one looks to any source other than God to meet one’s need. Worship has, at its heart, praise for the one who provides for the worshiper.

Wrath is poured on the Sea – turns the sea to blood and death comes to the oceans.

Wrath is poured on the Fresh Waters of the Earth – drinking and bathing water turns to blood.

God is turning the waters to blood is in response to the shedding of **the blood of ... saints and prophets.**

(v. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!)

Wrath is poured out on the Sun – resulting in Scorching Heat.

Wrath is poured out on the Dominion of the Beast – resulting in Deep Darkness

When the darkness of God’s wrath hits... the followers of the Dragon and His Beast are left without answers... and Fear sets in worldwide!

Wrath is poured on the Euphrates River – allowing Earthly Powers to form alliances and Unite.

*Rev. 16:12-16 ESV The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. **13** And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. **14** For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. **15***

("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")

Wrath is poured out on the air – a voice proclaims **"It is Done"**