

The Seven Last Plagues



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, flip charts or paper, markers, a printed copy of the first chapter of *The Great Controversy*

Surveying the Source

Revelation 15, 16

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Recognize that God is only a good God if He is a just God.
- ▶ Identify the parallels of the children of Israel and Pharaoh to the seven last plagues and how God is both just and loving.
- ▶ Discover the intentions of God as He metes out judgment (He has pulled all stops and tried all He can to save before punishing).

Preparing to Lead

“Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.” These were Pharaoh’s proud words before the plagues were poured out on Egypt. Contrastingly, in a very similar manner, during the seven plagues of Rev-

elation, the wicked curse and refuse to repent even as they receive the plagues. They will not let their sins go and are thus facing the wrath of God’s just judgment. “After light has been long rejected and despised, it will finally be withdrawn” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 269).

Getting Started

A. *Say:* “Have you ever had to punish someone? What had they done wrong and how severe was the punishment? Was the punishment too light or too heavy? How can you tell? Did the wrongdoer realize the gravity of their wrongdoing? Secondly, what was your intention, to lead them to repent or to give them what they deserved? Now think about God having to deal with His created beings, His children when punishing them. What parallels do you see?”

B. Come up with a list of words, phrases, and sayings of your generation that your parents’ or younger generations do not understand. Now think of phrases or words they say that you may not understand. Think of technologies, fashions, and trends you understand that older generations do not. Similarly, reading the seven plagues can be a bit confusing when we don’t familiarize ourselves with the context of the Old Testament (e.g. the plagues of Egypt, Cyrus the Great invading Babylon, etc.) We need context from the other books. Otherwise it sounds like a foreign book meant for “another generation.”

Delving Into the Word

A. Divide the class into groups and ask them to read about the seven plagues in Revelation 15–16 and about the Egyptian ten plagues in Exodus 7–11, 15. Instruct each group to work as a team to find and write as many similarities between these plagues and the victories of God’s people as they can. Make sure to inform them not to come up with fanciful interpretations or connections. Once done, come back as a group and on a board tally all collective similarities you find that are biblical and not extraneous.

B. Assign each group to examine God’s actions before meting out judgment like the plagues. Consider the flood (Genesis 6–8), Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18, 19), Jonah and Nineveh (Jonah), the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24; *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 1). God does not arbitrarily condemn and execute justice but always exerts great effort beforehand.

Discussing the Ideas

1. Why would someone worship God while He is giving judgment?
2. How can a loving God inflict so much pain on His created beings?
3. How do we understand God’s intentions during times of His judgment?
4. What experience must one go through in order to sing the song of Moses?

5. A bloodless cross; hell without fire; salvation without suffering—what do these sayings mean?

6. How can we keep Jesus at the center as we read about the seven plagues? What can we learn about who Jesus is?

7. What is a lesson from the seven plagues that you can apply to your life next week?

Closing the Activity

God desires for us to know and trust Him, even though some of His ways may be strange and hard to fully understand. If we read carefully His acts in the past, such as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the flood and His judgments upon Israel, we learn more about God’s

heart—that He is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). His punishment only comes after all other options have been exhausted and, though this may be hard to understand at times, we can trust His heart.

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There is the victorious class of people who have conquered the beast and its image and are praising God with the song of Moses. At the same time, there is a separate group of people receiving the last plagues, cursing God, and not repenting. Reflect on how these two classes may have at any point been similar or different in their experiences. What led to the trajectories of their lives ending up in the ways they did? As a group, write a possible scenario below.



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