

## The Bowl Judgements!

Revelation 15-16:15

Last week we got to see the preview, today we get to see the main feature. Today we will see the first 6 of the 7 bowl judgements. This brings us to the 3rd major point and final point in the section on the tribulation.

### 3. The Seven Bowl Judgements Revelation 15:1-18:24

#### a. Preparation for the bowl judgements Revelation 15:1-8

Revelation 15:1-4, “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. 2 And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God 3 and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. 4 Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

First, I want to explore this concept of the wrath of God. Do you know this about God? How does it make you feel knowing that God has this wrath? Now, be cautious, He is not sinning in His wrath. His wrath is just.

We, as believers in Christ, are spared from the wrath of God. The blood of Christ washes us white as snow, so we no longer have God’s wrath on us. Those who reject the gift of God, Jesus, still have the wrath of God upon them.

God’s wrath isn’t only for the future. God demonstrated His wrath when He kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden when they sinned.

God flooded the entire world, killing everyone except Noah and his family, because of the sin in the world.

God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin.

Israel was taken into captivity because of their sin. God takes sin seriously, do we?

In the book *Revealing Revelation* the author writes:

“If that is your attitude toward sin, then let me counter with two facts. First, the forgiveness of sins came at a severe price. God Himself became one of us, then allowed Himself to be tortured and crucified so that you can pray that prayer of confession and receive forgiveness. Second, all the judgments from the seals, trumpets, and bowls are appropriate punishments for sin. And they don’t even cover the cost, because for all those who remain in their sins, there is an eternity in hell waiting for them when this hell on earth concludes.”

Parents, if I were to come to you and tell you I have great news, you get to enter heaven, it will only cost you one of your children. What would you say? What would you feel? Would you think the cost is too much? That is the price God paid for your entry!

That’s heavy, isn’t it? Let’s move onto something a little lighter.

Notice in verse 1 it says, “seven angels with the seven last plagues.” Focus on that word last. I mention this

because some have proposed that the 7 seals, 7 trumpets and the 7 bowls are simply repeating the same judgements over and over. That in fact there are only 7 judgements and John is simply describing them 3 times.

I don’t believe this to be the case. Despite some similarity in these judgements there are clear differences. In the seal judgements for example we 1/3 of the earth and 1/3 of the sea being affected. In the bowl judgements it is 100%.

On top of this John writes concerning the bowl judgements as them being the “last” judgements. If they are the last what was the first?

Next, we see the victorious singing a song of worship in heaven. How were they victorious? They had died and were in heaven. How were they victorious?

They were victorious against the beast by remaining faithful to God. Next, we read:

Revelation 15:5-8, “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.”

Welcome to the great and mighty day of the Lord. The prophets wrote of this day in:

Job 21:30    Isaiah 13:6-9    Ezekiel 30:3    Joel 1:15  
Amos 4:12    Zephaniah 1:14-18

And many other passages.

#### b. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:1-2

Revelation 16:1-2, “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.”

2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.”

Last week I told you that under no circumstances should you take the mark of the beast. My motivation in telling you that was so that you could enter eternity in heaven. Now here we see that those with the mark get “ugly, festering sores.”

That should be reason enough to keep you from getting the mark.

Everyone with the mark is suffering these horrible sores. Now, since there is a requirement set up for those to receive this punishment it implies that there exists a group of people who don’t get the punishment. This, I believe, confirms that there is still a remnant of believers who have not yielded to the beast.

#### c. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:3

Revelation 16:3, “The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.”

The sea turns to blood and EVERY LIVING THING in the sea dies. Whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles, every fish, lobsters, shrimp all dead.

#### d. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:4-7

Revelation 16:4-7, “The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 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.”  
7 And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

Now, not only is the ocean water blood, so is the fresh water of the earth. You go to your faucet and blood comes out. I have no idea how filters will work with this, but we know life cannot last long without water. Can you imagine the scrambling that will be done just to quench a thirst.

#### e. The 4<sup>th</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:8-9

Revelation 16:8-9, “The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.”

So, the fourth angel pours something on the sun which makes it crank up the heat and people are scorched, not just sun burnt, but scorched.

Nothing like pouring gas on the fire, right?

You will notice that they curse God because they know that these judgements are coming from Him. But even knowing that God is judging the earth they refuse to repent and turn toward God.

In these first 4 bowl judgements we have sores, the sea turning to blood, rivers and springs turning to blood and being scorched by the sun. What’s next?

#### f. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:10-11

Revelation 16:10-11, “The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony 11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.”

The lights go out. Pretty simple right, simply no light. If you had sores vs no light you pick no light 100% of the time, right?

Once the lights go out and the world is in total darkness what can you do? With your sense of seeing turned off your other senses are heightened.

You feel every sore and focus on them. Your hearing is heightened so you hear the moans of pain coming from others. Darkness, everywhere darkness.

And still, they don't repent.

g. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl Revelation 16:12-15

Revelation 16:12-14, "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 Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty."

The 6th bowl simply sets the stage for the 7<sup>th</sup> and final bowl judgement which is the battle of Armageddon.

In preparation the Euphrates dried up for the army from the east to march down.

Weird is a word, maybe a little overused these days, but is the best word to describe what happens next. Out of the mouths of the dragon, beast and false prophet come demons that look like frogs. That's weird!

These 3 demons go to the kings of the world in order to collect them to march against Jesus at Armageddon. Then we read this:

Revelation 16:15, "Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."

John is telling us to be ready and imply that those who are not prepared will be in an undesirable position. But this isn't the first time we have heard this warning. Paul warns the Thessalonians in:

1 Thessalonians 5:2, "for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

Matthew writes more extensively in his gospel when he writes in:

Matthew 24:37-44, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Do you see how this all fits together? All of Scripture, all of prophecy point toward this end. The Day of the Lord!