

Bowl Judgments

Revelation 16

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First Bowl

¹Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.'

²So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

Whose was the loud voice?

Probably God because it came from the temple

What is the wrath of God?

It is punishment for sins that have built up over time.

What was the result of this first bowl of God's wrath?

a foul and loathsome sore... a plague of "biblical" significance such as boils that afflicted Egypt in Exodus 9:8-11

Who was affected by these terrible sores?

- Only those who had taken the mark of the beast.
- God will supernaturally protect the believers who are still on the earth

Second Bowl

³Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

What was the second bowl of God's wrath?

The sea became blood like from a dead man and killed all sea creatures.

Do you think this was real blood or something else?

- It may have just looked like blood but either way it is clearly a supernatural disaster because it is worldwide.
- The Gulf of Mexico has on occasion had what is called a red tide which is algae that causes the water to be depleted of oxygen resulting in a dead zone for sea creatures.

Third Bowl

⁴Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things.

⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."

⁷And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.'

What was the third bowl of God's-wrath?

All the fresh water turned to blood.

What would be the impact be of this?

- All land creatures would die.
- If there was any doubt that the red tide was the wrath of God; the third bowl would put this to rest (this is unprecedented).

What is the angel of the waters?

The angel that executed God's judgment on the waters.

Why does the angel of the waters praise God?

Because he is faithfully executing God's command and recognizes God's authority to judge the earth and pour out His wrath as a consequence for man's sin.

How is God the One to be?

God the Son will be the ruler of the earth during the millennial kingdom and beyond.

Who has shed the blood of the saints and prophets?

The rulers of the earth along with their followers... the "earth dwellers"

What is the just due of those who shed the blood of the followers of Christ?

That they would have to drink blood instead of water.

How is it that the wrath of God is true and righteous?

The wrath of God is true because it will happen as God said it would; it is righteous as the consequence of sin.

Fourth Bowl

⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

What was the fourth bowl of God's wrath?

Global warming. God will crank up the heat from the sun to scorch the earth dwellers.

How did men on earth respond to the global warming?

They cursed God and who was the source of these plagues; and did not acknowledge their sin as the cause of God's wrath.

Why would men blaspheme God in the midst of these apocalyptic events?

They are "all in" to their opposition of God. They have embraced the deception that rationalizes opposition to God. They have bet on the wrong horse and their pride keeps them from altering their path.

Fifth Bowl

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

What was the fifth bowl of God's wrath?

God took away the light from the kingdom of the Antichrist and gave his followers great pain and sores.

How did men on earth respond to the darkness and pain?

They recognized God as the source of their sores and pain but cursed Him. They did not acknowledge their sin as the cause of God's wrath. They probably had bought into the lie that God was a malevolent alien that sought to invade earth.

Sixth Bowl

¹² Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

What was the sixth bowl of God's wrath?

The Euphrates river was dried up to remove that as a barrier to the kings of the east. And He allowed evil spirits to rally the nations to assemble at Armageddon.

Who are the kings of the east?

Probably leaders of China, India and their allies.

Why would bringing the kings of the east into the middle east be part of the wrath of God?

So that they assemble with the rest of the nations opposed to God at Armageddon. Representatives from all the world's nations will be there.

v13 – Why would the Apostle John describe the unclean spirits as looking like frogs?

They are probably manifesting themselves as extraterrestrials so that they can convince mankind to work together in opposing the "bad aliens" (God and His angels and the resurrected saints)

Why are these unclean spirits seen coming out of the mouth of the unholy trinity?

They are doing the bidding of Satan, the Antichrist, and False Prophet.

v14 – What do the three unclean spirits do?

- They perform signs and wonders that are probably taken for demonstrations of superior alien technology to authenticate their authority to counsel mankind.
- They convince the nations of the world they all need to come together either to oppose an extraterrestrial threat by "bad aliens".

What is the "battle of that great day of God Almighty"?

A.K.A. Armageddon... when Jesus physically returns to the earth and deals with those who have gathered against Him.

v15 – Why is this verse here?

It is put here to encourage believers during the Tribulation to persevere and remain faithful to God... He is returning to right the wrongs; justice will be done.

How is the Lord coming like a thief?

The return of the Lord will be a surprise to unbelievers and He will take away what they think they have.

How may the tribulation believer be blessed?

But anticipating and watching for the return of the Lord... that is what will help them get through the trying times and will be their deliverance.

What is the application of this in the here and now?

We too are blessed in watching for the Lord because we have trying times in the here and now... watching for Him reminds us that:

our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Cor 4:17)

Also, when the Lord comes for us, it will mean our deliverance; His coming is our Blessed Hope (Titus 2:13)...

1 John 3:2 – we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Indeed, we are commanded to watch for Him:

Luke 21:36 — Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

How is it that those who watch for the coming of the Lord keeps his garments?

This is a reference to being clothed in righteousness that only comes from Christ and leads to eternal life...

2 Cor 5:2-3 - For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

What is the shame in being found naked?

- It will be clear to all that those who have made the wrong choice and have not put on Jesus Christ.
- This is shameful because their selfishness is exposed for all to see and it is an affront to the Creator-God.

v16 – Where did the nations assemble to oppose God? Why there?

Armageddon... it is a plain large enough to accommodate the warriors of all the nations of the world and near Jerusalem where the Lord will return to.

Seventh Bowl

¹⁷ *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*

¹⁸ *And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.*

¹⁹ *Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.*

²⁰ *Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*

²¹ *And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.*

What was the seventh bowl of God's wrath?

A great earth quake and hail... the worst mankind has ever experienced.

Why does the voice from the temple say, "it is done"?

This is probably God's voice; the seventh bowl completes His wrath.

v19 – What was the impact of the great earthquake?

- The great city (Jerusalem) was divided into three parts, the Jewish sector, the Christian sector and the Moslem sector (no, just kidding).
- The cities of the nations were destroyed
- Islands were flooded by the sea and mountains were leveled.

What does it mean that Babylon was remembered before God?

The world system that opposed Him was targeted for destruction as part of God's wrath.

v21 – How bad was the hail storm?

Worse than has ever been seen... each hailstone was the weight of a talent, about 100 lbs.

How did men respond to the hail?

They attributed it to God, "the bad alien" and cursed Him for it.

What will be the condition of people on earth after he seventh bowl of God's wrath?

It will be pretty dismal... no good water to drink, no sea creatures, everything destroyed by the great earthquake and the 100 lb hailstones.

What does the world need after the seventh bowl if God's wrath?

The world sorely needs the Lord to return to deliver us from ourselves.

What is the message in Chapter 16 for us in the here and now?

Watch for the Lord to return and do what we can to make it possible for our friends and loved ones to join us in the Rapture of the Church.