

Chapter 16

The Angels pour out their bowls of judgment

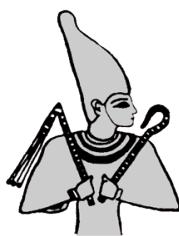


The **Seven** Last Plagues

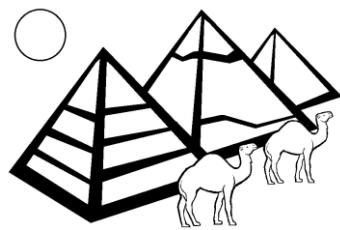
The **Bowl** Judgments

The pouring out of the accumulated “Wrath of God”

The Egyptian Plagues



re-visited



We know that in the days of Moses, God brought His people out of the land of Egypt by means of ten plagues. These plagues are historical, factual and documented, and some of them are going to be repeated. This then becomes our key to the literalness of this coming event in that many of the Bowl judgments have happened before and therefore are not figurative but literal.



The First Bowl Judgment

Boils



Revelation 16:1-2 "Then 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." So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and foul and loathsome sores came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."

This plague is a "Noisome and Grievous sore" that shall fall on all men who have taken the mark of the beast and who worship his image. This is a fulfillment of Rev. 14:9-11.

Egyptian Plague #6:



Exodus 9:9 "And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

This judgment is a repetition of the sixth plague God brought upon Egypt. The effect of it caused the Egyptians to harden their hearts against the Hebrews. The Scriptures tell us in Rev.16:9 that men will again blaspheme God and refuse to repent. From this we can see that suffering alone does not cause repentance.



The Second Bowl Judgment

Blood on the Sea



Revelation 16:3 “Then 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.”

In Rev. 8:8-9 it tells us that 1/3 of the sea became blood and 1/3 of the creatures in the sea died and 1/3 of the ships were destroyed (judgment of thirds). However, here we find that the whole of the sea is affected. It is not clear whether this means the oceans of the world or only the Sea of Galilee, or the Mediterranean Sea. It is unlikely that the creatures in the waters die due to their own blood or the blood of men but because the water became **AS BLOOD** of a dead man.



The Third Bowl Judgment

Blood on the Rivers



Revelation 16:4-7 "Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And 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. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." 7 And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

Here nothing is said of the inhabitants except that they have shed the blood of the saints and the prophets and that God has given them blood to drink because they deserve it. Confirmation of God's righteous judgment can be heard from the altar in heaven: "true and righteous are Your judgments."

Egyptian Plague #1:



Exodus 7:17 "Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood."



The Forth Bowl Judgment

Great Heat



Revelation 16:8-9 "Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 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."

Here the heat of the sun is intensified and so much so that men are scorched by it. This is the time spoken of by Malachi the prophet,

Malachi 4:1-2 "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, that will leave them neither root nor branch But to you who fear My name The Son of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves."

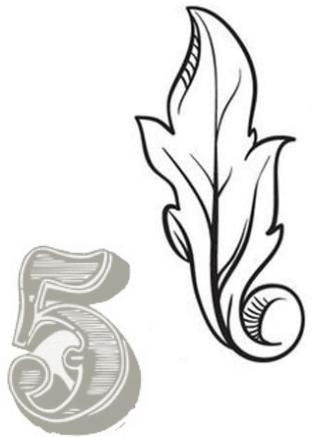
For the elect's sake (tribulation saints), God will shorten the daylight hours to ease men's suffering from the heat.

Matthew 24:22 "And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."



The Fifth Bowl Judgment

Darkness



Revelation 16:10-11 “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. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.”

Since this plague immediately follows the “Scorching Heat” plague it would seem as though God is having some mercy on man. Man will find the great heat too much to bear on the boils that he has received. Because of the boils men will “gnaw their tongues in pain and for their sores.”

The rapid succession of the fifth Bowl judgment from the forth indicates that at least the last few plagues overlap one another by some time, or they follow in such rapid order that men did not have time to recover from one before the next one comes. This would suggest a time period of months or even weeks and not years. Also notice that their sufferings brought no repentance, but caused them to blaspheme God still further.

Prophecy: This is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel,

Joel 2:1-2 “Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.”

Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."

Amos 5:18 "Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light."

This is the same plague as the ninth plague in Egypt, and like the Egyptians, they also will not repent.

Egyptian Plague #9



Exodus 10:22 "So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings."



The Sixth Bowl Judgment

Euphrates River

Dries Up



Revelation 16:12 “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.”

This literally means what it says, the great river Euphrates which runs through Iraq today will be dried up so that the armies of the Kings of the East can pass over on dry ground. There is only one guess where this army from the East is headed; they have an appointment in the Valley of Armageddon.

Prophecy:

Isaiah 11:15-16 “The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, And strike it in the seven streams, And make men cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, As it was for Israel In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.”

The Interval between the Sixth and Seventh Bowl Judgments



Three Unclean Spirits

Rev.16:13-16



Revelation 16:13-16 “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. 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. "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." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

Within these verses we are told how the “**KINGS of the EARTH**” and their armies are to be gathered together for the “Battle of Armageddon.” Out of the mouths of the un-holy trinity, the Beast, False Prophet and the Antichrist, will come three unclean spirits. John does not say the unclean spirits are frogs but rather they are “like” frogs (frogs denote uncleanness), being the “Spirits of Demons” to work miracles, going forth unto the “Kings of the Earth” to gather them for the “Battle of that Great Day of the God Almighty.” It is also known as * “**The DAY of the LORD.**” These are “Seducing Spirits” that go out preaching the “Doctrine of Devils” in the latter times. The Apostle Paul warns Timothy:

1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

* ¹The phrase “the Day of the Lord” is used nineteen times in the Old Testament (Isaiah. 2:12; 13:6; 13:9; Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14; Amos 5:18 2 times, Amos 5:20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7; 1:14 2 times; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi. 4:5) and four times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10). It is also alluded to in other passages (Rev. 6:17; 16:14).

¹ <http://www.gotquestions.org/day-of-the-Lord.html>

The New Testament calls it a day of “wrath,” a day of “visitation,” and the “Great Day of God Almighty” (Rev. 16:4) and refers to a still future fulfillment when God’s wrath is poured out on unbelieving Israel (Isaiah 22; Jeremiah 30:1-17; Joel 1-2; Amos 5; Zephaniah 1) and on the unbelieving world (Ezekiel 38-39; Zechariah 14). The Scriptures indicate that “the Day of the Lord” will come quickly, like a thief in the night. (Zephaniah 1:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:2) and therefore we as Christians must be watchful and ready for the Coming of Christ at any moment.



The Seventh Bowl Judgment

Great Hail



Revelation 16:17-21 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 nation’s 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.”

Egyptian Plague #7



Exodus 9:18 “Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now.”

As we approach the end of the Tribulation week, we come to the last of the judgments, the seventh Bowl judgment. This last judgment is associated with hail and a mighty earthquake greater than what has ever been seen in the history of the world. We are told that Jerusalem will be split into three parts and the cities of the world are destroyed. This tells us that the earthquake is world wide. Even many Islands will disappear under the sea and mountain ranges will collapse. This earthquake will suddenly alter the earth’s terrain unlike anything that has been seen since the flood of Noah.

This judgment seems to align itself with Christ's second return when He actually puts His feet on the Mount of Olives and causes a great earthquake.

Prophecy:

Zechariah 14:4-5 "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You."

The speculation here is that the hail spoken about, in all probability, will not come until Christ and His armies come to do battle with the Antichrist (Rev.19:14). Many believe that the armies that are spoken of are made up of the saints of all the ages, Old Testament, New Testament Bride, and Tribulation Saints.

This is the time we are told that from the temple in heaven comes voices, thunders and lighting. Then there will come a great earthquake and the city of Jerusalem will be split into three parts, and the cities of all the nations will fall v19. Within this last Bowl judgment is mentioned the city of Babylon, that the remembrance of it comes before God and will meet His wrath (Ref. c17-18). God will give to her the **WINE of the FIERCENESS of HIS WRATH**.

Chapter 16 ends with destruction and the wrath of God being poured out onto a defiant world who rejected His Son, His prophets and the preaching of the Gospel. What else can God do? This earthquake is so great that there has never been one like it in the history of the world. The effects of it go around the world causing islands to disappear, and mountain ranges to collapse v20.

Verse 21 reminds us that this last Bowl judgment is about the hail and it rains down upon all mankind. Do you think that men would "get the message" and repent? A hard heart is a rebellious one and men continue to blaspheme God because of the hail. This is the last Bowl judgment in the series of 21 judgments starting back in c6:1. Out of the temple in heaven it could be heard the voice of God in what will certainly be a booming announcement ... "IT IS DONE" v17. The time of Gods wrath is over.

This will be the beginning of a **NEW AGE**. it will be the beginning of the **KINGDOM AGE**.

Personal Perspective

There are a few references in Revelations where we are told that “they did not repent” or they blaspheme God, which is pretty much the same thing (c9:20-21; c16:21). Selfish, self-serving man wants to enjoy the life God gave them, the freedom that Grace gives them (living in an age of grace). They want to live as they please and freely take (if not by force) all the pleasures this life offers. They want God to stay out of their lives and leave them alone. They ignore and even mock the things of God and now they openly dare God to do anything about it.

They never understood the love God shows them, that He is longsuffering and gracious to them even in the worst of their sin. Even in this time of grace, sinful man can convince God that they really don’t care about the one who loves them so much. They openly hate the idea of God. They have given themselves over to evil and God will let them have their way and turn them over to their own lust and hatred and to the one they unknowingly serve. They shall join their father in the eternal fire of judgment, believing all the while that God has done them wrong sending them to hell.

Listen to what Paul had to say in his letter to the church in Rome

Romans 1:20-32 (NASB), ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. ²⁸And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful,

inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.