

5/16/04

Revelation 16

In chapter six we have seen the first six seals opened which mark the great day of God's wrath. Rev. 6:1-8:1

* Under the fifth seal the souls who are killed for the word of God and their testimony are praying for vengeance.

In chapter seven we saw a parenthetical passage between the sixth and seventh seal providing details during the first six seals, which take us to the end of the seven years. Rev. 6:12-17

1. Identifying for us the 144,000 Jews who are sealed with the seal of the living God to serve Him during the Great Tribulation in the gospel.

2. Identifying for us the great multitudes which no one could number which come out of the Great Tribulation in response to the gospel.

* These are the beginning of sorrows!

In chapter eight we came to the opening of the seventh seal from which the seven trumpet judgments comes out from. Rev. 8:2-11:19

1. Chapter eight and nine record the first six trumpets.

2. Chapter ten to eleven verse fourteen is another parenthetical passage, giving us details to insert within the first six trumpets much like chapter

seven, between the sixth and seventh seal. Rev. 10-11:14

3. Chapter eleven, verse fifteen to eighteen, the seventh trumpet is recorded, which takes us to end of the seven year tribulation and the millennium but the pouring out of the bowls is recorded in the sixteenth chapter. Rev. 11:15-18; 16:1-21

4. Chapters twelve to fourteen provided for us greater detail regarding Israel, the Antichrist and those who respond to the gospel. Rev. 12-14

5. Chapter fifteen is the prelude to the Bowl Judgments. Rev. 15

a. The proclamation to the final seven plagues. vs. 1

b. The martyrs of the Great-Tribulation. vs. 2-4

c. The seven angels of the seven last plagues. vs. 5-6

d. The seven bowls were given to the angels, no one was able to enter the temple in heaven. vs. 7-8

6. Each series of judgment is cyclical increasing in intensity, bring us to the end of the end of the seven years, the last series of the bowls is so devastating, that there is stillness in heaven!

* The judgments are parallel to each other yet chronological in their severity and intensity!

16:1 The command to pour out the seven Bowl Judgments.

16:1a The source of the command.

- 1) John heard a loud voice, he is the constant instrument of the entire revelation.
- 2) John tells us the voice came from the temple.
 - a) This is not the temple on earth but heaven.
 - b) The voice is either the Father or Jesus.
- 3) The first four bowls are similar as the first four trumpets, earth, sea, rivers and sky.
 - a) But in the plagues are related to the sufferings of man, Yet the pattern of four/three is seen in the three series of judgments is consistent.
 - b) Also the trumpets were in part, while the bowls are in total.
 - c) The three final plagues are social and spiritual in their affect, shifting from nature to humanity.
 - d) These last seven plagues happen in rapid succession and are of the greatest intensity, evident by the fact that the boils of the first bowl is still in affect during the fifth bowl. Rev. 16:11

16:1b-c The specifics of the command.

- 1) The seven angels were commanded to, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God”, the third “woe”. Rev. 11:14

- * The phrase “the wrath of God” appears six time in Revelation. Rev. 14:10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1; 19:15
- 2) The location is to be “on the earth”.

* “Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins.” Lev. 26:21

16:2 **The first bowl.**

- 1) So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth.
 - a) The word bowl “phiale” indicates a broad shallow bowl, a deep saucer.
 - b) The earth indicates the inhabitation on it.
- 2) The first plague is described as a foul and loathsome sore came upon the man.
 - a) The indication is painful and persistent oozing sores, malignant.
 - 1)) The plague of boils in Egypt. Ex. 9:10
 - 2)) Job spoke of the pain of his sores. Job 2:7-8, 13
 - b) The reason is that they are under the ownership of the beast, “those who had the mark of the beast”. Rev. 14:9-11

- 1)) They are in adulation of the beast, rendering adoration to the beast by the worshiped of his image.
- 2)) God distinguishes between those who have trusted in Him and those who have not, as we see at a point in the plagues of Egypt, finalizing with the first-born.

16:3 The second bowl.

- 1) The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea.
 - a) The sea is of the greatest importance to our planet, causing it to cool from the heat of the sun.
 - b) The sea offers an in-exhaustive supply of food.
- 2) The second plague is describes as the sea becoming blood as of a dead man.
 - a) This is literal not symbolic!
 - b) The Nile was turned to blood by Moses. Ex. 7:17-21
- 3) The point being that every living creature in the sea died.
 - a) This is literal not symbolic, nor local but universal.
 - b) The second trumpet caused 1/3 of the sea-life to die. Rev. 8:8-9
 - c) We have seen what “red tide” can do.

16:4-7 The third bowl.

16:4 The third bowl.

- 1) The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water.
 - a) The rivers are the product of the springs.
 - b) The springs are the source of the water.
 - c) The third trumpet had already affected one-third of the fresh water supply. Rev. 8:10-11
- 2) The water became blood.
 - a) Water is the absolute essential for life.
 - b) You can go without food longer but not without water more.
 - c) Dehydration if dangerous.

16:5-6 The judgment of God is righteous according to what they deserve.

- 1) This is the first interlude John gives to us in the bowl judgments and it is to affirm the absolute perfection of the judgment of God. vs. 5
 - a) John heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord”. vs. 5a-b
* Exalting His character and holiness!
 - b) The angel addresses God as the One who is and who was and who is to be. vs. 5c
* Emphasizing His Eternalness!

c) The angel gives the reason God is righteous, “Because You have judged these things.” vs. 5d

* God must judge sin, He can not condone it. Hab. 1:13

- 2) The absolute equity of the judgment of God is also affirmed. vs. 6
- a) They have shed the blood of saints and prophets. vs. 6a
- * Their judgment is according to guilt and responsibility.
- b) And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due. vs. 6b-c
- * Their judgment is deserved, their punishment fits their crime.

16:7 The voice from the alter.

- 1) John heard another from the altar. vs. 7a
- a) This could be those under the fifth seal, whose prayer was “how long oh Lord.” Rev. 6:9; 8:3-5
- b) This is the brass alter of judgment.
- 2) John heard the voice say, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.” vs. 7b-d
- a) The voice commends the Lord God almighty. Rev. 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 21:22
- b) The voice confirms the absolute justice of God’s judgments of verse five and six.

c) The only atonement provided is the blood of Christ. 1Jn. 2:2

16:8-9 The fourth bowl.

- 16:8** The pouring out of the fourth bowl.
- 1) Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun. vs. 8a
- 2) Power was given to the angel to scorch men with fire. vs. 8b
- a) The ice caps will melt.
- b) The bombardment of ultra-violet rays and neutrinos break down our cells, they will be magnified in judgment.
- c) The fourth trumpet affected one-third of man by the darkness of the sun. Rev. 8:12-13

16:9 The response to the judgment.

- 1) The men who were scorched with great heat they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues. vs. 9a-b
- a) The hearts of men are evil continually. Gen. 6:5
- b) They speak reproachfully and slanderous of God.
- c) They understand God has power over their lives.
- 2) The men did not repent and give Him glory.

- a) This is the common response in the book of Revelation.
- b) Knowing they are guilty, knowing God can forgive them if they repent, do not repent.
- c) Only one time is there an implication of repentance by some. Rev. 11:13
* Judgment does not always produce repentance!

16:10-11 The fifth bowl.

16:10 The pouring out of the fifth plague.

- 1) Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom. vs. 10a-b
 - a) The kingdom of the anti-christ will become full of darkness. Joel 2:1-2
* This occurred in Egypt. Ex 10:21-23
 - b) Possibly limited to the leadership?
* Satan established his throne in Pergamos. Rev. 2:13
- 2) The affect on the people is that they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. Vs. 10c
 - a) Possibly due to the anxiety and despair by the handicapping of the darkness.
 - b) But the text says, it is due to the pain, which implies suffering.
 - c) The fifth trumpet locusts came out of the bottomless pit and caused the sun

and air to be darkened and these locusts tormented men for five months, death fleeing for five months. Rev. 9:1-6

16:11 The response to the judgment.

- 1) They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores. vs. 11a
- 2) They did not repent of their deeds. vs. 11b

16:12-16 The sixth bowl

16:12 The pouring out of the sixth bowl.

- 1) The sixth bowl was poured out on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up. vs. 12a-b
 - a) This prophecy I am sure was mocked at throughout the centuries.
 - b) But now with the Aswan Dam, this is possible but as a result the fish have died, the fertile land has been eroded, the silt has been stopped and salt-water has intruded up river, devastating the entire ecological environment.
- c) The region marks the eastern boundary of the land given to Abraham. Gen. 15:18

- 2) So that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. Vs. 12c
- a) This declares the direct purpose, nations and king have been the instruments of God. Is. 10:5, Jer. 50:25
 - b) That the kings of the east might be prepared for their part in the last days
 - c) The sixth trumpet the four angels that were bound in the Euphrates were released. Rev. 9:13-19

16:13-14 The source of the activity of the tribulation period.

- 1) John gives us a second interlude as he saw three unclean spirits like frogs. vs. 13a
* The description is a simile, representing unclean spirits.
- 2) John saw them coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. vs. 13b
* The Trinity of darkness are demon sourced!
- 3) John interprets the symbol for us, “For they are spirits of demons, performing signs”. vs. 14a-b
- 4) These 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. vs. 14c-d

- a) The nations are under demon activity, gathered to resist Jesus from setting up the kingdom on earth. Matt. 24:24; 2Theess. 2:8-10
- b) The battle is described from different vantage points. Ps. 2; Is. 39; Rev. 19-20

16:15 The warning of His coming.

- 1) “Behold, I am coming as a thief.” vs. 15a-b
* This is repeated. Rev. 1:7; 3:11; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20
- 2) Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments.” vs. 15c-d
 - a) Blessed means happy, it is used in the Beatitude, on the Sermon on the Mount.
 - b) Revelation has seven “Beatitudes”. Rev. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22.7, 14
- 3) The reason, “Lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” vs. 15e

16:16 The context of the entire passage.

- 1) And they gathered them together, the armies of the nations. vs. 13-14
- 2) To the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

- a) Armageddon means the hill or city of Megiddo, this is the only occurrence.
- b) The valley overlooks the great plain of Esdralon, Jezreal.
- c) The scene of a the struggle of good and evil is suggested by that battle plain of Esdraelon, which was famous for two great victories, of Barak over the Canaanites, and of Gideon over the Midianites; and for two great disasters, the deaths of Saul and Josiah. Hence in Revelation a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked. Judges 4-7; 2Kings 9:27
- d) The prophet prophesied it. Deut. 32:43; Is. 66:15-16; Jer. 25:31; Joel 3:2, 7-17; Zech. 12:11; 14:1-4

16:17-21 The seventh bowl.

16:17 The pouring out of the seventh bowl.

- 1) Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. vs. 17a
- 2) A loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne. vs. 17b-c
- 3) The voice said, "It is done!", literally, the end. vs. 17d-e
- 4) The seventh trumpet also declares the end, "The kingdoms of this world have become [the kingdoms] of our Lord and

of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Rev. 11:15

16:18-21 The devastating affects described.

- 1) An earthquake like no other. vs. 18
 - a) And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, like the seals and trumpets. Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19
 - b) Such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Is. 24:17-23
 - c) There was an earthquake in 1908 in Messina, Italy, which killed 76, 483 people.
 - d) In 1920 a quake in Kansu Province, China killed about 200, 000 people.
 - e) In 1923 a quake in Tokyo Japan killed 99. 331 people.
- 2) The city is under direct judgment. vs. 19
 - a) Now the great city was divided into three parts, Jerusalem. vs. 19a
* Jerusalem was called the "great city". Rev. 11:8
 - 1)) Some think it refers to Babylon-Rome, looking to the next two chapters where it is called that about eight times.
 - 2)) But the text seems to mention three distinct groups of cities.

- b) And the cities of the nations fell. vs. 19b
- c) And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. vs. 19c-d
 - * The prophecies of Babylon are not all fulfilled, some think Babylon will be rebuilt. Is. 13,
- 3) The magnitude is devastating. vs. 20
 - a) Then every island fled away.
 - b) And the mountains were not found.
- c) The sixth seal brought forth a great earthquake, every Island and mountain was removed from it's place. Rev. 6:12-14
- 4) The heavens are used by God. vs. 21
 - a) And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent, about 75-100 pounds.
 - * God did it in the Old Testament as He will in the future. Josh. 10:11;
Ezk. 38:18-22
 - b) Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.
 - 1)) Each of the last three plagues resulted in people blaspheming God, instead of repenting!
 - 2)) It is the goodness of God that lead men to repentance, very few repent

under judgment in the Scriptures, though there are some exceptions. Rom. 2:4