

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study**  
**The Book of Revelation**  
**Chapter 16**  
**Lesson 23**

- Chapter 16 marks the end of the pause/parenthesis we examined from chapter 12-15
- We now resume the Great Tribulation in progress.
- The events we cover tonight, chronologically come after chapter 11
- However, if we were not given the important information found in these pauses and parentheses, the remaining chapters would make little sense
- v. 1, “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of wrath of God on the earth.’”
- Whose voice does John hear, here?
- This voice comes, “from the Temple” therefore many scholars believe that this is the voice of God
- My translation, NKJV, calls this voice a “loud voice” but a better translation from the Greek is, “a great voice”
- There is no voice in heaven, nor upon the earth, that is greater than God’s!
- The bowl judgements occur in succession, not all at once. These are important events for they are the final events leading up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ
- Remember, Jesus will “appear” in the eastern sky when He comes to rapture (to take away) the church, but He will not come all the way to the earth at the rapture
- But at the end of the Great Tribulation, Jesus will come a second time to the earth and at His second coming He will establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth
- TRANS: Let’s examine these final events that lead up to Christ’s second coming . . .

First Bowl, v. 2

One of the important truths I hope you’ll notice as we examine each of these bowl/vial judgments is the parallels between these “plagues” and the terrible plagues God poured out upon Egypt during the days of Moses

When the angel pours out the 1<sup>st</sup> bowl, “a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image.”

Interestingly, the Greek word used here for “sore” is the same word used by in the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint- LXX) in Exodus 9:9-11 to represent the boils inflicted upon the Egyptians

Therefore, to have a picture of what God will do to the wicked of the last days, we have to look no farther than the Old Testament. In this we see that God is indeed the same yesterday, today, and always!

Second Bowl, v. 3

When the 2<sup>nd</sup> angel pours out his bowl, “the sea . . . became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”

Again, notice the parallel with Exodus 7:20-25

Just as God killed all the fish and made the Nile River unfit to drink, so He will do the same when the 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl is poured out.

Will the sea literally be red with the blood of these dead fish, or will the sea just appear to be red, or will it simply be as unappetizing and unsanitary as the, “blood of a dead man”?

I don't know, but there is validity in each of these views. The key is that the water will provide no comfort to the people as they are afflicted by the fullness of God's wrath!

Third Bowl, v. 4-7

When the seas become unsanitary, men will turn to the fresh water creeks and rivers

But the third angel will cause them to become unsanitary too, "Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood."

This 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl introduces us to a new angel, one we have not seen before the, "angel of the waters"

Who is the "angel of the waters"?

Evidently, this is an angel that has some special jurisdiction over water

John Walvoord says, "There is a remarkable variety of ministries assigned to angels as recorded in Revelation. The angel declares that because men have shed the blood of saints and prophets, God is righteous in judging them in kind in that they are given blood to drink."

Notice another angel mentioned, in v. 7, "another from the altar saying, 'Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgements.'"

It appears that between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl judgements, ALL water is turned to blood proclaiming to all men that God will avenge His those martyred for His name!

READ v. 6

For those who are persecuted today, don't give up for God WILL avenge those who suffer for His name! (And here's a clear picture of such vengeance)

Fourth Bowl, v. 8-9

When the 4<sup>th</sup> angel pours out his bowl, the "sun" is effected

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

I believe that the sun will be so unbearably hot that men will die from its intensity Heat strokes, sun poisoning, and other heat related illnesses will overtake those who have the mark of the beast, and have worshipped his image.

For those today who claim, "People would repent if God would just display His power and righteousness" their claims will prove to be false, for look at the people's response in v. 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 glory to God."

Fifth Bowl, v. 10-11

The 5<sup>th</sup> angel's wrath is directed toward "the throne of the beast"

We see that the beast's, "kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain."

Have you ever accidentally bitten you tongue, or the inside of your mouth will eating? MAN, what intense pain!

However, John tells us that the people of that day will not just do this accidentally or once in a while, the implication is they will continually chew on their tongues!

As in the 9<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt, the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl results in "darkness"

This is a literal and spiritual darkness. Yes, the earth will literally be dark, but spiritually the hearts of men will be even darker!

v. 11 tells us that again, "they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and sores, and did not repent of their deeds."

Sixth Bowl, v. 12-16

The 6<sup>th</sup> bowl is directed toward the River Euphrates

As a result, the water (turned blood red during the 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl) is now dried up  
There's a reason that this great river is dried up, "so that the kings from the east might be prepared."

This is an important event that allows Satan to gather his remaining followers/armies together for the upcoming battle at Meggido, which v. 16 calls, "Armageddon."

Where will things kings come from?

In today's context, these kings/armies could easily come from China, Japan, India, and many other places (but who knows which of these nations will continue to exist in those last days.)

Even nations like Afghanistan and Pakistan could figure into the picture. Just look at how these smaller nations are entering the nuclear warfare age in our day!

But what about v. 13-14, who are these "three unclean spirits like frogs."?

Where do these unclean spirits come from, "the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet."

v. 14 tells us what these spirits will be doing, "performing signs"

And the purpose of these signs is also revealed, "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."

I don't know why they appear to look like frogs, but I think that Satan is transforming himself, and his 2 right hand men, the antichrist and the false prophet, in order to assemble the armies of the earth to do battle with God.

Remember, the government of the beast has crumbled, therefore Satan is trying to unify his fractured forces into a unit to do battle with the Almighty

v. 15 is an important statement for the saints of that day, as well as you and me today  
God is telling the saints of that day to be ready, for Jesus will come, "as a thief" meaning He will come quickly and unexpectedly

Friend, you and I must also be ready for Jesus may appear again at any moment to rapture His bride, the church. Are YOU ready?

How about your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, are they ready?

Seventh Bowl, v. 17-21

Interestingly, we DO NOT have a pause/parenthesis between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowls, as we saw between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> seals and trumpets

Notice where the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured, "Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air"

What is the response from heaven, "and a loud voice came out of the temple in heaven, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!'"

No mistake this time, this is the voice of God Himself.

Interestingly, the last words of Jesus on Calvary's cross were also, "It is finished"

Again, we see confirmed the timeless truth that God is the same yesterday, today, and always!

"... as He has been, He forever will be. Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

By pouring this bowl into the air, God is demonstrating His authority over man, the waters, the sun, the beast's kingdom, the heavens and the earth.

Remember, the bible calls the Devil, "the Lord of the air" but we are reminded in this passage that the Devil's authority will soon be stripped from him forever!

Walvoord says, “The voices, thunders, and lightnings are the prelude to the earthquake which is the express judgement from God.”

This great earthquake causes, “the great city (to be) divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell”

All the cities that remain in that day will crumble, but one city in particular will be divided into “three parts”

It is the identification of this particular city that concerns scholars

Some suggest that this city is a rebuilt Babylon

Others say that it is Jerusalem, for John has called it “that great city” in Rev. 11:8

It may very well be Rome, or wherever the antichrist establishes his one-world

Government

We are just not exactly sure, but I tend to agree with the 3<sup>rd</sup> statement

Wherever this city is, the fact remains that it won’t remain there long, for it will be crumble as v. 19 tells us, “And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”

v. 20 tells us that due to the earthquake, the entire planet will geographically and topographically be changed, “Then every island fled away and the mountains were not found.”

That which began in 6:14 will be carried out to its furthest extent (READ 6:14)

v. 21 is the culmination of the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl as we read of, “great hail” falling upon men from heaven

The weight of each hailstone is, “the weight of a talent” = 100 lbs.

Anyone or anything left standing will be crushed to bits by such hail

This is similar to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, but rather than just effecting 2 cities, this hailstorm will cover the entire earth!

Chronologically, we need to turn to Rev. 19:11 where Christ established His millennial kingdom on earth.

However we enter into another pause/parenthesis, for God wants to give us some more information/details in chapters 17 and 18 first.

Close by reading Walvoord, bottom of 241 through 242.

Though from the contemporary point of view all the details of these dramatic judgments are not immediately understood, the unmistakable impression of the Scriptures is that the whole world is being brought to the bar of justice before Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. There is no escape from divine judgment except for those who avail themselves of the grace of God in that day by faith in Jesus Christ. The utter perversity of human nature, which will reject the sovereignty of God in the face of such overwhelming evidence, confirms that even the lake of fire will not produce repentance on the part of those who have hardened their hearts against the grace of God.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (Galaxie Software, 2008), 241-42.