

# 7 Bowl Judgments

Revelation 16

# About Revelation Chapter 16

- Revelation chapters 15 and 16 bring to a conclusion the chronological events in the Book of Revelation.
- As prophesied by the Lord Jesus (Matthew 24:8), the judgments to come are like birth pains with rapid increase in severity and in frequency. Yet people did not repent (6:15-17; 9:20-21; 16:11), and so the divine wrath escalates but His evangelistic efforts escalate as well, resulting to the greatest harvest of souls in human history.
- The Lord Jesus has been showing mercy and love to call men to Himself to be saved but they did not repent (6:15-17; 9:20-21; 16:11) of their wickedness. Yet the Lord is doing everything to save men from His wrath for the Lord is longsuffering not willing anyone to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2Peter 3:9) During the tribulation, He sends 144,000 Jews to evangelize (7:4-9); sends two witnesses to prophesy for 1, 260 days (11:3); finally, an angel to fly amidst the heaven to preach everlasting gospel unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people (14:6) and then the end shall come (Matthew 24:14).
- However, His righteousness and holy character demand that Jesus judge sinners. If He ignores their sin, He would no longer be holy and righteous and true to Himself and His character. He cannot deny Himself.

# The Lord's Purpose of the Great Tribulation

- To prepare Israel for the Millennial kingdom by breaking the stubborn will of the Jewish nation:
- To introduce a worldwide revival by the preaching of the 144,000 servants of God. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:14) Paul wrote that there is only one Gospel (Galatians 1:8). He summarized it as "...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: (1Corinthians 15:3-4)
- To destroy the wicked followers of the antichrist who are committed to his way, lest they corrupt others from the truth of the Gospel.
- To shake the earth and the heavens and all things that can be shaken so that men whose sense of security is in the world or the things of this world would rather depend on the Lord than in the world and all that is therein. (Luke 18:18-30; Matthew 16:26).

# The Lord's Purpose of the Great Tribulation

- Tribulation's purpose is to prepare Israel for the Millennial kingdom by breaking the stubborn will of the Jewish nation:
  - **for Israel to confess her national sin of rejecting the Messiah.** (Jeremiah 3:11–18. In verses 14–18, Jeremiah describes the blessings that God has in store for Israel in the Messianic Kingdom. It will be a time of tremendous blessing and restoration for the Jewish people when their Messiah establishes the kingdom. However, all of these blessings are conditioned by verse 13, where they must acknowledge or **confess one specific iniquity which they committed against Jehovah their God.**)
  - **for them to plead for the Lord's return.** Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”  
Jesus said that they will not see Him again until the Jews and Jewish leaders desire and say, “Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 23:39, a quotation from Messianic Psalm 118:26).

# The 7 Bowls of Judgment

- The 7 bowls of judgment constitute as the “great tribulation” (Matthew 24:21) or the last 42 months of the Tribulation Period or the last week of the 70 weeks of years of the prophet Daniel (Daniel 9:24-27).
- Rev 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.
- Rev 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

# First Bowl Judgment – grievous sores upon men

- Two essential points:

1. The time – when Antichrist is worshipped. It is during the second half (3 ½ yrs) of the tribulation period. The antichrist will not be set up as object of worship until the middle of the 7 years. This judgment will fall on men because they worshipped the antichrist and received his mark.
2. The recipients – beast worshippers. Only those who have the mark of the beast shall receive the painful sores. The identification as to who receives the grievous sores means that the Lord will spare those who are alive but refused to receive the mark of the beast or worshipped him. When one fourth is killed by Death and Hades (Revelation 6:8) and the four angels kill one-third of mankind, the Lord will exempt believers. “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:” (2Peter 2:9)



# The Second Bowl Judgment – sea turns to blood

- Rev 16:3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.
- We have already seen that God will cause a third part of the sea to turn to blood during the second trumpet judgment but this second bowl judgment covers the entire sea. So all living creatures in the sea will die and the entire sea becomes corrupt. The dead sea creatures will float to the top, their decaying bodies discharging offensive stench and start the spread of disease. International trade will be drastically reduced because commercial shipping is interfered. Food supply distribution will hampered and the whole population will be in chaos while they will be looking for an adequate water supply.
- 71% of the earth's surface is covered by the sea and the ocean. 97.5% is salt water, 2.5% is fresh water is locked up in glaciers and ice caps or too deep under the earth or polluted and only .03% is unpolluted in rivers and lakes.

# The Third Bowl Judgment – rivers and fountains of water turn to blood

- And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. (Rev 16:4-7)
- The third bowl is a sequel to the second. God turns the only remaining sources of water, the rivers and fountains of fresh water into blood. Jesus can turn water to wine and He also can turn water to blood. Water will become undrinkable. Health and hygiene become a human problem. The world will be in a state of chaos and confusion, looking for this
- According to H.H. Mitchell, Journal of Biological Chemistry, the brain and heart are composed of 73% water, and the lungs are about 83% water. The skin contains 64% water, muscles and kidneys are 79%, and even the bones are watery: 31%. Some say man cannot live without water for 5 days, others say 8-21 days. Dehydration can cause your organs to shutdown especially the brain.



# Fourth Bowl Judgment – sun's scorching heat

- And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. (Revelation 16:8-9)
- The sun sustains life here on earth. It generates the seasons of the earth, it generates the water cycle to cause the early rain and the latter rain, it creates the tidal flow of the oceans to circulate marine food supply, plants can produce food with sunlight but when the fourth bowl is poured upon the sun, man will have to struggle with the sun. The induced heat wave will scorch men with fire like when there is no ozone layer to filter shorter wavelength UV. During the fourth trumpet judgment, 1/3 of the sun is darkened and yet during the fourth bowl judgment, the sun is causing great radiation to scorch men.
- We think that this judgment should bring people to their knees. Yet we see them blaspheming the name of God...and they repented not to give the Lord glory. This illustrates the most severe rebellion and hostility to the will of God for all times.

# Fifth Bowl Judgment - darkness

- And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, **And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.** (Revelation 16:10-11)
- The darkness must have given the men respite from the scorching sun, yet they are still in intense pain for they gnawed their tongues.
- Jesus' prediction: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light." (Mar 13:24)
- These judgments are clearly supernatural that all men will know that they are coming from the God of heaven. But instead of bowing their knees, they blasphemed God and they refused to change their ways (repent). When men reject the Lord, it is not because of philosophical thought or unexplained answers to unanswered but hardness of heart and love for sin.

# The sixth Bowl Judgment – Euphrates dried up

- Rev 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Rev 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. Rev 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.
- This judgment is in two parts:
  1. Drying up of the River Euphrates in preparation for the “battle of that great day of God Almighty”. The sixth bowl judgment will dry up the river to make way for the “kings of the east”.
  2. Demonic forces bring the rebellious armies of the world to the valley of Megiddo to oppose the Lord.

# The sixth Bowl Judgment – Euphrates dried up

- The “kings of the east”. Is it a wonder why China is now very assertive not only among its neighbors but even other regions like the Middle East by forging ties with Iran and Russia. It plans to modernize its more than 2M active military personnel in its People’s Liberation Army by developing advanced weapons, smart technologies like artificial intelligence and modernising its military theories, formations, personnel and strategic management. (South China Sea Morning Post)  
(<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3111960/how-china-pushing-forward-its-plan-powerful-modern-military>)
- The United States is second to China in number of active, military personnel; the only other countries with more than a million active duty troops are China's neighbors—Russia, India and North Korea.)
- The kings of the east indicates that the kings will not amalgamate but form a massive oriental confederacy.

# The sixth Bowl Judgment – Euphrates dried up

- Three frog-like deceiving spirits coming from the dragon, the antichrist and the false prophet. By lying wonders, they will summon the kings and armies of the world to the final conflict against the Lord Jesus Christ. The timing of this event must be the very last days of the tribulation period because the next bowl judgment is the destruction of Babylon.
- Armageddon. The battle of Armageddon is the “battle of the great day of God Almighty” is the final conflict between the antichrist and rebellious armies of the world and the Lord Jesus Christ who will consume them with the power of His mouth.



# The Seventh Bowl Judgment – the wrath of God

- Rev 16:17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.
- Rev 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.
- Rev 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.
- Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.
- Rev 16:21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and **men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail**; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.



# The Seventh Bowl Judgment – the wrath of God

- When the seventh bowl is poured into the air, a voice will be heard from the temple of God saying, “It is done.” it signifies the end of the Tribulation.
- The end will be the world’s greatest earthquake, “such as was not since men were upon the earth”. The city of Babylon shall be destroyed into three parts and other cities of the nations fell or wiped out. Islands fled away. What will happen to the 7,100 islands of the Philippines?
- If this were not enough, great hailstones weighing a talent rained out of heaven. One talent is 135 lbs. I computed the impact energy of one hailstone. Hail-forming clouds are about 6,100 meters in the sky. For easy computation, I used 50 kilos as weight of one hailstone. The energy of one hailstone would be around 3 million joules or the energy from that one hailstone can drive your 1 ½ hp aircin for 1 ½ hours. If there were remaining structures after the great earthquake, they will be pulverized by the hail.
- Still unrepentant, men will still blaspheme God because of the severe plague of the hail.

# The Seventh Bowl Judgment – the wrath of God

- This is the third occasion men refuse to repent. Signs and wonders will not convince hardened unrepentant man to believe the gospel but lift his fist in final defiance to God who is longsuffering in reaching him not wanting him to perish but come to repentance. (2Peter 3:9)
- However, His righteous and holy character demand that Jesus, the righteous Judge, has to judge sinners. If He ignores their sin, He would no longer be holy and righteous and true to Himself and His character. He cannot deny Himself.
- Those who took the mark of the beast broke the first four of the ten commandments:
  - 1) Thou shalt have no other gods before Me
  - 2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
  - 3) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain
  - 4) Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy
- Instead of worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ, they worship the antichrist and they made his image and worship it, too. They blaspheme the name of God and they are not guiltless who take the name of the Lord in vain. They do not remember any holy day confirms their unregenerate and godless hearts.
- This Book reveals His plan to save everyone who believes in Him from the eternal judgment that is to come but it reveals also that surely the Lord Jesus will pour the wrath of God upon everyone who rejects Him. In the light of the inevitable judgment, the warning to all unrepentant sinners is “To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (Hebrews 4:7)