

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Revelation

The Bowls of Wrath, Har-Magedon, and Babylon (15:5-16:21)

Introduction

1. This section demonstrates the escalated and intensified wrath of God in the seven bowls, which are the seven plagues. See 15:1 and 16:21
2. Keep in mind the multiperspective dimension of Revelation.
3. This final series of judgments has multiple functions:

I. The Temple Opened in Heaven (15:5-8)

- A. The Temple of the Tabernacle in heaven was opened (15:5)
- B. The seven angels who had the seven plagues (15:6)
- C. One of the four living creatures gives the bowls of wrath to the angels (15:7)
- D. The Temple fills with smoke (15:8)

II. The First Five Bowls (16:1-12)

- A. The command from the temple (16:1)
Isa. 66:6
- B. The first angel and the plague on the earth (16:2)
(cf. boils Ex 9:8-12)
- C. The second angel and the plague on the sea (16:3)
(Cf. Rev. 8:8-9)
- D. The third angel and the plague on the rivers and springs (16:4-7)
(Cf. 8:10-11; Ex. 7:17-20)
- E. The fourth angel and the plague on the sun (16:8-9)
Prov. 19:3
- F. The fifth angel and the plague on the throne of the beast (16:10-11)
(Cf. 5th trumpet, 9:2; Ex. 10:21)



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III. The Sixth Bowl: Har-Magedon (16:12-16)

- A. The sixth angel and the plague on the Euphrates (16:12)
(Cf. 6th trumpet, 9:13-19)
- B. Three frog-like spirits from the unholy trinity (16:13-14)
(Cf. Ex. 8:1-13)
- C. Parenthetical exhortation (16:15)
(Cf. Matt. 24:42-43; 1 Thess.5:2; 2 Pet. 3:10)
(Cf. Matt. 24:43; Luke 12:37; 1 Thess. 5:1-11)
- D. Gathered at Har-Magedon (16:16)

IV. The Seventh Bowl: It is Done (16:17-21)

- Parallel – 6th seal (6:12-17) and 7th trumpet (11:15-19)
- A. The seventh angel and the plague upon the air (16:17-18)
Voice from the temple (Isa. 66:6)
(Cf. Ex. 9:24)
 - B. The Great City split into three parts (16:19)
 - C. Islands and mountains (16:20)
(Cf. 6th seal, Rev. 6:14; Rev. 20:11)
 - D. Judgment of hailstones (16:21)
(Cf. Ex. 9:13-26)

