

Morning Sermon / 1/23/2022 / "The Seven Bowls" Revelation 16

I. See these BOWLS in relation to the Seven Seals and Seven Trumpets –

1. Seals, regular judgment, 1/4th –

And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill ... Revelation 6:8 (NKJV)

2. Trumpets, increased judgment, warning, the end is near, 1/3rd –

⁷ And a third of the trees were burned up, ⁹ And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Revelation 8:7–9 (NKJV)

3. Bowls, all die, judgments are final, Example -

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. Revelation 16:3 (NKJV)

We read about the end of the world and God's judgment of the wicked both with the Seals and the Trumpets, and the END is the REPEATED THEME again with these bowls, and yet while END was the theme of the last of the seals and trumpets, with the bowls it is the theme of them all, the destruction is complete / final

II. See these BOWLS / plagues in relation to the plagues in Egypt –

1. Bowl a loathsome sore, in Egypt boils –

² So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Revelation 16:2 (NKJV)

Compare to -

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." Exodus 9:9 (NKJV)

2. Water turned to blood –

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. ⁴ 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." Revelation 16:3–6 (NKJV)

Compare to -

²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. Exodus 7:20 (NKJV)

3. *Extreme heat* - Revelation 16:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 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 Him glory.

Nothing like this in Egypt, except God's power over nature, and the lack of repentance -

4. Darkness –

¹⁰ 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. Revelation 16:10 (NKJV)

Compare to -

²¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness *which* may even be felt." ²² So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. ²³ 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. Exodus 10:21–23 (NKJV)

5. Lack of repentance, or hardening of heart in relation to the plagues –

¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. Revelation 16:11 (NKJV) Compare to – (Next page)

³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go. Exodus 8:32 (NKJV)

6. *A way made by a body of water being dried up / parted –*

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. Revelation 16:12 (NKJV)

Compare to -

¹⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. ¹⁶ But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. Exodus 14:15-16 (NKJV)

7. *A hardening of heart leading to a foolish attack, frogs lies coming in a hoard... –*

¹⁷ And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. Exodus 14:17 (NKJV)

Compare to

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ “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.” ¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. Revelation 16:13-16

A. *Note a difference here, God hardened the hearts of the Egyptians that they might be drowned in the Red Sea, here out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the Beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet come unclean spirits (like frogs) gathering men to battle, against WHO? Against God and Christ, it is insane to fight a battle that you cannot win, but these men will be deceived into battling God and Christ – see also Exodus 8:1-14 (the frogs were out of place, out of the river, so these are out of place, battling their Maker.)*

B. *These unclean spirits demons gather the world against God – Armageddon, the place where Israel defeated the Canaanites though outnumbered and led by a woman, Deborah ... Judges 5:19*

They are deceived into think they might fight with God, no they CANNOT ... It is like the Egyptian army chasing the Israelites into a divided Red Sea!

III. *Are these BOWLS literal? Metaphorical? All? Parts? (not the most important part, what’s important is judgement, which is here literal or metaphorical, either way it will be REAL, painful ...)*

1. *I think the darkness is likely metaphorical -*

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness...

A. *Scripture speaks often of moral and spiritual darkness, this will definitely be the case with the throne of the Beast, whether there is physical darkness or not, Christ is the great light, the Light of the world – Isaiah 9:2; John 8:12, Christians are to be light – and these are opposed to Christ and Light ...*

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. Ephesians 5:8–11 (NKJV)

B. *The throne of the beast would be morally and spiritually dark on its own, but at this point the darkness is more fully KNOWN, even by those dwelling in it, it is fully embraced, as no grace limits it ...*

2. *“Armageddon.” Revelation 16:16 is likely used metaphorically ...*

3. *Yet, I have no reason to doubt literal sores, waters turned to blood, this is perfect justice –*

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.” Revelation 16:6 (NKJV) *And not only “of saints” but of saints, of Christ ... Revelation 1:7*

4. *Difference - ¹⁵ “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.” Also, providence changes for those under wrath – Matthew 5:45*