

Book of Revelation

Chapter 16: – Final Judgments: 7 Bowls

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1

Revelation 16 - Overview

- Previously, Revelation 15 presented the preparations in heaven for the release of the final 7 bowl judgments to the earth
- Revelation 16 details those specific judgments...

2

Revelation 16:1

- **Verse 1** – *“...Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”*
- John hears another loud voice out of the temple/tabernacle
- The final judgments are about to begin
- Notice these are referred to as the “bowls of wrath”
- God is serious about His judgments on the earth and its people

3

Revelation 16:2 – First Bowl

- **Verse 2** – *“...The first went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and severely painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.”*
- The same Greek word translated "mark" (charagma) also described the seal attached to legal documents (Constable) – it was physical/obvious
- This will be the Antichrist’s “brand” and people will clamor for it
- This physical mark will identify those who worship Antichrist
- They will gladly have a physical mark that they can show off
- This echoes the plagues God brought upon Egypt in the book of Exodus—showing just how powerful He is. (Exodus 9:8-12)

4

Revelation 16:3 - Second Bowl

- **Verse 3** – *“...And after that I looked, and, behold...The second poured out his bowl into the sea. It turned to blood like a dead man’s, and all life in the sea died.”*
- Everything dies; massive destruction & death
- This probably means real blood, which would not support life in the seas/oceans

5

Revelation 16:4 – Third Bowl

- **Verse 4** – *“The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood...”*
- As the seas/oceans became blood, here the fresh waters also become blood
- Note it does not say “like blood,” but “blood”
- Without water, people cannot live long
- This is temporary as changes that occur after this will make water available again
- the same thing that happened to Egypt when Moses struck the Nile with a staff. God is showing that He is in control of all things and can bring destruction at will. (Exodus 7:20-21)

6

Revelation 16:5-6

- **Verses 5-6** – “... *I heard the angel of the waters say: You are righteous, who is and who was, the Holy One, for You have decided these things. Because they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets, You also gave them blood to drink; they deserve it!...*”
- Lest there be any doubt, an angel declares that God is righteous for giving to the world a judgment that suits their actions against believers
- Because they spilled the actual blood of believers, they will be made to drink actual blood

7

Revelation 16:7

- **Verse 7** – “...*Then I heard someone from the altar say: Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments...*”
- Confirmation again that God’s judgments are righteous and true
- What God dishes out, the people of the world deserve
- The punishment fits the crime here
- God did this before in Exodus 1:22; 14:28 and Esther 7:10; 9:10
- “the altar” is probably the personification of the martyrs

8

Revelation 16:8-9

Verses 8-9: *“The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun. He was given the power to burn people with fire, 9 and people were burned by the intense heat. So they blasphemed the name of God, who had the power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give Him glory.”*

- In spite of the terrible heat from the sun, people do not repent and give God glory due Him
- Could very well be that climatic changes occur (man-made??), that will result in this problem
- There is a definite article exists in Greek before “people” signifying the people who have received the mark, not those who haven’t

9

Revelation 16:10-11

Verse 10-11: *“The fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues because of their pain 11 and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, yet they did not repent of their actions.”*

- Darkness so thick you cannot see
- Reminiscent of Egypt’s plagues via Moses
- These sores and pain could refer back to sores from first bowl
- Still, people do not repent

10

Next Time:

- Revelation 16:12-21 6th & 7th Bowls