



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We now look at chapter sixteen of the book of Revelation. We have seen many judgments play out in the book of Revelation during the Tribulation. Let's take a look at them:

"Seal Series Judgments" Rev. 6:1-8:5

1. Conquest
2. Warfare
3. Famine and Poverty
4. Death $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Population
5. Mistreatment and Martyrdom
6. Earthquake
7. Introduction of Trumpet Judgments

"Trumpet Series Judgments": Rev. 8:6-9:21

1. Hail and fire $1 \frac{1}{3}$ vegetation ruined
2. Meteor shower (1/3 of sea life killed)
3. Water pollution (1/3 of the water supply poisoned)
4. Darkness
5. Demonic Locust attack
6. Demonic hordes (1/3 of humanity killed)
7. Introduction of bowl judgments



“Bowl Series Judgment” (Rev. 16:1-21)

1. Malignant sores
2. Poisoned seas (death of all sea life)
3. Poisoned freshwater
4. Humanity scorched
5. Widespread darkness/misery
6. Vast military invasion
7. Most destructive earthquake/hail

There are some similarities between the final seven bowls of wrath and the earlier seven trumpet judgments. However, we make two important observations. 1) God’s future judgment will not come as one sudden, catastrophic event at the end of time to annihilate all of life. Rather, it will consist of many judgments through the Tribulation, each one allowing another opportunity for repentance. 2) Second the judgments will grow progressively more severe, providing greater impetus to submit to the Lord and demonstrating that an ultimate end to all evil will be coming soon.

In chapter sixteen we notice that the first four judgments relate to the natural world; the earth, the sea, the rivers, and the sun (16:1-9). The next two bowls affect the political world; the beast’s throne and the armies of the world (16:10-16). Finally the seventh bowl judgment wraps everything up, bringing all judgments to an end (16:17-21). Let’s walk through each bowl judgment.

Rev. 16:1 opens with John hearing a voice from the temple in heaven instructing the seven angels to “Go, pour out the seven bowls of God’s wrath on the earth”. Verse 2 shows the first angel pouring his bowl on the land; the result: ugly festering sores that broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshipped his image. These foul smelling and unsightly sores are the “new mark” of sorts for those whose allegiance was to the beast. Vs. 3 reveals the second angel pouring his bowl out on the sea; the result: all salt water is turned into coagulated like blood that is like that of a dead person (smelly and stinking); everything in the oceans and seas die. All marine life. Next we see in verse four the third angel moving inward to the rivers and springs and other places where fresh water may exist and as this bowl was poured out, those bodies of water were also turned to blood. Imagine, no longer any place to get water on the whole earth! In the Old Testament we remember that when the plagues came upon Egypt only the Nile River was turned to blood and this put a halt to the entire nation! Now it’s the whole world’s fate! In the midst of this severe judgment, we must remember the heart of God. God is love! So, once again, how can love behave so toughly? This chorus found in verse five is a necessary reminder. The angel in charge of the waters now speaks, “You are just in your judgments, O Holy One...for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you’ve given them blood to drink as they deserve”. Here is the angel encouraging the Love of God which is probably breaking over this devastating judgment. Vs. 7 hears a response from the altar of God. Echoing the angels statements (remember the altar is where the 24 Elders are seated, the martyred saints, the four living creatures, etc.), “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments” Vs. 8 reveals the fourth angel pouring its bowl out on the sun and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. The only hope for water for a blood filled earthly water system is now answered by solar flares scorching people but also the entire weather patterns turning upside down. Near 70 degree temperatures in February will be nothing compared to solar flares kissing the earth! Vs. 9 shows the heart of man. One would think that the “eyes of humanities understanding” would be opened and they would turn to the God who is bringing about all of this judgment, however, the opposite is true; they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues. Then the next sobering part of verse 9, “but they refused to repent and glorify Him”!



Verse 10 shows the fifth angel pouring out his bowl on the throne of the beast. And the kingdom or the expanse of the reach of the beast's power is plunged into darkness. Nothing to drink, festering sores on their skin, intense heat and climate upheaval and being unable to see causes the people to gnaw their tongues in agony and (vs. 11) they cursed the God of heaven for their pains and sores, but **they refused to repent of what they had done!** Let's pause for a moment. Wouldn't it make sense to just cry, "uncle"? Shouldn't a rational person say I'm sorry for my actions, please forgive me? Well, this is the final proof of humanities depravity, they are incapable of repentance because of their wickedness which all the more underscores God's reason for this level of judgment.

We will examine the remaining bowls and the culminating battle of battles that is about to begin. However, our hearts should break at the level of evil in man's heart in this chapter. Can't we see the road to that beginning today. With the killing of innocent children, the lawlessness of humanity, we are marching forward to that time in the not so distant future where our wickedness will finally get it's just rewards.

Things to Ponder:

1. Why do you think we keep hearing from the temple and the altar as these judgments are being exacted on the earth?
2. Do you think that there will be any people who might repent during these seven bowl judgments (why, why not...use Biblical cues)?
3. Does verse eight give any perspective as to why many today challenge global warming? Why?
4. What similarity to you see in verse 10 and a similar Old Testament plague?
5. How does this chapter give perspective to our current culture and moral disposition?