

The Bowl Judgements

The Bowl Judgements-Overview

These are the third and last in a three part series of judgements. They follow the 7th trumpet, which is the third woe and describes significant events as well as releasing the seven bowls of wrath judgements. Jesus second coming has commenced, the saints have been raptured and it is now time for the wicked to be punished. The bowls speak of the pouring out of God's final judgement of this age in fullness without delay or hindrance. This is the scene John sees.

These seven bowl judgements (or plagues) are given to the seven angels who come out of the temple of the tabernacle of testimony when it is opened. These are the two structures in the OT where God's presence resided. The angels are clothed in bright clean linen and have bands of gold around their chests. This is not a dirty job they are about to do because they recognise the goodness and intent of God to confront the wickedness of man. All the saints from present and history past are standing on the sea of glass which is alight and glowing with the fire of the spirit, singing the song of Moses. The temple is filled with the smoke of God's glory and no one is able to enter the temple (to intercede against these judgements) until the bowls have been poured out in fullness.

First Bowl.

The first bowl releases loathsome sores on antichrist worshippers. These sores are only received by those who have the mark of the beast. Note that those left on the earth who resisted the mark of the beast will not get the sores. The sores or boils are related to the 6th plague in Egypt.

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:1-2)

Foul. A part description of the sore. They will have a very offensive odour to them, like rotten or putrid meat.

Loathsome. The sores will be so painful that men will loathe life itself. The very pain of the sores will give them time to reflect upon their eternal destiny.

The events that happen in proximity to the first bowl. While worldwide chaos and destruction is still happening, the focus has been switched to personal physical suffering. The pain of the sores will be severe and the smell of with them will be terrible. Imagine the stench in the shopping malls, especially if you don't have them. Many of those without the mark who do not have the sores, will cry out to God for salvation.

Second Bowl.

The second bowl is poured out on the seas and causes them to become blood as of a dead man, and every living creature in the sea die because of it.

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:3)

The sea ...became blood. The partial blood judgement of the 2nd trumpet now becomes total. All the sea becomes blood.

Like that of a dead man. It will be thick congealed blood, sticky and smelly.

All the creatures in the sea died. Once again the partial judgement now becomes total. This judgement for some reason does not mention 'shipping' as did the 2nd trumpet judgement.

The events. All food supply from the sea will cease. No fish and chips! God continues to confront the nations that oppose Him. God honours and will not suspend their free will, but He will intervene and confront them if they continue to choose evil, to prevent them from harming society. That is called judgement.

Third Bowl.

The third bowl is poured out upon the rivers and springs of water of the earth and they all turn to blood. There is no fresh water supply, except if it rains. Water will be so scarce.

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:4)

Wormwood. is an OT symbol of divine punishment. It is a herb with a bitter taste that can poison water. The 2nd and 3rd trumpets correspond to the 1st plague in Egypt when the waters were polluted.

The events that happen in proximity to the third bowl are immediate and catastrophic. If the only water supply available is from when it rains, people who are demonised will kill each other for a drink of water. After 3 days without water the human body begins to go into severe dehydration. This will cause terrifying panic in the nations.

Fourth Bowl.

The fourth bowl gives the angel power over the sun to make it more intense. This judgement causes men to be scorched with heat and fire. It is a supernatural act of God. This is a prophetic message giving men a token of the fire that awaits them in the lake of fire should they not repent of their sins. There will be many who did not take the mark of the beast that repent. These are the ones who will populate the earth in the Millennium.

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:8-9)

Fire .. great heat. The temperature given out by the sun will cause day and night temperatures on the earth to rise to a very uncomfortable level. It will be hot day and night. Great fires will break out because of the dryness caused by the heat.

Blasphemed. Men will know that it is God who is causing their suffering and pain and will still choose to blaspheme His name and character, while still not repenting. Their true feelings of hatred will rise to the surface, they will curse God where previously it was not openly expressed.

The events taking place here follow on from the 3rd bowl where the water supply is poisoned. At least they can use the contaminated water for fire control purposes, but they have none to drink. Life in these conditions will be horrible. Homes and crops burned, all vegetation dying from the heat and people dying from exposure.

Fifth Bowl.

The fifth bowl parallels the 9th plague in Egypt. The thick darkness comes upon the antichrist's empire. Not only is it totally black but there is a demonic thickness to the darkness that can be felt by those on the earth. It is scary! This darkness was prophesied by Isaiah (See Isa 60:1-2).

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:10-11)

Throne of the beast. This is referring to the antichrist's governmental seat of power which while having a central base, maybe Babylon, can be in many places of the world as well. It is the antichrist's infrastructure God is targeting, to bring disruption and confusion.

Full of darkness. It is only the antichrist's kingdom that is full of darkness. There will be light in places where people have repented and turned to God. This will show and demonstrate God's power, control and mercy to the unsaved.

Pain. Those in the antichrist's empire will experience pain caused by the demonic darkness. It will add extra pain to their sores caused by the 1st. bowl.

Blasphemed. They will be filled with rage and blaspheme God because of their pain. Many will be filled with despair and hopelessness while still not repenting.

The events. This darkness will cause major disruption to commerce and transport. The limited food supplies will not get to their destinations. This will cause unbelief in the antichrist's ability to deal with these God-made supernatural events. There is ongoing physical suffering to those who have the mark of the beast.

Sixth Bowl.

The sixth bowl is about the nations being deceived by demons to assemble their armies at Armageddon, which is the plain of Jehoshaphat, for war against Jesus. This is able to happen by the 6th bowl being poured out on the river Euphrates so that it dries up, permitting the Asian armies to cross over and assemble for battle. They believe the 'lie' being that Jesus is the false messiah, being convinced that the antichrist is the real messiah. The 'lie' (which Paul described) includes the delusion that they can defeat Jesus, even though they have seen and experienced His power. In the 6th bowl, God gives the nations over to express the full power of their wicked choices.

Explanation of words used in (Rev 16:12-16)

kings from the east. Satan will come on to the world stage and convince the leaders of the nations who follow the antichrist, and that Jesus (promoted as the false messiah) is the cause of all their problems. He will blind them to the truth that the real cause is their sin.

Performing signs. 3 evil spirits come out of the mouth of Satan to perform these signs. We are not told what the signs are specifically but they convince the leaders of the nations to come together. This is no mean feat. They use miracles and deception to achieve the result.

Armageddon. This is the name given to a piece of land where the battle for Jerusalem is to be fought. It is the final battle in the 3 1/2 year Armageddon campaign before Jesus' Millennial reign. There are many opinions as to where this site is, but it is almost without doubt the valley of Jehoshaphat.

The events. This is the much prophesied event when all the evil nations with their leaders and followers are gathered together by Jesus. This valley is His winepress where He will destroy all of them. He will trample them in his fury and their blood will cover 200 miles and be up to the horses bridles (Refer Isa 63:1-3 and Rev 14:19-20). The blood could be this high due to the narrow valleys in Israel's terrain in this area.

Seventh Bowl.

What is described here is the most terrifying and yet glorious judgement. The seventh bowl is the culmination of the previous six bowls. It is the final judgement. The context of the 7th bowl is seen in the 6th bowl where the armies of the earth have gathered to Jerusalem. This is the scene of victory for Jesus and the saints. It is the removal of all evil off the face of the earth so that the way is prepared for Jesus' millennial kingdom reign.

Explanation of words used in (Rev16:17-21)

Into the air When the bowl is poured out into the atmosphere, some suggest it may be related to the prophecy of (Zech 14:12-15) where the flesh, eyes and tongues of people, who fight against Jerusalem, dissolve while they are standing on their feet.

The temple and the throne. The temple and the throne were always separated in Israel's history. The king could not enter the temple only the priests were permitted. This is only the second time in scripture where the temple and the throne are joined together. In Jesus, both come together as He is both high priest and king.

It is done. God says here that with this bowl his wrath is finished and complete. It echoes Jesus' words from the cross after His 3 1/2 years of ministry. Here it is uttered from the throne after the last 3 1/2 years of the great tribulation.

Great earthquake. This is how natural history ends. The biggest and most violent earthquake that has ever been experienced before in the earth's history, and it has a global dimension to it. Besides shaking the city of Jerusalem and all the other cities of the world falling, the islands of the sea fleeing, the mountains moving and not being found. Last, but not forgotten, the city of Babylon drinks the wine of the fierceness and fury of His wrath never, ever, to rise again.

great hail from heaven The size of each hail stone is equivalent to a 45kg./100 lb. block of ice. These have been reserved as a final judgement on the blasphemers who have given themselves over to idol worship. They are core antichrist worshippers and cannot be saved. Hence they are destroyed. Similarly in Moses day we read that idol worshippers were stoned. Refer (Ezek 38:22) which refers to this end time event.

The events. We must understand this Jesus of the bible. He is not only the kind, gentle and ever loving God-king. He is the judge of mankind. In the 7th and final bowl judgement we witness His just fury and righteous anger as He decimates the armies of the nations that have pitted their might against Him. When we read in (2 Thes 1:-7-8) “when Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who...” we need to be assured that He is doing this out of his great wisdom and love for us and His creation.

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