

"The Bowl Judgments"

Part 1

Revelation 16:1-21

Introduction: Today in our study of Revelation we have arrived at chapter 16 and it will be in this chapter that we shall see the devastating Bowl Judgments of the Great Tribulation. Now before we step into this study there is one question we need to consider;

What are the purposes of these Bowl Judgments?

1. To pour out God's righteous wrath in judgment on the earth dwellers.
2. To demonstrate the unrepentant nature of the earth dwellers who have received the mark of the Beast.
3. To usher in and establish God's theocratic Kingdom on the earth.

Now, I need to comment on this third point to help you to understand what this means. What we are about to see in these Bowl Judgments are judgments that are very similar to the plagues that came upon Egypt. When God brought the plagues on Egypt He did so in order to bring His people out and to establish a theocracy which is a government in which God rules. Israel was to go into Canaan and they were to purge the land of all the inhabitants that were embedded in the worships of the false gods of Canaan.

Deuteronomy 20:16-18

¹⁶ *But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, **thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth:***

¹⁷ *But thou shalt utterly destroy them; namely, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:*

¹⁸ ***That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods;** so should ye sin against the LORD your God.*

Now we know that Israel failed at this for they never purged the land as they were commanded to do. As a matter of fact, they did not want God to rule over them, but they wanted a king like all the other nations.

1 Samuel 8:4-7

⁴ *Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,*

⁵ *And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.*

⁶ *But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.*

⁷ **And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.**

That theocracy never was established back in the Old Testament, but it will be established in at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷ **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

Isaiah speaks of how God Himself will purge out the land.

Isaiah 13:9

⁹ *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.*

There is yet one more point I need to make before we get into this chapter. There are many people who refuse to see the 7 Bowl Judgments as literal judgments. You need to know they are literal judgments. To see them in a figurative way or to interpret them as an allegory is very, very dangerous.

If someone is going to interpret these judgments as figurative then where are the boundaries?

Listen to the words of **Garland** concerning a literal interpretation:

"When one cuts the tether of literal interpretation, all manner of strange understandings result and it is nearly impossible for the actual text to adequately constrain the imagination of the interpreter. Also, it becomes impossible for God to describe cataclysmic judgments even if He wanted to, for interpreters would be forever

reinterpreting them as symbolism or allegory. We believe the details given in the descriptions of the judgments point strongly in the direction of a literal interpretation:"

We know that with God's Word there are many applications but there is only ONE CORRECT interpretation. If these judgments are taken figuratively then the possibilities are endless for interpretation. The bottom line is that what we are about to look at will be literal judgments which will come at the end of the Great Tribulation.

I. **Bowl #1 - Open Sores**

Notice Revelation 16:1

Let me just remind you that what we are about to see is the undiluted wrath of God poured out upon the earth and the earth dwellers. In Psalm 79 we get a glimpse of why the earth dwellers face this terrible wrath of Almighty God.

Psalm 79:1-6

O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.

² The dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth.

³ Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.

⁴ We are become a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

⁵ How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

⁶ Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

The Bowl Judgments are the answer to the Psalmist prayer.

Notice Revelation 16:2

The first Bowl contains a noisome and grievous sore that will fall upon one specific group of people. The words NOISOME and GRIEVOUS mean **foul** and **evil**. This is most likely a plague of ulcers. These are very painful abscesses that God strikes these people with.

This is very similar to what happened in Egypt.

Exodus 9:8-11

⁸ *And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh.*

⁹ *And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt.*

¹⁰ *And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains [blisters] upon man, and upon beast.*

¹¹ *And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians.*

Let us notice closely who it falls upon.

Notice Revelation 16:2 again.

This is NOT two groups, but it is the same group of people. The ones who have received the mark of the Beast will at this time experience these ugly open sores.

Listen to the words of one teacher;

"Those who once bore the mark of the beast are now visited by 'marks' of God."

Galatians 6:7

⁷ *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

These people made the choice to receive the mark of the Beast and to worship him and so God has seen fit to give to them His mark in the form and a sore that will not heal, and which is extremely painful. They worshipped the IMAGE of the Beast and in so doing they violated the 2nd Commandment.

Exodus 20:4a

⁴ *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, ...*

II. **Bowl #2- Oceans Turned to Blood.**

Notice Revelation 16:3

This Bowl Judgment will devastate the world for when the oceans are turned to blood ALL the life in the oceans will die. The oceans waters will be turned into blood as of a dead man.

Now something similar will happen in the Trumpet Judgments but not to this magnitude.

Revelation 8:8-9

⁸ *And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;*

⁹ *And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.*

This judgment will destroy one-third of the life but the 2nd Bowl will destroy ALL the aquatic life.

The fish and the creatures of the sea will pile up on the shores and rot as they lay in the open sun shine.

The Blood of a Dead Man -

Living blood in the human body is the purifier of the body. The blood removes the contaminants that would cause great harm. Leviticus 17:11 tells us *the life of the flesh is in the blood*. When a man dies the blood, stops circulating and becomes one large blood clot.

This is exactly what will happen to the oceans. I believe the oceans will be motionless and the water will be much like clotted blood. Every bit of ocean life will die and rise to the surface. We can only imagine the stench from the dead fish.

This judgment will devastate the world's economy for much of the food supply comes from the oceans. Ships will not function submarines will not function and therefore oceanic travel will come to a halt.

III. Bowl #3-Fresh Water Turned to Blood.

Notice Revelation 16:4

When this Bowl is poured forth ALL the fresh waters will be turned to blood. The rivers, the lakes, and the springs. There was something similar in Egypt.

Exodus 7:17-18

¹⁷ *Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood.*

¹⁸ *And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.*

Now let me refresh your memory concerning the Trumpet Judgments.

Revelation 8:10-11

¹⁰ And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

¹¹ And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

Now I am showing you the Trumpet Judgments because I want you to see the difference. The Trumpet Judgments affected one-third of the oceans and the fresh water supply, BUT the Bowls are completely universal and the effect all the oceans and all the fresh water supplies.

Now let me explain the difference.

The Trumpet Judgments are designed to drive men to repentance, but the Bowls are the UNDILUTED WRATH OF GOD.

There will be no drinking water and no water to clean the festering wounds of the first Bowl Judgment.

Now there are some who would say that God is too harsh on these people.

Notice Revelation 16:5

Here is the answer to any who would accuse God of being too harsh.

This angel declares that God' judgments are righteous meaning that they are just. The point is that God has extended His hand of grace all through the Tribulation because He is not willing that any should perish. So, through the Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments God has extended GRACE to the world. But they have rejected repeatedly.

There comes a time when God's GRACE comes to an end and that is what is happening here. For those who would accuse God of being unjust they would need only to look at the cross. In Christ God has provided a way for every individual to be forgiven.

Romans 3:22-26

²² Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

²⁶ To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Notice Revelation 16:6

Here we see that those who are living under the wrath of God have not only rejected the Gospel that was preached to, but they killed the saints and the prophets who carried the message to them.

Now because they shed the blood of the saints and the prophets God gives blood to them to drink. By their own works they have proven that they are worthy of this judgment. There is a very solemn verse in Isaiah.

Isaiah 49:26

²⁶ And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Notice Revelation 16:7

Now we see the angel from the altar comes out to testify of the righteousness of God. This angel comes from the altar under which the martyred saints were in Revelation 6.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Conclusion:

Why would you reject Jesus Christ now knowing that if the rapture happens you will be plunged into the Tribulation?

God has made a way for you to escape this 7-year period by trusting Jesus Christ as your Savior.