

"The Bowl Judgments"

Part 2

Revelation 16:1-21

Introduction: In Matthew 24 when Jesus spoke about the coming Great Tribulation He revealed something that gives insight into the days right before His return to the earth.

Matthew 24:21-22

²¹ *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

²² *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

Jesus is talking here about the Bowl Judgments that will be poured out at the end of the Great Tribulation right before His return. The "shortened days" do not speak of days that are less than 24 hours, but it means the Bowl Judgments will be poured out quickly in rapid succession.

In our study we have looked at two previous sets of judgments. They were the Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments. Both the Seals and the Trumpets were to bring the unsaved of the Tribulation to repentance. Those Judgments will be an extension of the grace of God to those who are left behind after the rapture.

Let me remind you what Jesus said to the Church at Philadelphia.

Revelation 3:10

¹⁰ *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*

All who are left behind will be tried. Some will repent and turn to Jesus Christ and others will harden their hearts and refuse to repent. The Seal Judgments and the Trumpet Judgments will not only bring many to Jesus Christ, but they will **also prove that those who refuse to repent are deserving of eternal damnation.**

The Bowl Judgments are far more severe than the Seals or the Trumpets because they are the **undiluted wrath of Almighty God.**

Revelation 14:6-10

⁶ *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

⁷ *Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

⁸ *And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

⁹ *And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,*

¹⁰ *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation;* *and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

God has given many warnings through the Seals, Trumpets, Two witnesses, the 144,000 Missionaries and the angels in Revelation 14.

Grace has reached the end and judgment now begins with the Bowl Judgments.

One more point that I need to make concerning these Bowl Judgments is a reminder from last week. These Judgments are LITERAL JUDGMENTS.

Let me remind you of 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:"

Now last week we looked at the first three Bowl Judgments.

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

Notice Revelation 16:1

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

Notice Revelation 16:3

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

Notice Revelation 16:4

Then we read of the testimony of the angels proclaiming that God's judgments are righteous and true.

Notice Revelation 16:5-7

This now brings us to where we are today.

IV. **Bowl #4-Extreme Heat**

Notice Revelation 16:8-9a

This Bowl is not poured upon the earth but upon the sun and it causes the sun's temperature to increase greatly. The sun's power is increased to the point that men are scorched with the great heat.

Let us keep in mind the fresh water supply has been turned to blood and those who bear the Mark of the Beast have upon their skin an open festering wound. There will be no one who will escape this intense heat. Let us notice what Isaiah says concerning this judgment.

Isaiah 24:1-13

Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

² *And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.*

³ *The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.*

⁴ *The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.*

⁵ *The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.*

⁶ *Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.*

⁷ *The new wine mourneth, the vine languisheth, all the merryhearted do sigh.*

⁸ *The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth.*

⁹ *They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it.*

¹⁰ *The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in.*

¹¹ *There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone.*

¹² *In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction.*

¹³ *When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done.*

The scorching will touch every life. No matter position, power or wealth they will all be burned. Let us now notice their response. Listen to the words of one Bible teacher.

"Another serious consequence of the sun's intense heat will be the melting of the polar ice caps. The resulting rise in the oceans' water level will inundate coastal regions, flooding areas miles inland with the noxious waters of the dead oceans. Widespread damage and loss of life will accompany that flooding, adding further to the unspeakable misery of the devastated planet. Transportation by sea will become impossible."

Notice Revelation 16:9

There is no cry of repentance nor is there a cry for mercy. But instead they blaspheme God. Even when they know the pain and the suffering is from the hand of God they still set themselves against Him.

This supports what I had said earlier. The testing of those who are left behind testifies of the depravity of their hearts and testifies of their unwillingness to repent thus they deserve the wrath of God. **Each time they respond in blasphemy, they unwittingly underwrite and testify of the justice of God's judgment.**

This was foretold in Daniel by an angel.

Daniel 12:9-10

⁹ *And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*

¹⁰ *Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; **but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand;** but the wise shall understand.*

Let me show you some alarming verses concerning those who harden their hearts and refuse to repent.

Revelation 22:11

¹¹ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

God says to let the unrighteous be unrighteous. This means he will not be changed. No matter what he is confronted with his heart is set against God.

Proverbs 27:22

²² Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

Let me show you how the Amplified Bible translates this verse.

Proverbs 27:22

*²² Even though you pound a [hardened, arrogant] fool [who rejects wisdom] in a mortar with a pestle like grain,
Yet his foolishness will not leave him.*

The bottom line is that when someone goes so far in rejecting God it is impossible to bring them to repentance. Repentance cannot even be beaten into them.

V. **Bowl #5-Darkness**

Notice Revelation 16:10

This Bowl Judgment is poured on the seat of the Beast affects those of the kingdom of the Anti-Christ. This Bowl affects those who have taken the Mark of the Beast. This judgment will be very similar to the plague of darkness in Egypt.

Exodus 10:21-23

²¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.

²² And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:

²³ They saw not one another, neither rose any from his place for three days: but all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.

Those who receive the Mark of the Beast will experience the open sores, the scorching sun, and now the deep darkness.

The transition from the previous Bowl (scorching, blazing sun) to this Bowl (devastating darkness) is striking. Let me explain what this is all about. These people have sold out to worship Satan, the Beast, and the image. Now they face situations that none of their gods can reverse. This is an amazing statement against the gods of the earth dwellers. This is to show that there is only One True God and He is Jehovah.

Notice Revelation 16:10 again.

Whatever this darkness is it will contain something that inflicts pain that will be very intense because they will chew their tongues because of the pain and the anguish.

Listen to the words of **Fausset**;

"They meditate revenge and are unable to effect it; hence their frenzy. Those in anguish, mental and bodily, bite their lips and tongues."

Listen to the words of **Seiss**;

"The people who suffer these plagues bite their tongues, chew them, gnaw them, as their best diversion from their misery. Their tongues have spoken blasphemies, and they themselves thus punish them."

The very tongues that blasphemed God are now chewed in pain and suffering.

Notice Revelation 16:11

Here again they refuse to repent.

VI. **Bowl #6-The Euphrates River dried up.**

Notice Revelation 16:12

The kings of the east here have nothing to do with what we looked at in Revelation 9.

Revelation 9:13-16

¹³ *And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,*

¹⁴ *Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.*

¹⁵ *And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.*

¹⁶ *And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.*

This is not the same event as many believe. Revelation 9 is a demonic army but here it will be human.

We will look at this in greater detail next week but as we come to as close today there is something here that is very alarming that I want you to see.

Notice Revelation 16:12-14

These demonic spirits enter into the kings of the earth to gather them to the campaign of Armageddon.

Here is what I want you to see. These kings have set themselves against God and now by demonic influence they are going to be moving toward the campaign of Armageddon. When this happens, these kings will believe they are doing what is right. But they are under the control of the demonic spirits and are also under the sovereignty of God for he will allow this to happen to work His purpose.

1 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

Conclusion:

This is one of the dangers of rejecting God and His offer of salvation. You can get to the point where you believe you are doing what is right, but you are actually playing into the hand of Satan and you don't even realize.

2 Corinthians 6:2

*(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**)*