

**"The Bowl Judgments"**

**Part 3**

**Revelation 16:1-21**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we were looking at the Bowl Judgments as recorded in Revelation 16. These will be the final judgments of the Great Tribulation and they will be the most severe. These judgments will be poured out right before the return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom. Jesus spoke of the severity of this time period in Matthew 24.

**Matthew 24:21-22**

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

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

The time period for the Bowl Judgments will not extend over a long period of time for if the Bowls lasted for a long period of time no one would survive.

Now we have looked at 5 of the Bowls in detail.

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

**Revelation 16:1**

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

**Revelation 16:3**

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

**Revelation 16:4**

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

**Revelation 16:8-9**

This is real global warming!

V. **Bowl #5 - Darkness**

**Revelation 16:10-11**

VI. **Bowl #6 - The Euphrates River Dried Up.**

Now last week we started to look at this Bowl Judgment. Today I want us to see a little more detail about this judgment.

**Notice Revelation 16:12-16**

There is one main point about this judgment that we briefly touched upon last week that we need to examine closer.

**A. The Purpose**

**Notice Revelation 16:16**

This Bowl Judgment is for the purpose of gathering together the armies for the Campaign of Armageddon. The Kings of the east come from somewhere east of Israel, but we do not know for sure.

**B. The Means**

**Notice Revelation 16:13-14**

John sees three unclean spirits, these are demons, come out of the Satanic trinity. One comes out of the Satan, one comes out of the Anti-Christ, and one comes out of the False Prophet.

These three demons work miracles and in their deception, they gather the kings of the earth and the armies together to battle. Let me show you the Words of our Lord about the deception of the Great Tribulation.

**Matthew 24:24**

*<sup>24</sup> For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

Now let us take a moment and consider the FROGS. Why are the demons described as being like FROGS? To you and me this would have little meaning but to the Jew it is very significant.

**Leviticus 11:9-12**

*<sup>9</sup> These shall ye eat of all that are in the waters: whatsoever hath fins and scales in the waters, in the seas, and in the rivers, them shall ye eat.*

*<sup>10</sup> And all that have not fins and scales in the seas, and in the rivers, of all that move in the waters, and of any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an abomination unto you:*

<sup>11</sup> *They shall be even an abomination unto you; ye shall not eat of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination.*

<sup>12</sup> *Whatsoever hath no fins nor scales in the waters, that shall be an abomination unto you.*

Listen to the words of Seiss on the frogs;

*"They are the elect agents to awaken the world to the attempt to abolish God from the earth; and they are frog-like in that they come forth out of the quagmires of the universe, do their work amid the world's evening shadows, and creep, and croak, and defile, and fill the ears of the nations with their noisy demonstrations, till they set all the kings and armies of the whole earth in enthusiastic commotion for the final crushing out of the Lamb and all His powers."*

These demonic spirits will whip the world into a frenzied hunger for war. These EARTH DWELLERS will be deceived into uniting with the kings of the earth to enter their last and final battle.

Now let me show you another passage.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

<sup>9</sup> *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

<sup>10</sup> *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

<sup>11</sup> *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

<sup>12</sup> *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

There are Bible teachers who believe the STRONG DELUSION which God sends will happen under the 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment when the kings and the armies of the world follow the deception of the demonic spirits.

## **Notice Revelation 16:16**

Here we see that HE gathers them to battle and this is pointing to God. For He is the One who is in control and so He allows these people to be deceived by the demonic spirits.

**Application:**

Last week I pointed out the danger of rejecting God and how you can believe you are doing what is right, but you are working against the Kingdom of Jesus Christ all the while you are still fulfilling God's purposes.

These kings and these armies will believe they are doing their will, but they are really fulfilling God's plan while they are under the deception of the demonic spirits.

Listen to the words of Garland on this deception:

*"This deception is so powerful that it is irresistible by those who lack God's protection by way of regeneration. No amount of sophistry, education, power, or wisdom will prove adequate to resist. The manipulation of the kings will be so complete that they themselves will think they are following their own will, but it is the demons who drag them forward. Even then, every step has been determined by God."*

Let me show you something recorded by Ezekiel concerning a battle that will take place after the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth. This describes how God will deal with Gog. These words are very alarming. First of all, let me show you the battle.

**Revelation 20:7-9**

*<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

*<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*

*<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

Now let us notice how this transpires.

**Ezekiel 38:4, 10, 16**

*<sup>4</sup> And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:*

*<sup>10</sup> Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:*

*<sup>16</sup> And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.*

**This is how God will deal with those who reject Christ in the Kingdom.**

Now before we move on there is something else here that we **MUST** stop and see.

## VII. The Wake-Up Call

### Notice Revelation 16:15

Here we have a wakeup call given right in the middle of the description of the Bowl Judgments. Now many believe this is for the believers who will go through the Bowl Judgments and Christ is exhorting them to watch and be ready.

But I don't believe this is for the saints of the Great Tribulation period. They will be looking for His return in the midst of the Bowl Judgments. They will not be sleeping. They will not be gathered at the football games, they will not be on vacation, they will not on the lake in the boat. They are going to be looking for the return of Jesus Christ. They will know the signs and so while they may not know the very day they will know that His return is ever so near. The believers of the Great Tribulation will not be caught sleeping when Jesus returns.

Now I will say that there will be many unbelievers who will be surprised and caught off guard. Jesus talked about those in the Olivet Discourse.

### Matthew 24:33-42

*<sup>33</sup> So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.*

*<sup>34</sup> Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.*

*<sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

*<sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

*<sup>37</sup> But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

*<sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,*

*<sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

<sup>40</sup> Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

<sup>41</sup> Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Getting back to Revelation 16:15 then I say this warning is for us today concerning the Rapture. Let me connect what is said here with a few other verses.

Remember who this letter is written to.

### Revelation 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

<sup>5</sup> And from Jesus Christ

Notice what Jesus said to the church at Sardis.

### Revelation 3:3

<sup>3</sup> Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Let me remind you what Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4

<sup>2</sup> For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

<sup>3</sup> For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

<sup>4</sup> But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Then there are the words of Peter.

### 2 Peter 3:10

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

These warnings are for today! Several times we are told the Day of the Lord/Tribulation will come as a thief in the night.

That tells me that when Jesus returns many in the church will be asleep spiritually speaking.

**Conclusion:**

The Day of the Lord is coming! We who are believers are to live our lives in a way that we will not be ashamed when Jesus comes back.

**Luke 21:34-36**

*<sup>34</sup> And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

*<sup>35</sup> For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

*<sup>36</sup> Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

We are to keep our garments unspotted and be covered so that we are not shamed when Christ returns. What are we to be clothed in? Righteous works and the armor of God.