

"The Bowl Judgments"

Part 4

Revelation 16:1-21

Introduction: Today we return to our study of the book of Revelation and as we do we are coming back to the Bowl Judgments. These Bowl Judgments are the final judgments which are poured out on the earth right before the return of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:21-22, 27-30

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.

²⁷ For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

²⁸ For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

²⁹ Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

³⁰ And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Now we have looked at 6 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

V. **Bowl #5 – Darkness**

Revelation 16:10-11

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

Revelation 16:12-16

Now before we get to the 7th Bowl Judgment we need to once again be reminded that these judgments are literal. They are not figurative, and they are not a description of something that has happened in the past as many would have us to believe. These are future judgments that will be poured out upon the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation.

I want to read the words of **Garland** again 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:"

Let us now get back to our text.

VII. **Bowl #7 – Earthquake and Hail**

Notice Revelation 16:17

The 7th Bowl is poured out into the air. This could very well be judgment upon Satan and his demons. Let us remember what happened at the Mid-Point of the Tribulation.

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷ *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

⁸ *And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

⁹ *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

Then we read this in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:2

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

One of Satan's titles is "Prince of the Power of the Air". Once he is cast out of heaven his domain is limited to the AIR or the atmosphere of the earth. This 7th Bowl is poured out into the air which very well could be the realm of Satan.

Now let me show you what we can possibly connect to this.

Revelation 20:1-2

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.*

There are some who believe this binding of Satan happens when this 7th Bowl is poured out. Let me show you another verse that may also connect with this.

Revelation 18:1-2

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

² *And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

The demons are confined to the waste land of Moab and Babylon during the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ and Satan will be bound in chains until the thousand years are passed. We will look at this when we get to these chapters.

Getting back to the point, when this Bowl Judgment is poured out into the air it is possible that Satan and his demons are the recipients of part of this judgment.

Notice Revelation 16:17 again.

The phrase "IT IS DONE" is referring to the fact that this is the final act of judgment before the return of Jesus Christ.

Notice Revelation 16:18

Here the Holy Spirit draws our attention to the GREAT EARTHQUAKE. It will be so great that it will far exceed any that has happened prior to this. There was an earthquake in which happens during the Seal Judgments that was very devastating.

Revelation 6:12-14

¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

This earthquake moves every island and every mountain out of their places which tells us this is very severe.

Haggai spoke of this earthquake.

Haggai 2:6-7

⁶ For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

⁷ And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

The earthquakes of Revelation are not the same as we see today. What we see today is the result of the curse and the earth groaning and travailing in pain as it anticipates the day when the curse will be lifted.

Romans 8:22-23

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

²³ And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

The earthquakes of the Tribulation are the result of GOD SHAKING the earth. When He shakes the earth in this 7th Bowl the world will be devastated. Let me show you what Isaiah wrote.

Isaiah 24:17-21

¹⁷ Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

¹⁸ And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.

¹⁹ The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

²⁰ The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

²¹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Let us notice the impact of this earthquake.

Notice Revelation 16:19

First, we see that the GREAT CITY is divided into 3 parts. This most likely refers to Jerusalem. What does this refer to? There are some who believe this will not be a judgment on Jerusalem, but it is for the purpose of enhancing the city. Let's remember this is all happening as Jesus is returning to establish His Kingdom. Now let me show you what Zechariah says.

Zechariah 15:4-9

⁴ And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

⁵ And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

⁶ And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark:

⁷ But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light.

⁸ And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

⁹ *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

Many believe that God will open a spring on Mount Zion and it will flow through and out of Jerusalem for the entire Kingdom.

Notice Revelation 16:19 again.

Every city of the Gentiles will be destroyed. Listen to the words of Barnhouse.

"Man has a proverb that God made the country and man-made the town. Truly these great cities of the earth are heartless and cruel, and those who have lived close enough to their hearts to hear their poisonous beats, know how much evil is hid behind the great lights of the world's great masses. They are all to fall. . . . We believe, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that this prophecy covers Peking and Philadelphia, Moscow and Melbourne, Berlin and Buenos Aires, Cairo and the Cape, Bombay and Boston, Istanbul and Chicago, Naples and New York. In short, all the cities shall be destroyed. It cannot be otherwise."

Babylon will come into remembrance and she will experience the wrath of Almighty God. This will be described in Revelation 17 and 18.

Notice Revelation 16:20

Every island and every mountain will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 4:23-28

²³ *I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.*

²⁴ *I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.*

²⁵ *I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.*

²⁶ *I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger.*

²⁷ *For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.*

²⁸ *For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.*

This will be far more devastating than we can imagine. There will be massive tsunamis and devastating floods.

Notice Revelation 16:21

The last part of this plague is hail stones that will be more than 100 pounds. It is interesting here that some people will dodge the hails stones because we see in this verse that they will continue to blaspheme God because of the hail.

Conclusion:

These people have reached the point of no return because of the hardness of their hearts. Not even supernatural acts will change their minds.

Those who know the Lord at this time will have a new view of Psalm 46.

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³ Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.

The words of Isaiah will find their fulfillment.

Isaiah 40:3-5

³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

There is only one way to escape God's coming judgment.

John 3:36

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.