

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath II

Revelation 16:12-21

- We are in the midst of God's final judgment in our study through the Book of Revelation
- God's final wrath is being poured out on those who worship the beast/antichrist, those who bear his mark
- Recall that God's final judgment includes the 7 bowl judgments **and** the battle of Armageddon
- The "7 bowl judgments" follow the 7 seal judgments and the 7 trumpet judgments - all of the judgments take place during the 7 year tribulation period
- Thus we are at the very end of the tribulation period – just before the second coming of Jesus Christ
- Again we are challenged by the chronology of Revelation
- Events to us jump back and forth—we are constantly going from the present to the future back to the present then maybe to an event in the past – to say the least it can get awfully confusing
- Andy shared something last week that may help
- He shared that Revelation is similar to movies that flash from one time period to another - from the present to past event – John moves from his present to both future and past events – it can be confusing
- Last Sunday we covered the first 5 of the 7 bowl judgments as they are "dumped" out by 7 angels - the bowls of God's wrath are dumped one at a time, in rapid fire fashion, on those who worship the beast/antichrist
- First "painful sores" erupted on people, then the sea becomes "like the blood of a corpse", next the fresh water becomes blood, after which the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire, and then the 5th bowl judgment results in total darkness over all the earth
- The bowl judgments impact every person who bears the mark of the beast, the judgments are worldwide in scope, and they have a compounding impact
- **Those with the mark, both men and women, refuse to repent and they curse God**
- This morning we consider the 6th bowl and 7th bowls – you will notice they are different in many regards to the first 5
- For example, the purpose of the 6th bowl is to gather people to a specific place for a specific purpose
- **V.12 "the 6th angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and its water dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east"**
- The 6th bowl is about gathering people
- There is no immediate harm to people as with the first 5 bowl judgments – all are still in pain from the first 5
- **The 6th bowl is about preparation for a purpose** - first the Euphrates River that became blood, is now "dried up", and due to the unmitigated heat from the sun (4th bowl) the snow in the Armenian Highlands has melted and swelled the Euphrates River to flood stage -blocking those from the east

- The Euphrates begins at Mt. Ararat, it is almost 2000 miles long and in some places a mile wide – the flooding no doubt has destroyed bridges and river crossings – it is impassable
- **When the 6th bowl is dumped the river dries up**
- The purpose for drying up of the Euphrates river is to make it possible for the “kings of the east” (and their armies) to move westward to the Valley of Jezreel – the “valley of decision” where the battle of Armageddon will take place
 - Recall during the 6th trumpet judgment 4 angels bound at the Euphrates are released and lead 200 million demons who kill 1/3 of the world’s population
- The 6th bowl also results in the release of 3 unclean spirits, demonic spirits who come from the mouths of the dragon, the beast/antichrist and the false prophet
 - The unclean spirits are like frogs (frogs are dirty slimy detestable creatures), in the Persian culture the frog was the twin of the god of evil –(remember the plague of frogs that was released on Egypt)
 - They are not real frogs but evil demonic spirits who perform signs (miracles), **“going throughout the whole world”, enticing the “kings”/ rulers “to gather them for battle on the great day of God The Almighty”**
 - **The 3 demonic spirits plus the dried up Euphrates River make it possible for beast marked people to gather to the valley of Jezreel**
- **Now, recall there was a war in heaven in Ch 12 - the dragon lost the war in heaven, he was cast down to earth - now his plan is to “overthrow God” on his turf - earth**
- Thus the armies of the world, under the command of the dragon and antichrist are gathered from the east and the west, all over the world to a specific place – the valley of Jezreel, the valley of Jehosaphat, for the battle of Armageddon – TO OVERTHROW GOD – THE BATTLEFIELD IS GOD’S COVENANT LAND - GOD’S CITY JERUSALEM
- When the armies of the dragon and antichrist are gathered - Jesus Christ returns with “the armies of heaven” ch 19
- Thus the 6th bowl is the worldwide preparation/gathering for the final “trampling” of the unrepentant wicked people who follow the beast, in the winepress of God’s wrath (flash back to ch. 14 - this is the second harvest)
 - [Joel 3:9](#). says, “Proclaim this among the nations, prepare a war, arouse the mighty men. Let all the soldiers draw near. Let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say I am a mighty man. Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Thy mighty ones and let the nations be aroused and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle for the harvest is ripe. Come tread, for the winepress is full, the vats overflow for their wickedness is great.”

- The purpose of the 6th bowl is to gather the beast worshipers of the world to the “winepress of God”
- **Then there is an interlude statement**, “Blessed are those who stay awake, keeping their garments on” (have not taken the mark of the beast) – and the encouragement “I am coming like a thief”
- **INDEED HE IS COMING**, Ch 19 “heaven is opened”, He is coming with the armies of heaven – **TO EARTH** NOT ABOVE EARTH
- His purpose is **not** to “rapture saints” but to destroy sinners, the blood of which will flow 4’ deep for 183 miles – **He will throw the antichrist and false prophet into the lake of fire and chain the dragon in the abyss**
- V.17 “The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air (notice other bowls were poured on the earth, sea, rivers, sun, throne of the beast, Euphrates)
- A loud voice came out of the Temple, from the Throne (has to be God)
- **“IT IS DONE”** – judgment is over, finished, complete – reclamation is finished -atonement has been made - judgment has been poured out – it is finished (something in the future is so certain it is spoken of in the present)
- After the 7th bowl is dumped out, after God’s proclamation
- There are flashes of lighting, rumblings, peals of thunder and a great earthquake like no other earthquake since man was on earth – “so great was the earthquake”
- The “great city” was split into 3 parts, Which city? Not Babylon, -Remember in Rev 11:8 the “2 witnesses lay in the “great city” – Jerusalem – God’s city – ALSO ZECHARIAH 14
- The city where antichrist declared himself to be God,-a possible mindset of satan “He who controls Jerusalem wins”
- Recall this is the second earthquake to hit Jerusalem, Rev 11:13 -1/10th of the city of Jerusalem was destroyed
- Also all of the cities of the world fall, especially Babylon (drain the cup of God’s wrath) –(Babylon especially will be destroyed)
- Also every island “fled away”, “no mountains were found”, (islands are mountains in the ocean) 100 pound hailstones fall from heaven on people
- The people curse God because of the hail it is so severe
- There is no record of anyone dying – yet
- **They will die soon when the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords comes from His Heaven, dressed in a white garment dipped in blood, the Name He is called is The Word of God, He comes with the armies of heaven**
- **This is the “winepress of the wrath of God” – it is not much of a battle - The Lamb of God wins - we will fill in the details when we get to Ch 19**
- In these horrible days that are yet to be – where will you be? Will you be cursing God under a hailstone, or will you be following the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, “arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, riding on a white horse”
- **Everybody has to be someplace – if you are not sure, you are one decision away**