

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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## Revelation 16

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<sup>1</sup> Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

<sup>2</sup> So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

<sup>3</sup> The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it

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## Chapter 16

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### THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH — THE LAST PLAGUES

- The voice from the Temple is technically unidentified, but from whom is the command obviously coming?
- As you read through the bowls of wrath, what Old Testament story are you expected to be reminded of?
  - Where are the seven bowls of the wrath of God to be poured?
  - What does being poured out “on the earth” mean?
  - Given that 1) the parallel to the Exodus story and 2) these bowls are to be poured on the earth, are there any people that these plagues may not effect?
- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE FIRST BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
  - *Ex. 9:9 “It will become fine dust over all the land of Egypt, and will become boils breaking out with sores on man and beast through all the land of Egypt.”*
  - Who does this bowl of wrath effect?
    - *Ex. 9:11 The magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians as well as on all the Egyptians.*
    - So, who is excluded from this plague?
    - Putting it all together:
      1. the bowl of wrath effects only the unsaved,
      2. the sores represent some kind of intense suffering,
      3. which (v. 11) will cause them to blaspheme and not repent
    - ...What are the possible interpretations of this bowl of wrath?
  - WHAT EFFECT DOES THE SECOND BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?

became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

- The seas turning into blood happened before: Rev. 8:8,9 — *“The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.”*
- What are the differences?
  - **A mountain of fire effects the first change, bowl of wrath effects the change**
  - **All the sea turns into blood in the bowl plague**
  - **All sea life dies in the bowl plague**
- What was the effect of the seas turning into blood in Rev. 8?
- What would be the expected effect of the whole sea turning to blood in Rev. 16?
- Putting it all together:
  1. the bowl of wrath effects only the unsaved,
  2. the sea of blood represent some kind of intense disaster,
  3. which (v. 11) will cause them to blaspheme and not repent
- ...What are the possible interpretations of this bowl of wrath?

<sup>4</sup> Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; <sup>6</sup> for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” <sup>7</sup> And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE THIRD BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
- Is this just a rerun of the second bowl?
  - What makes it different?
  - Remember: Ex. 7:19 — *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, “Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, and over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, that they may become blood; and there will be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.””*
- What would this cause people to do?
- How is this a righteous thing?
  - So this is a direct punishment for **persecution**
  - Who else beside the angel of the waters agrees?
    - “The altar” is referring to who?

- What is “true” about this judgment?
- What is “righteous” about this judgment?
- Putting it all together:
  1. the bowl of wrath effects only the unsaved,
  2. the fresh water turned into blood represent some kind of vile suffering,
  3. which (v. 11) will cause them to blaspheme and not repent
- ...What are the possible interpretations of this bowl of wrath?

<sup>8</sup> The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire.

<sup>9</sup> Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE FOURTH BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
- Again, who are being effected by this bowl?
- God’s judgment is often symbolized by fire
- Since the rest of the passage is pretty clearly figurative, we may safely assume that we’re probably not looking at global warming, but what ARE we looking at?
- Putting it all together:
  1. the bowl of wrath effects only the unsaved,
  2. the sun burning men represent some kind of intense suffering,
  3. which (v. 11) will cause them to blaspheme and not repent
- ...What are the possible interpretations of this bowl of wrath?

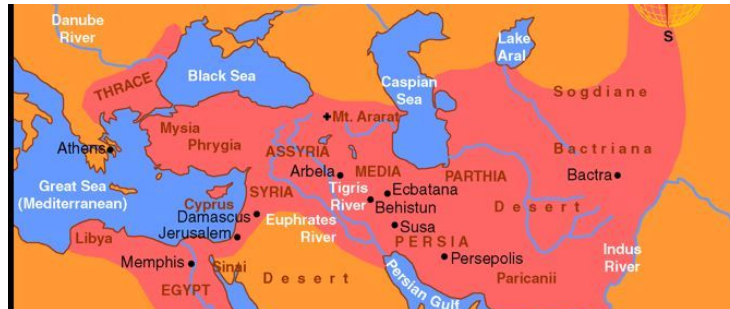
<sup>10</sup> Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, <sup>11</sup> and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE FIFTH BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
- Where have we seen darkness as a plague before?
- What does darkness often symbolize?
- Where is this bowl being poured out?
- What does the beast’s throne and kingdom signify?
- Why would darkness poured out on the beast’s throne be a cause for pains and sores?
- What is meant by gnawing the tongue?
- Might this imply what the pains and sores mean? And perhaps the other plagues?
- What are the two responses of the the beast and his kingdom?

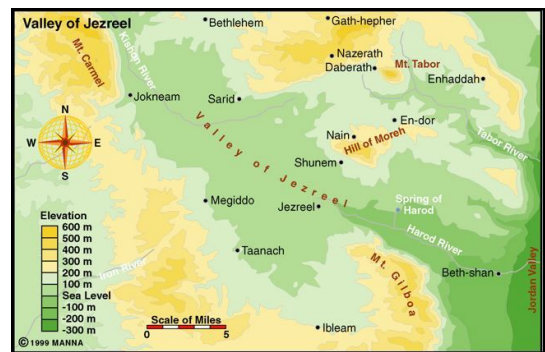
<sup>12</sup> The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. <sup>13</sup> And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; <sup>14</sup> for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. <sup>15</sup> (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) <sup>16</sup> And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

<sup>17</sup> Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” <sup>18</sup> And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. <sup>19</sup> The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup> And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, \*came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague \*was extremely severe.

- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE SIXTH BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
- What did the Euphrates symbolize to Israel?
- What kings had come from the east in Israel’s history?



- In the “seals” and the “trumpets” what did the 6<sup>th</sup> of these represent?
- sixth seal — the end of the world
- sixth trumpet — release of the 4 horsemen and God’s final (but ineffective) call to repentance in plagues
- What do all these vile creatures coming from the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet do? Explain.
- What is the meaning of keeping one’s clothes? Think Passover.
- Where is “Har-Magedon”?



- WHAT EFFECT DOES THE SEVENTH BOWL OF WRATH HAVE?
- What is done?
- Who is saying it is done?
- What is the meaning of the lightning, thunder, earthquake, falling of the cities, giving Babylon the cup of the fierce wrath of God, every island fleeing, every mountain gone, and hailstones falling?