

The Seven Bowl Judgments

Revelation 16:1-11

I. Introduction:

A. The Church Age

1. The church age began on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came & indwelt the saints who were gathered in the upper room (Acts 2).
2. Since that time the gospel has been preached around the world to both Jews & Gentiles.
3. For 2,020 years God has been saving people from every tongue, tribe, and nation who make up His church, the bride of Christ.
4. Rapture: The church age will end abruptly with the rapture of the church.
5. Jesus will appear suddenly, without warning & call His church out of this world.
6. Paul describes the event in **1 Corinthians 15:51-57** & **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**.
7. Tribulation: The rapture of the church will introduce a period of time on earth called the tribulation which will be 7 years in length divided into 2 equal 3 and 1/2 periods.
 - a. This seven-year period will be dominated by:
 - (1) – Satan: Satan is identified as the beast or dragon.
 - (2) – Antichrist: Antichrist will be Satan's human agent in the world.
 - (3) – False prophet: The false prophet will cause the world to worship the antichrist.
8. Judgment: During the tribulation, God will pour out His wrath against a sinful & unbelieving world. God's judgment will come upon the world in three sets of seven.
 - (1) 7 seal judgments (2) 7 trumpet judgments (3) 7 bowl judgments
9. The 16th chapter describes the bowl judgments which brings human history to an end. Then Jesus returns, battle of Armageddon takes place, & the millennial kingdom begins.

II. The bowl judgments (Revelation 16:1)

A. Command given

1. In chapter 15 seven angels were given 7 bowls of God's wrath. (**Revelation 15:6-7**)
2. The command of God comes to begin the last & most severe set of judgments.

III. The 1st bowl judgment (Revelation 16:2)

A. Boils and ulcers

1. He describes a painful festering and oozing sore that is painful to the touch.
2. This same description is found in:
 - a. The 6th plague in Egypt (Ex. 9)
 - b. Sores Job suffered (Job 2)
 - c. Sores that covered Lazarus (Lk 16)
3. Those who are touched with this plague will be miserable. They'll suffer great pain.

B. Upon the rebellious

1. The only one's affected by this plague are those who follow the beast & the antichrist.
2. The saved who've survived the onslaught of antichrist against them won't be touched by this plague. What a testimony to a lost world that God cares & protects His own.
3. Those who are saved by faith in Jesus are delivered from the wrath of God.

IV. The 2nd bowl judgment (Revelation 16:3)

A. The oceans are turned to blood.

1. In chapter 8 the 2nd trumpet judgment turned 1/3rd of the world's oceans to blood.

2. Under the 2nd bowl judgment every ocean and sea in the world will be turned to blood.
3. There will be the total and complete loss of all marine life on the planet.
4. Oceans will become coagulated dark thick pools of death as billions of creatures & fish that live in the sea all die, & their decaying carcasses intermix with the coagulated blood.

V. The 3rd bowl judgment (Revelation 16:4-7)

A. All fresh water is turned to blood.

1. Under the 3rd trumpet judgment 1/3rd of the fresh water was poisoned & rendered unfit to drink or use. Now all the fresh water on the earth will be turned to blood.
2. The suffering on earth will be incredible. There is no water to drink or for sanitation.
3. Water will become the most precious commodity on the planet.

B. Angelic justification

1. Someone might think how God could bring such suffering to humanity in that day?
2. How could God who is so merciful bring such pain to the world?
3. An angel steps forth and declares God is absolutely just to judge in this way.
4. Angel defends God's justice for prophets & saints of God will have been slaughtered without mercy for > 3 years & persecuted throughout human history by wicked men.
5. They shed the blood of God's saints so God has given them blood to drink.
6. God's Judgments: God's judgment is just & true. God judges in perfect righteousness.
7. Every judgment God hands down is a just & proper reward for sin and evil committed.
8. Greatest sin of every lost person is their rejection of God's unbounded grace & mercy.
9. God will forgive sin and impart eternal life to all who call upon His name by faith.

VI. The 4th bowl judgment (Revelation 16:8-9)

A. Intensity of the sun is increased.

1. Under the 4th bowl judgment the heat of the sun is increased. Under this judgment God will make the sun hotter on the earth.
2. God will increase the sun's heat to where it's oppressive. Men will be "**scorched.**"
3. Being out in the sun in the middle of the day will be deadly.
4. Some effects of the heat:
 - a. – Vegetation will be destroyed.
 - b. – Cattle and livestock will die.
 - c. – The putrid blood oceans will become even more obnoxious.
 - d. – Polar ice caps will melt. (global warming)

B. The response of man

1. They know it is God who is bringing these plagues and why they are happening.
2. They will know full well God is judging them! Rather than repent of their sin and throw themselves on His mercy, they choose to blaspheme His holy name.

VII. The 5th bowl judgment (Revelation 16:10-11)

A. Total darkness

1. In 5th bowl judgment God turned out the lights. Sun's heat is just as intense, but now they're thrown into total darkness. "**They gnawed their tongues because of the pain**"
2. This is the only place in the Bible we find such a phrase.
3. It means they were suffering the most intense agony & suffering, yet they would not repent and be saved. NOTE: This is the last reference to the fact they would not repent.

B. On the road to destruction

1. The lost world is on the road to destruction. Jesus said. (**Matthew 7:13-14**)
2. The broad road leads to God's judgment & narrow way leads to eternal life with Jesus.