

## The Seven Bowl Judgments Part Two

### Revelation 16:12-21

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. The bowl judgments

1. The tribulation will begin after the rapture of the church. It will be seven years long with the most severe judgements coming at the end.
2. Progressive: God's judgment in the tribulation will be progressive beginning with the seal judgments which will be followed by the more severe trumpet judgments.
3. Then trumpet judgments will be followed by bowl judgments which will be the worst.
4. At the end of the bowl judgments Jesus will return, the battle of Armageddon will take place, and the millennial kingdom of our Lord will be inaugurated.
5. Purpose of Progressive Judgment: God's judgment in the tribulation will be progressive in severity because He is gracious. While God is pouring out His judgment against sin, He leaves the door open for repentance & salvation. (1 Timothy 2:4)

##### B. Review

- *Look at the first five bowl judgments.*
  1. – First Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:2)
    - a. All those who follow and worship the antichrist will be struck with festering & oozing sores all over. The pain and discomfort will be agonizing.
    - b. Saved Exempt: Those saved by faith in Jesus during the tribulation will not be touched by this plague. The saved are not under the wrath or judgment of God.
    - c. Their sin was paid for on the cross of Calvary.
  2. – Second Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:3)
    - a. Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet judgment one third of the oceans had been turned to blood.
    - b. Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl judgment all the oceans are turned to blood.
  3. – Third Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:4)
    - a. Under the 3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet judgment 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of earth's fresh water was rendered unusable.
    - b. Now all fresh water sources on the planet are turned to blood, just like the oceans.
  4. – Fourth Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:8)
    - a. The intensity of the sun will be increased and men will be burned, scorched.
    - b. Being outside without covering in the day will be deadly.
  5. – Fifth Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:10)
    - a. God will cast the world into darkness. The physical pain from the sores, the lack of water, and the intense heat are all compounded by utter darkness.
    - b. No Repentance: In all these judgments the wicked will refuse to repent. They will blaspheme the name of God. He turns them over to sinful rebellion of their hearts.

#### II. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment (Revelation 16:12)

##### A. Preparation judgment

1. When the 6<sup>th</sup> angel pours out his bowl, Euphrates River will evaporate, it will dry up.
2. The Euphrates River begins in the snow capped mountains of Mt. Ararat in Turkey & runs 1800+ miles ending in the Persian Gulf.
3. With sun's intensity enhanced, river will flood as the snow on the mountains melts.

4. Bridges & roads wash out. God will dry up this flooded river in preparation for the end

**B. The Kings of the East**

1. God dries up Euphrates River so the kings of the East can make it to the final battle.
2. God will gather the armies of the world in the valley of Megiddo where the battle of Armageddon will take place. These armies include China & other powers east of Israel.

**III. Evil deception (Revelation 16:13-14, 16)**

**A. Demonic influence**

1. John saw a sign looked like frogs coming out of the mouths of the dragon (Satan), the beast (antichrist), and the false prophet. Frogs are demons who'll deceive the kings.
2. The influence of Satan, antichrist, & false prophet will stir up the kings of the east & cause them to move toward Israel. Maybe they stir up antisemitism or religious fervor?
3. Whatever the motive, a massive army of millions will move from the east toward Israel.
4. Sovereign Trap: God will use this gathering of the world's armies to bring judgment.
5. When the armies are gathered in the valley of Megiddo, Jesus returns & destroys them.
6. There will be over 200 miles of death and destruction like the world has never seen.

**IV. Word of encouragement (Revelation 16:15)**

**A. Behold, I am coming as a thief.**

1. Jesus said His return will be sudden & without warning, catching the world by surprise
2. It shouldn't be surprise given all the warnings in the Bible, but wicked world won't be expecting His return. Jesus will show up at the battle of Armageddon.
3. The world will be totally surprised and unprepared.

**B. Blessed are those who are prepared.**

1. – Watching

- a. That means anticipating & being His return, the primary preparation for the return of Christ is to be saved by faith in Him.
- b. Illustration of the Unprepared: Jesus illustrated appearance of unpreparedness for His return in sermon on the mount. Jesus told a parable about 10 virgins waiting on the bridegroom's return home for the wedding celebration. (**Matthew 25:1-13**)
- c. The first attribute of preparedness is to be watching.

2. – Keeps his garments

- a. 2<sup>nd</sup> attribute of preparedness is keeping one's garments spotless meaning to keep one's life pure from the sin and evil of this world.
- b. Child of God's life habit should be 1 of holiness. Waywardness should be exception.

**V. The 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment (Revelation 16:17-21)**

**A. Preparation for the Kingdom Age**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgment physically prepares the world for Christ millennial kingdom.
2. Great earthquake such as has never occurred before in human history will take place.
3. It will reshape the earth's surface to the form that will be in the millennial kingdom.
4. Islands disappear. Mountains will be flattened. The earth's surface becomes more level.
5. Jerusalem: Jerusalem, the great city referred to here, will be reshaped by the quake.
6. While earth is flattened, Jerusalem will be elevated to highest point on earth.
7. All the world will travel up to Jerusalem to worship Jesus in person during millennial.

**B. Devastating judgment**

1. The wicked who survive the battle of Armageddon and the earthquake will be pounded by great hail stones that weigh 100 pounds each! (**Revelation 16:21**)
2. Unrepentant and defiant, they will perish in their sin.