

BOWL JUDGMENTS

- there are many things going on around us that are disturbing
- the entire world seems to have gone mad, and sin abounds all around us
- it seems we have lost all sense of morality and decency, and have gone back to the way it was in the days of the judges:
 - **Judges 21.25** = In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- even in the church people are doing the same thing – we have given up on talking about sin because we don't want to offend people
- or, if we talk about sin, we are very tolerant, soft and accepting, and feel no need to repent from our sin

→ That was the problem Paul faced in the church at Corinth:

- **1 Corinthians 5.1-7** = It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.
- all of this is an indication that we are living in the last days, and are approaching the day when the entire world will face the wrath of God (**Romans 1.18** = For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,)
- during the Great Tribulation, God deals with the sin that pollutes the earth
- the blessing (**Revelation 1.3**)
- the divine outline (**Revelation 1.19**)
- we come today to the final devastating judgments from God on a Christ-rejecting world

1) – FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

- there is a loud voice from the temple
 - God is directing the completion of the judgments

(2) – FIRST BOWL: FOUL AND LOATHSOME SORES

- a severe, malignant sore on those who have taken the mark of the beast
- some of these last judgments are very similar to the plagues that God brought upon Egypt at the time of the Exodus

→ The Sixth Plague – boils breaking out on people

(3) – SECOND BOWL: SEA TURNS TO BLOOD

- the oceans become like the blood of a dead man
- all life in the sea dies
- total environmental disaster

(4-7) – THIRD BOWL: FRESH WATER TURNS TO BLOOD

- all the fresh water supplies turned to blood
- It was blood that could have saved these people, and now it is blood that will kill all living creatures in the sea and probably many people, for there is no more water to drink (Halley's Bible Handbook).
- people thru the centuries have questioned the fairness of God, and ask how a God of love can be so judgmental, yet twice in these verses we are told that these judgments are true and righteous
- God has only one standard, and that has never changed – we must either meet His standard or have a substitute meet it for us
- we either accept Christ or we face God's just and righteous judgment
- people get what they deserve

→ Any thief knows that the easiest way to steal gasoline from a car is to siphon it from the other guy's tank into your own. Stick a rubber hose in his gas tank, suck on the other end of the rubber hose until you get a mouth full of the gas, then spit it out. From then on the gasoline will flow into your tank. A thief decided to siphon gas from Dennis Quiggley's motor home in Seattle. When Dennis, inside the motor home, heard the noises outside he investigated and discovered the thief curled upon the ground violently vomiting. Intending to suck up the contents of the gas tank the thief had put his hose into the wrong hole - and had sucked up the contents of the sewage tank instead. The thief, a boy age 14 will not be prosecuted, Dennis and the police agree that he has suffered enough.

- whatever God does is totally right, true, and just
- even Abraham understood that

→ **Genesis 18.25** = Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

(8-9) – FOURTH BOWL: MEN SCORCHED

- men are scorched by heat from the sun
- serious global warming!
- instead of repenting, knowing that God has power over the plagues, men will blaspheme the Lord

(10-11) – FIFTH BOWL: PAINFUL DARKNESS

- a darkness that leads to pain and anguish
- similar to the ninth plague, this is an intense darkness
 - Exodus 10.21 = Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt.”
- even though men are covered with open sores and scorched by the sun and gnaw their tongues, they still refuse to repent and blaspheme God

(12-16) – SIXTH BOWL: EUPHRATES RIVER DRIED UP

- beginning with this plague, God is divinely guiding humanity to the Battle of Armageddon
- the Euphrates River is dried up, paving the way for massive armies from the east can make their way toward Jerusalem
- the east = literally the land of the rising sun
 - The Japanese call their nation *Nippon* or *Nihon*, both literally mean “the sun’s origin”, or the *Land of the Rising Sun*.
- demonic activity will cause these nations to assemble for war
 - Nations east of the Euphrates include Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Japan, and China
- a warning to watch and to be ready
- the armies from the north, south, east and west will gather at Amageddon for the final battle of rebellion against God

*** show picture of Megiddo ***

(17-21) – SEVENTH BOWL: THE EARTH SHAKEN

- the last bowl of God’s wrath
- the most massive earthquake the world has ever known
- a great hail from heaven:
 - The largest hail to fall in the United States was 8 inches in diameter, weighing just under two pounds in South Dakota.
 - These hailstones weigh between 75 to 200 pounds each (a talent).
- still men refuse to repent