

Revelation 16

*Robert Thomas Commentary

16:1 The Seven Bowls

“loud voice from the temple”

“temple” = naos (ναός); the inner sanctuary, God’s dwelling

Robert L. Thomas notes that this is “the voice of God Himself or one speaking with divine authority from His immediate presence,”

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16:2 First Bowl: Loathsome Sores

“sore” = helkos (ἔλκος); ulcer, open wound, festering lesion.

The Sixth Plague: Boils

-Exodus 9:8-11

-Exodus 9:10 — ...boils that break out in sores on man and beast.

-Deuteronomy 28:27 — “The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

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“who HAD the mark of the beast and those who WORSHIPPED his image”

-Greek Present Active Participle

= Are still actively doing

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16:3 Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

The First Plague: Waters Become Blood

Exodus 7:17–21

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“it became blood as of a dead man”

c.f. Revelation 8:8-9 — Then 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 living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

“every living creature in the sea died”

If “all means all,” guess what “every” means?

-EVERY

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16:4-7 Third Bowl: The Waters Turn to Blood

“the angel of the waters”

ANGELS ASSOCIATED WITH SPHERES OF CREATION

-Waters — Revelation 16:5

-Winds — Revelation 7:1 — Four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

-Fire — Revelation 14:18 — Another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire...

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“shed / poured out” = *ekcheō* (ἐκχέω); to pour out fully.

They were thirsty for blood, and so now they shall have nothing but blood to drink.

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Revelation 6:9-10 — When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

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16:8-9 Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

“power was given to him”

“power / authority” = *exousia* (ἐξουσία); delegated authority, right to act.

I wonder if he had always wanted to crank up the heat, but only now was he given the authority to.

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“scorched” = *kaumatzō* (καυματίζω); to burn severely, inflict intense heat injury.
-“great heat” = *kauma mega* (καῦμα μέγα); extreme, overwhelming heat.

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“they blasphemed the name of God who has authority over these plagues”
-They knew Who was the source of all this.

“and they did not repent and give Him glory.”
-Revelation does not portray people who cannot repent, but people who will not repent...

Tangential Note: Preterists do have a bunch of “cool” ways that Revelation aligns with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, but this chapter really leaves them at a loss.

16:10-11 Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain

The Ninth Plague: Darkness
Exodus 10:21–23
Exodus 10:21 — “...darkness which may even be felt.”

“The pain is not merely psychological but is tied to the accumulated physical suffering inflicted by the previous bowls, now intensified by darkness.” -Robert L. Thomas

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“...and did not repent of their deeds.”

Here we find the source of their stubbornness. As is true with most unbelievers today, it is not that they cannot believe in God, but that they do not desire to give up their sinful deeds.

16:12-16 Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

“prepared” = *hetoimazō* (έτοιμάζω); to make ready, render passable.

Matthew 3:3 — For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.’”

“of the kings from the east”
-Literally: “from the rising of the sun”

Nothing explicitly links these Kings with either China for the army of 200 million from chapter 9.

At this point, if the Antichrist has set up his capital in Babylon, then it would make sense if the world leaders were gathered there.

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*Ararat1

*Ararat2- 1949

The glaciers of Mount Ararat feed the Euphrates River. If the scorching Sun melts all the glaciers, then naturally the Euphrates River would dry up. If the ark is located on top of Mount Ararat, it would become visible during this time.

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“performing signs”

-2 Thessalonians 2:9 — “power, signs, and lying wonders”

It seems that we have an example here of mankind giving themselves over to demonic possession and influence. Whether they realize what they are doing, they have fully submitted themselves to the power of Satan and he gathers every single soldier he can to fight against God.

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“The Battle of That Great Day of God Almighty”

This is probably a more accurate name of the upcoming battle instead of the battle of Armageddon.

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This parenthetical Passage can be seen in different ways.

“As a thief (in the night)”

-1 Thessalonians 5:2 — For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

-1 Thessalonians 5:4 — But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

-2 Peter 3:10 — But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

-Revelation 3:3 — “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Matthew 24:36-44

Matthew 24:42-44 — “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

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Har Maggido

*Jezreel Valley Map

*Carmel to Meggido

*Carm to Meg

*Meg view video

*Megiddo view picture

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16:17-21 Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken

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Hebrew & Greek Talent = 75lbs

Job 38:22-23 — Have you entered the treasury of snow, Or have you seen the treasury of hail, Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, For the day of battle and war?

Leviticus 24:16 — And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him...

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*Footsteps of the Messiah

FRUCHTENBAUM'S EIGHT STAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN OF ARMAGEDDON

- 1. The Assembling of the Armies of the Antichrist — Revelation 16:12–16
- 2. The Invasion of Israel / Jerusalem Taken — Zechariah 12–14; Daniel 11:40–45
- 3. The Destruction of Babylon (Political & Religious) — Revelation 17–18
- 4. The Siege of Jerusalem / Final Assault — Zechariah 14:1–2; Joel 3:1–2; Revelation 19:17–19
- 5. The National Repentance of Israel — Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:26; Matthew 23:39
- 6. The Second Coming of Christ — Revelation 19:11–16; Matthew 24:29–30
- 7. The Battle from Jerusalem to Bozrah (Edom) — Isaiah 63:1–6; Revelation 19:17–21
- 8. The Cleansing and Restoration of the Land — Ezekiel 39:11–16; Revelation 20:1–3