Revelation 15-16 "The Seven Bowl Judgments and Armageddon"

9.12.18

Tonight we're talking about Armageddon. When you hear that word...what do you think of? Most people think of the End...the End of Time...or the Apocalypse! When I Googled the word...I got a lot of this...





Lots of pictures

about movies made about Armageddon. That got me digging to see how many movies have been made about Armageddon. Take a look at the number of movies: Here are the movies from Pre-1950, then the 50's and 60's.

Pre-1950 [edit]

- Deluge
- The End of the World
- End of the World
- Things to Come

1950-1959 [edit]

- The Day the Earth Stood Still
- Day the World Ended
- Five
- Forbidden Planet
- Invasion of the Body Snatchers
- Kiss Me Deadly
- The Lost Missile

- On the Beach
- Robot Monster
- The War of the Worlds
- When Worlds Collide
- The World, the Flesh and the Devil
- World Without End

1960-1969 [edit]

- Battle of the Worlds
- The Bed-Sitting Room
- Beyond the Time Barrier
- Crack in the World
- The Creation of the Humanoids
- Daleks Invasion Earth: 2150 A.D.
- The Day the Earth Caught Fire
- The Day of the Triffids

- Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned To Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb
- Fail-Safe
- Il seme dell'uomo
- In the Year 2889
- La Jetée
- The Last Man on Earth
- The Last War
- Last Woman on Earth

- Late August at the Hotel Ozone
- Night of the Living Dead
- Panic in Year Zero!
- Planet of the Apes
- This Is Not a Test
- The Time Machine
 The Time Travelers
- The War Game

1970-1979 [edit]

- The Andromeda Strain
- · Battle for the Planet of the Apes
- Beneath the Planet of the Apes
- Beware! The Blob
- · Black Moon
- A Boy and His Dog
- · Colossus: The Forbin Project
- · Conquest of the Planet of the Apes
- Damnation Alley
- · Dawn of the Dead
- A Distant Thunder
- End of the World
- Escape from the Planet of the Apes

- The Final Programme (The Last Days of Man
- on Earth) • Gas-s-s-s
- Glen and Randa
- Holocaust 2000
- Invasion of the Body Snatchers
- . The Last Wave
- . The Late, Great Planet Earth
- Logan's Run
- Mad Max
- No Blade of Grass
- . The Noah • The Omega Man

- · Phase IV
- Quintet
- Ravagers
- The Shape of Things to Come
- Silent Running
- Soylent Green
- Stalker
- · A Thief in the Night
- The Ultimate Warrior
- Where Have All The People Gone?
- Wizards
- Zardoz

1980-1989 [edit]

- Akira
- · The Apple
- Das Arche Noah Prinzip
- Battletruck
- The Blood of Heroes (The Salute of the
- Jugger)
- Bunker Palace Hôtel
- Blade Runner
- · Café Flesh
- Cherry 2000
- The Day After
- Def-Con 4

- Cyborg
- Le Dernier Combat

- Escape from New York
- Exterminators of the Year 3000
- Hell Comes to Frogtown
- Image of the Beast
- Land of Doom
- Mad Max 2 (The Road Warrior)
- Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome
- Malevil
- The Martian Chronicles
- Millennium
- Miracle Mile
- · Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind
- · Night of the Comet

- Godzilla 1985
- The Prodigal Planet
- The Quiet Earth
- · The Seventh Sign
- Sexmission
- Steel Dawn The Terminator
- Testament
- The Thing
- Threads
- Virus
- When the Wind Blows
- World War III

1990-1999 [edit]

- 12 Monkeys
- Armageddon
- The Arrival
- By Dawn's Early Light
- Circuitry Man
- Deep Impact
- Delicatessen • Dogma
- End of Days
- The End of Evangelion
- Escape from L.A.
- Future Fear • The Handmaid's Tale

- Hardware
- In the Mouth of Madness
- Independence Day
- Invasion
- Judge Dredd
- Last Night The Matrix
- Neon City
- The Omega Code • Plughead Rewired: Circuitry Man II
- The Postman
- The Prophecy

- The Prophecy 2
- The Rapture
- Sentinel 2099
- Six String Samurai
- Solar Crisis
- Split Second
- The Stand
- Tank Girl • Terminator 2
- Until the End of the World
- Waterworld
- Without Warning

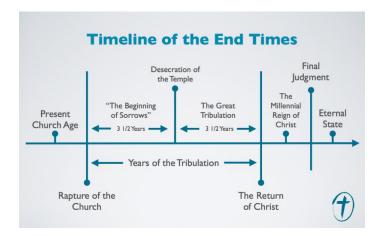
9	Dragon Head	Resident Evil
20 Years After	Dreamcatcher	Resident Evil: Apocalypse
28 Days Later	• Earth 2100	Resident Evil: Extinction
28 Weeks Later	Fail Safe	Returner
2012	• Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within	Right at Your Door
A.I. Artificial Intelligence	The Happening	The Road
Æon Flux	Happy End	Save the Green Planet!
The Animatrix	I Am Legend	Shaun of the Dead
Babylon A.D.	Idiocracy	Solar Attack
Battlestar Galactica: The Plan	The Invasion	Southland Tales
Blindness	Knowing	Supervolcano
Blue Gender	Land of the Dead	Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines
Carriers	Left Behind	Terminator Salvation
Children of Men	Lost Souls	The Time Machine
City of Ember	Megiddo: The Omega Code 2	Time of the Wolf
The Core	• On the Beach	• Titan A.E.
The Dark Hour	Pandorum	Tooth and Nail
Dawn of the Dead	Planet Terror	• WALL-E
The Day After Tomorrow	The Prophecy 3: The Ascent	War of the Worlds
The Day the Earth Stood Still	The Prophecy: Forsaken	Watchmen
Daybreakers	Reign of Fire	• Zombieland
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As you can see, the number of movies about Armageddon continues to increase through the years. In other words, there is a lot of interest about the End times and Armageddon! Hollywood has made billions on Armageddon through the years and if the Lord tarries His coming, there will be many more billions made off of Armageddon. When will Armageddon happen?

• Zodiac: Signs of the Apocalypse

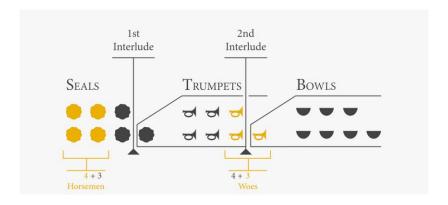
• Rapture-Palooza

Extinction



Remember, there will come a day when the church, God's children, the saved will be raptured off of this earth in the twinkling of an eye to meet the Lord Jesus in the air, where we'll be taken to heaven. After this event occurs, a period of seven years known as the Tribulation period will be ushered in. There will be a man that will rise to power and bring peace in the Middle East and to the world, whom the Bible calls the Antichrist.

When he signs this peace deal with Israel, God will begin pouring out His wrath on this earth in a series of judgments.



The first seven are called the seal judgments. These judgments are followed by seven trumpet judgments. Finally, these seven trumpet judgments will be followed by seven bowl judgments. You will remember that with each of these judgments there is greater and greater devastation on the earth and its inhabitants and ultimately time on this earth as we know it will end at the conclusion of the battle or campaign of Armageddon.

Revelation 15:5-8

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Revelation 16:1-21

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." ² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. ³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. ⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!" ⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory. ¹⁰ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ¹⁵ ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") ¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. ¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

Now, I want to reiterate to you why all of this is happening. God, who is a loving and merciful, giving and sacrificial God, and He has given His very best to us in the personhood of His Son, Jesus Christ. Yet the world at this time has totally rejected Him. Therefore, this same loving and merciful, giving and caring God must be true to that character and must punish those who reject His love and sacrificial mercy. You see up to this point in time, God has been completely merciful to mankind and kept us from experiencing much of His wrath. Might I remind us: This is what was done to Jesus because of God's mercy toward us!



God loves people, but it was our sins that put His Son to death on a cross 2,000 years ago. He willingly gave His life for you and for me so that we would not have to experience God's wrath because of the sin that plagues man from birth.

Last week, we read and learned in chapter 14 about how an angel will spread the gospel to the world and give the people alive during this horrific period, the last 3 ½ years, one last chance to accept Christ as Savior. However, most refuse. Remember, there are some who will be saved during the Tribulation period, yet the majority will not accept Christ and will worship and follow the Antichrist. Those that choose to do so are going to face God's wrath in the form of these last seven judgments that are called "bowl judgments." Take a look at this picture.



Jesus foretold about this season of time when he said in:

Matthew 24:21

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

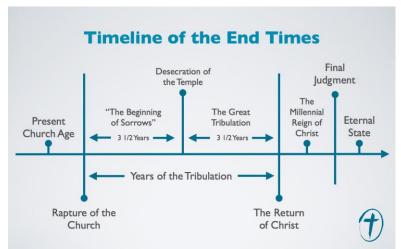
Let's see the first bowl judgment...

Revelation 16:2

² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

Did you notice the word "poured." It is the same word form used for how God "poured" out His Spirit onto the believers at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. That "pouring" out of God was the pouring

of the blessing of the Holy Spirit, on those who believe. But, this pouring will be an act of God's judgment on those who don't believe. Remember, all of this is happening <u>after the midpoint</u> of the Tribulation period when the Antichrist sets himself up as God of this earth.



He will be commanding a one-world government, economy and religious system. Also remember, only those with the mark of the Antichrist, 666, will be receiving these terrible sores. For believers in Christ (there will be those who have accepted the Lord Jesus through the preaching of the 144,000 witnesses), they will not be receiving these sores because they are protected by God.

What are these sores? The Greek word for sores means, "skin ulcers or malignancies of the skin."



That makes me think of nasty, oozing boils...perhaps cancerous in nature, but certainly painful and ugly. Remember, this same plague was used by God in the Old Testament as a part of the Egyptian plagues. Interestingly, the Egyptian plagues were localized to just the land of Egypt. This will be world-wide. Can you imagine how terrible this will be?

Can you imagine how the doctor's offices will be covered up with people wanting to be seen to get medicine to get rid of these grotesque sores? But, nothing will work and they won't go away, try as they may. **Do you know what this says to me?** It tells me that even though we, as humans, may try to hide who we really are on the inside from the outside world, there will come a day that people will see manifested on the outside what's really happening on the inside. In the case of the people living in this second half of the Tribulation, who refuse to accept Jesus, they will be showing their true selves...inside and out. Truly their bodies will mirror their souls...revealing their spiritual infection.

Revelation 16:3-4

³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. ⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.



Just imagine the scene: dead fish and sea creatures floating to the surface and washing up on the shores of all the continents. Can you imagine the stench of all the decaying bodies of fish discharging such a horrendous smell along the shorelines? Think of W. Kerr Scott! Certainly what was left of the fishing industry after the trumpet judgments, will now be destroyed. You may remember when we talked about the trumpet judgments in chapter 7 of Revelation how 1/3 of the sea turned to blood and 1/3 of the fresh water of the earth turned bitter. Well, now we see the entire water system, both salt and fresh waters will turn to blood.

How will this happen? I have no idea. God can just say the word and it will happen. Jesus spoke the word and turned water into wine as His first miracle. I have no problem believing God can do the same in this situation. He spoke the world and the heavens into existence, so this would be a piece of cake. Look at verse 5. This is just!!!

Revelation 16:5-7

⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

Imagine, nothing but blood everywhere and these God-haters will be getting what they asked for. And think about this. What will people do for cooking and for washing and bathing? Can you imagine the chaos? Talk about water being precious! 70% of the earth's surface is covered by oceans, rivers, lakes and streams. We even pay for bottled water today! Don't you know our great grandparents would call us "nuts?!" Well, now all that water is destroyed. Imagine the looting and rioting just for water. If you are here and have water, you will have to be armed to keep it.

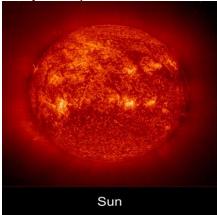
Let's look at bowl number four.

Revelation 16:8-9

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. ⁹They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

The consistency of the sun is amazing. Think about it... this morning the sun rose at precisely 7:04

am and this evening it will set at exactly 7:36 pm. You can count on it!



It's 109 times the size of the earth. It's 10,000 degrees on the surface and a whopping 27 million degrees at its core. The sun produces light and heat for us according to the seasons. And I'm grateful in that the sun affords a great sense of security. You can set your clock by the sunrise and sunset. But, did you know if the sun were to move just 100,000 miles further away from the earth, this planet would turn into a block of ice? And conversely, if the sun were to move 100,000 miles closer, we'd be scorched. Well, something like this is going to happen in the second half of the Tribulation when this bowl of God's judgment is poured out. See the bottom picture...



You talk about global warming! The human race is going to contend with a sun-induced heat wave the like of which has never been seen in the history of the world. People are literally going to be so sunburned...as if scorched by fire. The hospitals will be full of people with 3rd degree burns. But, do the people repent? No, the Bible says, "They cursed the name of God and refused to repent and glorify him." Wow!! The prophet Isaiah foretold this day and said: "Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left." The prophet Malachi prophesied:

Malachi 4:1-3

¹"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

What we see here in Rev 14 illustrates the most severe rebellion and hostility to God found anywhere in the annals of human history! Now the fifth bowl. Look at verse 10.

Revelation 16:10-11

¹⁰ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

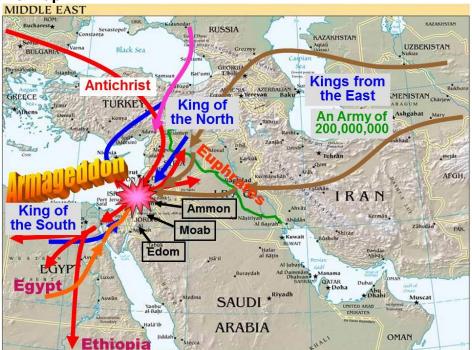
Some scholars believe this is a special judgment that is centered just on the headquarters of the Antichrist in Jerusalem. But, as for me...I believe there will be darkness over the entire earth... We just saw this in Matthew 27 as Jesus hung on the cross in darkness from 12 noon to 3 pm.

I believe the Antichrist's KINGDOM will be in total darkness and that kingdom covers the entire earth. But, yet again, even in all of this, did you see what the people were doing? They gnawed on their tongues because of the pain of their sores and burns, yet they cursed God and refused to repent of what they had done! they are totally hardened. Listen, I'm convinced if people won't respond to the mercy and to His goodness in the Age of Grace...they certainly won't under His judgment. Now, the sixth bowl judgment is the set-up for the campaign of Armageddon.

Revelation 16:12-16

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ¹⁵ ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") ¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

Take a look at this map.



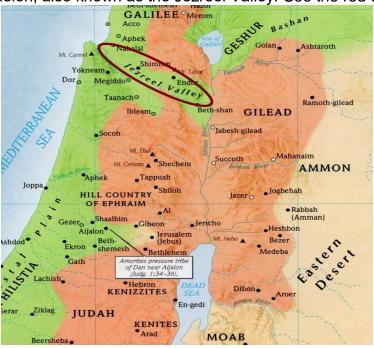
You'll see the Euphrates River in the center of the map. It is the eastern border of the Promised Land that was promised by God and given to Abraham. The Euphrates is about 1,800 miles long and so large that it forms a natural barrier against the armies of the world. But, when the sixth bowl judgment is poured out, God will dry up this massive river and make a way for the "kings of the East" for war!

These armies will gather and move across this dried up riverbed to the Valley of Megiddo called

Armageddon.



It's in the plain of Esdraelon, also known as the Jezreel Valley. See the red circle.



It's just south of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth. It's so interesting, Jesus walked through this valley on His way back and forth teaching during His 3 year ministry. This valley is 20 miles long and 14 miles wide and is surrounded by mountains and it's going to be the staging area for the Antichrist's armies that will gather to fight against Israel. The kings and military leaders of the earth will be seduced by Satan's demonic forces (these unclean spirits, demonic spirits tricking the people with false signs)...convincing them to come to fight against Israel. But ultimately these armies will turn to fight against the Lord Jesus as He returns to the earth And we'll see this once we get to Revelation 19.

Now, the last bowl.

Revelation 16:17-21

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of

his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

What have we seen?



Painful sores, water turned to blood, excruciating heat causing searing burns, darkness...the drying of the Euphrates River to prepare the nations of the world for Armageddon and now finally this last judgment and no angel pronounces this judgment...the Lord Himself pronounces this judgment in a loud voice shouting, "It is done!" Remember, Jesus said "It is Finished" as He paid for our sins on the cross. Remember there was a great earthquake that occurred that day in Jerusalem. Remember it was then that the curtain in the temple that separated God from humankind was torn into by God...giving us access to Him without having to go through a priest or preacher.

The 7th bowl brings another earthquake...the world's most devastating earthquake. Church, this earthquake will bring total geologic upheaval of the basic arrangement of the islands and mountains of the earth. The Bible says, "Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found." Scholars tell us this massive earthquake will trigger worldwide chaos...tsunamis that will destroy cities along our coastlines like New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Miami and New Jersey.

And there will be great hailstones that weigh 100 pounds each. The upheaval from the earthquake triggers volcanic eruptions, which send ash in the sky and this causes massive storms with these hailstones. The topography of the earth as we know it will never be the same again. And what do the people do? The last verse of the chapter tells us:

Revelation 16:21

²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

They cursed God! Amazing isn't it? This is the third time we've read these words today.

Church, it's so sad...the hardness of the unsaved, the unregenerate heart. You would think they would cry out to God for help, but they don't. And so, now it's over for these people...they will soon be standing before the Great White Throne Judgment... And that will be...



We typically see this at the end of a movie...it let's everyone know that we're at the end of the movie.

This is what's coming! Are you ready? Listen, I believe there is one thing the Lord wants us to know...we don't have to experience God's wrath. Because Jesus took our sin and our wrath...



Oh, we can experience His wonderful and amazing grace, because Jesus took God's wrath upon Himself on the cross and drank the bitter cup so that we wouldn't have to. If you don't know Jesus...would you please call on Him tonight!