

An artistic illustration featuring two hands holding a long, unrolled scroll. The scroll is covered in a series of red, circular seals or stamps. The background is a dark, starry night sky with a crescent moon visible in the upper left. The overall style is reminiscent of classic religious art or book cover illustrations.

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
16:3

OUTLINE

- 🕒 Main Point
- 🕒 The Vision
- 🕒 The Second Angel (v. 3a)
- 🕒 Pouring the Bowl (v. 3b)
- 🕒 The Sea Turns to Blood (v. 3c)
- 🕒 Death in the Sea (v. 3d)
- 🕒 Similar Examples in Scripture
- 🕒 Possible Broader Impacts
- 🕒 Lessons for Us

MAIN POINT

We now see a judgment poured out on the oceans

-  Turns them to a gross, coagulated blood
-  Kills what is in them
-  Likely has broader economic and ecological impacts

Not a recitation of previous judgments

-  Scale and language make it clear this is larger and more terrible
-  The prophetic mechanism is different

Focus on the point of what God is doing (and why) instead of becoming wrapped up in a specific mechanism

-  God can do this however He wants, and may use a mechanism we have never conceived of
-  These are fundamentally supernatural
-  The point is judgment, not the science behind it
-  Apologetics is good, but it can miss the point
-  The point is Christ in us (**Colossians 1:27**)

THE VISION



THE SECOND ANGEL (V. 3A)

No indication of going out or returning

-  Recall from last time that the language itself is being compressed
-  Helps create the impression of speed and “rapid fire” judgment
-  There are no extra words or thoughts put in here
-  It is just judgment followed by judgment

These angels are still messengers

-  Angels have given out messages and warnings in the past (e.g. **Revelation 14:6-11**)
-  But having how rejected the message of warning, people now receive the message of judgment

The warnings of God before the judgment of God

-  God gives warnings before bringing judgment (e.g. **Deuteronomy 28:15-68**)
-  Knows that we are weak and foolish and need to be told what to do (e.g., constantly refers to people as sheep)
 -  Often refers to leaders as shepherds
 -  There is a responsibility that comes with being a shepherd and leaders are accountable to God for how they have led (c.f. **John 21:16-17**)
-  Wants to give people a chance to repent
-  Knows the consequences if there is no repentance (e.g. **Ezekiel 33:11**)

POURING THE BOWL (V. 3B)

- ☰ These bowls are full and are being fully poured out
 - ☰ Filled to the brim
 - ☰ Contain the wrath of God
 - ☰ Set aside for a specific time, place, and occasion
- ☰ A specific amount of judgment has been set aside ahead of time
 - ☰ Already told what will happen, the order, and (in general) why
 - ☰ This is not God randomly lashing out in anger
 - ☰ This is righteous judgment and justice
 - ☰ Our lack of understanding is because we do not have God's understanding or perspective
- ☰ The geometry of the bowl
 - ☰ Requires a steady hand and walk
 - ☰ Can be poured out easily
 - ☰ Once pouring begins, everything will come out
 - ☰ May also speak to the rapidity of these judgments



Greek Phiale

THE SEA TURNS TO BLOOD (V. 3C)

Which sea?

-  In John's day it was the Mediterranean Sea
-  Clear from the context of **Revelation** that there is a global character to these judgments
-  To assume otherwise goes against the context and character of the book as a whole
-  Also implies that only those in the Mediterranean are sinful, but those outside could be left alone
 -  This is not what **Revelation** teaches, nor does it align with human nature

Literal or metaphorical

-  **Metaphorical:** Views the sea as peoples, broadly speaking, that will die in plagues or judgments at this time
 -  Sea is sometimes spoken of like this (e.g. **Psalms 65:7; Jeremiah 6:23**)
 -  Denies the obvious connection between Egypt and this plague
 -  Would also mean we have to make the Nile etc. metaphorical
 -  Denies the plain-language use of sea, etc. in Revelation and other, similar prophecies and historical events in the Bible
-  **Literal:** Sees the sea as the oceans of the world
 -  Takes account of the plain-language meaning of the phrases
 -  Aligns with the broader context of **Revelation**
 -  Allows for a single, consistent interpretation
 -  I.E., when we assume that something is a figure for something else, there is much latitude on the rules for interpreting it
 -  The Bible does use figures, but they are often very clear, well-defined, and sensible to the people to whom the figure was given

Cannot be a recitation of the Second Trumpet

-  Partial vs. complete destruction of marine life
-  The larger affects and nature of the blood seem to be worse

DEATH IN THE SEA (V. 3D)

👤 “The substance will be decayed and have a foul odor, that makes it loathsome (Alford). It will be no longer fluid, but thickened and congealed (Lee). In the first Egyptian plague, all the fish in the Nile died (**Ex. 7:21**). Here death will come... in the sea. This will amount to a reversal of **Gen. 1:21** when God gave life to all sea creatures (Johnson). This is a complete destruction of all marine life, not a partial one as under the second trumpet.”(Dtisterdieck and Robertson) (Thomas v2, p. 250).

👤 There is death... And it is very gross

- 👤 Just like the Second Trumpet, this description from the Greek precludes the possibility of a non-literal translation
 - 👤 Would have to allegorise each of these words and the seemingly medical nature of what it implies
 - 👤 The more complex an explanation, the more likely it is to be wrong and/or the more likely that error has crept in
 - 👤 Recall that God is trying to communicate something to normal people; He is not trying to confuse them
- 👤 This is clearly a supernatural occurrence
- 👤 The direct mechanism may be interesting, but such speculations likely miss the point
- 👤 If this was only about *how* God may do something then we miss the thing that He is doing, and why

SIMILAR EXAMPLES IN SCRIPTURE

The First Plague in Egypt (Exodus 7:14-25)

-  Fresh water vs. sea water
-  The Nile was the “life blood” of Egypt, as the oceans are for us (and for most of history)
-  God was attacking the gods of Egypt and proving who He is
 -  Not really the intent here in **Revelation**, but one could see that as an additional point

The Second Trumpet (**Revelation 8:8**)

-  There a celestial object strikes the ocean and a third of it turns to blood
-  Dealt with previously, but most likely this was literal blood
 -  Other explanations tend to deny the supernatural character of these judgments
-  What happened to the blood previously?
 -  Cleanup operations?
 -  Not there anymore by natural or supernatural processes?
 -  This passage is talking about the remainder?

Blood for Salvation or for judgment

-  Everyone will eventually be judged by blood
 -  What they did with it
 -  If they let it cover themselves for Salvation
 -  Or if it will speak against them for judgment
 -  You cannot remove the Blood from the Bible
 -  This is a bloody religion... And that is kind of the point

POSSIBLE BROADER IMPACTS

🌊 No more fish to eat

- 🌊 ~40% of humans use fish as a protein source
- 🌊 ~10-12% of people around the world make their living with fishing

🌊 Broad ecological impacts

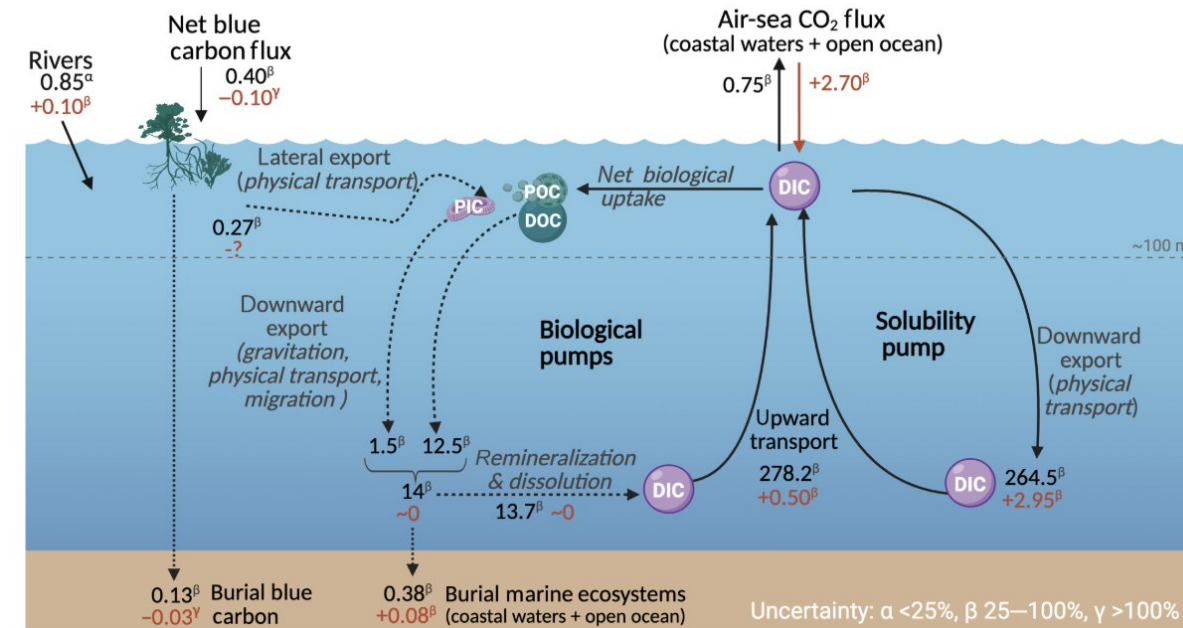
- 🌊 Can no longer remove carbon from the atmosphere
- 🌊 Large-scale disruptions in the Water Cycle (or whatever is left of it)
- 🌊 Deep sea nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus) cannot rise from the seabed which restricts the natural production of oxygen

🌊 Makes shipping difficult if not impossible

- 🌊 Harder to cut through the water for vessels
- 🌊 Changes buoyancy and impacts ship stability
- 🌊 Breakdown of (whatever is left) maritime trade
- 🌊 Continues to aggravate existing issues from previous judgments

🌊 Impacts to underwater resource extraction

- 🌊 Offshore oil drilling
- 🌊 Seabed mineral harvesting



Laure Resplandy et al. ,Integrated perspective on ocean carbon cycle: Untangling facts, fluxes, and fictions.Sci. Adv.12,eaed2480(2026).DOI:10.1126/sciadv.aed2480

LESSONS FOR US

God says what He means and means what He says

-  God goes out of His way to be clear, and we risk misses what He says when we do not take Him at His word
 -  He may use figures
-  God has brought similar judgments in the past
-  Prophecy as pattern

Understand what and why God is doing something more than How he will do it

-  “How” can be interesting and there is use to it
-  But the what and why is more important
-  God can do it any way He wants
-  May very well be a way we have never thought of before
-  Based on the passage, it appears there is no current phenomenon or parallel which fits the description

Everything comes back to the Blood

-  We cannot ignore it or pretend that it is not part of the Bible
-  You will either be cleansed by the Blood (**Hebrews 9:14**) or judged by what you reject (**Hebrews 10:29**)
-  In **Revelation** we see the consequences for rejecting the Blood