

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
16:2

OUTLINE

- 🕒 Main Point
- 🕒 The Vision
- 🕒 Structural Review of the Judgments
- 🕒 The Angel Goes (v. 2a)
- 🕒 The Pouring of the Bowl (v. 2b)
- 🕒 Sores (v. 2c)
- 🕒 Biblical Uses of Sores
- 🕒 Those with the Mark (v. 2d)
- 🕒 Lessons for Us

MAIN POINT

We see the first of the Bowl Judgments

-  This is a global outbreak of sores on the Earth-Dwellers
-  Targeted specifically at the people that rejected God and His warnings
-  This is still only the first in a series of final judgments
-  It only gets worse from here

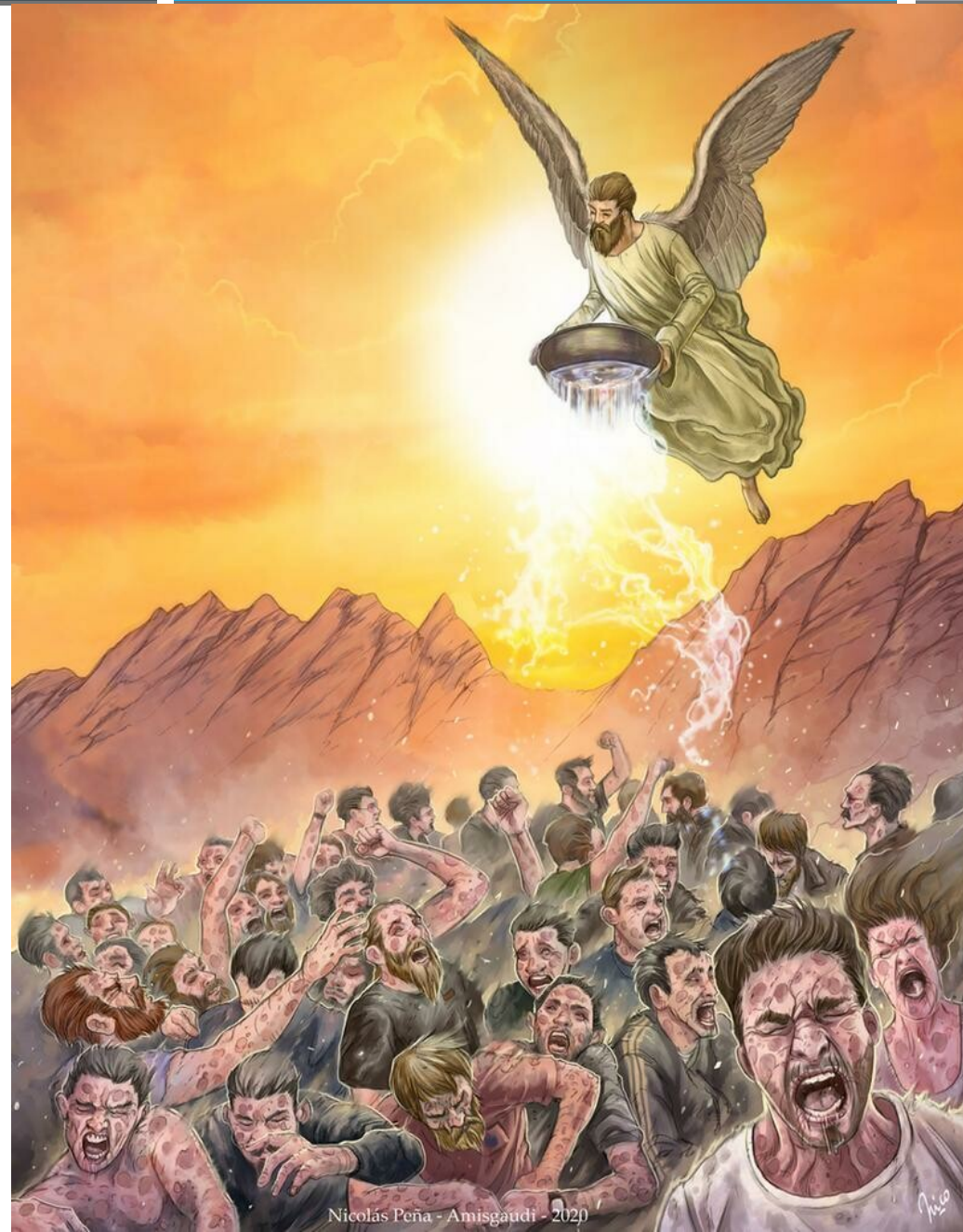
There is a supernatural character to this judgment

-  Goes far beyond our common understanding of diseases
-  There are some small-scale parallels in the Bible, but nothing truly compares to this
-  Can still learn about how God uses sores (and suffering more broadly) as part of His plan

How do we treat the Scriptures?

-  Seriously or not?
-  Is it a fun thing to study (especially prophecy), or does it change the way we live
-  Does it shape the way we look at others?
-  Does it impact the way we view the world?
-  How do we reconcile a God who loves and a God who judges?

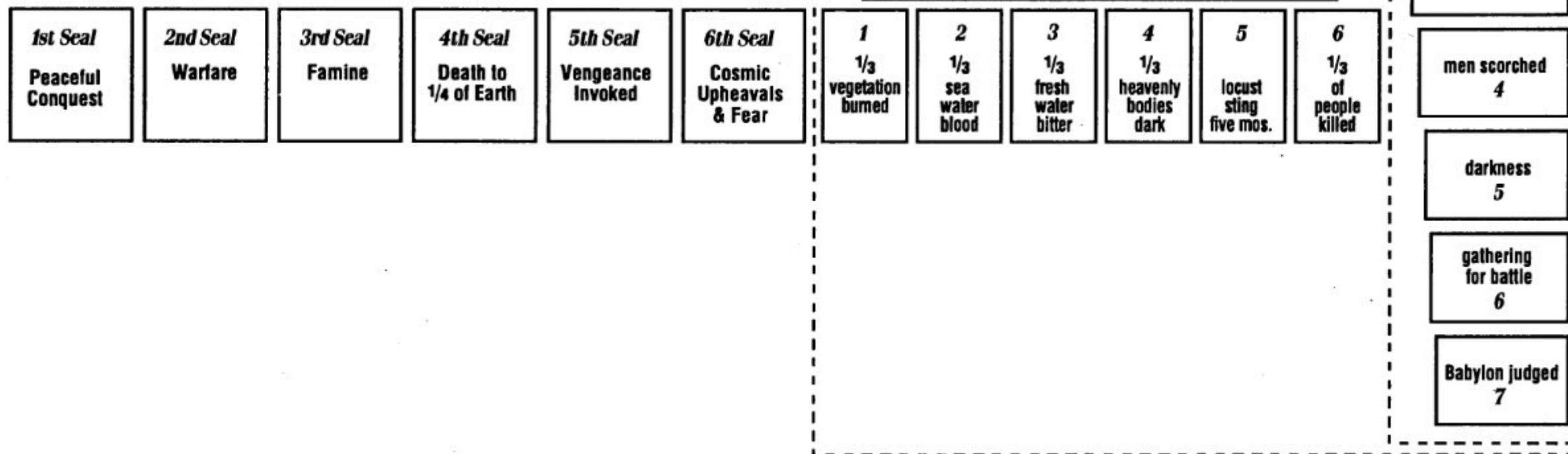
THE VISION



Storm theophany anticipation

Storm theophany realization

7th Trumpet



THE ANGEL GOES (V. 2A)

“And the first went”

-  Only time we see this verbiage used in this series of judgments
-  Can be implied by the existence of the other judgments and the angels sent to carry them out
-  But not explicitly stated
-  Could be used to express the tempo and speed of the judgments
-  Recall that all of these are happening in even greater succession
-  There is not room for a break or excess words at this point

Do not see these angels return

-  Some reappearance in **Revelation 17:1** and **22:9** but it is unclear which one from the ordering (Thomas v2, p. 247)
-  Again leads to the impression that there is speed involved
-  Each one is fired like a bullet

Angels have been used in **Revelation** as messengers (**Revelation 14:9-11**) and as those carrying out judgment

-  In both cases, they are “messengers” in a sense
-  People could either heed the warning, or they could reject it, and the only “message: they receive is judgment

THE POURING OF THE BOWL (V. 2B)

“Upon” vs. “into”

-  Better translation is “into the Earth” not “upon the Earth” (Thomas v2, p. 248)
-  The first three bowls use *eis* (into) and the last four use *epi* (upon)
-  Some group based on this distinction
-  Others note that the first 3 (independent of the specific word) affect the people directly, whereas the last three affect the world as a whole
-  This may be a quibbling point, but it is worth noting for the diligent student

The Earth

-  Used in a general sense in v. 1 and here it is used to specify what on the Earth is affected
-  Will see this as a pattern going forward
-  V. 1 told us the general case, and the bowls tell us specifically what is targeted

Why strike the Earth?

-  We need the Earth to exist and function well to live in comfort
-  God is taking that away
-  Some speculation that the judgments are, in a way, preparing the Earth for the Kingdom (e.g. a return to an Antediluvian state)
-  Man has spent thousands of years sinning and corrupting the Earth and that needs to be fixed (c.f. **Numbers 35:33; 2 Chronicles 36:21**)
-  Suspect there is far more going on that we understand at present

SORES (V. 2C)

Sore

-  “an ulcer, a wound, especially a suppurated wound” (Thomas v2, p. 248)
-  Spoken of by God in the context of judgment in **Deuteronomy 28:35**
-  Better translation for their character is “pernicious and malignant” (Thomas v2, p. 249)
-  They are painful and do not go away after bursting. There is no way to escape the judgment and time will not heal

How are we to understand these sores?

-  **Hypothesis 1:** Non-literal. These are not “sores” *per se*, but they are the suffering brought on by sin; they are the natural consequences of a sinful life. People at the time of the Tribulation will be sinning more, sin brings about natural consequences and separates us from God, thus the “sores” are metaphorically this pain. But this does not align with the plain-language meaning of “sores” both in **Revelation** and elsewhere in Scripture. Also has the effect of lessening the language and the nature of judgment.
-  **Hypothesis 2:** These are literal sores, but they are akin to existing and/or known maladies. There are numerous sore-like diseases already, many of which are the result of sin (e.g. STDs). But this would not explain the grand character to the Bowl (and previous) judgments. Nor would it be an occasion for exclamation as we saw in **Revelation 15:3-4** as there would be nothing unusual in the judgment or its manifestation
-  **Hypothesis 3:** These are literal and go beyond the scope and scale of human sore-like maladies. Best aligns with the text and the nature of the judgments we see. Is also paralleled (at a greater scale) to the Sixth Plague against Egypt

We should not think of these judgments in purely known terms anymore

-  Some of the first judgments were understandable (e.g. war, famine, etc.)
-  But more and more we are seeing horrific judgments that defy comprehension (that is part of the point)
-  God is active in this work; it is happening by His direction and through His power
-  There may be small-scale similarities to existing diseases, but they are not of the same character or scale as what the text implies here

BIBLICAL USES OF SORES

📌 Similar language in the LXX used in **Exodus 9:9-11**; **Leviticus 13:18-27**; and **Job 2:7**

📌 **Exodus:** Sixth plague brought against the Egyptians magicians

📌 Likely more going on behind the scenes than we realize

📌 **Leviticus:** In the context of leprosy

📌 Largest section in **Leviticus**

📌 Separates the section on sacrifices from that of the feasts

📌 The role of the High Priest and leprosy

📌 Use of leprosy as a type of sin in Scripture

📌 **Matthew 8:1-4**

📌 **Job:** appears to be similar in kind to what Satan afflicted Job with

📌 Caused Job suffering

📌 But he ultimately responded positively (**Job 42:1-6**)

📌 Very different circumstances to what happens in **Revelation**

📌 Three key ideas

📌 Judgment for the World and those that defy God

📌 The need of both healing and salvation which only comes from God

📌 Learning *how* to suffer and what we learn through that endurance

THOSE WITH THE MARK (V. 2D)

The target of the judgment

-  God is doling out these judgments and they seem targeted
-  The plagues against Egypt were also targeted
-  Implies that this goes beyond a natural occurrence or a transitional disease
-  144,000 are out of the way and there is a small subset of faithful still remaining (c.f. **Revelation 12:13-17**)
 -  Possibly some others that will not be martyred as that number is now complete (c.f. **Revelation 6:11; 14:1-5**)

Can assume that this judgment is, functionally, universal

-  The 144,000 are off the scene by now (c.f. **Revelation 14:1-5**)
-  The remnant of Israel is in safety (**Revelation 12:13-17**)
-  There may be some people who do not fall in either camp, but given the universal nature of what we have seen thus far, we can understand this as a global phenomenon
 -  God does have ways of protecting his own (e.g. the plagues against Egypt, especially the final judgment)

The Earth-dwellers were given their choice between God and the First Beast, and they chose the First Beast

-  Were repeatedly warned not to take the Mark
-  Demonstrated their allegiance to the First Beast by their actions
-  At some point judgment is the only thing that remains

LESSONS FOR US

How do we interpret Scripture and why

-  Literally, non-literally?
-  Do we take it seriously?
-  What are we learning when we study the Bible?
 -  If it is just head knowledge, then we have missed the point
 -  Need to learn more about God, His plans, what He wants from us, etc.
 -  Ideally, we need to have some practical action that we take away

God is serious about sin; are we?

-  God is so serious about sin, that He already destroyed the world once, and we see more cataclysmic judgments in **Revelation**
-  How seriously do we treat sin in our lives, and in the lives of those around us
 -  Everyone makes their own choices, but do we tolerate sin, or do we let it fester?
 -  That which you tolerate will end up destroying you (e.g. Samson)
 -  True of people, groups, and, often, nations

All we can do is tell people about Jesus

-  We cannot actually Save anyone
-  But we can tell them and we can live our lives in ways that demonstrate what we believe
-  You may be the only Bible someone ever reads; make sure they get a good translation