

The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath Revelation 15 & 16 (Part 23)

Big idea of chapter 15 and 16: God will unleash final judgment on the earth and those who refuse to repent through 7 bowl judgments.

Revelation 15:1 *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.*

I saw another sign in heaven: John sees a sign or picture of the final days of earth before Christ comes to reign over it. 7 harsh judgments being poured out.

Seven angels with seven plagues: Plague literally means "strike or wound". This is not a disease or epidemic. It is a strike of God or a blow to the world or the unrepentant earth-dweller.

Revelation 15:2-4 *And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."*

Song of Moses and song of the Lamb: The song of Moses is redemption from Egypt and the song of the Lamb is the redemption of mankind from Satan.

Exodus 5:2 *But Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, and moreover, I will not let Israel go."*

1. God is the only one worthy of worship.

Revelation 15:5-8 *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.*

The sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened: The holy place and the tabernacle of the testimony or ark of the covenant that held the stone tablets written by God inside. God's judgment is just.

Leviticus 26:21 *"Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.*

Seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests: This is a picture of holiness and righteous judgment coming to earth.

The sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God: God dispenses the final wrath and judgment from His holy throne. The glory cloud takes us back again to Moses. **Exodus 40:34-38**

Revelation 16:1-3 *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.*

Loud voice: *mega phōnē* - is God giving the final instructions.

Bowl #1 harmful and painful sores: This reminds us of the 6th plague in Exodus. Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he did not listen to the Lord.

Bowl #2 sea like blood: All living things in the sea die. Bowls 2 and 3 remind us of the first plague in Exodus, the Nile turned to blood.

2. God's warning to mankind is showing mercy.

Revelation 16:4-7 *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!"*

Bowl #3 fresh water becomes blood: Now all the water on earth is contaminated. Water has always been associated with life since water is essential for life.

3. God is just.

Revelation 16:8-11 *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.*

Bowl #4 fierce heat: The sun begins to burn hotter than ever impacting the people and the earth.

They did not repent and give him glory: They know who is causing the judgments and they refuse to turn to God.

Bowl #5 darkness: This reminds us of the 9th plague in Exodus darkness. They are unable to see and move around freely.

They curse God: They blame God for their pain and are upset with Him.

The do not repent of their deeds: They do not take responsibility for the pain being their fault.

4. Pride prevents people from turning to God.

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.*

Bowl #6 Euphrates River dried up: God provides the way for the armies of the world to go to Israel.

3 unclean spirits like frogs: 3 demonic spirits will deceive the armies of the world to go to Israel.

Kings of the world assemble at Armageddon: The 3 demons will lead the armies to gather in Israel in Megiddo. They may go to kill Jews or they may go to rebel against the Antichrist but they will assemble.

Stay awake: Be ready for Christ's return, because by the 6th bowl the time is very near.

Keep your garments on: This means being clothed or covered in the righteousness of Christ.

Revelation 16:17-21 *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.*

Bowl #7 is poured into the air: This may be the final redemption of land, sea and now air. This may point to the hailstones that fall from the sky. Or the final blow to the prince of the power of air (Eph. 2:2).

It is done: God speaks from the Holy temple and the place of the Old Testament law. The judgments are over, God has completed His just wrath.

Great earthquake: The end of the tribulation is capped off by an earthquake and world-wide trembling as never before.

Great city: Theologians are split on whether it is Jerusalem or Babylon being referenced here.

- John MacArthur believes it is Jerusalem since Babylon is referenced later distinguishing it. Jerusalem is referred to as the Great City in 11:8.
- Others believe it is Babylon since it is referenced in the same passage. This would be judgment and destruction.
- Other believe it is speaking of Rome, symbolically as Babylon.

Cities of the nations fell: World-wide and final destruction of all the worldly cities that followed the Antichrist.

Babylon the great: Babylon the city and as the satanic empire is finally destroyed.

Hailstones: Giant hailstones fall on man and building destroying everything that the earthquake did not. 7th plague of Exodus

They cursed God: They know that God is judging and sending the plagues and they double down on their rebellion.

5. Judgment awaits those who refuse to repent.