

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 15–16

The Seven Bowls of Wrath are the final judgments God pours out upon a rebellious world before the return of Jesus Christ. Revelation 15–16 reveals God's holiness, justice, and faithfulness as He judges evil, vindicates His people, and prepares the way for Christ's kingdom. These judgments echo the plagues of Egypt, reminding us that the God who delivered Israel is the same God who will ultimately defeat evil and establish His righteous reign.

Primary Reading

Revelation 15–16

Read these chapters before working through the study guide.

Additional Scriptures

Exodus 7–12 – The Ten Plagues of Egypt, Psalm 79:6–7, Isaiah 24:6, Malachi 4:1, John 3:19, Romans 1:18–32, Hebrews 10:26–31

Setting the Scene (Revelation 15)

Before the bowl judgments begin, John sees a heavenly scene of worship.

Believers who remained faithful to Christ during the Tribulation stand victorious before God and sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb.

Read:

- Revelation 15:2–4
- Exodus 15:1–18

Key Truth

Just as God delivered Israel from Pharaoh through the Exodus, He will ultimately deliver His people from the Beast and his kingdom.

The focus of heaven's worship is not merely God's judgment but God's faithfulness, holiness, and salvation.

Think About It

What qualities of God are praised in Revelation 15:3–4?

Why Are These Judgments Coming?

God's judgments are not random acts of anger.

Throughout Revelation, humanity repeatedly rejects God's warnings and refuses to repent.

Read:

- Revelation 9:20–21
- Revelation 16:9
- Revelation 16:11
- Revelation 16:21

Key Truth

Even after experiencing devastating judgments, many people continue to reject God and blaspheme His name.

God's wrath is poured out because people continually refuse His mercy.

Exodus and Revelation

The bowl judgments intentionally remind readers of the Exodus.

Just as God judged Egypt and delivered Israel, He will judge the kingdom of the Beast and deliver His people.

Bowl Judgment	Exodus Parallel
Bowl 1 – Sores	Boils (Ex. 9:8–12)
Bowl 2 – Sea to Blood	Water to Blood (Ex. 7:14–25)
Bowl 3 – Rivers to Blood	Water to Blood (Ex. 7:14–25)
Bowl 4 – Scorching Heat	Hail and Fire (Ex. 9:13–35)
Bowl 5 – Darkness	Darkness (Ex. 10:21–29)
Bowl 6 – Frog Spirits	Frogs (Ex. 8:1–15)
Bowl 7 – Hail and Earthquake	Hail and Fire (Ex. 9:13–35)

Key Truth: The Exodus was a preview of God's ultimate victory over evil.

Christ at the Center

It is important to remember that Revelation is not primarily about judgment.

It is about Jesus Christ.

God's wrath falls upon sin because God is holy.

Yet before judgment comes, God provides salvation through His Son.

Read:

- John 3:16–18
- Romans 5:8–9
- Hebrews 10:26–31

Key Truth

- Jesus bore God's wrath at the cross so that all who trust in Him can be forgiven and saved.
- The bowls remind us what happens when people continually reject God's offer of mercy.

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

Bowl 1 – Painful Sores

Read: Revelation 16:2

Painful sores come upon those who worship the Beast and receive his mark.

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 9:8–12 (Boils)

Bowl 2 – The Sea Becomes Blood

Read: Revelation 16:3

The sea becomes blood and every living creature in it dies.

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 7:14–25 (Water Turned to Blood)

Bowl 3 – Rivers and Springs Become Blood

Read: Revelation 16:4–7

Fresh water sources become blood.

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 7:14–25

Bowl 4 – The Sun Scorches Humanity

Read: Revelation 16:8–9

The sun burns people with intense heat.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Malachi 4:1
- Isaiah 24:6

Bowl 5 – Darkness Covers the Beast's Kingdom

Read: Revelation 16:10–11

Darkness falls upon the kingdom of the Beast.

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 10:21–29

Supporting Scripture: John 3:19

Bowl 6 – The Euphrates Dries Up

Read: Revelation 16:12–16

The Euphrates River dries up and demonic spirits gather the nations for battle.

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 8:1–15 (Frogs)

Bowl 7 – "It Is Done"

Read: Revelation 16:17–21

The final bowl brings lightning, thunder, the greatest earthquake in history, and massive hailstones.

A voice from heaven declares:

“It is done.”

Exodus Parallel: Exodus 9:13–35 (Hail and Fire)

Application

- God is patient, but His patience will not last forever.
- Every person must respond to Christ.
- God's judgments are always righteous and just.
- Evil will not ultimately triumph.
- Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom and reign forever.

Discussion Questions

- What stands out most to you about the worship scene in Revelation 15?
- Why do people continue refusing to repent throughout Revelation?
- Which bowl judgment most clearly demonstrates God's justice?
- How do the Exodus plagues help you understand Revelation's judgments?
- What encouragement do believers receive from the promise that Christ will ultimately defeat evil?
- How should the certainty of Christ's return affect the way we live today?

