

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 16TH-17TH, 2024 // REVELATION

DISTURBED SEA (REVELATION 15:1-4) THE FINAL SERIES OF EVENTS

More than likely, Christians will be on Earth during the seals and trumpets, but by the time the bowls of God's wrath are poured out, only godless people remain (post-trib, pre-wrath).

- **The time for 2nd chances has passed.** The calm sea of glass from Chapter 4 is now mixed with fire, showing God's wrath stirring.

"THOSE WHO HAD...VICTORY OVER THE BEAST"

Standing on the sea of glass were the people who spiritually survived the Antichrist's reign along with all the followers of Jesus Christ. Some scholars believe the ones holding harps are the martyrs from the Tribulation.

- These people **chose Christ and overcame political, religious, and economic pressure.**

BLENDING TWO SONGS

The followers of God blend two songs as they wait for God's next move. The first is from Exodus 15 and is called the **Song of Moses**. It **celebrates the people of God's release from bondage**. The second is the **Song of the Lamb**, which directly **opposes the worship of the beast** (13:4).

ALONE IN THE SMOKE (REVELATION 15:5-8)

"THE TABERNACLE OF TESTIMONY"

John mentions that he saw a tabernacle in heaven open up. Tabernacles are portable temples in the OT. The use of this word shows that what is about to take place is temporary.

- Revelation 21:22 tells us there will no longer be a need for a temple or tabernacle in heaven (permanence).

THE LAST ANGELIC TEAM PREPARES

The last group of angels is "dressed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes," indicating purity and the right to inflict judgment on evil.

- One of the four living creatures from Chapter 4 gives the angels bowls filled with God's wrath. These are goblets filled from the disturbed sea of glass.

GOD NEEDED TO BE ALONE?

As angels prepared to pour out God's wrath, "the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and...his power" (vs. 8; Exodus 40). God wanted to be alone as the bowls were poured out.

- **Imagine how the Creator will feel having to destroy His creation! This shows how God hurts for the lost.**

THIS IS THE WAY THE WORLD ENDS (REVELATION 16:1-9)

"GO AND POUR OUT THE SEVEN BOWLS"

Since God is the only One in the temple, it must be Him who signals the bowls of wrath. The bowls will happen rapidly and with extreme ferocity.

- The first four bowls will directly impact the Earth and cannot last a long period of time because life could not endure it.

THE 1ST BOWL

The 1st bowl was poured out on the Earth, and "severely painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast."

- This plague is similar to Exodus 9:8-12. Some believe this is a result of the body rejecting whatever the mark of the beast is. More likely, it's foreshadowing eternal torment.

THE 2ND BOWL

This bowl is poured onto the sea. Saltwater turning to blood could be a metaphor like Ch. 8, or it could refer to the carnage of dead aquatic life caused by this plague.

- If literal, imagine the implications. The rotting corpses of billions of creatures would indicate the planet is coming to an end.

THE 3RD BOWL

This bowl is poured out into the freshwater supplies. It's the same as the previous bowl, but this would be fatal for mankind.

- The "angel of the waters" is an angel geographically placed by God. This angel approves of God's work and confirms that **people are getting what they deserve.**

THOSE WHO WANTED BLOOD WILL GET IT

V. 6 says, "Because they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets, you have given them blood to drink; they deserve it!"

- **We live in a brutal society, and if we "live by the sword, we will die by it" as well (Matthew 26:52). Hosea 8:7 says, "they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind."**

THE 4TH BOWL

The 4th bowl is poured out on the sun. Imagine gas being thrown on an already blazing fire. Instead of the sun sustaining life, it becomes threatening to it.

- One would think this would humble people, but instead, "they blasphemed the name of God" and "did not repent."

DARKNESS (REVELATION 16:10-16)

SO FAR, THE BOWLS HAVE IMPACTED NATURE

The land, water, and sun have been targeted, obviously affecting life on Earth. The problem is that the Antichrist is still in control.

- The 5th and 6th bowls will directly attack the Antichrist's kingdom. The 7th bowl will conclude what the next two bowls start.

THE 5TH BOWL

This bowl is poured on "the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness." This could be literal, or it could mean **organizational collapse and chaos. Didn't he promise prosperity?**

- Sores, lack of water, and decay show why they'd "[gnaw] their tongues" in anguish.

THE 6TH BOWL

The 6th bowl is poured out into the "great river Euphrates." We have already mentioned that if this river were to dry up, it would open access to armies coming from the East into the Middle East.

ONE MORE "MIRACLE" FOR THE MASSES

John writes that he saw "**unclean spirits** like frogs coming from the dragon's mouth."

- The Antichrist and his religious sidekick will use **manipulative and persuasive words along with signs and wonders** to convince the world's armies to go into battle for him.

REMEMBER THE 200,000,000 IN CHAPTER 9?

The army that crosses the Euphrates is more than likely the 200 million.

"LOOK, I AM COMING LIKE A THIEF" (V. 15)

Jesus interrupts the vision of the bowls and reminds the reader that **nothing can stop these events.** A thief comes unexpectedly on a schedule they determine.

"SO THEY ASSEMBLED THE KINGS AT THE PLACE CALLED IN

HEBREW, ARMAGEDDON."

In a valley roughly 80 miles from Jerusalem, the Antichrist and the armies of the world will literally try to fight Jesus.

- Some don't think it is literal but rather a figurative ending to evil and rebellion against God and His people.

DRAINING THE CUP (REVELATION 16:17-21)

ONE LAST ELEMENT TO TARGET

So far, the bowls of wrath have not hit one essential means of survival: the atmosphere. This bowl is the final step in evil humanity's destruction.

- The voice from the temple in heaven says, "It is done!" The last bowl is about to be poured out, and God is about to defeat evil.

THE WHOLE EARTH IS ABOUT TO MOVE

The biggest and last quake in Revelation takes place here. The quake will not only split the "great city" into three parts but will destroy all cities on Earth. **Whatever man can build, God can easily destroy!**

- Not just cities, but **all self-serving man-made institutions will be laid to ruin.**

"BABYLON THE GREAT WAS REMEMBERED ...

V. 19 is sad. It shows God doesn't want to punish the people He created and loved, but because of their blatant disregard for Him, they have chosen their fate (Genesis 8:1).

- **God doesn't delight in punishment. That is why He sent His Son as a means for everyone to avoid it!**

GOD'S FULL FORCE (VS. 20-21)

God's wrath will destroy every island and level every mountain, and "Enormous hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell from the sky on people."

- The sky literally falls, and shockingly enough, the response is blasphemy towards God.

A "REPROBATE" MIND (ROMANS 1:28)

- The Bible speaks of a spiritual distance we can travel to that takes us to a place of no return and inevitable destruction. This journey begins with selfishness and leads to a conscious suppression of the truth.
- **Consistent suppression of God's truth leads to a corrupt and "useless" mind.**
- Fortunately, **God is merciful, gracious, quick to forgive, and willing to restore as long as we are humble enough to ask for help.**
- Even more amazing is that, if we repent, God also chooses to **sweep away our transgressions... and remember our sins no more.** (Isaiah 43:25, Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:12).

EVIL HAS CONSEQUENCES

- We all get tempted, pressured, and tired, but we must remember God loves us and that giving in to sin has ramifications.
- Even when we are forgiven by Jesus, sin carries a price in our day-to-day lives. **As our frequency of sin decreases, our peace and joy increase.**

FORTUNATELY, EVIL HAS AN END DATE

- God is loving, gracious, and patient, but in His pure love, He also hates evil because evil hurts His most beloved creation.
- **There will come a definitive time when evil will end. We are called to "endure" (Matthew 24:13) and "not get tired of doing good" (Galatians 6:9) until He returns for us.**