

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 17TH, 2024 // REVELATION

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

More than likely, Christians will be on Earth during the 7 seals and 7 trumpets, but by the time the bowls of God's wrath are poured out, only godless people remain.

- The time for second chances has passed. The calm sea of glass from Chapter 4 is now mixed with fire, showing God's anger and 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 and all the followers of Jesus Christ. Some scholars believe the ones holding harps are the martyrs from the Great Tribulation.

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

THE BLENDING OF TWO SONGS

The followers of God take two songs and blend them as they wait for God's next move.

- The first part is from Exodus 15. It's called the **Song of Moses**. It **celebrates the people of God's release from bondage.**
- The second part is called the **Song of the Lamb** and directly **opposes 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 places of worship used in the OT. This word shows us 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.

THE LAST ANGELIC TEAM PREPARES

The last group of angels are "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 the angels were preparing to pour out God's wrath, "the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power" (v. 8; see also Ex. 40:34-35). God wanted to be alone as the bowls were poured out.

- **Imagine how the Creator will feel having to destroy His creation! This shows us 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, He must signal 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 long because life can't endure it. This is the fullness of God's anger.

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

THE 2ND BOWL

This bowl is poured out to the sea. Saltwater turning to blood could be a metaphor like Ch. 8, or it could be referring 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 is the same as the previous bowl, but this would be fatal for mankind.

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

THOSE WHO WANT 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, but 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 over 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 get people's attention, but instead, "they blasphemed the name of God" and "did not repent."

UTTER DARKNESS (REVELATION 16:10-16)

SO FAR, THE BOWLS HAVE AFFECTED NATURE

Land, water, and the sun have been targeted, 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 onto "the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness." This could be a literal darkness, or it could mean organizational collapse and chaos. **Didn't he promise them prosperity?**

- Combine sores, lack of water, and massive decay, and we see why they would "[gnaw] their tongues" in anguish.

THE 6TH BOWL

The 6th bowl is poured into the "great river Euphrates." We have already mentioned that if this river were to dry up, it would open access to armies 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 sidekicks will use manipulative and persuasive words along with signs and wonders to convince the world's armies to go into battle for him.

WHO IS ABOUT TO FIGHT WHOM?

Some believe that someone will try to rise up against the Antichrist and cross the Euphrates River to combat him. Others believe the Antichrist is the one crossing the Euphrates on his way to wage war against the army of God.

- Either way, the 6th bowl has set this war into motion.

REMEMBER THE 200,000,000 IN CHAPTER 9?

The army that crosses the Euphrates is 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...in...Armageddon."

THE LAST DROP OF WRATH (REVELATION 16:17-21)

ONE LAST ELEMENT TO TARGET

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

- The voice of God 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 we read about in Revelation occurs 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 man-made institutions that have been self-serving will also be laid to ruin.**

"BABYLON WAS REMEMBERED IN GOD'S PRESENCE"

V. 19 is extremely sad. It shows that God does not want to punish the people He has created and loved, but because of their blatant disregard for Him, they have chosen their own 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, [will fall] from the sky on people."

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

WHO HAS EARS TO LISTEN?

- In the middle of turbulent times, what is God trying to teach us? **Are we listening, or do we constantly make excuses for our lack of response?**
- Have we gotten so far from God that our ability to see the warning signs has become deactivated?