



If you look at the timeline on the left, you will see a period of 3 ½ years after the desecration of the Temple. That’s the time period we are studying this morning. The Book of Revelation describes three sets of seven judgments that will happen in that time period: seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls. We studied the seven seals in chapters six and seven. We studied the seven trumpets in chapters eight and nine. Last week, we studied Chapter 14. It

was a summary of the events we will read about this morning that will come during the seven bowls of wrath. This morning, we will study chapters 15 and 16. Chapter 15 is sort of a preview or a preamble to the bowls of wrath, and Chapter 16 describes them in detail.



15 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.² And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

³ They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:

[Note 3 ways God is described: works, ways, worthy-ship]

“Great and marvelous are Your works Lord God Almighty!

Just and true are Your ways,

O King of the saints!

⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

For You alone are holy.

For all nations shall come and worship before You,

For Your judgments have been manifested.”

⁵ After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. ⁶ And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures [Revelation 4] gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. ⁸ The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. (Revelation 15, NKJV).

We see in these eight verses that the number seven is used eight times. Seven is God's number for completion. What is to take place is the total completion of God's wrath on the earth. The Greek word used here for "wrath" is a powerful word. It is (*θυμός – thymos/thumos*). You can recognize it in the word "thermos," which contains heat. It is something beyond mere anger. It is unusual. It speaks of a passionate, overwhelming "flash point" explosive kind of anger. It is a seething, boiling, burning kind of anger.

Verse 1 The text tells us that in these plagues, the wrath of God is "complete." Interestingly, the word "complete" is related to *tetelestai*, which was the last word that Jesus uttered from the cross when God's word of redemption was completed. The word used here is *ἐτελέσθη (etelesthe)* meaning that in these judgments God's wrath will be perfected, finished, and completed. God's judgment will be over.

Verse 2 John looks into heaven and sees all the saints of God as victorious. That's all the believers in Jesus throughout history, standing on a sea of what looks like water mixed with fire. He sees the saints of God standing victoriously above all of humanity. They are on something "like" a sea of glass and fire, and they are holding harps. I *think* the description of "fire" describes what these saints have been through. They are standing victoriously, having passed the test. This part of harps is sort of interesting to me. I guess this is where the idea of people sitting around in heaven playing harps comes from. They are having a great big, huge praise and worship service.

Verse 3 Two or three songs of Moses are recorded in the Torah and the Ketuvim. We find a song of Moses in Exodus 15, Deuteronomy 32, and Psalm 90 (which Moses also wrote). The song of Moses from Exodus 15 is recorded as being sung after the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. The song begins, *"I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!"*

Verse 4 It is a song of God's faithfulness in triumphing over the enemies of God and the enemies of His people. Near the end of the song, Moses asks the worshipful question: *"Who is like unto Thee, Oh LORD, among the Gods? Who is like Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11, KJV)*. The song most applicable to this passage is recorded in Deuteronomy.

*"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And render vengeance to His adversaries;
He will provide atonement for His land and His people." (Deuteronomy 32:43, NKJV).*

God will indeed avenge the blood of His servants. He will avenge the blood of righteous Gentiles along with His own righteous people. This revenge is part of what is happening during the time of these bowls of wrath.



Verses 5-8 John sees seven angels clothed in bright linen coming out of the temple's inner shrine. This is the place that houses the Ark of the Covenant. Each of these seven angels is given a bowl of wrath. The presence of God saturates the temple in smoke and glory and will remain so until the end of the wrath is completed. I have to admit, when I read this, all I could think about was that scene from Indiana Jones "In Search of the Lost Ark." The Nazis tried to use the Ark to somehow harness the power of God in their quest for evil. When they get out in the desert and open the Ark, holy angels come out of it clothed in linen robes, and they annihilate the Nazi goons. These plagues, these bowls of wrath, are God pulling out all the stops. These seven angels came out of the area where the Ark of the Covenant was placed and where the Menorah, the Showbread Table, and the Altar of Incense rested (Exodus 35-40). Let's now move into Revelation chapter 16.



Chapter 16 – The Seven Bowls of Wrath to be Poured Out – God's judgment being poured out in rapid succession.

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

First Bowl: Loathsome Sores – Ugly and Painful Sores



² So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. (Revelation 16:1-2, NKJV).

This is like the sixth plague in Egypt when boils came on the people. This illness will be poured out on all of mankind who have followed the beast. There is a sore that will come out on their flesh, causing misery in their bodies.

Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

³ Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died. (Revelation 16:3, NKJV).

The "blood of a dead man" is clotted and rotten. This is like the second Trumpet that caused a third of the sea to "die," but now this plague affects the blood in every living thing left on earth. The sea (salt water) is now turned to blood such that it causes everything in the sea to die. The judgment on the seas is complete. Food sources from the sea are destroyed, and the stench will be horrific.

Third Bowl: The Fresh Waters Turn to Blood [1% of the water on the earth]¹



⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: (Revelation 16, 4-5a, NKJV).

The plague now comes upon all the fresh water on the earth. Those too are turned to blood. And then the

“angel of the waters” says:

***“You are righteous, O Lord,
The One who is and who was and who is to be,
Because You have judged these things.
⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
And You have given them blood to drink.
For it is their just due.”***

⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.” (Revelation 16:5b-7, NKJV).

There is a great biblical truth that all should learn at an early age. My mother taught it to me when I was very young. She would tell me, *“Vengeance is mine; I will repay, sayeth the Lord.” (Romans 12:19b, KJV)*. The sooner a disciple of Jesus learns that truth the better. Otherwise, you’ll go through life trying to even the score when you’re done wrong by others. That is a hopeless cycle of frustration. God is the scorekeeper, and He can keep score better than you can.

Much of what we read in Revelation is God pouring out His vengeance on the wicked for their persecution of the saints. This is the payback promised by God. We don’t need to prosecute our rights. In the end, God will take care of all of that. And when we occasionally see it happen while we’re alive, we should never take joy in it or celebrate it. For likewise scripture tells us, *“¹⁷ Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:¹⁸ Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.¹⁹ Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked: ²⁰ For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out. (Proverbs 24:17-20, KJV)*. Mind your own business and let God mind others. He will do a far better job of evening out the score than we could ever do.

¹ 70% of earth is covered by water. 97% of that is salt water. The remaining 3% is in polar caps and glaciers. So the people of the world survive on 1% of all the waters on the earth. The balance of fresh water is VERY FRAGILE.

Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. ⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory. (Revelation 16:8-9, NKJV).

This sounds something like a super solar flare. Scientists estimate that a super solar flare occurs about every 250-500 years. The sun throws off a flare 150 times more powerful than usual. This hasn't happened in modern times, but when it does it will take out all the electronics on the earth. The ancients described such events as "fire and brimstone" coming down. I don't know what this is, but it scorches men with fire. It could be falling fiery hailstones or meteorites. Whatever it is, it will bring great pain to humanity. And even given such an event, mankind will STILL refuse to repent and give glory to the God Who created all.

*Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun,
And the light of the sun will be sevenfold,
As the light of seven days,
In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people
And heals the stroke of their wound. (Isaiah 30:26 NKJV)*



Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. ¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Revelation

16:10-11, NKJV).

The misery continues but now it is poured out on the throne of the beast, the Antichrist, himself. With their bodies now covered with boils or lesions and having been burned with fire, men and women will huddle in darkness, gnawing at their tongues, trying to get any relief that they can get. Yet they still will not repent of their rebellion and wickedness.



Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

¹² Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. ¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to

gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.¹⁵ “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. (Revelation 16:12-16, NKJV). [Ezekiel 38-39 is beginning of Tribulation. But this passage is about end of Tribulation]



The ancient Euphrates, the center of human civilization on the earth, now dries up. As it dries, it prepares a way for the “kingdoms of the east” to come to the battle of all battles on dry land. Three horrific demons “like frogs” come out of three mouths: (1) the mouth of Satan himself, (2) the mouth the Antichrist, and 3) the mouth of the false prophet. These demons proceed to call all men to battle. These are the demons through which the unholy trinity has performed their “signs and wonders.”

Jesus then proclaims, “I am coming as a thief.” That means He’s unexpected. We’re told to “keep our garments lest we walk in shame.” This reminds me of that line from the great hymn Are You Washed in the Blood?

Are you washed in the blood?
 In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
 Are your garments spotless, are they white as snow?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?



And now the peoples of the whole earth are gathered in that place where it will all come to an end, Har Meggido, known in English as Armageddon. This is the ancient “Hill of the Governor.” What a fitting name for the place where all of mankind, all of history, and all in this world will come to understand WHO is the governor of all. It is the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken with a Plague of Hail



¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!”¹⁸ And there were noises and thunders and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His

wrath. ²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great. (Revelation 16:17-21, NKJV).

The seventh and final bowl is filled with monumental storms and the greatest earthquake in human history. "The great city" is divided in three parts, and other cities of the earth will begin to fall away. Great "Babylon" will take the fierceness of the wrath of God to its fullest extent.

Every island will cease to exist and every mountain will crumble. Isaiah prophesied the same thing, ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:4-5, KJV).

We've read some really horrible things this morning. We must remember that God IS a loving God, but He is a JUST God. He will avenge the martyred deaths of His saints. All people are given a chance to live in this peaceful unity, but mankind is not free to persecute the saints of God without retribution. I know these are weird verses to read. When we read them, just remember that God doesn't forget His own and will not suffer the righteous to be moved. God covers His anointed. And you and I are His anointed. Those whose lives will end in bitterness suffer not just because they have rejected God, but because of what they have done to the saints of God. They suffer because that is the path they have chosen. God is not willing or desirous that ANY should perish, but that all live for eternity in peace with Him under His protection.

Let us pray.

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.