

End of the parenthesis chapters 12-14. Rev. 15:1 picks up from the 7th trumpet back in Rev.11:19. This is the last series of judgments, the 7 Bowl Judgments 15:1--16:21.

## **1 HEAVEN PREPARES FOR THE LAST PLAGUES TO BE Poured OUT ON THE EARTH, 15:1--16:1.**

A. Victorious Tribulation martyrs will sing the song of the Glorious Lamb, 15:1-4.

1. A marvelous sign appeared of 7 angels with 7 plagues that finish God's judgments, 15:1.

7 angels with 7 plagues = 7 Bowls (vials) => 16:1ff.

"In them, the wrath of God is finished."

2. Victorious martyrs sing at the finish of the 7 last plagues, 15:2-4.

- a. Their stance, 15:2. Victorious! Sea of glass => ch.4.

- b. The tribulation martyrs sang a special song, 15:3-4.

- 1) It was the Song of Moses & the Song of the Lamb, 15:3a

- 2) The Lord will be glorified because all the nations come to worship, 15:3b-4.

B. Heaven's temple authorizes the finish of God's wrath to be poured out on the earth, 15:5--16:1.

1. 7 angels came out from the temple, 15:5-6.

The temple in heaven is opened. 7 angels came out of the temple by God's order.

2. 7 bowls full of God's wrath were given to the 7 angels, 15:7-8.

- a. 1 of 4 living creatures (cf. ch.4) gave the 7 bowls, 15:7.

These bowl judgments are described as "full of God's wrath" against evil.

- b. Heaven's temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, 15:8.

3. A voice from the temple commanded the 7 angels to pour out God's wrath, 16:1.

This is God's authorization to begin the last series of judgments on evil.

Bowls of God's wrath => expression of God's holiness in action.

Judgments are poured out on the earth. The earth itself remains intact.

## 2 THE 7 ANGELS OF GOD Poured OUT GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENTS, 16:2-21.

These are literal, and the 1st bowl and the 5th bowl are limited to the beast & his kingdom.

### Bowl #1 (16:2)

So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl <sup>a</sup>on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Malignant sores -- physical bodies in pain.

Selective judgment -- only the people who had the mark of the beast who worshipped his image.

### Bowl #2 (16:3)

The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

Salt waters become blood worldwide. Everything else in the sea died. Bloated sea creatures surface and stink (whatever was left from earlier judgments).

### Bowl #3 (16:4-7)

Fresh water sources became blood. Drinking water is ruined, 16:4 .

Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.

The angel of the waters pronounced this as justice, 16:5-6.

And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."

This "altar" is probably a figure for those standing around it: they agree, 16:7.

And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

**Bowl #4 (16:8-9)**

The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

1. The sun is struck and people are burned because of the fierce heat, 16:8-9a. God turns up the thermostat so much more than global warming. No drinking water because of bowl #3!
2. People responded in defiance of God, 16:9b.
  - a. They blasphemed God's name.
  - b. They refused to repent.

**Bowl #5 (16:10-11)**

Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

The kingdom of the beast became darkened (selective). They gnawed their tongues in great pain. Sores continue from Bowl #1.

**Bowl #6 (16:12-16)**

1. Euphrates River dried up so that kings from the east can march across, 16:12.

The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

## 2. 3 unclean spirits (demons) 16:13-14.

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; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty

- a. Source - the trinity of hell.
- b. Mission - gather kings of the whole world under Antichrist to the "war of the great Day" (ie. Armageddon, cf. v.16).
- c. Parenthetical warning from Jesus Christ, 16:15. Explain: be alert. Clothes were taken from a guard caught sleeping on duty.
- d. Mt. of Megiddo, 16:16.

(note: no parenthesis needed before the 7th bowl...)

**Bowl #7 (16:17-21)**

Poured "on the air" is different than the rest because the rest of the Book (scroll) is revealed, through 22:5.

Final: "It is done." (cf. 7th trumpet - 10:6-7) cf. Jesus on cross: "It is finished."

Here, Jesus will redeem the earth for a redeemed people to enter.

## 16:18 Earthquake

And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and* so mighty.

Greatest earthquake that ever occurred on the earth.

End of Seals => earthquake (8:5)

End of Trumpets => earthquake (11:19) and hail.

End of Bowls => greatest earthquake ever.

16:19 Cities fall.

The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

The Great City - Jerusalem, splits into 3 parts.

Cities of the nations fall.

Babylon is given God's fierce wrath (chapters 17-18 for details). Through to 19:10.

16:20 - The topography of the earth drastically changed.

16:21 - Huge, 100 lb. hailstones (size of basketballs) fell on people.

Hardened unbelievers who survive shouted their anger at God.

Near is the great day of the Lord,  
 Near and coming very quickly;  
 Listen, the day of the Lord!  
 In it the warrior cries out bitterly.  
 15 A day of wrath is that day,  
 A day of trouble and distress,  
 A day of destruction and desolation,  
 A day of darkness and gloom,  
 A day of clouds and thick darkness,  
 16 A day of trumpet and battle cry  
 Against the fortified cities  
 And the high corner towers.  
 17 I will bring distress on men  
 So that they will walk like the blind,  
 Because they have sinned against the Lord;  
 And their blood will be poured out like dust  
 And their flesh like dung.  
 18 Neither their silver nor their gold  
 Will be able to deliver them  
 On the day of the Lord's wrath;  
 And all the earth will be devoured  
 In the fire of His jealousy,  
 For He will make a complete end,  
 Indeed a terrifying one,  
 Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

*New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Zep 1:14–18). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

“Therefore wait for Me,” declares the Lord,

“For the day when I rise up as a witness.  
Indeed, My decision is to gather nations,  
To assemble kingdoms,  
To pour out on them My indignation,  
All My burning anger;  
For all the earth will be devoured  
By the fire of My zeal.

[\*New American Standard Bible: 1995 update\*](#). (1995). (Zep 3:8). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

### **Lessons from the bowl judgments:**

Cleaning up our world will be done by God, not us.

1. We need to learn the balance between taking care of the earth and the realization that the earth's future is decided by God, not people. It is not our job to "bring in the kingdom." That's God's job.
2. This revelation makes it clear that the physical end of the earth is not as important as the reality that every person will be judged by God based on whether they repented and place sole trust in Him. The Church's mission is reaching people with the gospel. Everything else is secondary.
3. Because God is the One who brings revenge on evil, we can forgive people more easily, knowing that the Lord will make everything right.