

Session 10: Seven Bowls of Wrath (Rev 15-16)

I. FOURTH CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION: 7 BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15:1-16:21)

Context of this passage is the return of Jesus to the earth to take over the planet. At the second coming, Jesus arrives to stay permanently. It's only confusing if Jesus leaves and takes us with Him, but that is not the reality of this. We can often lose touch of the earthy nature of these events. We assume that the natural is done away with, but it is not.

At the second coming, we get transformed and mobilized to assist Him in the takeover of the planet. There will be the physical dimension as well as the supernatural dimension at work during this time. Revelation 15-16 is the context in which earth shifts from the present evil age to the age to come.

A. The fourth chronological section in Revelation reveals the 7 judgment events that Jesus will release on the Antichrist's empire as He marches through Edom (modern day Jordan) to make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This drama is part of your love story with Jesus your King.

¹ Who is this who comes from Edom (modern Jordan), with dyed garments from Bozrah (ancient capital of Edom), this One (Jesus) who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- "I (Jesus) who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." ² Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ "I have trodden the winepress...in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come....⁶ I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth." (Isa. 63:1-6)

B. On this journey, Jesus will dash the nations or destroy the infrastructures of the Antichrist empire that have been permeated by evil (Ps. 2:8-9; Isa. 11:4, 15; 19:22; Rev. 2:26-27; 19:15).

*¹¹ Behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him...He judges and makes war...¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses...¹⁵ He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of...the wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: **KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS**. (Rev. 19:11-16)*

C. David prophesied that when the Messiah came to earth to receive the nations as His inheritance that He would need to break them and even dash their infrastructure to pieces. This overthrow will be comprehensive – every unrighteous infrastructure of men will be dealt with and destroyed. Jesus will begin again with righteousness at the core.

⁸ I (the Father) will give You (Jesus) the nations for Your inheritance...⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Ps. 2:8-9)

D. Isaiah prophesied that when the Messiah came He would strike the earth and slay the wicked.

⁴ He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and...shall slay the wicked. (Isa 11:4)

- E. Habakkuk prophesied that when the Messiah came He would march through the land in victory.
³ *God came from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran (near modern day Jordan). His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of His praise. 4 His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden. 5 Before Him went pestilence, and fever followed at His feet...6 He startled the nations. The mountains were scattered...8 Your anger against the rivers, was Your wrath against the sea...11 The sun and moon stood still...12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... (Hab. 3:3-13)*
- F. Jesus will release the 7 bowls of judgment that will be similar to Moses' ten plagues of Egypt. The bowls will be poured out over a 30 day period as Jesus marches through Jordan to fight the final battle in the Armageddon campaign in Jerusalem and rescue the unsaved remnant of Israel.

II. THE CONTEXT FOR THE PREPARATION TO RELEASE THE 7 BOWLS OF WRATH

- A. John sees those who were victorious over the Antichrist singing on the sea of glass (Rev. 15:1-4).
¹ *I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: 7 angels having the 7 last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2 I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the Beast (Antichrist)...standing on the sea of glass...3 They sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints...For all nations shall...worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested." (Rev. 15:1-4)*
- B. Ezekiel saw a firmament or expanse of awesome crystal (Sea of glass?) before Jesus' Throne.
²² *The likeness of the firmament (expanse NIV)...was like...awesome crystal...26 Above the firmament...the likeness of the Throne was...a Man (Jesus) high above it (Ezek. 1:22-26)*
- C. The event that occurred immediately before this was the sounding of the 7th Trumpet to begin Jesus' Second Coming procession with the Rapture and the rewarding of all the saints. Jesus then engages in a "hostile take over" of all governments on earth, thus making the nations very angry.
¹⁵ *The seventh angel sounded...loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord...18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time...that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints...and should destroy those who destroy the earth. (Rev. 11:15-18)*

²⁹ *Immediately after the Tribulation of those days...30 The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming ...with power and great glory. 31 He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect...from one end of heaven to the other. (Mt. 24:29-31)*
- D. Paul made it clear the Rapture takes place at the Last Trumpet which is the seventh trumpet.
⁵¹ *We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment...at the Last Trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible... (1 Cor. 15:51-52)*

¹⁶ The Lord will descend from heaven...with the Trumpet of God...¹⁷ We who are alive...shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

- E. Jesus raptures the Church to initiate His Second Coming Procession having 3 stages occurring in a 30 day period. The Antichrist will have authority to oppress God's people for 1,260 days (3½ years) as seen by comparing the following Scriptures: Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6; 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7). We will be delivered at the Rapture. However, the Antichrist continues another 30 days after the Rapture to continue the Abomination of Desolation totaling 1,290 days (Dan. 12:11).

¹¹ From the time...the Abomination of Desolation is set up there shall be 1,290 days. (Dan. 12:11)

Stage #1: Jesus' procession across the sky: to rapture the Church (Mt. 24:30-31; Rev. 1:7)

Stage #2: Jesus' procession on the land: through Edom (Jordan) to Israel (Isa. 63; Hab. 3)

Stage #3: Jesus' procession into Jerusalem: to the Mount of Olives followed by His coronation

III. THE 7 ANGELS COMMISSIONED TO RELEASE THE BOWLS (REV. 16:1)

- A. Immediately after the sounding of the 7th Trumpet and after the saints gather on the Sea of glass to worship Jesus as the King of saints, the angels are commissioned to pour out the bowls.

¹ I heard a loud voice from the Temple saying to the 7 angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth." (Rev. 16:1)

- B. Immediately after the Rapture, Jesus will march across the land of Jordan (Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:3-13) as the "greater Moses" going through the wilderness to deliver the unsaved remnant of Israel. At that time, Jesus will release the first 5 bowls to destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire. The sixth and seventh bowl will be released just before Jesus enters Jerusalem.

IV. SEVEN BOWLS OF GOD'S WRATH (REV. 15-16)

- A. First Bowl (Sores): Painful sores on those who worship the Antichrist (Rev. 16:2)

² The first went and poured out his bowl...and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast... (Rev. 16:2)

1. These sores will be foul with a terrible odor as foul meat is rotten or putrid. They will be loathsome in being so painful that men will loath them.
2. Only during the seals and trumpets does John mention believers having a divine seal of protection (Rev. 7:3; 9:4). The saints were raptured at the 7th Trumpet.
3. The sixth plague of Egypt was sores or boils (Ex. 9:8-11). Moses warned that rebellion toward God would bring God's judgment of severe boils (Deut. 28:35).

- B. Second Bowl (Food Supply): Destroying the sea with blood killing all sea life (Rev. 16:3). In my opinion, this is focused on the Mediterranean Sea from Dan. 7. The sea will become like the congealed blood of a dead man with unimaginable stench. There will be complete destruction of marine life not just 1/3 destruction as in the second trumpet.
- 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. (Rev. 16:3)*
- C. Third Bowl (Water Supply): Poisoning the earth's fresh water with blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) is similar to the third bowl in defiling the drinking water. The first plague of Egypt struck the Nile with a similar impact as this (Ex. 7:19-21).
- ⁴ *Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord...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 I heard another from the altar (heavenly intercession) saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (Rev. 16:4-7)*
- D. Fourth Bowl (Torment): Scorching heat and fire from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9) is a supernatural act, not merely a natural one. Men blaspheme God (v. 11, 21). This bowl will intensify the heat of the sun. The fourth trumpet affected the sun in the opposite way by making it less intense.
- ⁸ *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. (Rev. 16:8-9)*
- E. Fifth Bowl (Destruction): Darkness on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11)
- ¹⁰ *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...because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11)*
- F. The Antichrist's throne is the geographic seat of his government (Rev. 13:2). Isaiah prophesied that deep darkness would cover the earth (Isa. 60:2). This darkness will have a supernatural demonic element to it. The ninth plague of Egypt caused darkness for three days (Ex. 10:21-23).
- ¹ *Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the LORD is risen upon you (remnant of Israel). 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:1-2)*
- G. The Antichrist's worshipers will blaspheme God (v. 9, 11) showing their deep hatred of God. As God's judgments increase, their hatred and blasphemy increase and come out fully into the open.
- V. **SIXTH BOWL (GLOBAL GUILT): DEMONS LURE THE NATIONS TO ARMAGEDDON**
- A. Sixth Bowl (Global Guilt): Demons lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus (Rev. 16:12-16)

- ¹² *The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the East might be prepared. 13 I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the beast (Antichrist), and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the Battle of that great day of God Almighty...16 They gathered them together to...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)*
- B. The nations come to fight Jesus as He is marching toward Jerusalem. They are not gathering from around the world to fight Israel's small and poorly armed army.
- ¹⁴ *These (the 10 kings) will make war with the Lamb...for He is...King of kings (Rev. 17:14)*
- ¹⁹ *I saw the Beast (Antichrist), the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. (Rev. 19:19-21)*
- C. This is global blasphemy against the Spirit as the nations receive "The Lie" (2 Thes. 2:11).
- ⁹ *The coming of the lawless one (Antichrist)...with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception...because they did not receive the love of the truth...11 For this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the Lie... (2 Thes. 2:9-11)*
- D. The kings of the nations have urgency to gather because of Jesus' sign in sky. Jesus' sign in the sky will be understood as an open challenge to the Antichrist and his armies to war.
- ³⁰ *The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven...all the tribes of the earth will mourn... they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds...with power and great glory. (Mt. 24:30)*
- E. The kings of the East will resist the Antichrist throughout the entire Great Tribulation period. The Antichrist receives troubling news from the Asian kings of the East. In other words, they resist his financial seductions, refuse his miracles and stand against his threats (Dan. 11:44).
- F. However, in the Antichrist's final 30 days, he uses his greatest miracles to win them and other kings who had been resisting him. Why would the Antichrist prioritize mobilizing the nations to come to Israel for military reasons? Why would the kings of the nations deploy hundreds of thousands of soldiers at billions of dollars to fight a weak Israeli army?
- G. The answer is that the armies of the nations under the Antichrist's influence come to Israel to fight Jesus, not the Israeli army. They will see Jesus as a Jewish king with demonic powers who can be defeated. Thus, they will view Jesus as we view the Antichrist, as having supernatural power but as one that will surely be defeated. They understand that Jesus has great power but the Antichrist will convince them that Jesus is a demonic counterfeit or angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).
- ¹⁴ *For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:14)*
- H. The Antichrist convinces them with miracles that defeating Jesus is necessary and doable. The kings will see the supernatural sign of the Son of Man in the sky (Mt. 24:30), but wrongly interpret it as a demonic sign of a false messiah coming to disrupt the kingdoms of the earth.

- I. In essence the nations will attribute Jesus' power in coming in the sky etc. to the power of Satan.
- J. The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing miracles by Satan's power (Mt. 12:24). Jesus taught them that to attribute the power of the Holy Spirit to being demonic was to blaspheme against the Spirit. This is only done by those who are hardened to such a degree that they will not repent.
³¹ Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him... (Mt. 12:31-32)
- K. Blasphemy against the Spirit is a full and final rejection of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Those who do this are reprobate or have a heart that is permanently hardened without any inclination to repent. The greatest height of evil is for men to blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Mt. 12:31-32).
- L. Those who take the mark of the Beast have already blasphemed the Spirit. However, the Antichrist wants all the nations brought into this. Many unsaved resisters will yield to this and many will refuse it. At the end-of-the-age, untold millions will be swept away into the LIE (2 Thes. 2:10) that acknowledges Jesus' power as being supernatural, yet demonic.

VI. SEVENTH BOWL (ANNIHILATION): EARTHQUAKES AND HAIL STONES

- A. Seventh Bowl (Annihilation): Shaking by earthquakes and 100 lbs. hail stones (Rev. 16:17-21)
¹⁷ Poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice... from the Throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸...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 (Jerusalem) 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 (100 pounds). Men blasphemed God... (Rev. 16:17-21)
- B. This bowl poured out into the air is probably the cause of the plague Zechariah prophesied that will cause the flesh, eyes and tongues of people and livestock to dissolve (Zech. 14:12, 15).
- C. This bowl releases the worst earthquake in history that shakes the cities of the nations. In Rev. 16:20, the last earthquake causes islands to flee (sink in the ocean) and the mountains to fall. The earthquake will impact every city on earth as great sky-scrappers collapse causing fires. The earthquake sequence in Revelation (Rev. 6:14; 8:5; 11:13; 16:18-20) ends with it largest one (Isa. 2:10, 19, 21; 13:13; 29:6; Ezek. 38:19; Hag. 2:6, 21; Zech. 14:4-5; Heb. 12:26-27).
- D. Hailstones weighing 100 pounds (a talent) fall on the people seeking safety from earthquakes. Hail was released in the first trumpet (Rev. 8:7) and the seventh plague with Moses (Ex. 9:23-24). God uses hail in His judgments (Josh. 10:11; Isa. 28:17; Ezek. 38:22-23).
²² I will bring him (Antichrist) to judgment...I will rain down on...his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (Ezek. 38:22)

- E. Moses' Law required the stoning to death of idol worshippers (Deut. 17:2-5; Lev. 24:16). Since the Antichrist's worship movement is idolatry, thus, Jesus will stone them to death from heaven
- ⁶ If your brother...secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods"...¹⁰ You shall stone him with stones until he dies, because he sought to entice you away from the Lord ...¹¹ So all Israel shall hear and fear, and not again do such wickedness...(Deut. 13:6-11)*
- F. The next event following the 7 bowls is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21).
- ¹¹ Behold, a white horse. He (Jesus) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war....¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁴ The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...¹⁹ I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword... (Rev. 19:11-21)*