

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

2 And the first angel went and poured out his bowl into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

3 And 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.

4 And the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous art Thou, who art and who wast, O Holy One, because Thou didst judge these things; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it." 7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments."

8 And the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun; and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 And 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.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his bowl upon the throne of the beast; and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

12 And the sixth angel poured out his bowl upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east.

13 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; 14 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. 15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his garments, lest he walk about naked and men see his shame.") 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in

17 And the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." 18 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. 19 And the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

Hope everyone had a grand turkey day. We all have much to be thankful for!

2 weeks ago we made it to vs. 9 in Ch. 16. The 4th bowl.

So, by way of review and reminder, to bring us back up to speed, I want to take a quick look backwards at not only the Bowls of Wrath, but also to compare them to their earlier counterparts, the 7 trumpets.

There is much that is similar. So much so that you wonder if these bowls are like a 3X magnification in intensity of the similar, earlier trumpets.

Trumpet 1: Hail, fire, and blood thrown to the earth. 1/3rd of the earth burned up. 1/3 of the trees, and all of the green grass, burned up.

Bowl 1: Malignant sores on those who worship the beast.

Not so much of a connection on that one, but the others are notable.

Trumpet 2: Great mountain that is burning is thrown into the sea. 1/3 of the sea is turned into blood. 1/3 of the living things in the sea die. 1/3 of the ships, gone.

Bowl 2: All of the sea is now blood. All living things in the sea dead. Perhaps we can assume ALL of the ships now gone? Not sure, it doesn't say it that way, so we'll stop short.

Notice how Bowl of Wrath #2 is like a continuation of the Trumpet associated with it. There are more similarities. Almost like the trumpet is the plague, but at partial wrath, and then the bowl of wrath increases it exponentially.

Trumpet 3: Great star that was burning fell and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the rivers and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the springs are turned to Wormwood. Many men die from this plague of bitter water.

Bowl 3: ALL of the fresh water is turned into blood.

Trumpet 4: $\frac{1}{3}$ of sun and $\frac{1}{3}$ of moon and $\frac{1}{3}$ of stars are darkened. So that 8 of 24 hours each cycle is thick darkness.

Bowl 4: Sun scorches men with great heat so that they blaspheme.

Trumpet 5: Pit opens and demons, so many that the sun is darkened with the smoke of them, come and they torment men for 5 months. They sting like scorpions.

The 5 months interests me. I'm curious if these trumpets are somewhere near the 6 month mark out from the end?

Bowl 5: Thick darkness. Pain. Blasphemy.

Trumpet 6: 4 angels bound at the Euphrates are loosed - $\frac{1}{3}$ of mankind is killed by their horsemen. Fire brimstone, and vapor of smoke does it. The armies of the horsemen are 200,000,000.

Bowl 6: Again, the Euphrates. It is dried up. Frog demons that we will see in our passage tonight, cause all of mankind to gather at Armageddon for the great day of God's wrath

Trumpet 7: seven peals of thunder that are so terrifying, John is told not to write it down. Concurrent with 7 bowls. All of this is right at the return of

Jesus now.

Matthew 24:22 Jesus says; *"Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."*

Bowl 7: It is finished. Lightnings flashes, thunders, earthquakes like not seen since creation.

The authority to reign of God replaces the authority to reign of Satan, on this earth, with great noise. Mountains melt like wax. Islands dis-appear into the sea.

So let's look at these verses beginning in Ch. 16 and verse 10.

10Then 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, 11and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

Interesting to me that the 5th trumpet, the demons that sting and torment men, are whole earth wide. But when the final wrath comes in the bowl judgements, it is very focused. *10Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened*

God's wrath takes direct aim at the Beast and his throne. The center of the false worship of the beast, and the false prophet, and the image, cast into utter darkness, and the pain of torment is such that gnawing your tongue is somehow a momentary relief? Unimagineable.

We've seen references to this thick darkness before. In Isaiah 60 God tells Zion, His people this about their redemption on this day;

*I "Arise, shine; for your light has come,
And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

*2“For behold, darkness will cover the earth
And deep darkness the peoples;
But the LORD will rise upon you
And His glory will appear upon you.*

Joel 2 is nearly identical;

*1Blow a trumpet in Zion,
And sound an alarm on My holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
For the day of the LORD is coming;
Surely it is near,*

*2A day of darkness and gloom,
A day of clouds and thick darkness.
As the dawn is spread over the mountains,
So there is a great and mighty people;
There has never been anything like it,
Nor will there be again after it
To the years of many generations.*

Darkness is a judgement on the spiritual darkness just preceeding the return of Jesus, messiah. Thick darkness and pain is poured out on the throne of Satan.

John 3:19 says; *"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*

It's like God finally says, you love darkness? Here, have some physical darkness to magnify your spiritual darkness.

The contrast of darkness and light. Evil and good. The world is cast into thick darkness and unimagineable agony of pain and distress, then Jesus comes with light radiating. Radiant light! When Jesus comes His Glory is on full display! Physically and spiritually. Darkness, thick darkness, then the Dawn of the Glory of God.

Jesus talks about this moment on the mount of Olives, the night before His death.

Mark 13:24 *“But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, 25AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. 26“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. 27“And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.*

VS. 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.

This is in preparation for another element in this drama of the Great Day of God's wrath when King Jesus returns and saves His elect, Israel. This final battle! Armagedon!

The language in the 6th trumpet, fire, brimstone, vapor of smoke, is exactly what a first century prophet would have to work with if you showed him a column of smoke from a thermonuclear bomb.

I'll take some credit here. I'm working hard to certify that these weapons are ready and able. I always get amused when someone thinks the work I do is immoral. Hah! It may be in the plan of God to use those weapons just before He arrives!

So how does God, in His plan for the end, get the nations to gather together in the land of Israel surrounding Jerusalem?

13And 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; 14for 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.

Does God even use demons, to perform His sovereign plan? Oh yeah. The demons here are no doubt bringing the nations of the world to armagedon to fight **against** God, but it's all part of His sovereign plan.

Demons, like frogs. Where do they come from. Mouth's. The mouth of Satan, the dragon. The mouth of the Beast. The mouth of the false prophet.

This demonic influence works to gather the nations to Israel. The 200,000,000 million from the east. Everywhere. The nations are going to gather at Isreal and fight against God, the Almighty.

I think it's noteworthy that demonic influence comes out of mouth's.

Information. Speech. Intelligence. God is the God who speaks. And thus, to counter revelation, Satan also speaks. Evil happens by words. The opposite of truth is lies. Speech.

James 3:6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

*Matt. 12:34a Jesus says to the pharisee's For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. 35“The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. 36“But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. 37“For by **your words** you will be justified, and by **your words** you will be condemned.”*

So it's no surprise that we see the demons behind the beast and false prophet and even the dragon himself, coming out of the mouths, where speech comes from, and the demons are sent to gather the nations to make war with Creator God.

Talk about a fools errand!

And then there's this little encouragement for the elect right in the middle of all this; 15(*"Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame."*)

What elect? Israel's still waiting. A little group of God's elect people, waiting for deliverance.

How many times do we read that the deceiving influence of the Dragon and the Beast and the False Prophet is going to be such that 'even the elect would have been deceived - if it were possible' Mt. 24:24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

This is of course talking about spiritual clothing. This warning works equally well for us who await our Savior's appearing in the sky at the rapture. Remember the parable of the master who goes on a journey and puts his slaves in charge of his wealth. Then he comes home unannounced and the slaves that were being abusive are punished.

Keep your spiritual clothes on! This is for us, and also for these tribulation saints and jews that are waiting at Jerusalem as the armies surround them.

The pressure on the jews, individually and nationally is going to be tremendous. The miracles, signs, wonders. It all adds up to pressure to capitulate. Go over to the dark side.

Jesus takes a moment right here in the middle of the 6th bowl and 6th trumpet to tell them, hang in there. Don't cave now!

The image is an old one. Remember the wedding feast in Matt. 22? 11"*But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who*

was not dressed in wedding clothes, 12and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?' And the man was speechless. 13"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'...

Similarly the parable of the virgins, some with oil in their lamps, some with none. Same idea exactly.

The garment is righteousness. Not our own, but the righteousness of Jesus, given to us.

In verse 15, Jesus says, Hang on! I'm comin'!

Vs.16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

Turn with me to Joel 3:

9Proclaim this among the nations:

Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men!

Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!

10Beat your plowshares into swords

And your pruning hooks into spears;

Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man."

11Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations,

And gather yourselves there.

Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones.

12Let the nations be aroused

And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat,

For there I will sit to judge

All the surrounding nations.

*13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, tread, for the wine press is full;
The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.*

*14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

*15 The sun and moon grow dark
And the stars lose their brightness.*

*16 The LORD roars from Zion
And utters His voice from Jerusalem,
And the heavens and the earth tremble.
But the LORD is a refuge for His people
And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.*

*17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God,
Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain.
So Jerusalem will be holy,
And strangers will pass through it no more.*

God brings the nations, all the nations that have abused His people Israel, to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Why? Do you ever ask yourselves *that* question?

This is a **LOT** of fuss? Why?

*Our God is in the heavens;
He does all that He pleases. Ps. 115:3*

God is sovereign over all things. Why does He bring the whole world to this place and this time for this judgement?

The answer is that He is glorifying Himself in all of this.

Somewhere in eternity past, Satan said; *I will be like the Most High!*

It pleased God to answer that challenge by ALL that He has done since the creation of the world until this final great battle, and everything in-between.

*Our God is in the heavens;
He does all that He pleases.*

God, the Almighty, not only wins every battle, it pleases Him to bring many sons unto Glory with Him while He accomplishes it.

We can't get our minds around all of it, (Deut. 29:29 "*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*") but the whole book from Genesis 1:1 is the Almighty sovereignly allowing Satan to, for lack of a better term, play out his hand.

I will be like the Most High! Oh really? Let's take about 6,000 years and see how that works out for you Satan.

And God gave him a giant handicap. Revelation. God reveals everything He's going to do. And even with the handicap, the Sovereignty of God works every evil deed Satan does to the Glory and advantage of God.

The whole story is one of Glory to our God, in every chapter and every verse.

So here we are in the 6th Bowl of God's final wrath being poured out . . . to the Glory of God. Armageddon! All of God's enemies brought together in one place, firing atomic bombs at Him, perhaps, under the circumstances, trying to "win" by a fiery ultimate destruction of His creation!

I can't be dogmatic, but it almost sounds as if the whole world has decided to 'take on God' by destroying His creation, with His people in it. The Nuclear Option??

Sort of like Saddam's scorched earth policy/? We can't win, but let's go out

with a gigantic bang and take Israel and God's people with us.

Armageddon isn't a war with Israel, it is a war where Satan and his armies take on God, the Almighty. Revelation 19:19 *Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.*

Vs.17 *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."*

He pours out his bowl, where? upon the air. That's weird, right? And the word means the air we breathe. The atmosphere.

And verses 18-21 give us just a limited view of what the effects of this bowl are. They're probably beyond description and even understanding. This is the full glory of God on display for us at a level we can barely comprehend. This is something closer to the cataclysm of creation than any human has ever seen.

But first; this. *and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."*

What is done? "It is done"

What are the first 3 words in the Bible? "In the beginning" I think these 3 words from the temple in heaven have to do with those.

Think about the grand pageant that has been played out on the stage of this earth. Satan said, I will be like the most high. God has allowed him to play out that hand on this earth since the fall.

We're at the other end of that epoch. Satan's playing all of his cards at Armageddon. His final display. Going to thwart all of God's promises to His people Israel by destroying the world that God spoke into existence in Genesis 1:1.

And God ends it the same way He started it. 3 words! It is finished. Satan's hand is up. He's played all of his cards. It's over. At that moment when those 3 words proceed from heaven, it's all over. Game up, Satan!

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done! On earth! **It is finished.**

We're not done with Revelation, but chronologically, we are done with Satan. Chapters 17 - 19 are telescope views into different aspects of these things. But these 3 words are where the book has been going since Genesis 1:1.

Now Satan will be imprisoned for a 1000 years while Christ reigns on this earth. I'm trying to give you some clarity on what I think is "done" when those 3 words come thundering out of heaven.

We're going to see that Satan is loosed again for a 'little while' after the 1,000 years, and causes trouble again, but I think, and I hope I'm not misleading you, the sense that 'it is done' applies to the reign of Satan on this earth. He messed it up for 6,000 years.

The Bible isn't clear about the trouble after the 1,000 year reign, but I don't think it is the equivalent to the 6,000 year reign of terror after the fall.

How long does the throne of David last? Forever. So "it is finished" in this verse at the final bowl of God's wrath is talking about Satan's reign on earth. He will never reign as god of this world again. The throne of David begins here, and goes on in one way or another, for eternity. Heaven and earth may pass away, but Jesus will reign forever.

Let's look at some of the final things as Jesus enters the stage and puts a stop to the destruction of the earth. It makes perfect sense that it begins in the atmosphere. The air.

18 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.

There have been many earth quakes during the chronology of this book, but this one is different. This is the one where the islands vanish away and the mountains melt like wax. No man has ever seen anything like this.

The Psalms, Nahum, Micah, Amos, to name a few, all see this event. We could spend a great deal of time finding all the references to this. This IS the day of the Lord. But you can look from now until Tuesday to find some commentator or scholar who thinks this isn't hyperbole. Spiritualize it away. Why?

This is going to be a day like no other day! Jer. 30:...*6Ask now, and see If a male can give birth. Why do I see every man With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale? 7'Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.*

Vs.19 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. This is a name for Jerusalem. It was used that way when Revelation speaks about the 2 witnesses. And Zechariah 14 pictures this event. Jesus will stand on the Mount of Olives and it is split into 2 parts with a valley in between.

Babylon the Great is not quite as easy. You can find people all over the map on this one. Not less than John MacArthur has had 2 opposing views on this one in my life time. So I'll take a very conservative approach.

I think this is probably a reference to false religion, false worship, that began 3 generations after Noah on the plain of Shinar at the tower of Babel.

There's a strange reference to something similar in Zechariah Ch. 5. A woman in a basket who gets taken to a temple that is built for her in the land of

Shinar. And the angel says about the woman in the vision . . . this is wickedness.

We'll see in the next 2 chapters that wickedness...which is idolatry... is not just religion, it is also commerce. False religion and a world system of commerce are both equally idolatrous.

There are some interesting studies that can trace mysterious mother and child religions throughout the whole world, and they originate at Babylon.

Perhaps the Anti-Christ will have a seat, a throne, somewhere in the vicinity of ancient Babylon. Sadam started rebuilding the old city of Babylon. We will have to wait and see. But cautiously, I think it's safe to say Babylon the great is a worldwide system of both commerce and false worship.

Whatever the specific's are, God gives her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. Ferocious wrath!

This Satan spawned system of idolatry and wickedness that has held the world captive for all of these centuries, **fierce wrath**. Frightening to even think about.

20And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe

God lays this world waste. Mountains and islands; gone. Cities in rubble.

Satan's armies throw their thermonuclear holocaust at the God of creation. He pours out His final bowl of wrath on the air and gives men 100 pound hailstones in return.

Do they repent, finally? No, they blaspheme God.

We've looked at the fierce wrath of God in these final bowls that are hurled onto the earth. We sit here in our comfortable room, confident, unmoved. But we need to not forget that when Jesus died on the cross to purchase us out of this world, this is the level of wrath that God heaped on Him. This is what we deserved.