

The Book of Revelation
Revelation 16 (NIV)
“The Boils, Blood, Burning, Blindness, Bullfrogs, and Boulders of Hail”

The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath

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

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly, festering sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead person, and every living thing in the sea died.

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say:

“You are just in these judgments, O Holy One, you who are and who were: for they have shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.”

And I heard the altar respond:

“Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”

The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

“Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.”

Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, fell on people. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

Revelation 16

Introduction

The seventh angel poured out his bowl in the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" **Revelation 16:17**

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, he cried out in a loud voice saying, "It is finished." (**John 19:30**). The Greek word used in this verse means "paid in full" or completed. Jesus death paid in full, the debt of sin owed by the world. Those who accept Him as Lord will never be asked to pay for their sin. The account has been settled. Paid in full. However, those who reject Him still owe God a debt for their wicked ways. **John 3:36** says,

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

Just think about that for a moment. Imagine what a horrible fate awaits those who have the wrath of God upon them. In the rapid-fire bowl judgments that will come at the end of the tribulation, God will "pour out" that wrath on the guilty. Just as Jesus paid the debt in full for believers, non-believers will be required to pay the debt as well. Either way, the debt must be satisfied. It will either be finished ***for*** you at the cross or finished ***upon*** you on the day of God's wrath. Let us look at the final bowl judgments in **Revelation 16** as the Boils, Blood, Burning, Blindness, Bullfrogs, and Boulders of Hail complete the wrath of God upon a sinful world. The final judgment upon fallen mankind will begin with a command from God Himself from within His holy temple (**vs.1**) ordering the angels to pour out the bowls of wrath. And the devastation will end with a declaration from God that His wrath is completed (**vs.16**). For it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of The Living God (**Hebrews 10:31**).

Boils (1st bowl)

The first angel went and poured our his bowl and ugly, painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image."

Revelation 16:2

The plagues in the seven bowl judgments are reminiscent of the plagues upon Egypt during the Exodus. Boils were the sixth plague on the Egyptians. I find it fascinating that people who have three sixes tattooed to their forehead find themselves in a "revised" version of the sixth Egyptian plague. No doubt the zealots will look to their "Pharaoh", the Beast, to offer a solution. Surely, they believe, that his great power can rescue them? But The Center for Disease Control, nor The World Health Organization will have no answers to this devastating plague. The anti-Christ will have no solutions to offer his delusional worshippers. The masses have chanted his praises saying, "Who is like the beast?!" (**Revelation 13:4**) But they will be quickly disillusioned to find out that he is powerless to help them, but do they repent? No. They curse God instead. (**vs. 11**) They will go from blessing the anti-Christ to cursing the risen Christ. As the old saying goes, "Some fools never learn".

Blood (2nd and 3rd bowls)

With the second and third bowl judgments all the waters of earth are turned to blood. First the oceans and then the rivers. We must remember that these judgments will happen quickly, one right after the other in a devastating rapid-fire sequence. So immediately following the first bowl of wrath, when people are covered in malignant sores, the next two judgments will completely destroy the earth's water supply (**vs. 2-3**). The end is near now, because without water, the people of earth cannot not last very long.

We must remember, that there will still be people living on earth at this time who have refused to take the mark of the beast. They will be protected by God in order to survive this horrible time and enter the millennial kingdom (**Isaiah 65:20-23**). This is why these judgments must happen very quickly, and be

over, or no one could last without water. Jesus said of these days in **Matthew 24:22**, "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened."

Once the waters of the planet are destroyed completely, it will not be long until the end will come. Three bowls have been poured out. Another four remain as the angel cries out;

You are just in these judgments, You who are, and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have shed the blood of Your saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink as they deserve. Revelation 16:5-6

To all those who quietly stood by or even participated as The LORD'S faithful martyrs were persecuted and killed, the tables will now have turned. God will give a world, bloodthirsty for the blood of His people, rivers of blood to drink as a just punishment!

Burning (4th bowl)

As the wicked people of earth are writhing in intense pain from horrific sores and no clean water to even wash them with, the fourth angel pours out his bowl and the sun begins to scorch the earth. Imagine being covered from head to toe in painful sores, as Job was, with no water, followed with intense blistering heat. The suffering will be inconceivable and once again, the anti-Christ will have no remedy. He will be screaming in agony along with the rest of his kingdom. The Day of the Lord has come.

At his point, there will be no doubt that the Sovereign Lord is in control. The Bible has repeatedly warned of this day:

"Why do the nations conspire, and the people plot in vain?" The Kings of Earth take their stand, and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The one enthroned in heaven laughs, the Lord scoffs at them." Psalm 2:1-4

The reality is simple. There was never any doubt. Everything that God has said will happen, will happen. And yet even when it does in fact happen, rather than repent of their sins, the wicked of this world will curse God in defiance (vs. 9). But in the end they will know that Almighty God is not One to be mocked. **Psalm 33:8** says, "**Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere Him.**" Make no mistake, one way or another, this verse will be fulfilled. Some will willingly bow before Him, while others will inevitably be forced to do so. Either way, "**Every knee shall bow...**" (**Philippians 2:10**).

Blindness (5th bowl)

"The fifth angel poured out his bowls on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness." (Revelation 16:10)

Many Bible teachers believe that the world will be darkened just as Egypt was darkened in the eighth plague in **Exodus 10:21**. While this may be true, I tend to believe that the anti-Christ and his ruling council will all be struck blind causing him to call the kings from the East for aid (**vs. 12-14**). I believe this to be the case because the bowl was poured on the "throne" of the beast which leads me to think the darkness affects his ability to rule. I believe that this is no mere darkening upon earth, but rather the entire government of the anti-Christ will be struck with blindness. Listen to the words of Zechariah the prophet:

This is the plague with which the Lord will strike all nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are standing on their feet (boils), and their eyes will rot in their sockets (blindness), and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day, men will be stricken by the Lord with great panic. Zechariah 14:12-13

Now I am only speculating here, but it is because of this prophecy that I believe blindness will befall the anti-Christ and all who reign with him, causing him to panic and cry out for help. But his desperate pleas will only lure the armies of earth to their destruction at the battle of Armageddon.

Bullfrogs (6th bowl)

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the Kings from the East. (vs. 12)

The Euphrates river is a massive tributary that runs through the heart of Iraq and supplies water all throughout what is known as the “fertile crescent”, before emptying into the Persian gulf. The source of its water is from the snow caps located on Mount Ararat in modern day Turkey. These snow caps have undoubtedly been decimated due to the blistering heat from the fourth bowl judgment, and now the river is completely dried up as God engages His battle strategy against the world's military might. Armies from places like Iran, for example, have no impediment to hinder them from marching westward toward Jerusalem. Fueled by centuries of demonic hatred for the nation of Israel, they are primed and ready to answer a final call to arms that will come from the now blinded and desperate anti-Christ.

Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are the spirits of demons, performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (vs. 13-14)

Frogs are depicted as “unclean” animals in scripture (**Leviticus 11:10**). Egypt was overrun with frogs in the second plague during the Exodus. Here we see demons sent from the trinity of evil described as frogs being sent forth to entice all the armies of earth to come to the aid of the anti-Christ in his fight against God. Little do they realize that they are being lured to their destruction as God has dried up the Euphrates river to make the march to their doom easier. The place of their destruction is Armageddon (*Har-meggedon* in Hebrew). The name means “hill country of Meggido”. The plain of Meggido is roughly sixty miles north of Jerusalem, and the Lord has designated it to be the final hammer stroke against a centuries old rebellion. The end will be swift and final. The armies of men will desire a war, but they will find a slaughter instead. Just before the seventh and final bowl is poured out, we are reminded of the warning of Jesus that has gone unheeded by so many for so long. **“Behold, I come like a thief!...” (vs.15).**

Boulders of Hail (7th bowl)

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne saying, “It is done!” Revelation 16:17

When the seventh bowl is emptied, the final judgment upon the earth has been issued from the throne of God. The end has come. A horrible storm arises simultaneously with the greatest earthquake in the history of mankind. Boulders of hail, weighing 100 pounds apiece, crash to the earth destroying rebellious humanity for all time. The armies who have gathered for a war are quickly defeated as the horrific earthquake, in conjunction with massive hail stones, literally pound troops, tanks, and all other military hardware into a bloody pulp of destruction. The final stroke of judgement falls as The LORD Himself cries out, **“It is Finished!” (vs. 17).**

The overripe grapes described in **Chapter 14** are crushed in God's wine press, called Armageddon. The earthquake not only destroys humanity, but flattens the earth as well. Every mountain is leveled. The city of Jerusalem (*“the great city”*) is divided into three parts by a massive earthquake. While Babylon (the kingdom of the beast) as well as all the other major cities of the earth are completely

destroyed. Jerusalem will become the epicenter of the entire world. The prophet Zechariah also gives us insight into what the earthquake will do to the city of Jerusalem.

The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin gate to the site of the first gate, to the Corner gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal wine press. It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. Jerusalem will be secure. (Zechariah 14:10-11).

As God sends an earthquake that flattens all the earth, Jerusalem will actually be raised up in elevation. It will be preserved for Christ to make it the center of His reign during the millennial kingdom. The great city of David will be the highest elevation on planet earth when the Lord Jesus returns to stand on the Mount of Olives (**Zechariah 14:4**). No longer will there be inaccessible mountains upon the earth, the earth itself will once more have the gently rolling topography it had before the great flood. The judgments have ended. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess, "Jesus is Lord!" Babylon is fallen. The city of the anti-christ is flattened as the city of Christ is remade to make ready for the millennial reign of its Messiah-King. The Kingdom of Heaven is come. Let it be. Even so, come LORD Jesus.

TRUTH!