



## A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 71: The Bowl Judgements, Part 1

December 3, 2023

Instructor: Steve Schmutzer

### Review:

- A. Last week, we focused on the issue I called “The Patient Endurance of the Saints.”
- B. Our text was **Revelation 14:12-13**, and we looked at some sobering truths concerning the fate of saints who make it this far into the Tribulation. We learned:
  - 1. The odds are overwhelmingly against them for surviving the last half of the Tribulation.
  - 2. Be that so, they will remain steadfast in obeying God’s commandments and in remaining faithful to Jesus Christ.
  - 3. They will be considered “blessed” for dying from this point forward, for they will finally gain rest from their struggles and trials.
  - 4. And lastly, “*their deeds will follow them.*” This means they will be rewarded for their endurance and faithfulness under extreme trials.
- C. We made a few key applications for you and I for the times we live in, and we examined what Scripture repeats about a REAL faith being one that “shows up” under trial.
- D. The last thing we looked at last week was a Biblical overview of death from the standpoint of being a believer.
- E. We learned the Bible teaches that death is an “enemy,” but it is also a gateway to a better place and to eternal glory.
- F. We cannot measure or even imagine the joy and rewards that await us, IF we truly live “*faithful to Jesus*” in the here and now.
  
- I. This week, I’m beginning a couple of lessons on the Bowl Judgements. You can turn to **Revelation Ch. 16** to follow along. I want to make a few important comments to set the proper tone for the lesson:
  - A. **Revelation Chapters 11-15** have laid out information that is essentially an interruption in the narrative of the Tribulation judgements.
    - 1. **Revelation Ch. 11** gave us information about The Two Witnesses which have their ministry in the first 3 ½ years of The Tribulation. We saw their ministry ends at the midpoint.
    - 2. **Revelation Ch. 12** was a prophetic overview of the history of Israel past, present, and future. John saw wondrous signs in heaven, and he lays out the main points of a prophecy that even looks at how a righteous remnant of Israel will be taken care of for the last half of The Tribulation.
    - 3. **Revelation Ch. 12** also describes Satan’s expulsion from heaven and his confinement to earth. We studied how this takes place at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

4. We gave some attention to the fact that it is at this juncture, the midpoint of The Tribulation, that the seven Trumpet Judgements have all taken place. The Bible makes a strong case that the last 3 ½ years of The Tribulation are dedicated to the seven Bowl Judgments.
  5. **Revelation Ch. 13** describes in great detail the rise of the antichrist and of the false prophet. It is not that the antichrist has not been on the scene before this point, but the timing of **Revelation Ch. 13** is significant.
  6. This chapter focuses on what will be the role of the antichrist and the false prophet, their impact, and their agenda for the last 3 ½ years of The Tribulation.
  7. In **Revelation Ch. 14**, we see the three angels and their various proclamations. It is evident once again from the things they say that from this point, we are anticipating the last half of The Tribulation which is yet to come.
  8. With that said, we've been studying various details of this interlude. We've examined the Biblical narrative which interrupts God's judgments to illustrate other important events also associated with The Tribulation.
  9. Today, we are essentially leapfrogging **Revelation Chapter 15**. In **Revelation Chapter 15** the scene shifts back to heaven in anticipation of the final set of judgments.
  10. Specifically, the scene in heaven concerns the preparations for the concluding Bowl Judgments which will be poured out upon the earth dwellers and the kingdom of the antichrist.
  11. The language used in **Chapter 15** and within the lyrics of the Song of Moses and the song of the Lamb to point to the inevitable conclusion: that the Lord is "*King of the ages,*" and "*all nations will come and worship before you.*"
  12. This is not the dynamic on earth at that present moment, but it is language to describe a foregone conclusion. As events prepare to enter and proceed through the last 3 ½ years of The Tribulation, God is recognized and praised in heaven as already being victorious.
  13. The earth dwellers, those who have rejected Jesus Christ - still have 42 months of the fiercest judgements to endure, and also the results of everything God is sovereignly executing are already known and confirmed in heaven.
- II. Now, with all that said, let's dive into **Revelation Ch. 16** and begin examining these seven Bowl Judgments.
- A. We are going to see as each bowl (some translations say "vial") is poured out "*on the earth*" (**Cf. Revelation 16:1b**), those unrepentant earth-dwellers receive a plague of sorts. They are the target of God's fierce anger. "*Behold, the day of the Lord comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it*" (**Cf. Isaiah 13:9**).

IMPORTANT: These are literal judgments. We are not supposed to interpret these judgments symbolically. Very few of these earth-dwellers will be alive at the very end of the 3 ½ years - - - even fewer saints!

NOTE: Within **Revelation 17, 18, and 19**, John is shown additional details surrounding the judgments that are associated with these bowls, culminating in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the binding of Satan prior to the Millennial Kingdom.

### **B. The First Bowl Judgement.**

NOTE: Since this is the first of the seven Bowl Judgments, it is likely to take place just after the first 3 ½ years of The Tribulation have passed, just after the globalist agenda of the MOB has been implemented.

1. This Bowl Judgment is specific in its target.
  - a. It does not impact those who have refused the Mark of the Beast.
  - b. It impacts those who have TAKEN the Mark of the Beast and who worship the image of the antichrist.
  - c. This does imply two categories of people, but one. Remember, one cannot do one without doing the other.
2. The nature of the sores that break out:
  - a. The Greek word is used to describe “loathsome, foul, ulcerated, of an abscess-like nature, painful, etc.” (These people are going to be completely disfigured and unsanitary).
  - b. Here, the antichrist’s worshipers experience a similar condition to that of Job when he was struck with boils by Satan (**Cf. Job 2:7**).
  - c. This plague is also like that which Aaron and Moses caused upon the people and beasts of Egypt. (**Cf. Exodus 9:8-11**).
  - d. There is no indication in the text here, or anywhere else, that these sores go away. The suggestion is once one receives the Mark of the Beast, they have to live with this resulting physical condition.
3. A couple of side comments about this particular Bowl Judgement:
  - a. This plague gives us a clue that the Mark of the Beast is a process where one takes INTO their body some sort of foreign agent. The recipients’ bodies are physiologically reacting to this.
  - b. This judgment could be a strictly supernatural prejudice against antichrist worshippers but given the third angel’s message of warning in **Revelation 14**, there is instead every evidence given to us that those who take the Mark of the Beast become unredeemable.
  - c. We already studied this, and so I won’t delve too deeply into those details again. (Prior lessons available on line) I believe those who take the Mark of the Beast become genetically modified to a degree that they are no longer 100% in the image of God.
  - d. That is why they are “unredeemable.” They have voluntarily participated in a process which continues that age-old battle of the seeds that was first

prophesied by God in **Genesis 3:15**. That prophecy set the tone for the introduction of the Nephilim, and all its variations, into human history.

- e. It's interesting to note the specific observation mentioned in **Daniel 2:43** which may have something to do with this first Bowl Judgment: *"And whereas thou saw iron mixed with clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."*
  - f. This is a prophesy given to Daniel concerning the very end of the age. This is the timeframe we are studying now with the last 3 ½ years of The Tribulation.
  - g. I think the antichrist worshippers take INTO their bodies some element of the antichrist himself when they take the Mark of the Beast. That is why they are bonded to him by worship and it is why they are now unredeemable. They have, in effect, become Nephilim, and it is why their bodies react by producing these loathsome sores.
4. That brings me to my second side comment, and it is about the world's current fascination with a "zombie apocalypse" (NOTE: This is a big deal with TV series like 'The Hunger Games' and with various movies, video games, and so on...).
- a. For years now, and growing steadily in fascination and cult-like intrigue, millions of people have become enamored with this idea that there is coming a global 'zombie apocalypse.'
  - b. This is a situation where masses of half dead people are covered with diseases and loathsome sores. They are totally crazed, intent on ending others' lives. They wander around and threaten civilization.
  - c. There is no shortage of rednecks and tree-huggers alike these days that fantasize about holing up someplace and blasting away at these masses of zombies with their 12-gauge shotguns.
  - d. Part of me wonders if this bizarre zombie fascination in our culture and in movies, has something to do with Satan conditioning people for what the Bible declares is coming. In the same way Satan is conditioning people for the return of fallen angels / superheroes / 'supernatural beings from other planetary systems.'
  - e. I think we need to soberly understand the implications of this first Bowl Judgement. These ugly sores will brand a massive portion of the population of the earth from the halfway point of the Tribulation and onwards.
  - f. I know what some of you are already thinking: extreme liberalism destroys and disfigures its followers. We see that already in our present time. This future event will become the ultimate expression of their consecutive choices.
  - g. The antichrist's followers will become clear. It will be self-evident who the globalists are: they will be a diseased, ugly, loathsome, restless, irrational, resentful, lawless, and painful bunch.

### C. The Second Bowl Judgment.

NOTE: We don't know how far apart these judgements are separated. However, I want you to pick up on the dramatic descriptions here:

1. First, the sea (all of it) becomes like coagulated blood, which is the nature of *"the blood of a dead man."*
  - a. Judgements upon the seas before this point (**Cf. Revelation 8:8-9**) were partial.
  - b. Judgements upon fresh water sources before this point were also partial (**Cf. Revelation 8:10-11**). In both prior cases, a third of these water sources were affected.
  - c. But here, the seas and ALL of their contents become coagulated blood. I believe this is a literal judgement. There is nothing to suggest allegory here.
  - d. We depend on the oceans and their living systems for life on this planet. This judgment makes life on earth unsustainable. The entire food chain breaks down.
2. Second, everything IN the seas dies.
  - a. Between the hundreds of thousands of cubic miles of coagulated blood and all the living things in them that die, the stench will be far beyond anything this world has ever known.
  - b. One cannot possibly imagine the horrible ramifications of this. No ships will travel. No life-enabling processes from the oceans anymore: food, O<sub>2</sub>, etc. No cruises, no sushi. Waterfront properties will plummet in value.

### D. The Third Bowl Judgement.

NOTE: We'll close class today with this third Bowl Judgement and there are a few more things to discuss with this particular judgement.

1. Again, we see the striking parallel between the second and third Trumpet Judgements, and the second and third Bowl Judgments.
  - a. Again, they are different, both in quantity (one-third versus all) and quality (actual blood versus the effects of Wormwood [probably an asteroid event]).
2. However, here the *"angel in charge of the waters"* states some things. It's here we need to unpack some significant insights:
  - a. He says, *"You are just in these judgements...."* (Why would he say that?)
  - b. The ramifications of turning all freshwater sources into blood are severe. Life cannot exist without water.
  - c. This judgment is overwhelming in terms of its implications on life. The vast majority of remaining people will soon die as a result of this judgment.
  - d. Any pre-existing storages of fresh water (tanks, bottled water, etc.) will become invaluable.
  - e. Crime will surge as people become desperate for water. Humanity will drink whatever fluids they can acquire. Diseases will skyrocket.

3. Given the terrible consequences of this particular judgement, one may naturally wonder about the balance of God's grace and wrath at this juncture.
  - a. **That's why the angel says, in effect, that God's righteousness in this situation is beyond question.**
    - In fact, the angel proclaims God's righteousness here because He HAS judged. God is righteous because He alone possesses that perfect balance between grace and judgment.
    - ***Psalms 145:17*** reminds us: "*The LORD is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.*" That's true for ALL time, including this future point.
    - ***Psalms 119:137*** also tells us: "*Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments..*"
    - Because God is not willing that any should perish, He extends His patience and grace while horrible sin continues to abound on the earth. That is true in our current time, and it will be true THEN too.
    - However, because God is righteous, there will finally come a day when He *must* act against sin, and He *must* bring severe judgment against those who practice it.
    - We often confuse the patience and long-suffering of God in our own day for disproportionate meekness and mildness on His part.
    - In truth, God never changes and that is why this angel declares about God, "*....you who are and who were, the Holy One.*" It is God's holiness that makes Him unable to tolerate sin. It is that same holiness that requires Him to judge sin and to execute His wrath.
4. The angel makes a curious statement in **vs. 6**: He links the past with the present.
  - a. Because the unsaved, depraved, and totally corrupt earth-dwellers of that time will have a record of killing God's saints and shedding their blood, the angel says God will give these murderers "*blood to drink.*"
  - b. It's here we get another strong clue that we're talking about actual blood here. The globalists will have shed real blood, and they're given real blood in turn to drink.
  - c. This goes back all the way to the timeframe which immediately follows The Rapture and during which the one-world false religious system will be established.
  - d. In mentioning this global false religion, the angel in ***Revelation 17:6*** tells John, "*....she is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*" Up to this point, there will have been a pattern of shedding the blood of the followers of Christ. And so this judgment is given.
  - e. In **vs. 6**, it suggests that the masses of depraved humanity will indeed be incredibly desperate. They will be seeking, out of pure desperation, to find ways to drink this blood so that they can live.

- f. So now you have masses of lawless, 'zombie like,' loathsome, sore-covered people also drinking blood and being utterly filthy because they cannot wash themselves. It's easy to see the apocalyptic nature of this future scene.
5. Lastly, we see *"the altar respond"* in **vs. 7**
- a. "Who" or "what" is this altar? Remember the martyred saints *"under the altar"* during the Fifth Seal Judgement (**Cf. Revelation 6:9-11**)?
  - b. These were the folks who'd been killed for their faith in that indeterminate period of time between the Rapture and the onset of The Tribulation.
  - c. We don't know how long that gap of time is between those two points, and neither do these martyrs. That is precisely why the souls of these saints ask the loaded question, *"How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you JUDGE the inhabitants of the earth and avenge OUR BLOOD?"*
  - d. As we've already learned, these martyred saints back in **Revelation Ch. 6** know the Tribulation hasn't started yet, and they know God's prescribed judgements haven't begun.
  - e. Now, in **Chapter 16**, these martyred saints clustered around and beneath the altar in heaven make another comment.
  - f. They recognize the times for what they have become. They know God's judgements are now underway. They say in response to this horrific third Bowl Judgment, *"Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."*
  - g. The question they ask of God in **Revelation Ch. 6**, and the response they give to this angel in **Revelation Ch. 16** are directly linked.