



## A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 72: The Bowl Judgements, Part 2

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### Review:

- A. Last week we began a study of the Bowl Judgments which are described in **Revelation Ch. 16**
- B. We're moving pretty quickly through this final set of seven judgements, all which take place in the second half of The Tribulation.
- C. There is not much said about these Seven Bowl Judgments; each are described in succinct terms. However, it's obvious, when we consider the ramifications of each one consecutively, that a worldwide humanitarian crisis emerges.
- D. Simply put, the planet becomes unsustainable for life. It's part of the reason Jesus says 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.*"
- E. So, the impact of these seven Bowl Judgments affect everyone, however they are particularly profound upon the followers of the antichrist. We've already learned that:
  1. Shortly after receiving the Mark of the Beast, the followers of the antichrist will break out in loathsome, painful, draining, foul sores, which are basically gaping abscesses. This is the first Bowl Judgement.
  2. There is no indication in the text that this is a short-term physiology. Rather, the text seems to indicate that this is a guaranteed side effect of taking the Mark of the Beast. Chances are good these folks will have this condition for the next 3 ½ years.
  3. At some point after that, the Second Bowl Judgment turns ALL the seas and oceans into coagulated blood. The text gives every indication that this is precisely what happens. As a result, ALL living things in the ocean systems die.
  4. The ocean systems form the basis of the food and oxygen chain on earth, so this is a devastating blow on the rest of earth's life systems. Imagine the global stench!
  5. Following that, the Third Bowl Judgment turns all rivers and springs of water into blood. Basically, the point is ALL natural freshwater sources are affected.
  6. We saw from the angel's comments, and from the comments of the martyred saints in heaven, that this is again, real blood. God supernaturally converts ALL life-giving water sources on this planet into blood.
  7. **Verse 6 of Ch. 16** states that the followers of the antichrist will, from that point on, have "*blood to drink as they deserve.*" So, it's pretty clear that the times have become very desperate for life itself.
  8. People are drinking actual blood just to survive. There is no means to bathe or clean oneself.
- F. We also noted last week, the cumulative effects of these judgments describe a situation that is not unlike a proverbial "zombie apocalypse."
  1. I shared that I am compelled to wonder if our culture's fascination with a so-called "zombie apocalypse," in books, movies, TV series, and so on is not another

conditioning factor that Satan is employing to gradually cause people now to accept what is coming.

2. The masses of the antichrist's followers during the last 3 ½ years of The Tribulation will be dirty, diseased, filthy, covered in oozing sores, and drinking blood.
  3. They will be prowling about seeking to take advantage of anyone and anything that can give them a better chance of survival. The times will be completely lawless and dangerous.
  4. The advantage will be forming in a pack mentality, so it's not beyond imagination, it's not overly sensationalistic, to see a real life "zombie apocalypse" taking place in this last half of The Tribulation.
- I. And the situation only gets worse from here. Let's continue this study of the Bowl Judgments by reading **vss. 8 and 9 of Rev. Ch. 16:**

**A. This is the Fourth Bowl Judgement:**

NOTE: This judgment is about supernatural scorching heat, and there are a few comments to make about this.

1. Up to this point, a good argument can be made that during the Tribulation earth is unnaturally and uncomfortably cool. Consider:
  - a. Starting with the Sixth Seal Judgment in **Revelation 6:12+**, there has been a series of events which have effectively shrouded the sun's radiation and has cooled the earth.
  - b. The Sixth Seal Judgment results in a great earthquake which *"removes every mountain and island from its place."*
  - c. This likely results in volcanic disruptions and other similar phenomena which cause massive dust and debris clouds to obscure the sun. This is why earth turns *"black like sackcloth"* and the moon turns *"blood red."*
  - d. Similar events take place with the first several Trumpet Judgments. Again, these likely describe the impact of a major asteroid event. The end result is more smoke, more atmospheric debris, more dust and volcanic emissions, etc.
  - e. This is why Trumpet Judgment #4 describes 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars being struck. It describes *"a third of the day as being without light."*
  - f. These kinds of events have been cumulative to this point. Again, a solid argument can be made that the earth has been uncharacteristically cool or cold up to this point.
  - g. For my part, I would not be surprised at this. With the cultish and irresponsible "global warming" fanaticism that has characterized the world these past couple of decades or more, this might be another way God reminds depraved humanity that they are willfully deceived, they have it all wrong, and it is HE who controls the environment.
  - h. It is therefore quite likely that up to this point, snow and ice accumulations around the globe have been great. Some commentators seem quite certain about this.

- i. It's that whole 'nuclear winter' phenomenon where cumulative and significant disruptions of the sun's radiation result in widespread cooling.
2. However, now there is a profound shift in the opposite direction. Now, the sun is supernaturally empowered to *"scorch people with fire."*
  - a. We see the angel in this judgment pouring out his bowl on the sun in **vs. 8**, so God's intent is to change the sun's effects from one situation to another.
  - b. This is another reminder to us there will be many *"signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars"* during the time of the very end (**Cf. Luke 21:25, Et al**).
  - c. The result of this Fourth Bowl Judgment is people are *"scorched"* by the intense heat. I think the Bible suggests elsewhere concerning The Day of the Lord may be great enough to cause combustion:
    - **Cf. Isaiah 24:6** – *"Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore, earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left."*
    - **Cf. Malachi 4:1** - *"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."*
  - d. The bottom line is this will be unparalleled heat. Not only will people be forced to seek shelter to escape the sun, but other passages in God's Word about this judgment describe massive crop destruction and severe life-threatening conditions.
  - e. Not only are these depraved earth-dwellers covered in loathsome sores, not only are they forced to drink blood, not only are they unable to bathe or clean themselves, but now they are also severely burned by the sun if they even survive it.
3. An implication of this judgment is major flooding.
  - a. If there has been the cumulative effects of a so-called 'nuclear winter' at play up to now (as I believe the stronger arguments suggest), then chances are good that any heavy accumulations of snow and ice will suddenly melt in a very short timeframe.
  - b. One commentator puts it this way, *"Another serious consequence of the sun's intense heat will be the melting of the polar ice caps. The resulting rise in the oceans' water level will inundate coastal regions, flooding areas miles inland with the noxious waters of the dead oceans. Widespread damage and loss of life will accompany that flooding."*
  - c. This would result in a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions. Given the extreme heat, oppressive steam and vapor will also be a part.
  - d. As we will soon see in Bowl Judgment #6, this is indeed the most likely scenario. It's why God will need to supernaturally dry up the Euphrates River which finds its source in the snows of the Taurus Mountains of southeastern Turkey.

- e. Imagine the keen frustrations of the depraved earth-dwellers at this point: they have been struggling to find drinking water, and now there is widespread flooding. Suddenly, drinkable water (at least relatively speaking) is briefly available, something other than blood to consume.
  - f. They put themselves at risk to try to get some of the floodwaters to drink, as they will be scorched and burned in the process. I think many will drown in the process of trying to obtain water.
  - g. Again, we can only imagine the conditions of life on earth at this point: absolute destruction, unbearable stench and disease, unprecedented desperation, and a threat to the most basic of living conditions at every turn.
4. QUESTION: "How are the saints of God faring at this point?" There are two passages which come to mind concerning this, and they appear to suggest some different issues for us to consider:
- a. **Cf. Malachi 4:1-2** – *"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, when all the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble; the day is coming when I will set them ablaze," says the LORD of Hosts. "Not a root or branch will be left to them. But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and leap like calves from the stall."*
  - b. This passage gives some weight to the premise that this particular judgment will not have quite the same impact on those who are God's own.
  - c. Again, this passage is about the very end of time, "The Day of the Lord," and it seems to make specific reference to this Fourth Bowl Judgment.
  - d. This passage seems to suggest that the saints of God will have some sort of reprieve. They will not suffer the same scorching effects of the sun. In fact, for them, there may even be a healing element during this time.
  - e. Rather than running and hiding which they have been doing up to now, they can go out and *"frolic and leap about like calves,"* knowing they are safe from those who would wish to harm them.
  - f. The depraved 'zombie-like' earth-dwellers cannot risk going out the same way because it is nearly certain death for them if they do. Perhaps this is what this passage in **Malachi 4:1-2** is saying. Some commentators feel rather certain that this is the case.
  - g. However, there is also the sobering passage of **Revelation 7:16** to also consider. This passage provides some statements about those Tribulation martyrs who serve God before His throne.
  - h. This passage says, *'Never again will they hunger, and never will they thirst; nor will the sun beat down upon them, nor any scorching heat.'*
  - i. So, it's clear that The Tribulation saints are not fully immune from the effects of The Tribulation judgments, including *"scorching heat."*
  - j. It may be that God gives these saints some sort of temporary and supernatural relief in the **Malachi** passage. Perhaps during the peak of this Fourth Bowl Judgment, but in the bigger picture these saints must still endure the greater effects of most of these Tribulation judgments. My best guess....

5. The last thing I want to comment on concerning this Fourth Bowl Judgment is: the response of the depraved earth-dwellers.
  - a. There are a couple things implied in **vs. 9** about their response:
  - b. **First**, they curse the name of God. Therefore they clearly know who is behind what is taking place and why.
  - c. They know God is executing His judgment, and they know they need to get right with Him. However, the Bible says they *“refuse to repent.”*
  - d. This is like what we saw in the Sixth Trumpet Judgment where we saw they will refuse to repent, and they will refuse to stop their sinful practices.
  - e. The bottom line is people love their sin. **John 3:19** says, *“...but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”*
  - f. The same point is made in **Romans Ch. 1** regarding the depravity of humanity. *“They know God,”* and they *“know God’s righteous decrees; they know they deserve death,”* but rather than *“glorify [God] or give thanks to Him,”* they instead *“invent ways of doing evil,”* and they *“approve of those who practice [such things].”*
  - g. The **second** thing that is implied here in **Revelation 16:9** that this population of depraved earth-dwellers that still have a chance to get right with God.
  - h. They can still repent; they can still glorify God; they can still turn from their wicked ways, but they CHOOSE not to.
  - i. The implication is these are a group who have not yet taken the Mark of the Beast. For whatever reason, this group exists between those who have taken the Mark of the Beast and are worshipping the antichrist, and those who are saints of God.
  - j. God is still reaching out to this subset. He is *“...not willing that any should perish”* according to **2 Peter 3:9**, and He is trying to urge their repentance.
  - k. Instead we see that unsaved mankind is willfully establishing his destiny in hell. This irrational posture takes conscious and stubborn effort.
  - l. The point is: God’s gift of eternal life is free and available to all who will trust Him only for salvation, but many will CHOOSE eternal damnation instead of getting right with God.

#### **B. The Fifth Bowl Judgment (vss. 10-11)**

NOTE: I believe this is a darkness that is very similar to the plague of darkness that God struck Egypt with back in the days of Moses (**Cf. Ex. 10:21-23**). Several things about this darkness to note are:

- a. **First**, it was a darkness that *“could be felt.”* It was more than a simple absence of light, this darkness was / and will be, supernatural in its density, effect, and sensory perception (worse than lights out in a cave). Somehow, there is also a physical nature to it.
- b. **Second**, it is a darkness that is prescribed in its impact. In Egypt, this darkness covered everything except *“...in the places the Israelites lived.”*

- c. This future plague of darkness will be something like that. We're not told details, but the text says it affects: *"the throne of the beast and his kingdom."*
- d. This may imply a focus upon the leadership of his kingdom, the Beast himself and those in the higher echelons of his realm. Or it could mean all those under his mark.
- e. Chances are best that it affects the antichrist and all his followers. The follow-on comments in **Revelation 16:11** specifies those who still *"...have their pains and their sores."* (NOTE: this provides key evidence that the impact of the First Bowl Judgment is still in effect).
- f. This prescribed nature of this darkness, affecting some and not others, may also partly explain some of the details we previously read in **Malachi 4:1-2**. There, the saints of God are able to go out and *"leap about like calves,"* at least for a time.
- g. Maybe some of the differentiating quality of this Fifth Bowl Judgment comes into play with what we read in **Malachi**.
- h. But **thirdly**, the plague of darkness in Egypt kept people confined and unable to do anything. Most certainly, this future plague of darkness will do the same thing. People will stay put and will be entirely incapacitated in terms of any self-care.
- i. Perhaps that is why we read that *"men gnawed their tongues in agony."* They are dying of extreme heat and thirst. The floods of water from melting ice and snow are present and are certainly WAY more attractive to drink than blood. Unfortunately, they cannot see anything to get to it. Just a thought. The *"gnawing tongues in agony* is often used in conjunction with great thirst and distress."
- j. In any case, once again, we read that they refuse to repent. All the implications of what we learned about this lack of repentance in the last Bowl Judgment would apply here too.