

# LEARNING TO INTERPRET REVELATION

## Rev. 15 and 16

Introduction: In our study we are in the midst of the \_\_\_\_\_ Tribulation, the \_\_\_\_\_ 3 ½ years of the seven year tribulation. We have seen in past studies that the following is happening:

- The devil has personally \_\_\_\_\_ the antichrist, who is effectively ruling the earth. There are still other \_\_\_\_\_ (heads of state), but the antichrist clearly rules over all.
- The antichrist and the false prophet have waged war against Jews and \_\_\_\_\_. Jews who are able to flee, have a safe haven protected by God in the ancient region of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The false prophet set up an image of the antichrist and gave it artificial life and enforces the prescription that people \_\_\_\_\_ the image or be killed.
- He also has established a way to give a mark of the antichrist to every person as their “pass” to participate in the world \_\_\_\_\_. Those who refuse the mark cannot buy or sell. Those who take the mark will ultimately be cast into the \_\_\_\_\_.

The dragon (Satan) will be working hard in those days for he knows that his time is \_\_\_\_\_. But God is also working!

- His two witnesses, who first proclaimed the gospel after the \_\_\_\_\_ of believers, have themselves been raptured up to heaven.
- The 144,000 Jews God saved and \_\_\_\_\_, and who spread the gospel to every people group on the earth, have also now been taken up to heaven.
- Because God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, He sends three \_\_\_\_\_ to fly around the globe.
  - One proclaiming the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation to all who will believe.
  - One warning that the kingdom of antichrist is about to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - One warning people \_\_\_\_\_ to take the mark of the beast.
- During this final 3 ½ years of the tribulation, God will accomplish two \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He will \_\_\_\_\_ the number of those to be saved before His millennial reign begins.
  - He will kill all of those who refuse His \_\_\_\_\_ so that the earth is purged of evil and rebellion before He sets up His kingdom upon the earth for one thousand years.

Chapters 15 and 16 of the Revelation tell us the detail of God’s war against the wicked and rebellious people of the earth.

***Revelation 15:1-8 1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. 2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, 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! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”***

The plain sense of the passage is simply that believers now in heaven join together in worship, declaring that God is perfect in \_\_\_\_\_ and His judgments are righteous.

**5 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6 And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.**

The third angel warned the people of the earth (14:10) that the wrath of God was about to be poured out \_\_\_\_\_ strength upon those who worship the antichrist and take his mark. Now seven angels each carry a bowl full of the wrath of God. This will be the only time in the history of the world that God’s wrath has been poured out undiluted by \_\_\_\_\_.

**8 The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.** What does this mean? Based on Ps. 24, I believe “entering the temple” means being \_\_\_\_\_. After all, what person can enter the temple of heaven? Only those who are saved. **Psalm 24:3–5 3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.** I think this means that from this point through the Battle of Armageddon, \_\_\_\_\_ else gets saved.

**Rev. 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”** The purging of the earth begins.

<p><b>16:2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image.</b></p>	<p><b>Bowl 1-</b> Loathsome sores upon people who have the mark of the beast or have worshipped his image. Those who have trusted Christ will _____ be affected.</p>
<p><b>16:3 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.</b></p>	<p><b>Bowl 2-</b> Sea turned to blood like a _____ person’s blood. _____ sea life dies.</p>
<p><b>16:4–7 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, 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 And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”</b></p>	<p><b>Bowl 3-</b> All _____ water is turned to blood. Apparently, this liquid was still _____ to sustain life, but probably horrible in appearance, smell, and taste.</p>
<p><b>16:8-9 8 Then 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.</b></p>	<p><b>Bowl 4-</b> The sun made to burn men with increased heat. This super-global warming will probably _____ the polar caps, flooding coastal areas including many of the world’s largest cities.</p>

<p><b>16:10-11</b> <i>10 Then 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 of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.</i></p>	<p><b>Bowl 5-</b> Darkness on kingdom of the antichrist. Notice that these plagues are _____ in effect. People still have the sores of bowl 1. Also take note of the lack of _____ and hardness of heart toward God.</p>
<p><b>16:12-16</b> <i>12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.</i></p> <p><b>15</b> <i>“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”</i></p> <p><b>16</b> <i>And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.</i></p>	<p><b>Bowl 6-</b> Assembling of armies for Armageddon</p> <p>We saw four _____ angels released at the River Euphrates during the sixth trumpet (9:13-21). They raised an army of _____ who then killed a _____ of the population of the earth. We do not know if there is a connection between that trumpet judgment and this bowl judgment, but the purpose of this act is to entice the armies of the Kings of the East (_____, Japan, India, etc.) to join forces with other armies of the world to fight _____ at Jerusalem. _____ demons go out to bring them to the battle which shall end in their slaughter, the Battle of Armageddon.</p>
<p><b>16:17-21</b> <i>17 Then the seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” 18 And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and 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 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. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.</i></p>	<p><b>Bowl 7-</b> Great _____, 100 lb+ hail-stones, Battle of Armageddon</p> <p>The final bowl of the undiluted wrath of God brings the worst earthquake the world has ever experienced. _____ of the cities will be laid waste, except _____, the great city (11:8), which has been promised to abide _____ (1 Chr. 23:25, Ps. 125:1, Micah 4:7) However, even Jerusalem will be _____ as Zechariah prophesied.</p> <p><b>Zechariah 14:4</b> <b>And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.</b></p> <p>_____ will receive its own special destruction which we shall discover in chapters 17 and 18.</p>

	<p>Also stones (not _____, but _____) will fall from the sky, each weighing at least 100 lbs., possibly from volcanic action accompanying the earthquake.</p> <p>All of this will have devastating impact upon the armies gathering to do battle with God on the plain of Megiddo about _____ miles north of Jerusalem.</p>
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In all that God will do through the Bowl Judgments, surely the righteous wrath of God is being poured out upon a wicked and rebellious world full of people that \_\_\_\_\_ there is a God in heaven but who will not bend the knee to Him. However, because I have read to the end of the Book, I want to also point out that God is doing \_\_\_\_\_ than just pouring out vengeance upon hard hearted unbelievers.

God also uses the bowl judgments to begin to prepare the \_\_\_\_\_ earth itself for the Millennial Reign of Christ. When God increases the intensity of the heat of the sun, the polar ice caps will melt, initially causing flooding of coastal cities. However, another thing that will happen as a consequence is that \_\_\_\_\_ will greatly increase from both oceans and fresh water. Because of the great heat, more of this water vapor will be \_\_\_\_\_ in the atmosphere than currently happens, producing a greenhouse effect.

By the time of the millennium, the water vapor canopy that originally \_\_\_\_\_ the earth will be restored. The earth will return to a \_\_\_\_\_ climate over the entire surface of the globe. The vapor canopy will block harmful solar and cosmic \_\_\_\_\_ and will increase atmospheric pressure, causing the \_\_\_\_\_ of life to increase as in the antediluvian (pre-flood) era.