

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**  
**A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**  
**SESSION 23 – REV. CH 15 and CH 16**

**REV 15:1-2**



*1And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. 2And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*

God supernaturally warns those dwelling on the earth by sending three angels to proclaim in a loud voice (Revelation 14:6-11)

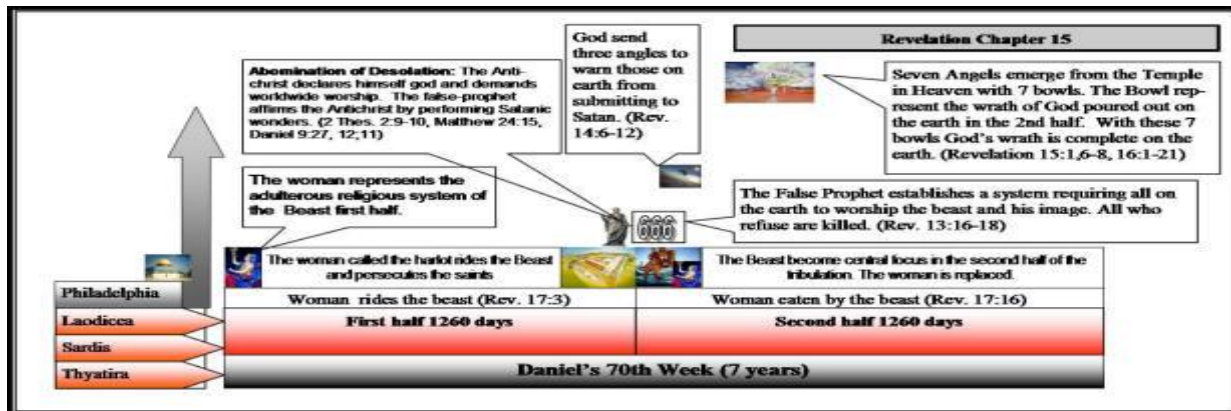
- the gospel,
- the destruction of Babylon
- the judgment on those who worship the Beast.

Those who survive the first half of the tribulation are forced to choose between Satan's kingdom and the ruler called the Beast in Revelation 13 or God's kingdom. Those who choose God's kingdom must be willing to die by rejecting the kingdom of Satan. (Revelation 13:10, 14:12-13) Those who choose Satan's kingdom, choose to receive the mark of the Beast, and worship the image of the beast, insuring their doom in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 14:9-10)

Chapter 15 reveals two events:

- First the results of the choices made by the earth's inhabitants between Satan and Christ,
- Second, the introduction of the bowl (vial) judgments, on those who dwell on the earth.

The bowl judgments take place in the second half of Daniel's 70th week and conclude with the return of the Messiah (Christ), who was rejected by Israel at His first coming. The hills of Megiddo (Armageddon) in Israel are the armies of earth called for their final battle; there surviving Israel calls out to the rejected Messiah. (Revelation 16:16, Zechariah 12:9-10, Matthew 23:39, Zechariah 14:12-13)



**I saw another sign in heaven...** (Gr. *seōmeion*.... an *indication*, especially ceremonially or supernaturally: —miracle, sign, token, wonder.) Following the events of **Chapter 14** John witnessed the Son of man sitting on a cloud with a sharp sickle, and angels emerging from the Temple in heaven one with a sharp sickle and the other with fire.

This is the third sign John sees in Heaven. The first was the woman who gave birth to the man child caught up into Heaven. (**Revelation 12:1**) The woman represented Israel giving birth to the Messiah.

The second was a great red seven-headed dragon with ten horns who pursued the woman. (**Revelation 12:3**) The dragon is Satan, who through various kingdoms has pursued the woman, Israel, trying to prevent the birth of Messiah, the man-child, that was caught up into heaven. (**Revelation 12:5**)

This third sign is the final victory over the beast, as the seven angels are prepared to pour out God's wrath on the Beast and his kingdom; those killed by the beast are seen as victors in heaven, standing before the throne of God.

**Great and marvelous....** John is incredulous at this sight describing it with emphatic terms great (Mega) and marvelous (thaumastos). The sight in John's view was awe inspiring and this is in contrast to everything John has seen up to this point.

**Seven angels having the seven last plagues....** The third set of seven angels.

- seven angels of the churches
- seven angels with trumpets
- Seven angels with bowls.

**The wrath of God is complete...** The seven angels with the last plagues is part of the 7th trumpet. Following the 7th bowl judgment, Christ will return with the armies of heaven. (Revelation 19)

**Rev 10:5-7** *5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."*

**Revelation 11:15** *15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying 'The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.'"*

At this point most saints are dead, captured or in hiding, and the seven angels will pour out God's wrath on the perpetrators of this persecution.

**And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire....** This is the same crystal sea that was seen in the 4th chapter. The sea of glass is before the throne of God. This sea had its scriptural foreshadowing in both the Tabernacle and Temple. The bronze (brass) laver (molten sea) was for the washing of the priests who were to approach the altar. (Exodus 30:17-21, I Kings 7:23-26) **Revelation 4:6** *"6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass, like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts (living creatures) full of eyes before and behind."*

The difference is that the sea of glass now mingled with fire pictures the wrath and anger of God. Fire represents both judgment and purification. The bronze sea's purpose was to cleanse the priest before they went before the altar. Here the fire represents the wrath of God, poured on the Earth.

**Those who have the victory over the beast....** Victory is defined here as choosing death and Christ rather than life and the Beast. Those who were able to choose eternal life over temporal life are victorious. The beast, the number of his name (666) and the image are events taking place in the 2nd half of the tribulation. The saints (Martyrs) of the first half of the tribulation are pictured under the altar in the 5th seal. (Revelation 6:9-12)

The second harvest of saints takes place during the second half, called the "Great tribulation", (Matthew 24:21, Revelation 7:10). Here the ministry of the 144,000, the two witnesses, and the three angels reap a harvest of souls without number, gathered from all the earth.

**Revelation 7:9-10,15-17** *<sup>9</sup>After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" So, he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.' <sup>15</sup>Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. <sup>16</sup>They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters, And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

**Revelation 13: 9-10** *<sup>9</sup>If anyone has an ear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup>He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.*

**Matthew 24:14** *<sup>14</sup>And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*

The system set up by Satan is separating the wheat from tares (**Matthew 13:36-43**).

**Standing on the sea of glass....** The saints of the "Great tribulation" are standing on the sea of glass, before the throne of God. These martyrs died for their faith rather than worship Satan in the person of the Beast (Antichrist). Those who choose Satan and submitted to the Beast and his kingdom are able to live for a short time, only to face God's wrath.

### **Revelation 15:3-4**

*<sup>3</sup> and they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are thy ways, thou King of the saints! <sup>4</sup> Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before thee; For thy judgments are made manifest."*



**They sing the song....** The song of Moses is a song of God's saving Israel from the armies of Egypt after crossing the Red Sea. (**Exodus 15:1-18**) Pharaoh, who is a foreshadowing of Antichrist, pursues Israel and her offspring. In the Red Sea Israel is saved from Pharaoh's armies who are not able to follow Israel's escape. The waters of the Red Sea pour on the armies of Egypt as they pursue Israel.

**Exodus 15:1-4** *"Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! 2 The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. 3 The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea.*

**In Revelation 15:2** the martyrs, who were pursued by Antichrist, who Pharaoh foreshadows, have escaped beyond his reach to the other side. They like Moses and Israel celebrate the song of victory of the armies of the Beast. Now, like the walls of the Red Sea came pouring down on Pharaoh's pursuing army, God is about to pour his judgment on Antichrist and his kingdom. The song of the Lamb is in **Revelation 5:9-10**, which celebrates the salvation of the saints before the throne of God and the Lamb. These believers celebrate their salvation in Heaven with the Lamb. In the same way Israel celebrates their salvation from the armies of Pharaoh, the believers celebrate their salvation in Heaven. In this scene the saints of the "Great tribulation" are executed for their refusal to worship the Beast. In death they pass through the Sea of tribulation and are taken before the Throne of God.

### **Revelation 15:5-8**

*"5 And after that I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."*

**After these things....** This followed the celebration of the saints of the great tribulation who were on the Crystal Sea mingled with Fire. These saints were killed for their refusal to worship the Beast and his Image. Now the wrath of God will be poured on those who killed the saints. This point is the fourth quarter of the 7-year tribulation period.

**The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony...** The temple in Heaven, which has the tabernacle of the testimony, the arc of the covenant, was placed on Mt. Moriah during the First Temple.

**Out of the temple came the seven angels....** The seven angels are part of the great and marvelous sight seen by John at the start of the **15th chapter**.

**One of the four living creatures....** One of the Cherubim before the throne of God handed the bowls to the seven angels.

**Seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God...** (Gr... phialeô..a broad shallow bowl, deep saucer).

**The temple was filled with smoke....** This smoke represents the fire of the wrath of God's holiness. The "Glory of the Lord" filled the earthly temple when Solomon completed its construction, and the Temple was dedicated to the service of God.

**I Kings 8:9-13** *<sup>9</sup> Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. <sup>10</sup> And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, <sup>11</sup> so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. <sup>12</sup> Then Solomon spoke: "The LORD said He would dwell in the dark cloud. <sup>13</sup> I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell in forever."*

**The glory of God....** The "Glory of God" is the presence of God.

**Ezekiel 1:26-28** *<sup>26</sup> And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. <sup>27</sup> Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. <sup>28</sup> Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So, when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking."*

**No one was able to enter the Temple....** During this time of the 7-year tribulation period the Temple is closed till the wrath of God is complete on the earth. At the completion of the seventh bowl Christ returns with the Saints.

## CHAPTER 16

### **REV 16 1-9**



***1**And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials (bowls) of the wrath of God upon the earth. **2**And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. **3**And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. **4**And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. **5**And I heard the angel of the waters say, 'Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. **6**For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.' **7**And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments. **8**And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. **9**And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.*

**Revelation 16** reveals God's judgments on the earth in the 2nd half of the tribulation. This period is known as the Great Tribulation. With these judgments, the wrath of God is complete. At the close of the 7-Bowl judgments, Christ returns with the armies of Heaven to establish the Millennial Kingdom. (**Rev. 20:1-7**)

**Chapter 16** is introduced in **Chapter 15**. There we first see the seven angels emerge from the Temple in Heaven with the seven plagues. Their appearance in **chapter 15** follows John's vision of those who had victory over the kingdom of the Beast by their martyrdom. He sees those who died because they refused to receive the mark or worship Antichrist. They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, in Heaven, before the throne, they are victorious.

**Chapter 16** takes place after the world has been given a choice. Those on the earth have the choice to receive the mark, worship the Beast and live, or refuse and die. God supernaturally aids humanity by sending three angels to warn them about the choice they are being forced to make. Many on earth choose Christ and death, rather than worship the Beast and his image. They are seen in Heaven before the throne, on the crystal sea. (**Rev. 15:2**). Others choose the easier route, and worship Antichrist and receive the mark. This chapter takes place after a period of *decision* on the earth. Most on earth have made their decision. Those who chose Christ died, some are in hiding, only to emerge after Christ's return.



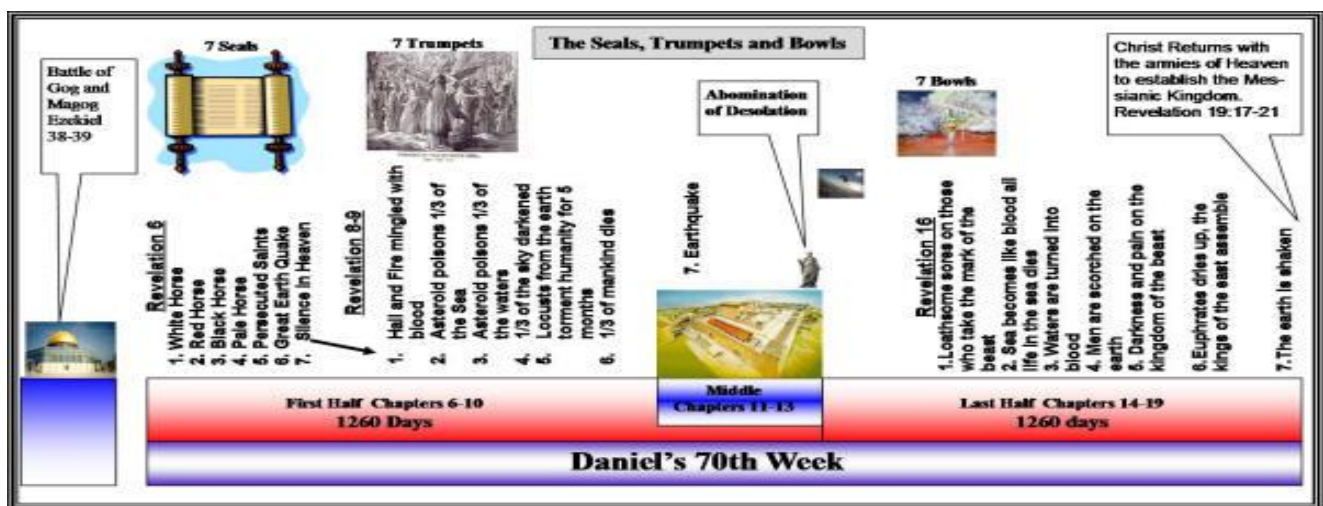
During this period, Israel is supernaturally protected in the wilderness of Judea. Those who followed the warning of Christ in Matthew, fled into the wilderness following the Abomination of Desolation, when the Mt. of Olives is split open for their escape. (Matthew 24:16-20, Revelation 12:14, Zechariah 14:5)

Here in the wilderness, Israel comes to the knowledge of Christ, realizing the same Jesus who was crucified is in fact Israel's Savior and only hope. As the armies of the earth gather toward the hills of Megiddo, (Armageddon) Israel calls out to Jesus Christ as their Messiah, who returns with armies of heaven. (Rev. 19:15-21)

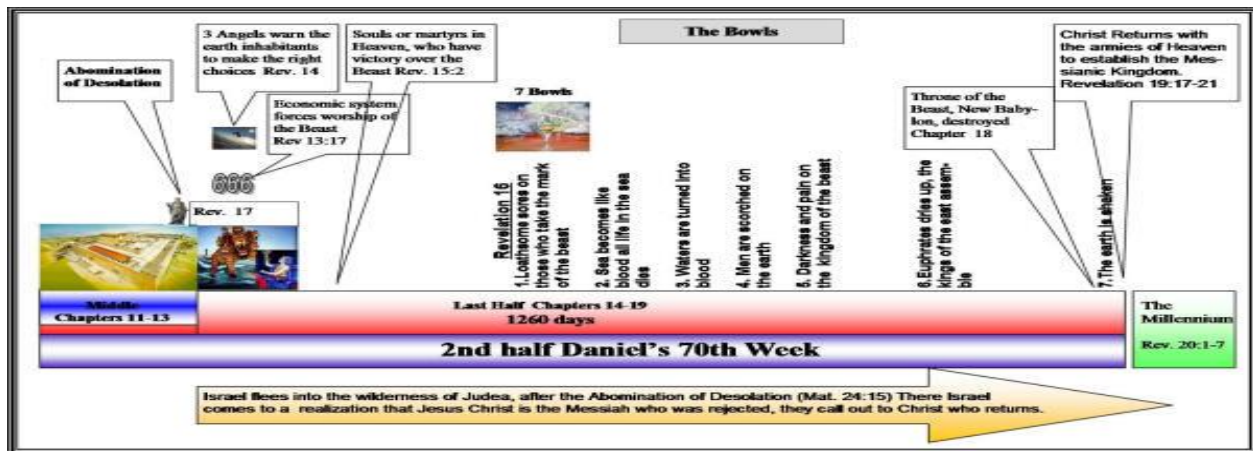
At this point, those alive on the earth are mostly followers of Satan, working through the Antichrist and the False Prophet. The great multitude in Revelation chapter 7 gathered before the throne, from all the nations, are those killed for their faith. (Rev 7:14)

After those left on the earth have made their choice, God begins the judgments of wrath by commanding the angels to pour out the vials (bowls) on the earth. The seven vial (bowl) judgments complete God's wrath on the earth. Following the 7th bowl, Christ returns with angels and saints and establishes the Messianic Kingdom (Rev. 19:15-21) also known as the Millennium. (Rev. 20:1-7) Those killed for their faith receive their resurrected bodies and rule with Christ in His kingdom along with the returning saints. (Rev. 20; 4, Matthew 19:28-29)

The Bowl judgments stand in contrast to the seven trumpet and seal judgments. The Bowl judgments are not meant to move humanity into decision but are a demonstration of God's wrath. For example, the 2nd trumpet judgment affected one third of the sea, the second bowl judgment effects the whole sea causing all sea life to die. The Abomination of Desolation also separates the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. The first bowl judgment is against those who worshipped the beast and his image by receiving the mark, placing the timing of this judgment in the second half of Daniel's 70th week, following the Abomination of Desolation.







## Revelation 16:1

***“And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth..”***

**And I heard....** The voice is probably God’s, since it comes from the Temple and no one at this point, is allowed into the Temple of God, until His wrath is complete. (**Rev. 15:8**)

## Revelation 16:2

***“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image.”***

**Noisome and grievous (loathsome) sore...** (Gr. helkos..a wound, especially a wound producing discharge pus) The first taste of God’s wrath falls on those who choose to reject the angelic warning in the **14th chapter**. The taste of wrath was not to produce repentance but to produce suffering. Revelation teaches there is no hope of repentance of those who turn to and worship the Beast, his image and receive the mark.

The loathsome sore is an oozing wound tormenting the individuals who choose to worship the Beast. This sore could very well be the result from untested technologies imposed on those who will submit to the Beast. This would be a plausible explanation to those living at that time. In actuality, it’s God’s wrath against those, who persecuted His people.

## Revelation 16:3

*“And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.”*

**Upon the sea....** (Gr. Thalassa...Sea, derived from hals meaning salt, salt sea) can mean Mediterranean or the Oceans. Here the meaning is probably oceans where God’s wrath is poured out on all humanity. In contrast to the second trumpet judgment (**Rev. 8:8**) where 1/3 of the sea became blood and 1/3 of the creatures died, here all the sea becomes blood and all the creatures died.

**It became blood...** Both sea water and blood have the same content of salt. The sea becoming blood reflects the condition of mankind, like a dead man. This is a judgment of wrath not one to turn men toward repentance, but to punish those who are at war with God. God, the source of life, the source of blessing both on the just and the unjust (**Matthew 5:45**) withdraws life from the sea.

This could be a chemical reaction, which started from the asteroid, which turned 1/3 of the Sea into blood. Here the reaction spreads to the rest of the oceans, killing all oceanic life. Depriving the earth of a major source of food and nourishment, God withdraws life in the ocean.

COMPARISON CHART

Exodus Ten Plagues on Egypt	Revelation 8-9 Seven Trumpets	Revelation 16 Seven Bowl Judgments
Waters turn to Blood Ex. 7:19	Hail, fire mingled with Blood, 1/3 of trees burned, all green grass Rev 8:7	Sore on those who receive the Mark Rev 16:2
Frogs Exodus. 8:5	Burning mountain, thrown into the sea became blood, 1/3 of creatures died, 1/3 of ships Rev 8:8-9	Sea became blood every living creature died Rev 16:3
Lice Exodus 8:16	Burning star falls and 1/3 of rivers and springs of water made poisonous Rev 8:10-11	Rivers and Springs become blood Rev 16:4
Flies Exodus. 8:21	1/3 sky without light, Sun, moon & stars Rev 8:12	Sun burns mankind Rev 16:8
Livestock died Exodus. 9:3	Demon Locusts from Abyss Rev 9:1-11	Kingdom of the Beast filled with darkness Rev 16:10
Boils Exodus. 9:9	Four angels at Euphrates released, 200 million Demon Horsemen, 1/3 mankind is killed Rev 9:13-19	River Euphrates dried up, 3 frog-like demons gather man to Armageddon Rev 16:12

Exodus Ten Plagues on Egypt	Revelation 8-9 Seven Trumpets	Revelation 16 Seven Bowl Judgments
Heavy Hail Exodus. 9:18 Fire & Hail Exd.9:24		Great lightnings, an earthquake and cities fell, and Great city was divided into 3 parts, Hail stones Rev 16:17-21
Locusts Exodus10:4		
Darkness over the land Exodus 10:21	(See 4th Trumpet)	(See 5th Bowl)
Death of Firstborn Exodus 12		

### **Revelation 16:4-7:**

*“4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. 5 and I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. 7 and I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgements.”*

**Rivers and springs (fountains) of water....** Like the first plague on Egypt, and the third trumpet judgment, the source of fresh water for much of the earth became blood. Whether this is blood like in color and texture or actual blood is unknown until that day. The point God is making with man is not mercy but judgment. God is repaying the inhabitants of the earth for their treatment of His people who are now in Heaven.

**Angel of the waters....** In the same way, God has assigned his saints to specific geographic areas. Angels are in charge of parts of the physical realms. An angel is in charge of water, to guard and protect it from demonic activity or interference. The angel gives his approval to the judgments on fresh water, a necessity for life.

**They shed the blood of saints and prophets....** The persecution and murder of the saints is the purpose of the wrath poured out on man. The trumpet judgments were designed to turn man toward God, to allow humanity to see their dependence on God. The vial (bowl) judgments are designed to show the righteousness of God’s judgment. Even here, the judgments are only a foretaste of God’s eternal wrath and judgment. Those who are on the earth at this point are mostly those who worshipped the Beast and received the mark.

The believers, except for those in hiding and Israel hidden in Judean wilderness, are in heaven, killed by those who God is now about to pour out his wrath on.

**You have given them blood to drink...** With the death of many of the saints, God judges the world and causes them to suffer. One of the purposes that come out in these judgments is to demonstrate the hardness of the heart of man. That despite all these judgments man becomes angry, infuriated at God.

### **Revelation 16:8-9:**

***“<sup>8</sup>And the fourth angel poured out his vial (bowl) upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup>And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.”***

**On the sun...** The sun, the source of light and warmth, is magnified and giving man a taste of the coming heat in the lake of fire, which those who have chosen Satan will receive.

**Scorch men with fire...** The heat from the Sun brings out the true nature of those who worship the Beast and his image. There is no remorse or contrition in the face of the heat from the Sun. Mankind's reaction will be the same in eternal hell with this judgment, and the one to come, because his heart will not soften toward God. For this reason, we are twice told in this chapter men did not repent. Without the supply of ocean water and drinking water, the situation for the earth's inhabitants begins to look very bleak. Now added to their dilemma, is the scorching heat from the sun. Out of this judgment, God demonstrates the character of those facing judgment.

**They blasphemed the name of God...** Rather than seeking mercy, the earth's inhabitants rebel further, verbally assaulting God in heaven. God demonstrates the hardness of man's heart and his own righteousness with these judgments. His wrath is falling on those who persecuted His people.

**They did not repent....** (Gr. metanoeō... to think differently or afterwards, that is, reconsider (morally to feel compunction): —repent.) The heart of remaining humanity has no desire to repent, they see God as their enemy. They have staked their eternity on Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet. Their only hope is for Satan to be victorious.

### **REV 16:10-21**

***<sup>10</sup> And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, <sup>11</sup> And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.***

*<sup>12</sup> And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. <sup>13</sup> and I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. <sup>14</sup> For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. <sup>16</sup> And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. <sup>17</sup> And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done". <sup>18</sup> And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. <sup>19</sup> And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup> And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.*

**Throne of the beast...** The rebuilt city of Babylon, the capital of the antichrist's kingdom is filled with darkness. Egypt faced a similar plague in the days of Moses. The fourth trumpet also brought darkness to 1/3 of the earth. The purpose of the darkness over the kingdom of the Beast could be for several reasons:

1. The darkness is a foretaste of the eternal darkness the dwellers of the earth will taste for all eternity.

**Matthew 8:11-12 11:** *"And I say unto you. That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

2. The darkness could allow any in hiding in the kingdom of the Antichrist to escape the coming destruction of "New Babylon" under the cover of darkness.

**(Jer. 51:6-7)** *6 Flee from the midst of Babylon, and every one save his life! Do not be cut off in her iniquity, for this is the time of the Lord's vengeance; He shall recompense her. 7 Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord's hand, that made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore, the nations are deranged.*

3. The people of this kingdom will not repent or seek forgiveness while they are still alive and on the earth. This judgment demonstrates the hardness of man's heart.

**They gnawed their tongues...** The darkness along with oozing sores from the first bowl, lack of water, lack of food and scorching heat are taking their toll. The response of man is one of war not repentance. In agony, humanity gnaws at their tongues, but they refuse to repent and cry out for mercy.

**They blasphemed the God of heaven...** Again, those on earth respond in blaspheming God. The righteousness of God's wrath is demonstrated by its recipients. For the second time humanity shake their fists toward heaven and blasphemes God's name.

**Did not repent...** This is the second time this point is made. This point is repeated twice for emphasis, so the reader understands that even if humanity could repent, they would not.

### **Revelation 16:12-16:**

***"<sup>12</sup> And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. <sup>13</sup> and I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet <sup>14</sup> For they are the spirits of devils working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. <sup>16</sup> And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

**On the great river Euphrates....** Drying up a river might not seem like a plague, but what follows is the point. The gathering of the Earth for the final battle in the land of Israel is the issue. This is the second time the Euphrates plays a role in the book of Revelation. In **Revelation 9**, we see four powerful angels bound at the river who are released and head an army of 200 million demon horsemen in the close of the 1st half of the Tribulation. This results in the death of 1/3 of mankind. Here we see the Euphrates River as a barrier to the kings of the East.

**Kings from the east might be prepared...** Why does a way for the kings of East need to be prepared? There has been debate concerning this verse. Are the kings from the east coming to help the kingdom of the Beast or for war with the kingdom of the Beast? In **Daniel 11**, before the middle of the tribulation, the Antichrist wars with the east and north, defeating them and consolidating his world power.



**Daniel 11:43-45** <sup>43</sup> *But he shall have power over the treasures of gold, and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps.* <sup>44</sup> *But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore, he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.* <sup>45</sup> *And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.*

With, the calamities in the world we are experiencing at this time, which include lack of food, water, and darkness surrounding the throne of the Beast (New Babylon), what is the reason the east advances toward Israel?

There are two schools of thought from the futurist view on this point:

1. The kings from the East come in opposition to the Beast after his kingdom is made vulnerable by all the judgments. With his kingdom in darkness, an invasion might seem right to repay the Beast for the destruction he waged on them. **(Daniel 11:44)**
2. The kings from the East are coming in alliance for a final satanic assault against the Creator. The frogs like demons lend support to the second viewpoint, since they go out and deceive the kings of the earth, to gather them.

**I saw three unclean spirits like frogs....** If there is any opposition to the satanic kingdom these demonic forces resembling frogs from John's view of the spiritual world are designed to crush it.

**The unclean spirits proceed from the un-holy trinity:**

1. The mouth of the dragon
2. The mouth of the beast
3. The mouth of the false prophet

**For they are spirits of devils working miracles:** The method used to turn any rebellion into an alliance is through signs and wonders performed to convince the kings to join the battle with the Beast. Satan seems to give the armies of the Earth hope they can defeat the armies of God. Satan is again repeating an old tactic used before when 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God, thinking they could defeat Him. Here man thinks he can defeat God in a Satan inspired deception.

**Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he who watcheth....** Why is a warning and blessing placed here? Jesus' warning is located several places in scripture,

Matthew 24:43, Luke 12:39, 2 Peter 3:10 and Revelation 3:3. The warning is to those who are not watching; to them Jesus comes like a thief in the night. To those not watching, their nakedness and shame will be exposed. This warning applies to the pre-tribulation and tribulation saints. But the blessing of being clothed is offered to those watching. Those who wait and look for the master's return will be blessed.

**I Thess. 5:2-5: *"<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup>You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness."***

The temptation in the tribulation will exist for many of the new believers to sin. Imagine feeling like you are the only survivor of your family. You along with other survivors may be tempted to engage in some sinful activity. Adultery and premarital sex will be a temptation in the tribulation period for believers as it is in our own day. Jesus does not want the tribulation saints, those who find Christ in the midst of the trial, to get lax and make excuses to sin.

**They gathered them together....** The "they" is the demonic forces sent from the un-holy trinity to the kings of Earth. The armies of man are being gathered to a location fight against God.

**Armageddon...** The Greek is a transliteration of the Hebrew *har Megiddo*, literally, "mountain of Megiddo." Megiddo is first mentioned in Joshua as one of the cities conquered by Joshua (**Josh 12:21**). Later Megiddo became a chariot fortress city for Solomon. There also, the righteous king Josiah was killed by Pharaoh Necho (**2 Kings 23:29**) who had come to aid the Assyrians against Babylon. The armies of the world will be gathered together in a place called Armageddon. What will be the reason for their gathering? How this fits into God's end-time plan is subject to speculation. The armies of the Antichrist defeated Israel at the middle of the tribulation. He then installed the Abomination of Desolation on the Third Temple. A portion of Israel flees into the wilderness to escape. According to Zechariah, 1/3 of Israel survives the tribulation and enters the Millennium.

**Zechariah 13:8-9 *8 And it shall come to pass in all the land, Says the Lord, That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"***

In Zechariah, we see an end time picture of Israel being supernaturally empowered by the Lord to fight against the armies of the Earth immediately before the return of Christ.

**Zechariah 12:7-9** *7“The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. 8In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them. 9 It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.*

**Zechariah 12:10-11** *10“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. 11In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.*

The surviving armies and people of the earth are gathered to Israel, specifically to Megiddo to meet the King of Kings. The moving of humanity is at the behest of demonic forces, corralling men, on earth like cattle to a confrontation with Jesus Christ.

## **Seventh Angel**

### **Revelation 16:17-21**

*“<sup>17</sup> And the seventh angel poured out his vial (bowl) into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. <sup>18</sup> And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. <sup>19</sup> And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. <sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup> And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.”*

**Poured out his vial (bowl) into the air...** When the wrath proceeding from the 7th Bowl is completed Christ returns with the armies of saints and angels. The loud voice is most likely God's voice in the Temple. When the cloud filled the Temple no one was permitted in the Temple till the bowls of wrath were complete. (**Rev 15:8**)

**There was a great earthquake...** The events of this final bowl of wrath proceeds as the armies of the Earth are arriving or headed toward Jerusalem. An earthquake un-equaled in the history of mankind destroys all the cities of the earth, including rebuilt Babylon.

When the seventh angel pours out his vial in the atmosphere the greatest earthquake that ever was or that ever will take place on earth will occur. All the cities of the world will fall. All high mountain ranges will dissolve, and all islands will be moved or disappear. Jerusalem will be divided into three parts at that time. The mountain of the Lord will be raised as the highest point in the area or possibly the world. This total changing of the earth's crust will allow fulfillment of the prophecies that speak about the desert land being watered and being lush during the millennial reign. Most deserts are caused by high mountain ranges. When the mountain ranges are dissolved most of the world will become fertile. This change of the earth's crust will eliminate fault lines. There will be no major earthquakes during the millennium. There will also be more gentle wind patterns without the mountain ranges, meaning less severe storms. The earth will become a paradise.

**Isa 2:2** *And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

**Revelation 18:21** *Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore."*

**Great Babylon came in remembrance before God...** New Babylon, the economic center of the world, is divided into three parts. This happens immediately before its complete destruction which is covered in **chapter 18**.

**Great hail from heaven fell upon men....** As the armies of the earth are gathered, and people run from the earthquakes and hailstones that fall on mankind. The weight of the hailstones is about a talent. A talent was valued at 3000 shekels - these hailstones weigh about 100 -140 pounds each. The hailstones will rain down all over the earth during this final plague before the second coming of Jesus. All this upheaval on earth comes about by a rock made without hands hitting the earth at Babylon. Daniel speaks of this rock. These passages in Daniel have a dual fulfillment. They speak of the Rock (Jesus) destroying the works of the Devil. They also speak of the kingdom of the Beast (Babylon) being destroyed by a rock. More will be said about the destruction of the Beast kingdom in chapter 18.

**Men blasphemed God...** Even at this point with these horrendous judgments on mankind, the oozing sores, death in the oceans and fresh water, the scorching heat, the unbearable pain in darkness and an earthquake unlike any ever in the history of the world, men decide to curse God rather than repent. Here again God is demonstrating the righteousness of his judgment against the hardness of man. The book of **Joel, chapter 3** pictures this end time gathering of the nations against Israel in the land of Israel. Joel calls this event *The Valley of decision* (**Joel 3:14**) because people have made the choice to go to war against their creator. They feel they are assembling for war (Vs. 9), but actually they are assembling for judgment (**Vs. 12**).



**JOEL 3:1-3; 9-21** <sup>1</sup>"For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land. <sup>9</sup> Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up. <sup>10</sup> Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' <sup>11</sup> Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord. <sup>12</sup> Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. <sup>13</sup> Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow-For their wickedness is great. <sup>14</sup> Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. <sup>15</sup> The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. <sup>16</sup> The Lord also will roar from Zion And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the Lord will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel. <sup>17</sup> So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again. <sup>18</sup> And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Acacias. <sup>19</sup> Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land. <sup>20</sup> But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation. <sup>21</sup> For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; For the Lord dwells in Zion."



In **verse 18**, we read about the kingdom of Messiah, which follows this end time battle. New wine flows from the mountains and the hills flow with milk. Jerusalem shall be holy and blessed, a clear indication of the Messianic age to follow, the battle of the nations assembled in the valley of Jehoshaphat, is a reference to the event known as Armageddon. This takes place when the nations of the

earth assemble against Israel and are defeated by Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah, at his second coming.