

The Bowl Judgments Revelation 15-16

On Tues. Jan. 29th, 1991 radio listeners in St. Louis Missouri were Shocked to hear that the end of the WORLD was Just moments away!

A)Regular Radio programing was interrupted on a local radio station with that jarring attention signal of the Emergency Broadcast System ,

B)That was followed by the voice of the Announcer who declared

*Your Attention please THIS IS NOT A TEST
The United States is under Nuclear Attack !! I
Repeat this is not a test !!!*

C)People who heard the announcement -Rushed home to be w/ Loved ones / wait for the missiles to fall /

1)They huddled in Basements / Shelters / seeking Other News Confirmation

D)But on every other – Station it was Business as Usual

After a while those people discovered this was Fake News - before the phrase Fake news was even coined.

A)The announcement was the actions of a John Ulett a radio disc jockey who simply wanted people to think about the horrors of Nuclear War.

B)Ulett was fined \$25k for the stunt and heavily reprimanded by the station, but he didn't lose his job.

C)In 2021 he retired from a 46 year career at the station.

Have you ever thought about what you would do or where you would go if an announcement like that were True.

A)Brace yourself San Diego we are about to be hit by a Nuke.

B)Well during the tribulation - the people on planet earth are going to find that when Judgment hits there is nowhere to hide.

C)Revelation 15-16 brings us to the final judgments of the Tribulation period!

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.

A)The word complete is Telos in the Greek - and it means finished - or to bring to an end!

B)Now I pointed this out before but I want to point it out again - that implies that what we have been reading before - Seal and trumpet judgments

1)Has also been the wrath of God.

C)I point that out for two reasons, I think it dispels the notion that some teachers have that there is only one set of Judgments

1)Being seen from different angles.

No this is announcing that this group of Angels are pouring out a new set of Judgments - and this will be the final set.

A)I think it also dispels the Pre-wrath view that - the Wrath of God doesn't start until Ch. 15 -

B)That the church goes through the opening of the seals and the trumpets because those are not the wrath of God - but of Satan and Antichrist

1)And we are not raptured until chapter 14

C)But this says: when the bowls are poured out - in them the wrath of God is complete- finished - being brought to an end

1)Implying that what we have been reading up to this point has also been the wrath of God.

D)Which is what I have been telling you over and over again - The Tribulation starts in Ch. 6 - Jesus is seen opening the seals

E)Everything that we have been reading from Ch. 6-18 has been coming from Heaven and the hand or command of Jesus.

As the judgements are getting ready to be poured out, I also want you to notice we see the Tribulation saints, those who died for their faith in that seven-year period of time singing out a song to the Lord V.2-4

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:

The Song of Moses is recorded in Deuteronomy 32 - where Moses is looking back over his life and recalling the faithfulness of God in every season.

A) The Song of the Lamb is that which magnifies that Salvation is a work of God - ALONE - JESUS PAID IT ALL

B) Those two songs are summarized in V. 3-4

“Great and marvelous *are* Your works,
Lord God Almighty!
Just and true *are* Your ways,
O King of the saints!

They praise the Lord for three things

#1 – They are enamored with His works

A) they see what the Lord has done and they are so blown away – great and marvelous are your works”

They praise the Lord for three things

#1 – They are enamored with His works

#2 – They are content with His judgments

A) They are not crying out “unfair – you are so unfair”

B) They are saying “righteous and true are your judgments oh God-

C) That is the perspective from heaven of all that God does. - Righteous and true are your judgments.

There are many things in this life - that we don't understand! Many things that don't make sense to us.

A) I have a list - sometimes in my mind - I think Lord I want an answer for that one - why did that happen that way.

B) I look at it from this view and it is confusing to me! - But everything that confuses me now - will be made clear then.

C) It will make perfect sense to me from Heavens view point.

Paul declared in 1 Corinthians 13:12 - Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely. NLT

The Lord declared through the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 55:8-9

8“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.

9“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

That is our perspective now - but when we get to heaven - We are going to have his thoughts - understand his ways

A) And our response will be - Just and true are your ways - Oh Lord

B) They are Great and marvelous!

They praise the Lord for three things

#1 – They are enamored with His works

#2 – They are content with His judgments

#3 – They are aware that the day will come that all will bow before the Lord

⁴Who 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.”

A) They know what is coming, both for the righteous as well as for the wicked

B) These saints, they know every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord!

C) That is the song of Heaven - that is the perspective of Heaven.

Question: Can we have that perspective more now in our lives!

A) To sing Great and Marvelous are your works oh God - The Cross? - You are saved - on your way to heaven - not hell

B)God's faithfulness in your life - far outweighs the questions and the disappointments

C)Jesus is coming and one day - everything is going to be made right - Planet earth will be made right - Evil will be put down

1)Every knee will bow.... Lord! - BOW NOW!

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,

A)Note These angels bring God's judgment. It is significant that they came directly from heavenly temple, from the presence and throne of God.

B)It is a reminder that They do not act on their own authority, but God's.

C)Notice their appearance - clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands...

Their clothing is a reminder that God's judgment is always completely pure and righteous.

A)They are not like the modern anti-hero or vigilante, who sink down to the level of the criminals they fight.

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

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

B)Notice that Both the bowls and the cloud came from the glory of God and from His power.

C)This is a reminder of God's special presence and glory, even in the midst of devastating judgment.

No one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed:

D)This declares that judgment was now irreversible.

1)Nothing could hinder it any longer, because access to this temple in heaven would not long be denied.

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." 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 worshiped his image.

Now this is interesting when the first Bowl is poured out it results in a LOATHSOME OR GRIEVOUS SORE –

A)A very Painful Sore on all who had the Mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image.

B)Here is what I find interesting – Taking the mark of the Beast would seem initially like a Logical thing to do (technologically advanced)

C)You can't Buy or Sell w/ out it – it is the only way to survive – the only way to make it in life – take care of your family!

D)Why not follow the Antichrist – his plan seems good- that will be the thinking of most of the world.

Yet those who buy into his plan who take his mark thinking that is the thing to do (Get with the Cashless Society System

A)Those who do so are going to be inflicted with a Grievous sore / a painful affliction

B)I wonder if the sore will be in the place where they took the mark ?

C)Guys this is such an accurate description of what Sin does. -

The people of planet earth are warned about taking the mark of the beast and those warnings are ignored.

A)Then the very thing they thought was going to bring life to them - ends up bringing pain and death.

B)That can happen in our lives as well to a certain degree - God in his word - warns us - because he loves us - wants to protect us

C)So he warns us from being unequally yoked in relationships - be it business or romantic - and we ignore it

1)The right guy or gal - we are going to win them to Jesus we say - Seldom never works - usually ends in pain

D)Or a business deal comes along - the potential partner is not a Christian - but we rationalize - such a good deal - make a lot of money

1)Tithe more

Even though the romantic relationship brings some pleasure for a season - and the business deals is profitable

A)Something happens to our core - there is an erosion that takes place in our relationship with God

B)God is not a dictator - so he allows us to make choices and go down roads that we think are going to bring pleasure -

1)But ultimately the very thing we thought was going to satisfy - brings pain

C)It was said of the children of Israel - in the wilderness -

¹⁴ But they lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert.¹⁵ And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul. Psalm 106:14-15

D)I have seen this over and over again - people make decisions to ignore God's warning - get involved in Adulterous relationships

E)Open doors to compromise - thinking it is going to satisfy!

The first bowl is poured out and everyone who takes the mark is inflicted with a grievous sore.

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.

A)Now there is a little bit of debate here as to the reference of the term "the Sea" -

B)Is that a reference to all the sea or simply the Mediterranean Sea?

1)Either way it would be horrendous

C)Take a look at this world Map. -Imagine if it is all the sea - everything that is blue being blood red.

D)John MacArthur is one who believes it will be all the Seas - states the situation and its spiritual significance in stark terms: "The transforming of the world's seas into putrid pools of stinking death will be graphic testimony to the wickedness of man." – John MacArthur

And if this wasn't bad enough, next comes bowl number three-

4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. not just the oceans but also the rivers.

A)No fresh water sources - how will people survive? - They will have to live off of stored water sources

B)But also remember - there isn't much time left at this point - God is speeding up the process

C)Once again - note the reaction of Heaven:

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.

6For 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."

Heaven's response is it is about time.

A)They have been watching God be patient and longsuffering with the sin rebellion and wickedness of man for 1,000's of years

B)Now that he is bringing judgment on the world - their response is - this is right - this is due

C)True and righteousness are your judgments

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed." Lamentations 3:22

⁸The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

⁹He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:8-10

He will not always strive with us!

A) There comes a point where God says - no more.

B) The 4th bowl is poured out V.8

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.

A) With the pouring out of the 4th bowl Global warming is going to take on a whole new meaning.

B) The whole world becomes like death Valley.

C) Maybe something happens with the magnetic field that protects the earth from the full force of the sun,

1) but whatever the cause you can imagine what the people on earth at this time are going through

D) They already have sores all over their body, now sunburns like never before and, no fresh water to drink, only old supplies – it's horrible!

E) But notice verse 9, they do not repent, instead they only “blaspheme the name of God”

1) This is the hard heartedness of man at an all-time high!!!

Next God is going to give them a taste of Hell

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.

Next we see that the earth is plagued by darkness –

A) This is I think a preview of what Hell is going to be like – apparently this DARKNESS is so DARK – that it causes pain !!!

B) I don't know if it is referring to an emotional pain – like a Deep Depression that is brought on by the Darkness i.e. – Alaska – Suicides

1) Or if it is a physical pain that is the result of the Darkness itself

C) Hell is described as a place of outer darkness but where the heat is intense and it results in weeping and gnashing of teeth

D) But notice these people who can barely speak because of the pain that overwhelms them – still find it in their hearts to Blaspheme God

Pharaoh in the book of Exodus

A) We read several times that when the plagues started - Pharaoh would cry out - make it stop - but then harden his heart

B) Each time it mentions that Pharaoh hardened his heart - a different Hebrew word is used - showing it was getting stiffer each time

C) Until we read: And God Hardened Pharaoh's heart - God meets Pharaoh in his hardness of heart and speeds up the process -

A similar thing is occurring here: People's hearts are so hard at this point - God is going to speed up the process.

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. ¹⁵ “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.”

¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Here we see the 6th bowl is poured out and we see the preparation taking place for the battle of Armageddon.

A) The Euphrates river is dried up - making a pathway for the Kings of the East - Kings of the rising sun - Maybe China and Japan

B) To journey to the Valley of Megiddo - Massive valley in Israel - Jezreel Valley

C) MT Carmel overlooks this Valley - Massive

Here we are told that Demons - Performing signs and wonders - through the Dragon - Satan - Beast - Antichrist - and the false prophet

A) Draw the Leaders of the world into this Valley - One final battle - come against God - only to be radically defeated

B) We looked at this in detail on Sunday - and we will talk about the outcome of it when we get to chapter 19 - The 2nd coming of Jesus

C) Here is what the prophet Joel said about this battle. Joel 3:12-16

12 Let the nations be roused and come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit down to judge all the surrounding nations.

13 Swing the sickle because the harvest is ripe. Come and trample the grapes because the winepress is full; the wine vats overflow because the wickedness of the nations is extreme.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will cease their shining.

16 The Lord will roar from Zion and make his voice heard from Jerusalem; heaven and earth will shake. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the Israelites. Joel 3:12-16

One time when we were in Israel our group went to his hill overlooking this Valley

A) I taught from Revelation 19 - the Battle of Armageddon - Jesus destroys the Armies of Satan and the Antichrist

B) Our guide that year was an older Jewish man named Jose - he was not a believer -

C) Most of the time when I was teaching - he would walk off - go get a drink or go and talk with other guide friends

But for these teaching he was so attentive - Afterwards - He comes up to me and says - THAT WAS AWESOME.

A) Here is why - they are waiting for this day - they are still looking for the coming of Messiah - they don't believe Jesus is the Messiah

B) Their messiah doesn't die - he conquers -

C) But it is interesting that the Prophet Zechariah prophesied in Zechariah 12:10

1) that there is a day coming when the people of Israel will see Jesus at his 2nd coming and recognize he is the one they rejected and pierced

D) Their eyes are going to be opened - realize that Jesus is indeed the Messiah that they rejected.

Those Jewish people who make it through the tribulation will have their eyes opened and they will believe - and be restored.

A) What a glorious day that will be

B) Leads us to consider Bowl #7

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

A) The statement It is done - is one word in Greek, "ginomai" (get-oh-my) and it's in the perfect tense,

B) indicating the action is totally accomplished, the final act of God getting world ready for the second coming of Christ is complete

C) This announcement, coming from the throne itself tells us that there will be no more delay.

In mercy, God has stretched out this scene as much as He possibly could.

A) The seals were followed by trumpets; the trumpets were followed by bowls;

B) but there will be no more judgments upon the earth after this - 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.

With the final judgment the earth is as we know it is completely destroyed

A) In these final judgments, God shakes the earth with a tremendous earthquake.

B) The same is promised in Hebrews 12:26: *Now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." Yet, what cannot be shaken will remain.*

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.

A) Next week we will look at chapter 17-18 an amplification of the process of this judgment against Babylon

B) We will see how Babylon represents the Political and Religious system of the Antichrist

C) Notice that last phrase in v.19 to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

Fierceness is the ancient Greek word *thymos*, describing a passionate outburst of anger

A) Wrath is the ancient Greek word *orge*, describing a standing state of anger.

B) Dr. John Walvoord - preached here- had this comment

“The combination of *thymos* and *orge* implies the strongest kind of outpouring of divine judgment.” (Walvoord)

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. Reshaping of planet earth- huge hailstones - but notice the end of v.20 here we see this phrase again Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

Once again - another Sober Wednesday night - Great Devastation on planet earth during the Tribulation time.

A) And as we close tonight - I want to remind you of something

B) When the Bible says 15:1 “the wrath of God is complete” – this is speaking of the fact God has been patiently waiting for people to repent,

C) After the 4th and 5th Bowels we are told people would not repent but instead Blasphemed God

1) Implying God was hoping they would repent

Recall in In Genesis 15:16 – God tells Abraham in four generations He will bring His decedents into the land, but not yet for the sin of the Amorites was not “complete” –

A) God was going to give them more time to repent

B) And that ended up being 400 years

And the Amorites were doing horrible things – burying their children alive in the foundation of their homes

A) Hurting them in ways as worship to their gods

B) And God gave them twice as long as we have been around as a country to repent, but they would not

C) And as we look at this world it is what God is doing again

1) He wants men to repent, but He sees all the evil continues to happen and there will come a time, when enough is enough

D) And God will be totally justified in acting because so much grace has already been given -

E) Like a Surgeon exploring every possible way to deal with Cancer - besides opening someone up and removing it

1) The only way to save the person is to remove the Cancer - the only way to save the Planet is to remove the Cancer

But then we also have this Reminder in V.15 - Jesus cries out - Behold I am coming

A) But understand - The interruption in the narrative is not for the people living on earth - experiencing all of this

B) NO it is for us - the readers - it is a reminder.- Be ready.

C) Jesus says: 15 “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.”

C) Behold I am coming as a Thief! - Christ's coming is often compared to a thief?

Why a thief?

A) Because it speaks of suddenness, unpreparedness, and danger.

B) The point is this. He comes as a thief, not for believers, this is as far as unbelievers are concerned.

C) He never comes as a thief for believers. Listen to what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5: you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night but you, brethren, are not in darkness that this day would overtake you as a thief.

Note that phrase the Day of the Lord - not speaking of a Day but a time frame a period of time
A) Starts with the rapture and includes the tribulation time and the 2nd coming of Jesus.

B) But that day shouldn't overtake us as a thief - because he comes to us as a Bridegroom, not a thief.

C) We're waiting and watching for Him, but it will take the earth completely off guard.
1) It's sudden. It's where they're unprepared.

Jesus says to us here in Revelation 16:15 Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
A) YOU Watch. Be on guard. Like a Soldier

B) In ancient times, soldiers slept with their clothes on. They didn't put their PJ's on and go to bed. Why?
1) Because if they were attacked in the middle of the night, not only would they look goofy, but they'd be dead.

C) You need your clothes on, your sword at your side, your helmet nearby, so you can get up and fight.
1) Shameful to not be ready.

Jesus is telling us - 2 things here.
A) #1 Be ready - be on guard
³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
2 Timothy 2:3

B) Don't be caught off guard - Waiting and watching

C) Stay engaged in the battle - stay engaged in the mission - Lost Souls

But the 2nd thing that he is reminding us of is this: As we watch the world get more and more corrupt and evil

A) And whenever we start to be filled with Despair - and think - is there any hope.

B) We need to be reminded that He is coming

C) He is coming - He is going to set up His Kingdom