

a. The seven bowl judgments (Rev.16:1-21)

The bowl judgments are the most severe of all the judgments. This may be due to the fact that they are directed towards the Antichrist and his followers.

i. Bowl #1 (v.2) - sores on those that follow the _____

When this bowl is poured out, it will bring malignant sores to all those who have taken the mark of the beast. These sores are the same sort of thing God did to the Egyptians in Moses' day (Ex. 9:8-12); and Moses warned the nation of Israel that God would inflict them with boils if they fell into the sins of the surrounding nations (Deut. 28:15, 27, 35).

There are three descriptions of this judgment:

- *loathsome* - Gk. *kakos*, pertaining to being harsh and difficult.¹ This illness is going to be extremely hellish to bear.
- *malignant* - Gk. *poneros*, pertaining to being morally corrupt and evil.² This is referring to the metastatic nature of the illness to spread over the body in a malevolent way.
- *sore* - Gk. *helkos*, a painful, ulcerated sore resulting from infection.³ We might compare these sores to an extremely nasty case of shingles.

During this judgment people will not be able to find any relief through medical treatment. The pain and suffering of the sores is going to be a pandemic that the world has never seen before.

ii. Bowl #2 (v.3) - the oceans turn to _____

This judgment pushes the boundaries of what we saw in the second trumpet judgment (Rev. 8:8) where one-third of the sea was turned to blood and one-third of the sea creatures died. In this bowl judgment, the entire sea is turned to blood and all aquatic life dies.

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 623). New York: United Bible Societies.

² Ibid. p. 753

³ Ibid. p. 272

The description of the sea is that it “*became blood like that of a dead man.*” When a body dies, blood loses its fluidity and begins to clot; thus, one can see that if the same sort of process happened in the ocean, aquatic life could not be sustained. An example of this very thing can be found in Exodus 7:20-25 when God struck the Nile River with blood and all the fish died. The impact on the world, with the same sort of plague being put upon the oceans, would give the air a foul odor and cause the seashore to become a bacterial hothouse with countless numbers of dead sea creatures washing ashore.

iii. Bowl #3 (v.4-7) - all the fresh water turns to _____

When this judgment occurs, man’s vital resource of water will be polluted in such a way that it will kill all living creatures that live in it, and those whose life is sustained by it will suffer a slow death of dehydration. Again, like the stench that will come from the sea due to extreme death, the land will give off a putrid smell.

Man can only live for three or four days without water, so the only humans that will be able to survive are those who had some sort of water storage system in place prior to this bowl judgment.

Another aspect of this judgment is that the angel of the waters will declare certain aspects of God’s character (vv. 5-7).

- His _____
- His _____
- His _____
- His _____
- His _____ (Lord)
- He is _____, creator and _____ of life (God)
- He is _____
- He is _____
- He is _____ in all his judgments

When we think of this judgment upon creation and the affect it will have on humanity, Romans 1:20 comes to mind, “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*” Paul’s point was that God’s creative work revealed God’s nature to the extent that all men should be able to understand something of who God is. In the case of creation, one is exposed to the omniscience, power, authority, orderliness, and beauty of God’s nature. But in these judgments where God destroys creation, a different view of His nature is exposed. In both cases all men are held liable for not turning to Him as creation exposes His nature. The first case is more of a benevolent view of God, and the latter is a more vengeful view. In either case, God made Himself known through creation and men are held responsible to turn to Him and worship the greatness of His personhood.

iv. Bowl #4 (vv.8-9) - the _____ will scorch mankind with intense heat

With the emptying of the previous bowls, mankind is suffering intensely due to a lack of water resources. And in this fourth judgment, God turns up the heat at just the time man has run out of water.

Underscore the phrase “*it was given*” (v.8) as it points to the sovereignty of God. As the creator and sustainer of the sun, He alone has the authority and power to tell it what to do—just as when Joshua and the Israelites needed a longer day to defeat their enemies, and thus God caused the sun to hold its position until the battle was won. In the fourth bowl judgment, God sovereignly intensifies man’s exposure to the sun.

We also would highlight the word “*scorch*” in v.8. In Greek the word is “*kaumatizo*,” and it means “to wither up,” “to torture by heat,” “to suffer from the heat of fever.”⁴ The meaning here is that God is using the heat of the sun to wither up sinful mankind. God is demonstrating through this judgment how puny and frail man is. Moses put it this way in Psalm 90: “*You turn man back into dust And say, “Return, O children of men.” 4 For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night. 5 You have swept them away like a*

⁴Schneider, J. (1964–), G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 3, p. 643). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

flood, they fall asleep; In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew. 6 In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew; Toward evening it fades and withers away.”

With all these horrific and intense judgments, one might ask, “How can anyone survive—especially the elect?” There are two interesting passages in the Old Testament that help us to understand how the elect could survive during these days. In Psalm 121:5-6 and Isaiah 49:10, we can see that God provides for His own during such extreme times. A good example of this is found in the book of Exodus. When God unleashed the great plagues upon Egypt, He protected Israel from their effects (Ex. 7:21; 8:3-4; 21-23; 9:4; 26;10:4, 6, 23; 11:7). I am also reminded of what David said in Ps. 23:5, “...*Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil.*” In the midst of horrific situations, God protects His own. Therefore, in the Great Tribulation, God will provide for those He has determined will live through it.

On the other hand, the power of the Antichrist to persuade unbelieving men to worship him and believe him to be superior to God is evidenced by men’s blaspheming of God’s name and refusal to give glory to Him (v.9).

v. Bowl #5 (vv.10-11) - darkness _____ the kingdom the beast

In the previous bowl judgments, God has brought His wrath upon the followers of the Antichrist as well as creation. But in the fifth bowl judgment, God tightens the noose around the neck of a satanic world system. This judgment goes after the epicenter of the beast, “...*the throne of the beast...*” (v.10). Here, it is not just the subjects of the kingdom who will suffer but all those who are at the center of power. Again, all we have to do is turn back to the plagues in Egypt to see how Pharaoh and his court were dismayed by God’s judgments (Ex. 10:21-29). This judgment demonstrates that no one is beyond God’s judicial arm.

The result of the fifth bowl judgment is three fold:

- **People will _____ on their tongues because of the severe pain.**

There is an emotional pain that comes with this judgment. The thick darkness will leave people lost in their loneliness. It will be a form of solitary confinement. It will be something like what the people of Sodom experienced when they were blinded at Lot's door and lost all sense of direction (Gen.19:11). Imagine how hard it would be to locate the normal things of life as well as trying to take care of one's personal hygiene. Think how painful it would be if you were a parent responsible for your little children and you could not find them in your own home. Or if you had an elderly family member living with you who needed medication, and you could not find either the meds or your loved one. Think how emotionally painful it would be to hear a little child or the elderly crying for help and not being able to find them and comfort them. It would be simply torturous to be in that sort of situation, but these are the sorts of things that will happen when this judgment is unleashed on the world.

It is no wonder that people will gnaw on their tongues. The word "*gnawed*" literally means "they bit their tongues because of their pain."⁵ The picture here is of someone continually chewing on their tongue due to their pain. It is hard for us in our present culture to even imagine this kind of pain, but never-the-less, this darkness will bring horrific pain to the kingdom of the beast.

- **People will blaspheme God for their _____.**

People will understand their emotional and physical pain is a direct result of God's intervention; and as a result, they will utter profanities towards Him. The word "*blasphemed*" in Greek is defined as, "to speak against someone in such a way as to harm or injure his or her reputation."⁶ Men will specifically

⁵ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 253). New York: United Bible Societies.

⁶ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 433). New York: United Bible Societies.

attack the holy nature of God by disparaging Him as “*the God of heaven.*” As God brings His judgment to the throne and kingdom of the beast, men from every quarter of life will attack the kingdom of God with their words. This will be especially true for those who hold political power at that time. The darkness will only expose the hardness of man’s heart toward God.

- **People will not repent of their _____.**

Jeremiah 17:9-10 “*The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? 10 “I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.”* At any time people will be free to call upon the name of the Lord for salvation. If they would, He would rescue them; but they will not have anything to do with Him. Instead, they will choose to rely on the beast to save them and thus, they would rather live with their emotional and physical pain than to submit to God.

vi. Bowl #6 (vv.12-16) - the Great River Euphrates _____ up

The Euphrates is no small river. It is the longest river in southwest Asia, running a distance of 1,740 miles. In this bowl judgment, God is going to turn the spicket off and dry up the great river. In doing so He is setting the stage for the last great battle of men and demons against God and His people—the battle of Armageddon.

Pouring out this bowl judgment unleashes demonic activity in a way the world has never seen. Satan will use his demonic forces to possess and influence the nations of the world to fight against “*God, the Almighty.*” Drying up the Euphrates River removes the great physical barrier between the people of the East and the Middle East and allows for the quick movement of troops, equipment, and supplies.

In v.15, we have a parenthesis in this judgment. God is encouraging His people to stay faithful so that they will be ready when Christ returns. The emphasis here is on the ending of the Great Tribulation in preparation for the Messiah King’s appearance.

The location of the battle is given in v.16. As in the Old Testament, Megiddo is referred to both as a city and a valley. The general area is located east of the Jordan

River in the north-east portion of Israel. The valley is located about fifty miles north of Jerusalem, and twenty miles beyond that is the Valley of Megiddo. The valley is the most likely place the great battle will take place (see enclosed pictures).

vii. Bowl #7 (vv.17-21) - the shaking and _____ of the earth

Pouring out the seventh bowl judgment releases the greatest turbulence in the natural world man has ever seen. The earth will shake at a level it has never seen, and the very crust of the earth will be reshaped. Along with this, hail stones weighing 100 pounds will fall from the sky and plummet to earth.

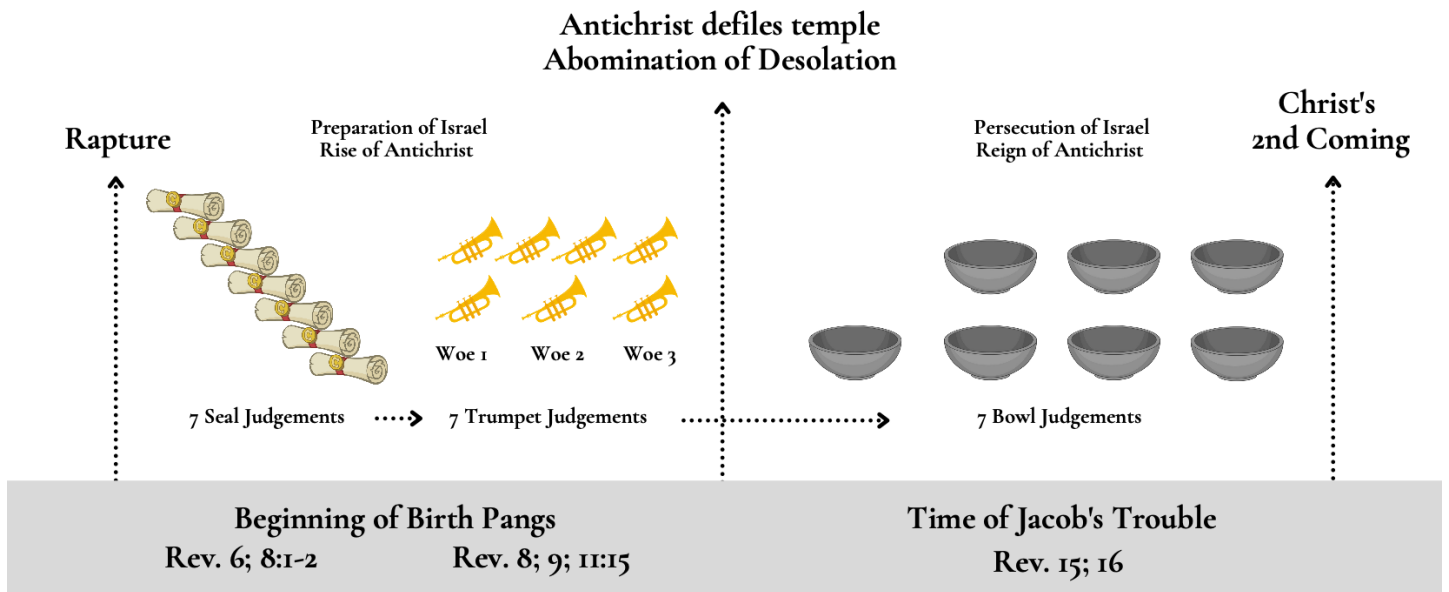
Verse 19 tells us how the earthquake will be so intense that it will split Jerusalem into three parts. It will also demolish major cities in the world and it will destroy Babylon. In verse 20, the earthquake will remove islands and level mountains. And if that was not enough to level the earth, 100-pound hailstones will flatten the great skyscrapers of major cities, and buildings of all shapes and sizes will be destroyed. Earth will be like a moonscape by the time the seventh bowl judgment is finished.

And still, after all of this, men would rather blaspheme God than to repent of their sins and turn to Him for salvation (v.21).

The Judgments of Revelation

FIRST HALF OF TRIBULATION

SECOND HALF OF TRIBULATION



Seventieth Week of Daniel (Daniel 9:27)

