

## The Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls (part 3)

(Revelation 16)

“Then I heard a mighty voice from the temple sanctuary saying to the seven angels, Go and empty out on the earth the seven bowls of God’s wrath and indignation” (Rev. 16:1).

There are three woes registered in Revelation, which are the final judgments God sends to the evil ones on earth. God, in His mercy, gives men another chance to repent, through these woes, as we read in Revelation 9: 20-21: “and the rest of humanity who were not killed by these plagues even then did not repent of the works of their hands, so as to cease paying homage to the demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor move; they did not repent of their murders or their practice of magic or their sexual vice or their thefts”. These woes have come before men sign a contract with the devil by taking his mark. Here there is still an open door for them to repent of their sins and be saved. The first woe came after the fifth trumpet of judgment Revelation 9:3,7-8. They are locusts, which were given power to hurt men. The second woe happens after the sixth trumpet of judgment (Revelation 9:14, 16). Angels were liberated to kill a third of mankind. After the second woe, of Revelation 11:14 there will be an announcement from heaven: “the seventh angel then blew [his] trumpet, and there were mighty voices in heaven, shouting, the dominion of the world has now come into the possession and become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He shall reign forever and ever” (Rev. 11:15). The third woe is revealed after the seventh trumpet of judgment. This finishes God’s plan for the world and the judgment on sin. This woe is incorporated with the bowls of God’s wrath (Rev. 16: 1-21).

### THE FIRST BOWL (Revelation 16:2)

When people chose to worship the antichrist by the hardening of their heart and by accepting his mark, they showed their allegiance to him (Rev. 13: 11-18). As a result the bowls of the wrath of God were poured on them. There will be then no more opportunities for their salvation. They will suffer ugly and painful sores (Rev. 16: 2). It is good to know that these bowls judgments will affect only those who will take the mark of the beast. For reasons I do not know, if you are left behind, don’t take the mark of the antichrist, or you will be lost forever in hell.

### THE SECOND BOWL (Revelation 16: 3)

When the second trumpet was blown, one third of the sea was turned to blood like that of a dead man and every living thing in the sea died (16:3).

### THE THIRD BOWL (Revelation 16:4-7)

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. After that the angel in charge of the water made a proclamation: “You are just in these judgments, You have so judged; for they have shed the blood of your saints, and prophets, and You have given blood to drink as they deserve”. And (John) heard the altar response, “Yes, Lord,

God almighty, true and just are Your judgments. The blood of the saints had been poured out by the antichrist and his men; it is just that God will give them blood to drink in return”.

#### THE FOURTH BOWL (Revelation 16:8-9)

In the previous bowl judgment locusts inflicted painful sores on humankind, they were given blood to drink. God intensifies His judgment through this fourth bowl by given the sun power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat. They cursed the name of God, Who had control over the plagues and refused to repent and glorify Him (16:9). Men had come to the point of no return “Because they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever! For this reason God gave them over and abandoned them to vile affections and degrading passions. For their women exchanged their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one, and the men also turned from natural relations with women and were set ablaze with lust for one another- men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own bodies and personalities and inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrongdoing and going astray, which was fitting retribution, and so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome, until they were filled with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice. [They were full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers, slanders, hateful to and hating God, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents, without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless, though they are fully aware of God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them” (Rom. 1:26-32).

#### THE FIFTH BOWL (Revelation 16:10-11)

The fifth bowl envelops the earth with darkness, for God closes the light from the sun. “The fifth [angel] emptied his bowl on the throne of the beast and his kingdom was [plunged] in darkness; and people gnawed their tongues for the torment [of their excruciating distress and severe pain] and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their anguish and their ulcers and they did not deplore their wicked deeds or repent”. This is an indescribable suffering men will have to go through for having rejected the Lord God. Where there is no sunlight, there will be no warmth nor life to sustain humankind.

#### THE SIXTH BOWL (Revelation 16:12-16)

Then the sixth [angel] emptied his bowl on the mighty river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to make ready a road for the kings of the east (v. 12).

“The Euphrates River is the longest and most important stream of western Asia. It arises in Armenia and it empties into the Persian Gulf after being joined by the Tigris at a point of 100 miles from the Gulf.”

There is a common feature between the sixth trumpet and the sixth bowl: the Euphrates River. Instead of the 200 hundred million cavalry of chapter 9:16-17, John sees the kings from the East coming across the Euphrates River. They represent the kings of the entire world with the purpose of assembling for a great battle (v.14). Like the demonic forces, they are set to bring great trouble to earth in threes: three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur (9:18); here three evil spirits that looked like frogs came out of the mouth of the dragon, the mouth of the beast and of the false prophet (v.13). And they gathered together at the place which in Hebrew is called Armageddon (16). The battle at Armageddon is the final battle to bring human governments to an end (Daniel 2:44). It is called in Hebrew the mountain of Megiddo. It was once a city in the ancient Israel. This battle culminates the great tribulation.

#### THE SEVENTH BOWL (Revelation 16:17-21)

“Then the seventh [angel] emptied out his bowl into the air, and a mighty voice came out of the sanctuary of heaven from the throne [of God], saying, It is done! And there followed lightning flashes, loud rumblings, peals of thunder, and a tremendous earthquake; nothing like it has ever occurred since men dwelt on the earth, so severe and far-reaching was that earthquake”.

There are three phenomena in John’s vision: flashes of lightnings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. The Bible says that no earthquake like it has ever occurred since the existence of man on earth. The mighty city was broken into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. These cities perhaps correspond to the kings of the world who had come to assemble for battle. Like the plagues of Egypt didn’t bring repentance, so these last seven plagues do not bring repentance either. These people are doomed to everlasting condemnation. This bowl concludes God’s judgment on earth and on those who rejected God to embrace the devil.

These judgments are not a Hollywood fiction movie. This is reality coming to the world after the departure of the church of Christ. God created you not to condemn you, but to save you. His sacrificial death caused him great pain for the purpose to save you, so that you would not have to suffer the penalties of sin. Just before His death He said, It is finished! His salvation was completed; He paid in full. Accept Him today!