

# The Unveiling of Jesus Christ



The Seven Bowls of  
God's Wrath  
Revelation 15 – 16

Seven-headed Beast from the Luther Bible

Previously in Revelation

## Previously in Revelation

- Before the extended interlude we went through in **Revelation 10 – 14**, we saw two series of judgments.
- We saw **Christ, the Lamb**, opening the **Seven Seals** that were on the scroll that He received.
- The opening of each seal signaled a new judgment.

## Previously in Revelation

- Later, within the **Seventh Seal**, we saw **Seven Angels** with **Seven Trumpets**.
- The blowing of each Trumpet led to another judgment.
- The **Seventh Trumpet** sounded during that long interlude.
- Now we will see the judgments associated with it.

## Previously in Revelation

- Before the **Seven Seals** were opened John saw the scene in heaven in **Revelation 4 & 5**.
- Before the **Seven Trumpets** sounded John again saw the scene in heaven (**8:1-6**).

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 – 16

Introduction

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Introduction

- We are about to witness the pouring out of the **Seven Bowls**, the final set of judgments.
- In this chapter John sees “**another sign in heaven.**”

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Introduction

- In his vision, he views two important groups:
  1. The Seven Angels, having the Seven Last Plagues coming out of the temple in heaven.
  2. The victorious Tribulation Saints singing. These saints are also in heaven.



# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

Outline

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Outline

- I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8
- II. Judgments upon the Earth 16:1-21

# I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:1 Seven angels with seven plagues
- In these seven last plagues the wrath of God is complete.
- The judgments of this time of Tribulation will be finished.

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:2 A sea of glass mingled with fire
- Before the Tabernacle and Temple were the bronze laver and molten sea.
- These corresponded to the sea of glass or “crystal sea” (NLT) in heaven.

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:2 Those who had conquered the beast
- These Tribulation Saints were most likely murdered – or *martyred* for their faith.
- From earth's perspective they were fanatics who lost their lives.
- In heaven they stand singing victoriously.
- They have conquered by not submitting to the Beast.

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:3-4 the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb
- The children of Israel sang a similar song of victory when they left the bondage of Egypt.
- At that point, the kingdom of Pharaoh was defeated.  
(Exodus 15)

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:3-4 the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb
- These saints will escape the world while the Lord destroys another kingdom.
- The Beast is a ruler more powerful and more wicked than Pharaoh.



## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- 15:5-8 Out of the sanctuary came the seven angels
- The angels exit the heavenly temple and receive the seven bowls full of the wrath of God.
- Afterward no one is able to enter the Temple until the judgments are complete.
- God hides Himself during this time of wrath.

## I. The Scene in Heaven 15:1-8

- This is an interesting comparison.
- Exodus 40: 34-35

34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. 35 And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth      16:1-21

- We will look at each of these judgments separately.
- But first a few thoughts.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth      16:1-21

- Remember that during the Tribulation many will decisively reject God's love.
- Before these judgments are complete, people will have rejected Christ repeatedly from various sources.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth      16:1-21

- First, as preached by the church before the Rapture.
- Then they ignored the message of the 144,000 Jews.
- They also knew about the two witnesses in Jerusalem.
- In Revelation 14, we also saw several angels sent to warn people to worship God and not the Beast.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth 16:1-21

- Judgment is now the only alternative.
- As we examine the Bowl Judgments, some interesting comparisons can be made:
  - They will be something like the Trumpet Judgments only more severe.
  - They are also strangely like the plagues upon Egypt in Exodus.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth 16:1-21

- These are not random, irrational acts of violence by a God fallen into a rage.
- God is not evil.
- He is perfectly holy, just and good.

## II. Judgments upon the Earth 16:1-21

- These judgments are deliberately chosen by a sovereign God who is in complete control.
- Antichrist and those who worship him will be powerless against the wrath of the Almighty.



## II. Judgments upon the Earth      16:1-21

## II. Judgments upon the Earth      16:1-21

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|---------------------|----------|
| 1. The First Bowl   | 16:1-2   |
| 2. The Second Bowl  | 16:3     |
| 3. The Third Bowl   | 16:4-7   |
| 4. The Fourth Bowl  | 16:8-9   |
| 5. The Fifth Bowl   | 16:10-11 |
| 6. The Sixth Bowl   | 16:12-16 |
| 7. The Seventh Bowl | 16:17-21 |

# 1. The First Bowl

16:1-2

- Harmful and Painful Sores

# 1. The First Bowl

16:1-2

- Harmful and Painful Sores
- In the second half of the Tribulation people will begin worshiping the Beast – Antichrist.
- Those who worship him will take his mark.
- God will make a distinction between those who worship the Beast and those who do not.

# 1. The First Bowl

16:1-2

- Harmful and Painful Sores
- Only those who receive the mark will suffer the sores.
- Sore = *helkos*, as in Exodus 9:9-11 (LXX)
- The word is also used of the sores of Job (Job 2:7).

## 2. The Second Bowl

16:3

- The Sea Becomes Blood

## 2. The Second Bowl 16:3

- The Sea Becomes Blood
- Prior to the Exodus the Nile became blood.
- At the Second Trumpet one third of the Sea turned to blood (Revelation 8:8)
- Now all of it becomes blood.
- Sea life is wiped out as a result.

### 3. The Third Bowl

16:4-7

- The Rivers and Springs Become Blood



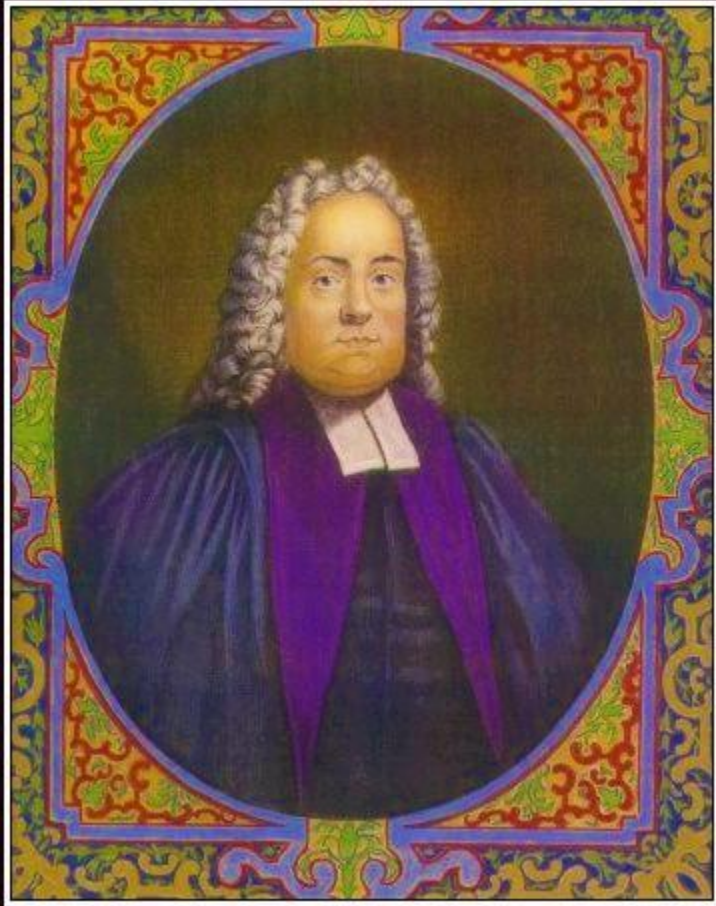
### 3. The Third Bowl

16:4-7

- The Rivers and Springs Become Blood
- I take this to be much more literal than symbolic.
- That is not to say that if we did a chemical analysis of any given river, it would come out exactly like blood.
- We just want to avoid the kind of thing some older commentators have said.

### 3. The Third Bowl

16:4-7

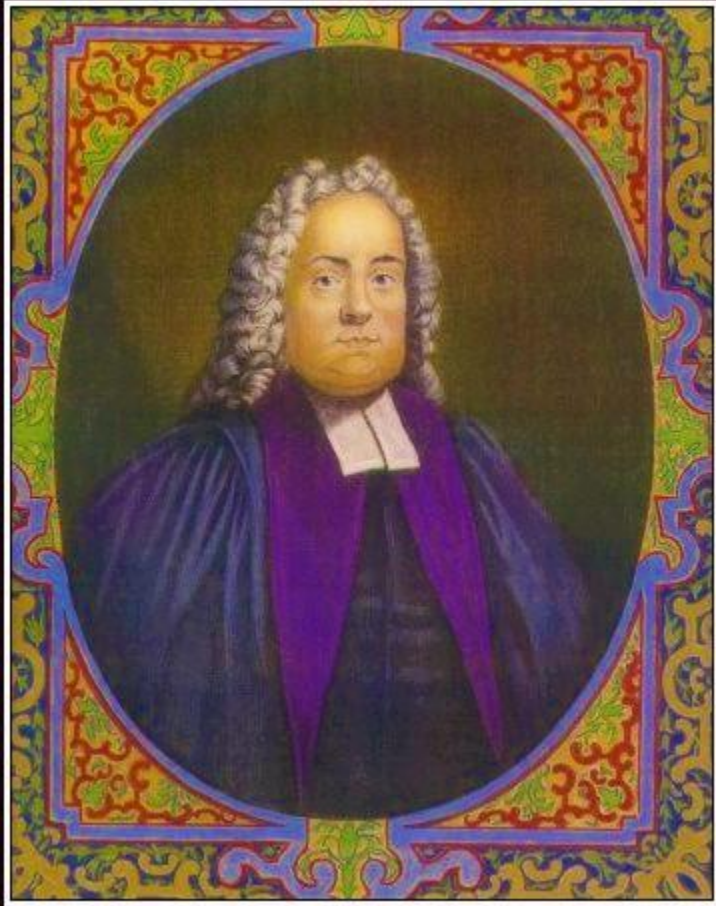


*The next angel poured out his vial; and we are told, [1.] Where it fell--upon the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; that is, say some very learned men, upon their emissaries, and especially the Jesuits, who, like streams, conveyed the venom and poison of their errors and idolatries from the spring-head through the earth.*

– Matthew Henry (1662 – 1714),  
British Nonconformist

### 3. The Third Bowl

16:4-7



*[2.] What effect it had upon them: It turned them into blood; some think it stirred up Christian princes to take a just revenge upon those that had been the great incendiaries of the world, and had occasioned the shedding of the blood of armies and of martyrs.*

– Matthew Henry (1662 – 1714),  
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### 3. The Third Bowl

16:4-7

- The Rivers and Springs Become Blood
- The emphasis in the angel's response is on God's perfect justice.
- Justice so just is rarely, if ever, seen.
- Multitudes of bloodthirsty people are now given (something like) blood to drink.

## 4. The Fourth Bowl

16:8-9

- The Scorching Heat of the Sun

## 4. The Fourth Bowl 16:8-9

- The Scorching Heat of the Sun
- Climate Change was never this bad.
- How does the Christ-rejecting world respond?
- Not with repentance, but by cursing God's name.

## 4. The Fourth Bowl

16:8-9

- Malachi 4:1-2

1 For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. 2 But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast



## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- The darkness is no relief from the heat but is itself another form of judgment.
- It only makes the pain of the sunburns and sores seem all the more intense.
- It is directed specifically at the Kingdom of the Beast, and he is unable to stop it.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- Amos 5:18

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why would you have the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, and not light.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- Nahum 1:6-8

6 Who can stand before his indignation?

Who can endure the heat of his anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire,

and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- Nahum 1:6-8

7 The Lord is good,

a stronghold in the day of trouble;

he knows those who take refuge in him.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- Nahum 1:6-8

8 But with an overflowing flood  
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,  
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

## 5. The Fifth Bowl

16:10-11

- Darkness upon the Kingdom of the Beast
- Zephaniah 1:15

A day of wrath is that day,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness.

## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16

- The Euphrates Dries Up in Preparation for Armageddon

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16:12-16

- The Euphrates Dries Up in Preparation for Armageddon
- The 1700-mile-long Euphrates is one of the most mentioned rivers in the Bible.
- It has been at the center of human history since Eden. (Genesis 2:14)
- It was the border of the land promised to Abraham. (Genesis 15:18)



## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16

- The Euphrates Dries Up in Preparation for Armageddon
- It once served as the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire.
- Today it runs through the center of Iraq, so it has even recently attracted attention.

## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16

- The Euphrates Dries Up in Preparation for Armageddon
- Now it will dry up to allow armies from the east to pass into Israel on dry land.
- These armies, and the armies of the world, will be drawn to Armageddon by deceiving demonic spirits.

## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16



## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16

- The Euphrates Dries Up in Preparation for Armageddon
- How will so many people be so deceived?
- It appears that the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet are connected to this demonic deception.

## 6. The Sixth Bowl

16:12-16

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- These will all come at the very end:
  1. Earthquake
  2. The Great City Divided
  3. Cities of the Nations Fall
  4. Great Babylon Falls
  5. Giant Hail

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- The Earthquake will be the worst the world has ever seen (v.18).
- Think about that for a moment.



## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- The cities of the nations will fall.
- Apparently, none will remain standing by the end of the Tribulation or at the start of the Millennium.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Babylon will be the Beast's headquarters.
- Therefore, it will be the political and economic capital of the world.
- The details of its fall are given to us in Revelation 18.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl 16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Regarding the hail, think about this place where God is speaking to Job in Job 38:22-23,

22 “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow,  
or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,  
23 which I have reserved for the time of trouble,  
for the day of battle and war?

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Also, regarding the hail, the punishment in the Old Testament for blasphemy was stoning.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl 16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Leviticus 24:16

Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Revelation 16:9

They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl      16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Revelation 16:11

And [they] cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

## 7. The Seventh Bowl 16:17-21

- The Final Bowl of Judgment
- Revelation 16:21

And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, [*about a talent in weight*] fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.



## II. Judgments upon the Earth 16:1-21

- This ends the judgments upon the earth.
- Revelation 17 & 18 will give us more detail regarding the judgment upon the Two Babylons.
- Chapter 19 shows us the Second Coming.
- Chapters 20 – 22 tell us what comes after that.

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 – 16

Conclusions

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## Revelation 15 – 16

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### 1. The Person of Christ

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

### 1. The Person of Christ

- Remember that Jesus unsealed the scroll which has led to all these judgments.
- He is revealed as the one who is now judging the earth.

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Revelation 15 – 16

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## 2. The Persistence of Sin

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

### 2. The Persistence of Sin

- We saw several cases of complete, obstinate, unrepentance.
- People are cursing God rather than asking for His forgiveness.

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 – 16

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## 3. The Plan of God

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

### 3. The Plan of God

- The judgments of the Tribulation Period are being revealed to us before the time.
- God is not acting randomly, and His anger is never out of control.
- He is preparing the world for Christ's return and the inauguration of His kingdom.



# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

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Conclusions

- Deliverance from Wrath

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 – 16

Conclusions

- Deliverance from Wrath
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10

9 ... you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Revelation 15 – 16

Conclusions

- The Redeemed Will Be Singing in Heaven

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

- The Redeemed Will Be Singing in Heaven
- We saw this in 15:2-3 where the Tribulation Saints had the “harps [*kitharas*] of God in their hands.”
- We will know what a heavenly *kithara* will be like someday when we get there.

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

- Revelation 15:3-4

3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God,  
and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,

O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

O King of the nations! ...

# The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

## Revelation 15 – 16

## Conclusions

- Revelation 15:3-4

... 4 Who will not fear, O Lord,  
and glorify your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come  
and worship you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”