

## Lesson 13 – Revelation 16

### Brief Summary of Revelation 1–9

#### Revelation 1 The Introduction: Scene: Earth. Time: Past (ca. 95 AD).

John introduces the book of prophecy with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the Revelation. John was exiled on the island of Patmos when Jesus sent and communicated the vision of things which must soon take place. John is commanded to write and send the book to the seven churches in Asia.

#### Revelation 2-3 Messages to the Angels of the Seven Churches in Asia:

*Scene: Earth. Time: Present (to original readers in Asia).*

Jesus sends a unique message to each of the seven churches in the western part of the Roman province of Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The cities are listed in the order of the geographical circuit that the messenger of the book would naturally travel as he delivered the letters.

#### Revelation 4–5 Prelude of Praise:

*Scene: Heaven. Time: Future (Onset of the Great Seven-Year Tribulation which will complete the present age, conclude with Jesus' return, and usher in the Millennium).*

Revelation 4-22 records events that will take place in the future. Three consecutive periods of judgment lead to the second return of Jesus Christ: 7 Seals; 7 Trumpets; and, 7 Bowls. A prelude of praise in heaven precedes the onset of each three sets of 7 consecutive judgments. Revelation 4-5 records the initial heavenly prelude of praise that will precede the opening of the 7 Seals of judgment in Revelation 6, ushering in “a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will” (Matt 24:21).

#### Revelation 6 Seven Seal Judgments

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward.)*

The seven seals contain the judgments of the Great Tribulation, concluding with the return of Jesus. The seventh Seal contains the seven Trumpet judgments, and the seventh Trumpet judgment contains the final seven Bowl judgments. The Trumpet and Bowl judgments are all contained within the seventh Seal, unfolding consecutively through the seven-year Tribulation Period. Through judgment, Jesus becomes King of all the nations.

Revelation 6 records John's vision of the Lamb breaking the first 6 of 7 Seals:

- Seal #1: First Apocalyptic Horseman (White Horse): Conqueror
- Seal #2: Second Apocalyptic Horseman (Red Horse): Removes Peace
- Seal #3: Third Apocalyptic Horseman (Black Horse): Famine
- Seal #4: Fourth Apocalyptic Horseman (Ashen Horse): Death and Hades (over ¼ killed)
- Seal #5: Cries of the Martyrs for Judgment and Vengeance
- Seal #6: Earthquake, Blackened Sun, Blood-like Moon, Falling Stars, Split Sky, Moving Mountains and Islands, Hiding Men, Great Day of Wrath

The seventh seal remains unbroken at the end of Revelation 6. Before the Lamb breaks the seventh seal (Rev 8), the foreheads of 144,000 from the 12 tribes of Israel are sealed.

#### Rev 7:1-8 Sealing of 144,000 from 12 Tribes of Israel: Scene: Earth. Time: Future.

The angels are commanded to refrain from harming the earth, sea, or trees until the bond-servants of God are sealed on their foreheads with the seal of the Living God. The 144,000 include 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### Rev 7:9-17 Prelude of Praise by Multitude in Heaven: Scene: Heaven. Time: Future.

Before the Lamb breaks the 7th Seal, containing the 7 Trumpets and 7 Bowls, there is a prelude of praise in heaven by a great, countless multitude from every nation, tribes, peoples, and tongues. The multitude, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, stands before the throne and before the Lamb as they cry, “Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” (7:10). The heavenly court responds in worship. One of the elders explains to John that the multitude came out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes, made white in the blood of the Lamb.

\*(A)=Application (C)=Context (D)=Difficult (DOC)=Doctrine (O)=Opinion (PER)=Personal (PR)=Principle (P)=Prophecy

## Lesson 13 – Revelation 16

### Revelation 8–9 Trumpet Judgments

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward, Second Half of Tribulation)*

After the sealing of 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel and a prelude of praise by a great multitude in heaven, the Lamb breaks the seventh seal. In response, heaven is silenced for half an hour. The seventh seal contains the seven trumpets, the second of three 7-judgment series that are consecutively released during the Great Tribulation. The seven bowls are contained in the seventh trumpet. The seven trumpets are contained in the seventh seal. When the Lamb breaks the seventh seal, He is actually initiating the seven trumpets. Once the seventh seal is broken, the seven trumpet judgments occur consecutively. Revelation 8–9 records the consecutive release of six of the seven trumpet judgments.

- Trumpet #1: Hail, Fire (upon earth)
- Trumpet #2: Burning Mountain (upon sea)
- Trumpet #3: Wormwood (upon waters)
- Trumpet #4: Sun, Moon, Stars (upon heavens)
- Trumpet #5: Demonic Locusts (upon people)
- Trumpet #6: Horsemen (upon people)
- Trumpet #7: Announces 7 Bowls

### **Introduction to Revelation 10–15:**

#### **Transition from Trumpets (8–9) to Seals (16)**

*Scenes: Earth (10-14) and Heaven (15) Time: Future*

Just as chapter 7, which deals with the 144,000 sealed Israelites and great multitude from all nations, serves as a transition between the Seal and Trumpet judgments, Chapters 10–15 serve as a transition between the Trumpet and Bowl judgments. The interlude provides background information pertaining to significant people, places, and events during the Great Tribulation without advancing chronologically through the judgment series.

Chapter 10 introduces an angel, perhaps Michael the archangel, who announces the 7th trumpet, which contains the seven final Bowl judgments leading to the return of Christ.

Chapter 11 records John's measurement of the temple of God and the altar, then it introduces the two witnesses who prophesy for 1,260 days (42 months) of the Great Tribulation. At the end of 3 ½ years, the two witnesses die and their bodies are displayed for 3 ½ days before they are brought back to life and ascend into heaven.

Chapter 12 is often considered the most symbolic chapter in the Bible. Five of seven major tribulation personages are identified: (1) the woman clothed with the sun=Mary/Judah (2) the red dragon (7 heads, 10 horns, 7 diadems)=Satan; (3) a male child=Christ; (4) Michael/angels; and (5) offspring of woman persecuted by the dragon=Israel.

Chapter 13 introduces the final two of seven major tribulation personages: (6) beast out of the sea=Antichrist; and, (7) beast out of the earth=false prophet.

Chapter 14 reveals the Lamb standing on Mount Zion and the worship of the 144,000 who have the name of the Lamb and the name of His Father written on their foreheads. After a prelude of praise, angels announce fallen Babylon and the reaping of the earth.

Chapter 15 records a heavenly prelude of praise in preparation for the final series of judgment. Those who had been victorious over the beast and his image sing the Song of Moses and Song of the Lamb. One of the four living creatures gives to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever, and the temple is filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power.

## Lesson 13 – Revelation 16

### Introduction to Revelation 16 (The Grand Finale)

#### Revelation 16 – Seven Plagues/Bowl Judgments

*Scene: Earth. Time: Future (Chronology moves forward.)*

The seven seals (Rev 6, 8) contain all the judgments of the Great Tribulation, concluding with the return of Jesus. The seventh Seal (Rev 8) contains the seven Trumpet judgments (Rev 8–9, 11:15), and the seventh Trumpet judgment (Rev 11:15) contains the final seven Bowl judgments (Rev 16). The Trumpet and Bowl judgments are all contained within the seventh Seal, unfolding consecutively through the seven-year Tribulation Period. Through judgment, Jesus becomes King of all the nations.

Revelation 16 brings the terrible judgments of the Tribulation to conclusion through the pouring out of the final seven Bowl judgments.

- Bowl 1 (upon earth) Boils
- Bowl 2 (into sea) Blood
- Bowl 3 (into rivers) Blood
- Bowl 4 (upon sun) Scorching
- Bowl 5 (upon throne of the beast) Darkness
- Bowl 6 (upon the Euphrates river) Dries Up
- Bowl 7 (upon air) Earthquake, Hail

#### **STUDY QUESTIONS:**

##### **Bowl #1**

Rev. 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

Rev. 16:2 So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

1. **What does John hear from the temple? To whom does the voice speak? What does the voice command the angels to do? (16:1)**
2. **Where does the first angel pour out his bowl? What is the result? On whom does the judgment fall? (16:2)**
3. **Why do people have the mark of the beast and worship his image? (Rev. 13)**

##### **Bowl #2**

Rev. 16:3 The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

1. **Where does the second angel pour out his bowl? What does it become? (16:3)**
2. **What is the result of the second bowl judgment? (16:3)**
3. **Why do you think that the bowl of judgment is poured into the sea? (16:3)**

## Lesson 13 – Revelation 16

### **Bowl #3**

**Rev. 16:4** Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. <sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; <sup>6</sup> for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” <sup>7</sup> And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

- 1. Where does the third angel pour out his bowl? What does it become? (16:4)**
- 2. How does the angel of the waters describe the Holy One? Why does the angel praise Him as righteous? (16:5)**
- 3. Why do those who are judged deserve the bowl of wrath? What does He give them to drink? What does the altar say? (16:6-7)**

### **Bowl #4**

**Rev. 16:8** The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. <sup>9</sup> Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

- 1. Where does the fourth angel pour out his bowl? What is given to it? (16:8)**
- 2. What is the result of the fourth bowl judgment? How do they respond? (16:9) Why do you think they refuse to repent after judgment?**

### **Bowl #5**

**Rev. 16:10** Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, <sup>11</sup> and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

- 1. Where does the fifth angel pour out his bowl? What happens to the beast’s kingdom? (16:10)**
- 2. What is the response of those on whom the fifth bowl is poured? What does it mean to blaspheme God? Do they repent of their deeds? (16:11)**

### **Bowl #6**

**Rev. 16:12** The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. <sup>13</sup> And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; <sup>14</sup> for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. <sup>15</sup> (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) <sup>16</sup> And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-magedon.

- 1. Where does the sixth angel pour out his bowl? What is the result?**

## Lesson 13 – Revelation 16

Why is the water of the Euphrates dried up? (16:12)

2. What comes out of the mouths of the dragon, beast, and false prophet? What are the three unclean spirits? Why do they perform signs? (16:13-14)
3. Who is coming like a thief? Who is blessed? (16:15)
4. To what place are they gathered? (16:16) What else is revealed about this great battle? (cf. Psa. 2:9; Isa. 11:4-5; Isa. 63:3-6; Rev. 17:14; Rev. 19:11-19)

### **Bowl #7**

**Rev. 16:17** Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." **18** And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and* so mighty. **19** The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. **20** And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. **21** And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

1. Where does the seventh angel pour out his bowl? What does a loud voice coming out of the temple say? (16:17)
2. Describe the seventh bowl judgment. Describe the earthquake. (16:18-21)
3. Who is remembered before God? (16:19)
4. What does the Bible reveal about Babylon the great? (Dan. 4:30; Rev. 14:8; Rev. 17:5; Rev. 18:2, 10, 21).
5. Describe the seventh bowl judgment's impact on islands and mountains? (16:20)
6. What comes down from heaven upon men? What is their response? (16:21)
7. What do you learn about God in Rev. 16? How could this transform your life?

Write a prayer response to Revelation 16.