

Steve Greenberg's Handout: August 13, 2025 (Wed p.m.)

Week 25: Rev 16 Bowl Judgements

Rev 16:1 The Seven Bowls (A Scene in Heaven)

Rev 16:1

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God (**the Father**) gave Him to show His servants (believers)-things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified (**or communicated**) it by His angel to His servant John,

Rev 1:2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he(**John**) saw (**in His visions**).

Bowls: Shallow, saucer-like vessels, short sided bowl, commonly used for ritual offerings, here symbolizing measured judgment. Bowl judgments are best understood as actual end-time events, described in vivid, often symbolic language to convey their severity and supernatural nature.

The wrath of God will be completed.

Rev 15:1 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.

Poole's commentary, on David Guzik's commentary on Blue Letter Bible
What does earth mean?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poole says earth might mean <i>some parts of the earth.</i>• Poole says earth might mean <i>the common people.</i>• Poole says earth might mean <i>The Roman Empire.</i>• Poole says earth might mean <i>The Roman Catholic clergy.</i> |
| <p>i. The point is clear. If earth doesn't mean earth, then no one can tell what it means, and God may as well not have written it.</p> |

Rev 16:2 First Bowl: Loathsome Sores

Rev 16:2

The first bowl is poured out on the earth, it afflicts the earth's inhabitants, those who bear the beast's mark, and have painful sores. This is like the sixth plague on Egypt (compare Ex. 9:8–12; Deut. 28:27, 35).

God's judgment of this world will not symbolic in nature but literal judgment.

foul and loathsome sore: Reminds us the boils in Exodus (plague 6) suggesting a parallel or correlation with the plagues of Egypt.

The Sixth Plague: Boils (Sores)

Exo 9:8 So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh.

Exo 9:9 "And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

Exo 9:10 Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast.

Exo 9:11 And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians.

Deu 28:27 The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.

Rev 14:9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Rev 13:14a And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast ...

Rev 16:3 Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood

Rev 16:3

The second bowl turns the waters of the sea into blood. All sea life dies.

Rev 8:7a The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth...

Rev 8:8 Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

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Similes often describe real phenomena using symbolic, comparison or dramatic language because what John sees is indescribable in normal terms. In apocalyptic literature, it does not automatically mean the events aren't real or physical. For example

the sea “became like the blood of a dead man” this doesn’t mean it symbolizes blood but that it resembled it in color and stench.

Rev 16:4-7 Third Bowl: The Waters Turn to Blood

Rev 16:4

Earlier one-third fresh waters polluted, now all polluted

Rev 8:10 Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

Rev 8:11 The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

The third bowl, rivers and springs (drinking water) will be turned to blood (Ex 7:19)

Exo 7:19 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.' "

Rev 16:5

who is, and who was, and who is to be:

Rev 1:4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Rev 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last (Deity, the Son of God).

Rev 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Rev 15:3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!

Rev 15:4 Who 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 (righteous acts) have been manifested."(made clear, REVEALED and DISPLAYED.).

Rev 16:6

Shed blood of saints and prophets

Mat 23:34 Therefore, indeed, I(Jesus) send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city,

The angel refers to those who shed the blood, were slain saints and prophets

Rev 6:9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Rev 6:11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Rev 11:18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

And You (God, in turn) have given them blood to drink

Isa 49:26 I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh, And they shall be drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine. All flesh shall know That I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

Rev 16:7

Notice: The Lord's judgments will be righteous

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Rev 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

Rev 16:8-9 Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched

Rev 16:8

Instead of darkening the sun (previous Fourth Trumpet 8:12), the fourth bowl will intensify its heat.

Rev 8:12 Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.

Rev 16:9

Some have taken the mark and some are believers they have made their decision.

Some are still alive with all these disasters are still refusing to make a decision to repent and believe.

Previously and throughout we are told over and over, some would not repent

Rev 9:20 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Rev 9:21 And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev 16:10-11 Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain

Rev 16:10

Notice it was poured out on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom, it became dark

Ninth plague on Egypt was Darkness (Ex. 10:21–29).

Exo 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness which may even be felt."

Exo 10:22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.

Darkness of the fifth bowl is a preview of hell itself

Mat 25:30 (Jesus said)'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Mat 8:12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Rev 16:11

There continual refusal to repent shows the justice of eternal punishment

Rev 20:11 Then I(John) saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev 16:12-16 Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up

Rev 16:12

A dried up the great River, Euphrates would enable armies to travel quickly from other areas to Megiddo for the Battle of Armageddon. (v16).

Rev 16:13

Unclean evil spirits emerge as frogs (compare Ex. 8:2–11). Jewish people regarded frogs as unclean but the Egyptians revered a frog as-god.

Exo 8:5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt.' "

Exo 8:6 So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt.

Rev 16:14

The Kings, leaders of the earth will be driven by demonic powers to the Battle of Armageddon.

2Th 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

Rev 17:13 "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

Rev 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Rev 16:15

Church of Sardis – Rev 3:1–3

“You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead... If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief.” They had a reputation, but lacked real spiritual life. Jesus was saying wake up and stay awake, which speaks to us today

Church of Laodicea – Rev 3:17–18

“You say, ‘I am rich...’ but you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked...” Their selfishness, wealth, material comforts and pride blinded them to their true spiritual condition. Jesus offered them white garments to cover their spiritual nakedness—just like in Rev 16:15.

Rev 16:16

Rev 16:17-21 Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken

Rev 16:17

Rev 10:5 The angel whom I(John) saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

Rev 10:6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

Rev 21:6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

Rev 21:7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Rev 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Rev 16:18

Rev 4:5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Previously, in a pause, bowls are more intense

Rev 11:13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

A time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book.

Rev 16:19

The fall of Babylon will be described in detail in the next two chapters Rev 17 and 18.

Angel preaching the gospel, Fear God and give glory to Him

Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--

Rev 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Rev 14:8 And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Rev 16:20

Rev 6:14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Rev 16:21

God has completed his plan (10:7 the mystery of God would be finished).

His wrath against evil is finished (15:1, 8 wrath of God will be completed).

His kingdom is fully come (11:15 The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ).

Comparisons: Seven Bowls of Wrath and Old Testament Scriptures

Bowl #	Poured Into	Result / Judgment	OT Comparison	Reference
Bowl 1	Into the earth	Sores on people, beast's mark	Exo 9:8-12; Boils on Egyptians; Deut 28:27, 35 Curse sore and boils	Rev 16:2
Bowl 2	Into the sea	Sea blood; living thing dies	Exo 7:17-21 Nile to blood, fish died; Ezek 32:6 water land with blood	Rev 16:3
Bowl 3	Into rivers/springs	Fresh waters become blood	Exo 7:19 Water throughout Egypt turns to blood	Rev 16:4

Bowl 4	On the sun	Burned, blaspheme God	Isa 24:6, Earth scorched by sin; Mal 4:1 Day, burning like an oven	Rev 16:8–9
Bowl 5	On throne of beast	Darkness agony and pain	Ex 10:21–23 Plague darkness; Joel 2:2 Day darkness; Isa 8:22 Distress	Rev 16:10–11
Bowl 6	Euphrates River	River dries up;	Exo 14 Red Sea parted; Isa11:15 Lord dries rivers;	Rev 16:12–16
Bowl 7	Into the air	Babylon judged: quake, hail,	Exo 9:23–26 – Hail and fire; Ezek 38:22 Hail, earthquake	Rev 16:17–21

Extra Notes

Intro:

We are in that section of the Book of Revelation where the various trumpet judgments are being sounded and every time a trumpet is sounded from heaven by an angel then another judgment comes to the earth.

<u>Trumpet #</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Summary of judgement</u>
1st Trumpet	Rev 8:7	Hail, fire, and blood thrown to earth, 1/3 of trees and all green grass burned up
2nd Trumpet	Rev 8:8–9	Something like a burning mountain thrown into the sea, 1/3 of the ocean & ships destroyed
3rd Trumpet	Rev 8:10–11	A star (Wormwood) falls from heaven, 1/3 of rivers and springs become bitter, people die
4th Trumpet	Rev 8:12	Celestial darkness, 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars darkened, 1/3 of day and night lose light
5th Trumpet	Rev 9:1–12	1 st Woe: Star (angel) falls, opens the Abyss; Demonic locusts torment people for 5 months. Only harm those without God's seal
6th Trumpet	Rev 9:13–21	2nd Woe: Four angels released 200 million demon horsemen, kill 1/3 of humanity. People still do not repent
7th Trumpet	Rev 11:14–19	3rd Woe: Loud voices in heaven declare God's kingdom. Christ's legal transfer announced. Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and hail. God's temple in heaven open. Christ reigning

Judgement will increase in intensity, and get worse.

7 seals judgments

7 trumpet judgments

7 bowls or vial judgments

Review:

We are in the section of the trumpet judgments they have sounded and brought forth various judgments upon the earth.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Satan has enjoyed running this world since the fall of man,. The long awaited transfer of the world which Satan acquired and usurped through Adam's sin (fall of man Gen 3:6, dominion Gen 1:26, Rev 5 scroll). Now here back into the hands of God according to the Book of Revelation.

The seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven bowls of God's wrath, they probably are running concurrently. If you will compare the seven trumpet judgments with the seven bowls of God's wrath, you will see that there is a similar order as far as what will be affected when the first trumpet sounds. It is similar to what will be affected when the first bowl of God's wrath is poured out and it follows together. It seems they just sort of lay out the whole picture and then come back and fill in the blanks.

In the Book of Revelation, we noticed when we hit a six, between a six and a seven, there is a pause (break, interlude). Five times we will have chronology pauses and then there is an explanation. The second stop (or pause) in the action was between trumpet six and

trumpet seven. And this particular pause started in ch. 10 and goes all the way through ch. 11:14. Then trumpet Rev ch 12-14 etc.

There are about five times in the book where the chronology stops or pauses to give us insights into something that is related or happening in the section. These pauses are often called “interludes” or “parenthetical sections” moments when the narrative "stops" to explain something important before continuing.

We are at just past the third interruption or pause in the chronology, Rev 12-14. We are starting Rev 15

<u># Scripture</u>	<u>Five Pauses</u>	<u>Summary</u>
1. Rev 7	144,000 Sealed	God can preserve and protect His people during judgment
2. Rev 10-11:14	Two Witnesses	God continuous call for repentance, no more delays
3. Rev 12-14	Woman-Satan-Beast	Satan’s role in history and end times, Israel’s flight, two beast
4. Rev 16:13-16	Nations Gathering	Gathering the nations to war at Armageddon
5. Rev 17–19:6	Fall of Babylon	Collapse and judgement of world systems, before Christ returns

Important signs and meanings

The woman, representing Israel.

The dragon, representing Satan (Devil).

The man-child, referring to Jesus.

The angel Michael, head of the angelic host.

The offspring of the woman, representing Gentiles who come to faith in the Tribulation.

The beast out of the sea, a man representing, associated with the antichrist (future world leader), empowered by the Satan (Devil). Seen as a specific man who will rise during the end times, be a ruler-leader, and demand worship. Rev 13:18 ... The number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

The beast out of the earth, representing the false prophet who promotes the antichrist.