

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. We will study the bowl judgments in the 21 verses found in chapter sixteen. I think it might help at this point to list the seven bowl judgments:

- (1) sores appear on the bodies of all unbelievers
- (2) the ocean becomes blood
- (3) rivers and streams become blood
- (4) the heat from the sun intensifies burning the skin of unbelievers
- (5) the pain of unbelievers intensifies as darkness pervades
- (6) the Euphrates dries up and a vast armada of Orientals appear
- (7) unprecedented earthquakes appear destroying city after city

2. Last week I taught Rev 16:1-3 and when time expired were about to study Rev 16:4-7.

3. Before I continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.

Expanded Translation

Rev 16:1 I, John, then heard a loud voice coming out from the heavenly temple. The voice said to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath upon the earth."

Rev 16:2 The first angel left the other six, headed toward planet earth where he poured out his bowl upon the land; ugly and painful sores broke out on the unbelievers, i.e., those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped the Antichrist's image.

Rev 16:3 The second angel followed the first; he poured out his bowl on the seas of planet earth, and they turned into coagulated blood; the congealed blood suffocated every living thing in the sea.

4. The third angel is featured in Rev 16:4-7.

KJV

Rev 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Rev 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

NIV

Rev 16:4 The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Rev 16:5 Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged;

Rev 16:6 for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

Rev 16:7 And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

Principles:

1. As if the bloodied sea wasn't enough, the third angel poured out his bowl of judgment into the rivers and springs of water.
2. It gets pretty grim when there is no fresh water to drink.
3. There is going to be a big run on soft drinks but even Coca Cola has to have water for their production process so soon even the most magic of elixirs will dry up and people will be in a world of hurt.
4. Verse six tells us why God inflicts this horrible judgment on the earth: "for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."
5. "Earth deserves it" says God. Yes, and even more as we shall see.
6. As has been seen, the most vicious and bloody time of slaughter of believers which the world has ever known is going to take place during these seven years of horror.
7. The Tribulation after all is a time of Jacob's trouble, a time to make Israel ready for her time of blessing in the Millennium.
8. The shedding of blood during the Tribulation was done by religious men and women who are part of the great one world religion. We will see more of the Global Church when we study the next chapter. Recall the Global Church aligns itself with the Antichrist as the world political and military leader.
9. There's nothing more vindictive than a religious person who has rejected the truth of the Bible and wants to get rid of "true believers."
10. Religion has been very hard on its competition. There has never been much tolerance for someone who says that Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

11. Many people who are proud of their broad-mindedness get all uptight when someone quotes Jesus as saying, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to God except through Me."
12. These people will be ready to spill the blood of Christ's believers during the Tribulation. It will be instigated by apostate religion, and their favorite mouth-pieces; CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, MSN, the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the United Nations, etc.
13. There will be worse blood-letting during the latter part of the seven-year Tribulation than even the Medieval Inquisition led by Spain.
14. Many of the churches who still have their pastors after the Rapture will take part in the great pogrom!
15. These apostate pastors will take out their revenge on believers who expose their religious apostasy. They will pour out the blood of the saints, and God in turn will give them blood to drink!
16. God often renders "poetic justice" in this way. God extends the turning of water into blood to the rivers and fountains, apparently with the same devastating effect i.e., there is even less water to drink.
17. Though some have taken rivers and fountains to be symbolic there is no reason for not taking this in the literal sense.
18. The spiritual apostasy is here rewarded in God's own special way.
19. At this point John also hears one described as "the angel of the waters" deliver a justification of God for this judgment.
20. This must be an elect angel who has responsibility or jurisdiction over "water."
21. Angelology teaches that there is not only a hierarchy of angels but the Book of the Revelation in particular records a number of ministries assigned to angels.
22. This angel declares "because men have shed the blood of saints and prophets, God is righteous in judging them in kind in that they are given blood to drink."
23. Even therefore as the saints are worthy of rest and reward, so the wicked are worthy of divine chastening and judgment.
24. In the Great Tribulation, saints are slaughtered by the thousands; it is without parallel in the history of the human race.
25. Christ Himself describes this seven-year period as a time of trouble without precedent.

Mat 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now-- and never to be equaled again.

26. The multitude of martyrs in heaven is revealed in chapter seven. The eternal God, the One which is, and was, and shall be, though awaiting the proper time, is inexorable in His judgment of those who persecuted the saints.

Rev 7:13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes-- who are they, and where did they come from?"

Rev 7:14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Rev 7:15 Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them."

27. The statement of the elect angel in charge of the waters is confirmed by another voice out of the altar, another angel who declares that God, who is almighty, true, and righteous, manifests these attributes in His divine judgments.

28. The phrase "another out of" in Rev 16:7, though omitted in some manuscripts, is obviously the meaning of the verse, as the utterance must come from a being rather than from the altar itself.

Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

29. Combining the judgment of the second and third vials, it appears that all water is turned into blood, constituting a universal testimony to all men that God will avenge his martyred saints.

30. Before we look at what the fourth vial has to offer, let me give you an expanded translation of Rev 16:4-7:

Expanded Translation

Rev 16:4 The third angel pealed off toward planet earth to pour out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and these also became blood.

Rev 16:5 Then I heard the elect angel in charge of the waters say: "You, Christ, are just in these judgments, You Who are and Who were, the Holy One, because all judgment has been given You and You have so judged;

Rev 16:6 given that they have shed the blood of Your saints and Your prophets, accordingly You have given them blood to drink, just as they deserve."

Rev 16:7 And I heard one of the covering angels who stands over the altar: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments."

31. Now for a record of the world's first full body "Hot Foot."

KJV

Rev 16:8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Rev 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

NIV

Rev 16:8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire.

Rev 16:9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

Principles:

1. Like the fourth trumpet, the fourth vial is a judgment which affects the starry heaven, specifically the sun.
2. With the fourth trumpet the judgment is said to extend to a third part of the sun, moon, and stars, resulting in the darkening of a third part of the day and of the night.
3. By contrast, the fourth vial relates only to the sun and increases rather than decreases the sun's intensity with the result that men are scorched with fire.

Rev 8:12 The fourth angel sounded his trumpet, 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 turned dark. A third of the day was without light, and also a third of the night.

4. The divine judgment of the fourth vial is inflicted apparently upon the unbelievers of planet earth but such awful judgment does not bring men to repentance; it only increases their blasphemy, even though they recognize that the plague comes from the God they reject.

5. The expression "and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire" is rendered, according to the best manuscripts, "and it was given to it [the sun] to scorch the men with fire."

6. The use of the article with "men" refers the judgment to the same class of people as in verses 2, 5, and 6, i.e., unbelievers.

Rev 16:2 The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image ...

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Rev 16:6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

7. The article is also used in connection with the men mentioned in verse nine (literally "the men").

Rev 16:9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

8. The implication is that saints in this period (those who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ) will not suffer from this plague.

9. The wishful thinking of some that men would repent if they only knew the power and righteous judgment of God is shattered by frequent mention in this chapter of the hardness of the human heart in the face of the most stringent and evident divine discipline. Let's compare verses Rev 16:10, 11 and 21.

Rev 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony

Rev 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Rev 16:21 From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.

10. Let me quickly review this concept:

10.1 The Bible tells us all people hear the gospel.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Joh 1:9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10.2 Historical evidence indicates the gospel was uniquely spread to all the world.

10.2.1 In the 1st century and 2nd century A.D. we have evidence of missionary activity in such remote places as in North Africa, in Pontus and in what was once known as Persia.



10.2.2 In A.D. 190 there are records of many accepting Christ in Alexandria Egypt.

10.2.3 In the 2nd century A.D. there are many evidences of Scripture existing in India.

10.2.4 In the 6th century A.D. there is evidence that there were 3,000,000 believers in the Shintsi province of China.

10.3 Since God has Righteousness as one of His essences He cannot be unfair and let people go to hell because they do not get the Word.

10.4 His Righteousness demands that He get the Word of truth to those who want it.

10.5 Man has the ability to arrive at God consciousness through his own ability and if positive at God consciousness it is up to God to get the gospel to him.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

10.6 Common rationales for God consciousness are:

10.6.1 Religious approach- God must exist because so many people believe in Him.

10.6.2 Moral approach-man's conscience leads him toward virtue and truth because the order of the universe demands establishment.

10.6.3 Ontological approach-the human mind demands a perfect deity as an ideal. Ontology is the science that deals with being.

10.6.4 Teleological approach-there is too much order in the universe therefore there must have been a designer of supra-proportion. Teleology is the science that all things which exist were produced for the end purpose for which they fulfill.

10.6.5 Cosmological approach-the logic of cause and effect demands the existence of God.

10.7 Historical quotations from early Greek writers:

Justin Martyr, 100-165, "there is no people among whom prayers are not offered to the Father in the name of Jesus."

Tertullian, 155-220, "we Christians fill your Roman temples, your senate, your forums and have left only your empty places of idol worship."

Origen, 184-253 "in all races there are tens of thousands who have left their idols to embrace Jesus."

Eusebius, 265-340 "the whole earth has a host of disciples who carry the gospel to all who have not heard the word of faith in Jesus."

11. We have heathen in the world because of negative volition - bad choices.

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

Rom 1:19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities -- his eternal power and divine nature -- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Rom 1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator -- who is forever praised. Amen.

Rom 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Rom 1:27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Rom 1:29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,

Rom 1:30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

Rom 1:31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Rom 1:32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Rom 2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

12. Now let's see what we can learn from Rev 16:10-11.

KJV

Rev 16:10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

Rev 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

NIV

Rev 16:10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony

Rev 16:11 and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.

Principles:

1. The fifth judgment resulting from the pouring out of the fifth vial is directed to the throne of the beast and his subjects.

2. When John spoke of the judgment falling upon the throne of the Beast and his kingdom, he is speaking of the Revived Roman Empire headquartered in Rome.

3. The noun clause "the seat of the beast" is more accurately "the throne of the beast" (Greek **Thronos**). The beast is the Antichrist ruling from Rome.

4. The beast on the throne is the Antichrist described in Rev 13:1-13.

5. As in the fifth trumpet (Rev 9:1-3) and in the ninth plague of Egypt (Exo 10:21-23), there is darkness over the earth.

Rev 9:1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.

Rev 9:2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.

Rev 9:3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

Exo 10:21 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt--darkness that can be felt."

Exo 10:22 So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days.

Exo 10:23 No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.

6. Hal Lindsey has written: "Another important detail is added to this scene: tremendous darkness came upon the Beast's kingdom. This same thing happened in Egypt during the plagues; the whole land was enveloped in a darkness so oppressive that Moses said you could actually feel it!

“That is the sort of thing that will come upon the kingdom of the Antichrist. I believe there is a reason for God's blackout of this Revived Roman Empire: the darkness will allow the movement of 200 million Oriental soldiers into the area of the middle east, the subject of the next judgment.”

6.1 There is perhaps a connection; though such a position is not specifically stated in the Scripture.

6.2 Such a connection is strengthened by the next four verses where we find the sixth angel announcing the coming of the "Yellow Peril.”

7. The darkness is only part of the fifth vial. Another result of the judgment is pain, and so we see the accumulated effect of the preceding judgment when sores were inflicted by the first angel who delivers the first vial.

7.1 As in both the trumpet and the vial judgments, there is severe pain and torment. The wicked in their suffering are declared to gnaw their tongues for pain.

8. The "gnawing of the tongue" is an obvious metaphor used to describe severe agony.

9. The sores inflicted in the first vial (Rev 16:2) were, in this judgment, aggravated and increased.

10. Again we have the sad note that they blasphemed God (the author of these judgments) and did not repent of their deeds.

11. In Rev 16:9 we find the last reference to their refusal to repent (compare Rev 9:20-21 and Rev 16:9).

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk.

Rev 9:21 Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Rev 16:9 They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.

12. The Scriptures plainly refute the notion that wicked men will quickly repent when faced with catastrophic warnings of judgment.

13. When confronted with the righteous judgment of God, their blasphemy is deepened and their evil purpose is not confessed but in contrast they seem even more determined to rebel against God's overwhelming superiority.

14. This pitiable determination is seen here when mankind is knocked to his knees; conversely in Revelation chapter twenty after God provides perfect environment for 1000 years mankind again refuses to repent - we should learn much about the stubborn nature of mankind.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The Westbank Bible Church accepts direct donations to further the spreading of the Gospel. You can mail or drop off a check or money order made payable to Westbank Bible Church, 4010 Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas 78746

We do not authorize any third party to solicit donations on behalf of the Church.