

## Revelation 16:10-21 The Seven Bowls of Wrath

*The last three bowls show us judgments which will come at the very end of the gospel age.*

**[10] The fifth angel poured his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was in darkness; men gnawed their tongues in anguish**

*The nature of these three bowls are different from the first four. These take us again to the spirit world.*

*The fifth bowl is poured out on "the throne of the beast." By using the throne, this judgment reminds us of anti-Christian government (compare to **Revelation 13:1-10**)*

*Many people look at government as "a" source of light or even "the" source of light. It will become full of darkness and the darkness will cause great anguish.*

*This darkness is like the Egyptian plagues (**Exodus 8-11**)*

**[11] and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores, and did not repent of their deeds.**

*This plague which should lead to repentance instead leads to blasphemy.*

**[12] The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.**

*The sixth bowl – some commentators see the fifth and sixth bowls occurring simultaneously.*

This sixth bowl brings us to the return of Christ - **Revelation 16:15**. He comes unexpectedly (to the lost and unrepentant) as a thief in the night. Jesus used these phrases to describe His return.

**Matthew 24:43-44** But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Paul used the same term to describe the return of the Lord.

**1 Thessalonians 5:2** For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Please note how the Lord blesses those who are awake and seeking to live lives of holiness and purity.

Who are the kings from the East? Many biblical scholars see these kings representing anti-Christian government.

The Euphrates drying up allows these kings to attack the church. Those things that protected the church and prevented this evil is no longer present. Read **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12** in light of this verse.

**2** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **3** Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition, **4** who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. **5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you this? **6** And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. **8** And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming. **9** The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, **10** and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11** Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, **12** so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**[13] And I saw, issuing from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs;**

*The three enemies of Christ listed here are the dragon (Satan), the beast, and the false prophet (the beast out of the sea).*

*"Frogs" indicates their vile nature. They use lies to assemble the kings of the whole world to the battle against the Lord's people. Evil appears to be mighty and eternally entrenched but in the end is only "sickly creatures of the night."*

**[14] for they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.**

**[15] ("Lo, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is he who is awake, keeping his garments that he may not go naked and be seen exposed!")**

**[16] And they assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armageddon.**

*They are demonic spirits and are assembling for the battle against God's people. This is the battle of Armageddon.*

*The word Armageddon is a compound word. "Har" in Hebrew means "mount". "megeddon" is a place (Megiddo).*

*The battle will take place on the plain of Megiddo, a giant plain in north central Israel. There is no literal Mount Megiddo. It may refer to the mountains nearby or the mound (Tel) of the city.*

*This place stood near the plain of Esdraelon, Israel's chief battle ground of antiquity. Thus, Megiddo stands for great and decisive struggle.*

*Har-megeddon stands for the great final overthrow of spiritual evil by the power of the almighty God.*

*This is the theme: The world with its anti-Christian governments and religions will assemble against the people of God.*

*Christ will appear on the clouds of glory to deliver His people! **Revelation 17:14** "they will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."*

**[17] The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"**

*The seventh bowl brings us to another vivid description of the final judgment. "The final fall of Babylon (the world opposed to God). This is the crushing blow for unbelievers. All that delights them "crashes." Life on earth ends as this bowl is emptied into the air. Even in hell the unrepentant blaspheme God - showing their total depravity once more.*

*When the air is destroyed, all life is gone: the judgments of God are complete.*

*"It is done!" reminds us of the words of Jesus from the cross, "It is finished!" [John 19:30](#)*

*The remainder of the chapter vv.18-21 shows us vividly the nature of the last judgment. Thundering, lightning, and an earthquake were also pictured at the seventh trumpet. [Revelation 8:5](#) "Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were peals of thunder, voices, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake."*

**[18] And there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as had never been since men were on the earth, so great was that earthquake.**

**[19] The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered great Babylon, to make her drain the cup of the fury of his wrath.**

**[20] And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found;**

*The final judgment is so grave that even the islands and mountains will flee from it. This pictures the complete destruction of the earth.*

**[21] and great hailstones, heavy as a hundredweight, dropped on men from heaven, till men cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.**

*This is the last of the numbered cycles. It describes the outpouring of the complete judgment of God's wrath.*

## **Final Thoughts on Revelation 15-16:**

- 1. The goodness of God in warning sinners.*
- 2. The hardness of sinners who ignore God's trumpets and warnings and who even refuse to repent when judgment comes.*
- 3. The wonderful blessing of being one of God's children and thus being delivered from God's final wrath. **1 Thessalonians 1:10** "and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."*
- 4. A special word to unbelievers: "Every day of your life is a day of trumpets. God is warning. But, one day will be your "bowl." The warnings will be over.*