

## The Book Of Revelation Study 80

*Revelation 16:1-21 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> 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."

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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."

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

We have talked already about the 1<sup>st</sup> bowl it will be the judgment on all on earth that have followed the Antichrist and the beast and have taken the mark of the beast upon themselves. The judgment was that of awful sores that cannot be cured and that is covering the whole body and that is excruciating pain.

This is the state of the unbelievers who follow the antichrist and are involved in the world system with him.

### THE SECOND BOWL

*Revelation 16:1-21 (NASB)*

**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.**

One of the reasons the bowl judgments will be so devastating is that their effects are cumulative.

Before the sores of the first bowl could heal **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.**

This judgment is similar to the first plague in Egypt;

*Exodus 7:20-24 (NASB)*

<sup>20</sup> **So Moses and Aaron did even as the LORD had commanded. And he lifted up the staff and struck the water that was in the Nile, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, and all the water that was in the Nile was turned to blood.**

<sup>21</sup> **The fish that were in the Nile died, and the Nile became foul, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. And the blood was through all the land of Egypt.**

<sup>22</sup> **But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.**

<sup>23</sup> **Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this.**

<sup>24</sup> **So all the Egyptians dug around the Nile for water to drink, for they could not drink of the water of the Nile.**

And the second trumpet judgment;

*Revelation 8:8-9 (NASB)*

<sup>8</sup> **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,**

<sup>9</sup> **and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.**

Except that this time the effects will be much more intense and widespread;

Since the oceans cover approximately 70 percent of the earth's surface, the effects of this judgment will be worldwide.

After the angel dumped his bowl, the **sea**, which is vitally important to all life on earth, **became blood like that of a dead man.**

To the amazement, horror, and despair of the world, the oceans will no longer be fluid, but will become thick, dark, and coagulated, like the pool of blood from someone who has been stabbed to death.

Exactly what supernatural means God will use to destroy the oceans is not revealed, but the effects will resemble those of the phenomenon known as the red tide,

Commentator John Phillips writes;

*From time to time, off the coast of California and elsewhere, a phenomenon known as "the red tide" occurs.*

*These red tides kill millions of fish and poison those who eat contaminated shellfish.*

*In 1949, one of these red tides hit the coast of Florida. First the water turned yellow, but by midsummer it was thick and viscous with countless billions of dinoflagellates, tiny one celled organisms. Sixty mile windows of stinking fish fouled beaches. Much marine life was wiped out, even bait used by fishermen died upon the hooks. Eventually the red tide subsided, only to appear again the following year. Eating fish contaminated by the tide produced sever symptoms caused by a potent nerve poison, a few grams of which distributed aright, could easily kill everyone in the world. An unchecked population explosion of toxic dinoflagellates would kill all the fish in the sea. (Exploring Revelation, rev.ed.[Chicago: Moody, 1987; reprint, Neptune, J. J. :Loizeaux, 1991], 190-91)*

The stench from the dead, decaying bodies of **every living thing in the sea** will be unimaginable.

Henry Morris Writes;

*In this toxic ocean nothing can survive, and soon all the billions of fishes and marine mammals and marine reptiles and the innumerable varieties of marine invertebrates will perish, thus still further poisoning the oceans and contaminating the sea shores of the world. The ocean will have effectively completed their age-long function in the earth's physical economy, and will die. As God had created every living soul in the waters (Gen 1:21), so now every living soul died in the sea. (The Revelation Record [Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale, 1983], 298)*

The transforming of the world's seas into putrid pools of stinking death will be graphic testimony to the wickedness of man, and the reverse of the day when God originally gave life to all sea creatures (**Gen. 1:21**)

### **THE THIRD BOWL**

**Revelation 16:4-7 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> *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."*

When **the third angel poured out his bowl**, the same appalling judgment that affected the oceans was visited on **the rivers and the springs of waters, they too became blood.**

What happened to the Nile river in Egypt (**Ex. 7:20-24; Ps. 78:43-44**) now happens to the world's entire supply of fresh water.

The contamination of the world's oceans will be an environmentalist's worst nightmare. But the destruction of the world's remaining fresh water supply will be a catastrophic, staggering blow to fallen humanity.

By the time the third bowl is poured out, fresh water will be in critically short supply.

The third trumpet judgment (**8:10-11**) will result in the poisoning of one third of the world's fresh water. Additionally, the two witnesses will have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying [the last three and a half years of the Tribulation]; and they will have power over the water so to turn them into blood (**11:6**).

The temporary restraining of the earth's winds (7:1) will also cause drought. With no wind to move the clouds and weather systems, the hydrological cycle will be disrupted and no rain will fall.

The destruction of what is left of the earth's fresh water will cause unthinkable hardship and suffering.

There will be no water to drink; no clean water to wash the oozing sores caused by the first bowl judgment; no water to bring cooling relief from the scorching heat that the fourth bowl judgment will shortly bring.

The scene is so unimaginably horrible that people will wonder how a God of compassion, mercy, and grace could send such a judgment.

And so there is a brief interlude in the pouring out of the judgments while an angel speaks in God's defense.

Appropriately, it is **the angel of the waters** who defends God's righteous judgment in an echo of the overcomers' song in (15:3-4).

In contrast to the curses and blasphemies of men the angel declares, "*Righteous are You, who are and who were. O Holy One, because You judged these things*"

God's judgment of sinners is unquestionably **righteous** because He is the **Holy One**.

And although His wrath is terrifying and deadly, it is a just, deserved, and appropriate response to sinners' rejection of Him.

They are also reminded that they have **poured out the blood of saints and prophets**.

The nations are drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus (17:6)

Fittingly, those who have spilled so much innocent blood will be **given blood to drink**.

In the angel's chilling words, "*they deserve it.*"

There is nothing left for the unbelieving world but to receive what they **deserve**, a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries (Heb. 10:27)

Then the apostle John **heard the altar saying**, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are **Your judgments.**"

The personified altar echoes the sentiments of the angel with words similar.

It may be that the very altar under which the saints were earlier seen praying for vengeance (6:9-11) now affirms that God's **true and righteous judgments** are the answer to those prayers.

#### THE FOURTH BOWL

*Revelation 16:8-9 (NASB)*

<sup>8</sup> *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.*

In contrast to the first three angels, who poured out their bowls on the earth, the **fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun**.

**As a result**, the sun, which has since the fourth day of creation (*Gen. 1:14-19*) given the world light, warmth, and energy, becomes a deadly killer.

Searing heat that exceeds anything in human experience will **scorch men** so severely that it will seem that the atmosphere is on **fire**.

Those that will be scorched with the sun's fierce heat are the same people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image (*v.2*)

Another serious consequence of the sun's intense heat will be the melting of the polar ice caps. The resulting rise in the oceans' water level will inundate coastal regions, flooding areas miles inland with the noxious waters of the dead oceans. Widespread damage and loss of life will accompany that flooding, adding further to the unspeakable misery of the devastated planet. Transportation by sea will become impossible.

One would think that the unparalleled disasters of the first four bowl judgments would cause people to repent. God's judgment is designed to call sinners to repentance (*Rom 2:4*), or like Pharaoh, to harden their hearts.

Instead of blaming their sin, and in the most shocking example of hardness of heart in history, **they blasphemed the name of God**, whom they know to be directly responsible for all their misery.

Amazingly they know that it is **God who has the power over the plagues** that are afflicting them. Yet they will love their sin so much, and be so deceived by Antichrist, that **they will not repent so as to give God glory**.

**Until this point**, only the Antichrist has been described as blaspheming; here the world adopts his evil character. Neither grace nor wrath will move their wicked hearts to repentance.

**Such blind**, blasphemous hardness of heart is incredible in the face of the devastating judgments they will be undergoing.

But like their evil leader, Antichrist, they will continue to hate God and refuse to **repent, which would give glory to God** as a just and righteous Judge of sin.

In our next study we will continue the study of the fifth and sixth and seventh bowls as they are poured out.