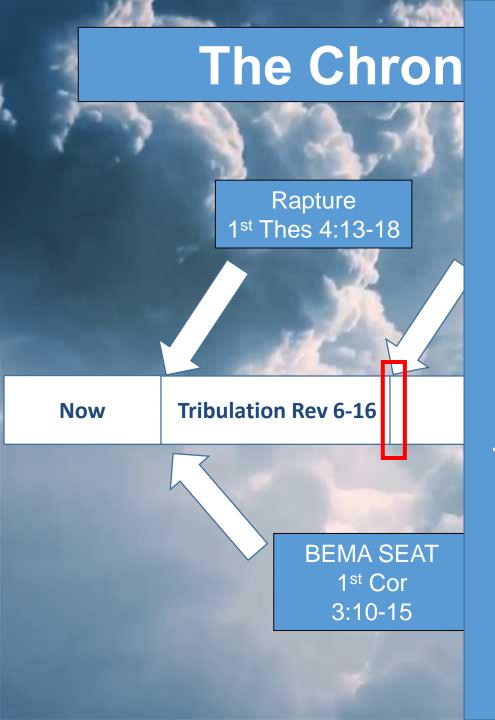
The Revelation of Jesus Christ

CLA - 2016

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By the time we finish chapter 16 the Tribulation is over.

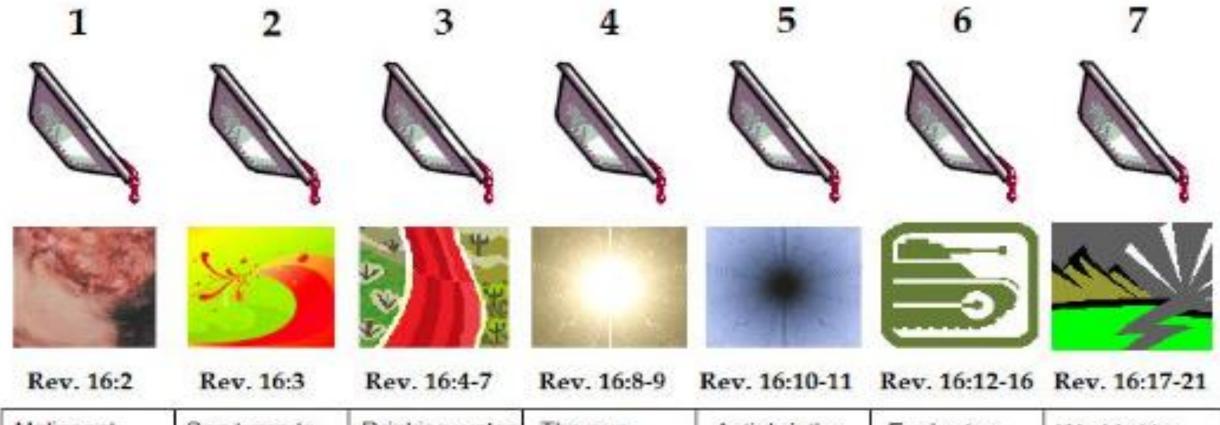
The Seal, Trumpet, and Bowl judgments are done.

Jesus has returned in glory with the Church.

The earth has been renovated for the millenial kingdom.

7 Bowls of Wrath

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Malignant ulcers appear on those with the mark of the Beast. Sea turns to blood, all living creatures in the sea die. Drinking water turns to blood, men given blood to drink...

The sun becomes extremely hot, and scorches men. Antichrist's kingdom struck with darkness.

Euphrates river dried up, armies gathered for Armageddon. Worldwide earthquake, cities collapse, 120lb. hailstones fall from the sky

 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." 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. 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. 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 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; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." 7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

• What we will witness in chapter 16 is the dumping of the 7 bowl judgments and the gathering of the nations for Armageddon.

 These judgments will bring about what the ordinary person of our day would call the end of the world.

• It will be a time of unprecedented horror and pain, but perhaps what we are to see very clearly is the God who keeps His word, who redeems, who judges, -- remains righteous, merciful, and just in bringing man's history to a close.

 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 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

 At the end of chapter 15 we saw the temple of God in a very unusual way – it is filled with smoke and closed.

- Isaiah 66:6 What is all the commotion in the city? What is that terrible noise from the Temple? It is the voice of the Lord taking vengeance against his enemies.
- Generally speaking the temple was to be a place of worship and inclusion, but in Revelation 16 we find it closed with pronouncements of judgment coming forth.
- The seven-sealed scroll has been fully unrolled. In chapter 11 we saw the seventh trumpet blown. The final judgments are about to fall, and in all of it God retains his role of justifier while being just.

 In this chapter we are going to see a series of judgments that will seem a little familiar – sores, water to blood, and damage to the atmosphere and planetary system.

• The difference in chapter 16 is that what was once partial will become all encompassing – in chapter 8 the trumpet judgments harmed things to the tune of 1/3, in this chapter the scope will far more reaching.

• In fact, so much more extensive that the word 'all' is used.

Scope of Trumpet Judgments



Scope of Bowl Judgments



 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.

 The sores are like the boils God sent upon the Egyptians in Exodus 9 and the same Greek word is used for the sores of Lazarus in Luke 16. (loathsome and malignant, capable of growing)

• The "sores" fell only on those who had the mark of the Beast and worshipped the image of the Beast.

 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.

• The second bowl also looks familiar – the sea is turned into blood and <u>every living thing in the sea died</u>. What came upon 1/3 in the Trumpet judgments comes in total in the Bowls.

• The trumpets killed and infected in thirds, the bowls will kill and infect so widely that the word "all" is appropriate AND there is in fact no reason to see the second bowl as anything but an "all".

- Rev 16:4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood.
- Again, something we saw before in the Trumpet judgments and this time the scope increases to "all" because there no are limiting words in the text – no 1/3, no some – so we should assume "all".

• By the way, because of what happened in the Trumpet judgments, 1/3 of the fresh water was turned to blood, and the likelihood that the two witnesses in chapter 11 "shut up the sky", the world's supply of fresh water is already critical.

 And as if that is not enough to convince us that fresh water will be in short supply we should also consider what we saw in chapter 7.

• Rev 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth, or on the sea, or on any tree.

• Without the winds that encircle the world, the water cycle is at least severely hampered, if not completely shut down.

• Rev 16:5 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; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." 7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

 Now after the first 3 Bowls are poured out there is a very clear pronouncement from the "angel of the waters" that in all of the wrath that God is pouring out on humanity almost without mercy, God is righteous and true to do so.

 If you recall our study of Chapter 15, you will remember that we spoke of the moral case for God's judgments during the tribulation, especially as they come to a climax at the end.

 We established that He was executing what He had been promising since the inception of sin – everyone had, and is having, ample warning of what awaits the sinner.

• In my mind, the progression of history wherein God allowed sin to occur, and provided for a remedy in advance for men, begs a certain question. Why?

 Why allow Lucifer to sin, why allow Eve to be tempted, and why allow Adam to sin?

 Why allow sin to enter the human race, and why allow sin to run roughshod over all of creation?

 Why allow even the possibility of murder, rape, incest, and all other forms of brutality?

 Why allow things like sickness, disease, poverty, war, and all of the pain that has its roots in sin?

- John 11:3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."
- John 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."
- So Lazarus had to die, his sisters had to be grief stricken, and the man in John 9 had to endure 38 years of blindness so that God could be glorified?

 Why is it so important that God be glorified? If He were a mere man we could argue "who do you think you are!", but He is not a man.

 So why is suffering and sin allowed, and how is all of that pain connected with something so lofty as the glory of God?

 Because when we see His works, and when we see His plans we get a bigger picture of who He is - and any time we see a little more of Him, He is magnified and glorified.

- If sin never occurred, would we know that God is a full of mercy?
- And would we know that He is ready to forgive?
- And would we have any sense at all of the meaning of grace?
- Would we know that He loves us so much that He would willingly lay down His own life for us?
- So could it be that all of history as we know it, is not so much about us as it is about the glory and exaltation of God?

 At this point someone might say, "Really? 6,000 years of continuous sin, pain, heartache, and suffering so that God can be glorified?".

 To the human mind that might seem like a rational, logical objection, but that human mind would be missing the point.

 God is so awesome, so impressive, so fearsome, that there is no length to which one might go that could be deemed "too far" once He is seen and experienced.

 Rom 9:22 In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. 23 <u>He</u> <u>does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on</u> <u>those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance</u> <u>for glory.</u>

• So as we work our way through the rest of the 7 bowl judgments, and go on to Armageddon where all the remaining unsaved will be wiped out, let's remember that in all of the judgment and destruction we have our God who is just, righteous, and merciful in doing so.

