



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter 16

- **Rev 16:8** The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 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.*
- Now this time there are no limiting words like “on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image” like we had in verse #2.
- But we do read this at the end of the verse, “and they did not repent so as to give Him glory” – a clue to interpreting this as being limited to the unsaved.

Chapter 16

- **So the ones who are already covered with sores, who are now struggling more than ever to find water to drink, are now burned by the sun.**
- **These bowls are coming so fast that they are cumulative in their effect because there is not time between them to rest and recover for those who are able to survive.**
- **In fact, what we read about the 7 bowl judgments is that the first 6 for sure are not intended to take life, but to punish the enemies of God.**

Chapter 16

- Rev 16:10 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, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.
- Mark 13:24 At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- The throne of the Beast and it's exact meaning is unclear – I believe it means the people and agencies over which the Beast rules.

Chapter 16

- One would think that by now the unsaved would be willing to cry, “uncle”, but the opposite is true.
- Verse #11 ends with “and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.”
- Pain, hard times, and the like are common themes of many salvation testimonies – but not at the “Bowl Judgment” stage of tribulation – hearts have been hardened by sin and they will not repent. (think Pharaoh)

Chapter 16

- **We are now down to the last 2 judgments of the Tribulation.**
 - **Bowl #1 – Sores**
 - **Bowl #2 – Oceans turned to blood and all sea life killed.**
 - **Bowl #3 – Fresh water turned to blood and fresh water life killed.**
 - **Bowl #4 – The sun scorches the Earth.**
 - **Bowl #5 – The entire Earth plunged into darkness.**
- **12 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.**

Chapter 16

- **"The holy land has been chosen by God as the stage upon which two crucial events take place. One on a mountain, and one on a plain. Mount Calvary and the Plain of Megiddo are the two altars of sacrifice that dominate the history of the world. Both are blood baths. Both are the descent of wrath upon sin. Both are brought about by God's bitterest foes. From each proceeds a supper, one a feast of remembrance for the people of God and the other a feast of retribution for the carry on. At Mount Calvary there rang up the gates of heaven a victorious cry, 'It is finished.' At the plain of Armageddon there rings down to earth an answering cry, 'It is done,'" John Phillips**

Chapter 16

- **The sixth judgment has to do with the drying up of the Euphrates river – we saw this same river back in chapter 9 with the sixth trumpet.**
- **These are two separate events – the army from the east is not the 200 million mentioned in chapter 9: they are demons.**
- **Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, 14 one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, “Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.” 15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind. 16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.**

Chapter 16

- The Euphrates River is some 1,800 miles long, originates on Mount Ararat, and flows all the way to the Arabian Sea. At some points it is over ½ mile wide and 30' deep. It also forms the eastern boundary of the land God gave to Abraham.



Chapter 16

- **So what will the Euphrates River be like by the time we get to the sixth bowl?**
- **Remember the 3rd and 4th bowls – fresh water turned to blood and the sun scorching the Earth?**
- **Well, it is entirely possible that the snow caps on Mount Ararat will have melted, and the Euphrates River is now not only an ugly mess of blood and dead fish, but may well be wider, deeper, and swifter than ever before. (picture it now dried up; what do you see and smell?)**

Chapter 16

- **The world is in darkness, God wants to draw the “kings of the East” into promised land for the battle of Armageddon, so He removes a significant barrier for armies and their military equipment.**
- **So why would the kings of the east, or from any direction for that matter, want to come to the land of Palestine?**
- **Because things are really bad in the world, their world ruler is proving to be impotent to stop the judgments, so when all else fails, blame the people of God, Israel.**

Chapter 16

- **13 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; 14 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.**
- **Then John sees three evil spirits coming out of the mouths of the false trinity – they are able to perform signs and wonders that are seen as evidence of their power.**
- **Their purpose? To draw the armies of the world to the valley of Megiddo.**

Chapter 16

- **What is this “like frogs out of their mouths” language about?**
- **Well, it just might be that the image we are to see is that of dirty, slippery, and dark words that influence the decisions of men. (a familiar strategy)**
- **In the end, the world’s leaders and their armies come to the valley of Megiddo because they’ve been lured there by the father of lies, by the prince of deception, the Dragon himself.**

Chapter 16

- **Consider this – by this time the outlook for any sort of future for anyone is bleak at best.**
- **It's dark, water is in very short supply, all sea life is gone, and all animal life is about to thirst to death – the world is all but done for, unless a miracle occurs or a savior appears.**
- **Matt 13:24 For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. 25 Behold, I have told you in advance. 26 So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.**

Chapter 16

- **15 (“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.”) 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Armageddon.**
- **While the kings of the Earth may not fully understand Satan’s plan – ultimately, what is happening is that Satan is looking for help from mankind in his last stand against God.**
- **And his last stand involves the attempted annihilation of God’s people, Israel.**

Chapter 16

- **Joel 3:9 Say to the nations far and wide: “Get ready for war! Call out your best warriors. Let all your fighting men advance for the attack. 10 Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Train even your weaklings to be warriors. 11 Come quickly, all you nations everywhere. Gather together in the valley.” And now, O Lord, call out your warriors! 12 “Let the nations be called to arms. Let them march to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I, the Lord, will sit to pronounce judgment on them all. 13 Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the winepress is full. The storage vats are overflowing with the wickedness of these people.” 14 Thousands upon thousands are waiting in the valley of decision. There the day of the Lord will soon arrive.”**

Chapter 16

- **Some perspective – we will see more details (another recapitulation) of Armageddon in chapters 17, 18, and 19, but the events of the 7 bowls and Armageddon are already set, and possibly passed by, on the chronological time line.**
- ***Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: “The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.”***
- **Talk about the “fog of war” – the events have already passed in Rev 11:15, or were so sure that God could speak of them as already done.**

Chapter 16

- **The war that Satan is ginning up, and hoping for with God, will in fact happen in the valley of Megiddo, but for all of the talk throughout history of this great war, it will actually be over very quickly.**
- **Rev 19:11-15 gives us the best account of the battle of Armageddon, and when we get there we will study again of how Jesus comes back and destroys His enemies suddenly and totally.**
- **In fact, the battle Christ fought and won on Calvary lasted longer than will the battle of Armageddon.**

Chapter 16

- **And just as there was a pause between the sixth and seventh seals, and the sixth and seventh trumpets, there is at least a brief pause between the sixth and seventh bowls.**
- **In that pause a blessing is pronounced - 15 (“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.”)**
- **Verse 15 harmonizes quite well with Rev 22:12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”**

Chapter 16

- **17 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.”**
- **Some translations actually render the one phrase in verse #17 as “It is finished” which would remind us of Jesus’ words on the cross. Either way, we are at the summation of these events.**
- **Why the air? Eph 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.**

Chapter 16

- **18** 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. **19** 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. **20** And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. **21** 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.

Chapter 16

- **This language at the end of chapter 16 sounds very much like what John recorded at the end of chapter 11.**
- **Rev 11:19 And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.**
- **Lightning, thunder, an earthquake, and even a great hailstorm. So nearly the exact same language introduced the seventh trumpet as that which introduces the seventh bowl.**

Chapter 16

- Rev 6:14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island *were moved out of their places.*
- Rev 16:18 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. --- 20 *And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.*
- In the seal judgments the mountains and islands were moved – in the bowl judgments they are removed. (gone)

Chapter 16

- **There is going to be a great earthquake, a great shaking of the earth that will have unimaginable effects on all of creation.**
- **Psalm 104:5 He established the earth upon its foundations, So that it will not totter forever and ever.**
- **God did not create a faulty world that would shudder and quake on a regular basis, but it does because ever since the fall the Earth has been just as cursed, changed, and affected by sin as man is.**

Chapter 16

- **Gen 7:11** In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day *all the fountains of the great deep were broken up*, and the windows of heaven were opened. 12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.
- So in the great flood of Genesis not only did it rain, but the fountains of the great deep were broken up so as to allow massive amounts of water to come up out of the Earth and cover everything by more than 20'.
- The Earth was in fact suffering damage because of the fall, and because of man's continued spiral downward.

Chapter 16

- **Isaiah 24:19** The earth has broken up. It has utterly collapsed; *it is violently shaken.* **20** *The earth staggers like a drunk. It trembles like a tent in a storm. It falls and will not rise again, for the guilt of its rebellion is very heavy.* **21** In that day the Lord will punish the gods in the heavens and the proud rulers of the nations on earth. **22** They will be rounded up and put in prison. They will be shut up in prison and will finally be punished. **23** Then the glory of the moon will wane, and the brightness of the sun will fade, for the Lord of Heaven's Armies will rule on Mount Zion. *He will rule in great glory in Jerusalem, in the sight of all the leaders of his people.*
- So the picture is this – Earth is cursed, Earth has suffered great damage in the flood and through the consequences of sin, and in the tribulation period a lot more damage is done. (I wonder how it will be fit for habitation in the millennial kingdom?)

Chapter 16

- Verse #18 speaks of the “great city” being split into three parts and shortly after that phrase the word Babylon appears which has led some to believe that the “great city” might be Babylon.
- But in Rev 11:8 we read this, “8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.”
- So the “great city” is certainly Jerusalem. (Zachariah confirms this as well)

Chapter 16

- Zach 14:1 Watch, for the day of the Lord is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you! 2 I will gather all the nations to fight against Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city. 3 Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. 4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south.

Chapter 16

- **And as if all that has preceded the 7 bowls was not enough, when the 7 bowls are poured out these plagues come faster and with more fury than the previous judgments.**
- **The 7th bowl is poured out in the air and just as the Earth was devastated by the previous bowls, the Earth's atmosphere and the planetary system is affected in kind.**
- **Out of the sky come hail stones weighing 100 pounds each, and those who were not killed by them blasphemed the name of God.**

Chapter 16

- By the end of chapter 16, the 7 bowls are done, Armageddon has happened, and Jesus is ready to set up His Earthly millennial kingdom.
- Oh, there are still lots of scriptures in chapters 17, 18, 19, and 20 that will go back over the last events and flesh them out for us, but they are all done by the end of chapter 16.
- Actually, when the 7th trumpet sounded we read this is in chapter 11 and verse #15 – “Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: “*The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.*””

Chapter 16

- So here is an interesting theory – the shaking that takes place near the end of chapter #16 is possibly the mechanism used by God to prepare the Earth for the millennial kingdom.
- The shaking splits the “great city” (Jerusalem) into three parts and that sounds really bad until you realize that back in chapter 11, after the 6th trumpet the remnant of Israel was converted.
- Rev 11:13 At the same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Chapter 16

- So if the Jews in Jerusalem have already been converted then the 7th bowl earthquake that splits Jerusalem just may not be judgment at all.
- So if it's not judgment, then what is it? It is perhaps a reshaping of the land for a better use.
- Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. – so there are no mountains, and no islands because islands are just mountains in the sea anyway.

Chapter 16

- **Because the Earth has to be prepared at some point for life in the millennial kingdom, and because we have to find a place for that renovation to occur, the end of chapter 16 provides a logical, sequential spot for that to happen.**
- **After the 1,000 year of Christ on Earth, and after the Great White Throne judgment, God will destroy the Earth and recreate it.**
- **But until that time, given the massive destruction to the Earth in the tribulation period, there must be a renovation in order for life even to be possible in the millennium.**

World Wall Map

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Map Not To Scale



Chapter 16

- **Psalm 125:1** Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion; they will not be defeated *but will endure forever.* 2 Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, both now and forever.
- While the language of verse #20 reads “every mountain” – Psalm 125 does offer some room for Mt Zion being some sort of exception.
- And just as people lived very long periods of time in the pre-flood world that was covered by a canopy of clouds and vapor, we are told that in the millennial kingdom people will again live for hundreds of years.

Chapter 16

- **So hypothetically at least, at the end of chapter 16 the world is returned to the beginning of creation state where there is just one massive, fertile, peaceful garden.**
- **Rom 8:19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

Questions