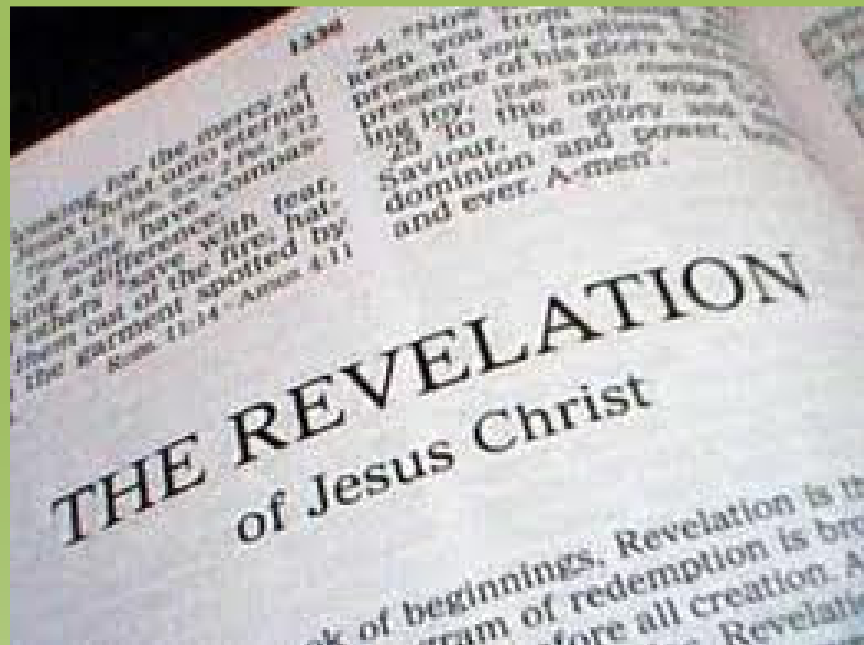


Understanding Jesus

Revelation – Chapter by Chapter

This is a discussion outline designed to reveal the character, person, power, and plan of Jesus Christ.



Chapter Sixteen

Revelation 16:1-21

¹ Then I heard a loud voice from the sanctuary saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." ² The first went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and severely painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

³ The second poured out his bowl into the sea. It turned to blood like a dead man's, and all life in the sea died.

⁴ The third poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood. ⁵ I heard the angel of the waters say:

You are righteous, who is and who was, the Holy One,
for You have decided these things.

⁶ Because they poured out the blood of the saints and the prophets,
You also gave them blood to drink; they deserve it!

⁷ Then I heard someone from the altar say:

Yes, Lord God, the Almighty,
true and righteous are Your judgments.

⁸ The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun. He was given the power to burn people with fire, ⁹ and people were burned by the intense heat. So they blasphemed the name of God who had the power over these plagues, and they did not repent and give Him glory.

¹⁰ The fifth poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues from pain ¹¹ and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, yet they did not repent of their actions.

¹² The sixth poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs [coming] from the dragon's mouth, from the beast's mouth, and from the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons performing signs, who travel to the kings of the whole world to assemble them for the battle of the great day of God, the Almighty.

¹⁵ "Look, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who is alert and remains clothed so that he may not go naked, and they see his shame."

¹⁶ So they assembled them at the place called in Hebrew Armagedon.

¹⁷ Then the seventh poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the sanctuary, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ There were lightnings, rumblings, and thunders. And a severe earthquake occurred like no other since man has been on the earth—so great was the quake. ¹⁹ The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the Great was remembered in God's presence; He gave her the cup filled with the wine of His fierce anger. ²⁰ Every island fled, and the mountains disappeared. ²¹ Enormous hailstones, each weighing about 100 pounds, fell from heaven on the people, and they blasphemed God for the plague of hail because that plague was extremely severe.

A Couple Of Insights Along The Way:

- The purpose of Revelation is the statement made in 1:1. The pattern through which Jesus is revealed is in 1:19. Everything else that follows is an explanation of that purpose.
 - The purpose is to reveal Jesus.
 - The pattern is to show Him in control of *write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this*

- Chapter 16 focuses our attention of the seven bowls of wrath and on the battle of Armageddon. This is a snapshot which receives fuller explanation in chapters 17-21.
 - It's focus is upon God's *wrath* being unleashed onto a rebellious planet.
 - This language of 16:1 is very familiar to the Hebrew reader as being "Temple language."
 - It is the same scene Isaiah describes in Isaiah 66:6.
 - *Wrath* is mentioned eleven times in the book of Revelation:
 - Once as the wrath of Satan – 12:12.
 - Once as the wrath of the Lamb – 6:16.
 - Eight times as the wrath of God – 11:18; 14:10; 14:19; 15:1; 15:7; 16:1; 16:19; and 19:15.
 - Once as the wrath of the Lamb and God – 6:17.

- These seven bowls of wrath affect the following:
 - 16:2 describes horrible sores. This is similar to the sixth plague on Egypt in Exodus 9:9-11.
 - 16:3 describes the oceans being polluted. All saltwater marine life would be affected which will affect the world's main food source.
 - 16:4-7 describes rivers being polluted. All freshwater marine life and drinking water will worthless.

- 16:8-9 describes the sun scorching people.
 - 16:10-11 describes the humiliation of the Beast.
 - 16:12-16 describes the battle of Armageddon (discussed later in this outline).
 - 16:17-21 describes unmistakable destruction (not the annihilation) of the world.
- 16:17 “It is done!” is one word in Greek – gegonen – and is written in the perfect tense.
- It is the idea of something which has been in the process of developing and now is completed.
 - God’s wrath has been in the process of being poured out and now it is completed.
- 16:14-16 describes the most famous battle to have never taken place as of yet – the battle of Armageddon in the Valley of Jezreel.
- The name “Armageddon” comes from the plain of Megiddo (Har-Megedon).
 - The Bible records several significant battles fought in this place.
 - Deborah and Barak defeated the Canaanites – Judges 5:19.
 - Gideon defeated the Midianites – Judges 6.
 - The Philistines killed King Saul on Mount Giboa which overlooks this valley – 1 Samuel 31.
 - King Josiah received his fatal wound from Pharaoh Neco – 2 Kings 23:29-30.

- This final battle is referred to in the Bible as:
 - The wrath of the Lord in Isaiah 26:20.
 - The fury of the Lord in Ezekiel 38:18.
 - The terror of the Lord in Isaiah 2:10.
 - The vengeance of God in Isaiah 35:4.
 - The harvest of judgment in Micah 4:11-12 and Revelation 14:14-20.
 - The grapes of wrath in Isaiah 63:1-6 and Revelation 19:15.
 - The great supper of God in Ezekiel 39:17-20 and Revelation 19:17-18.

- Zechariah gives an incredibly vivid description of the event in Zechariah 14:12-13. As horrible as the event will be it is important to realize it doesn't mark the end of the earth (Zechariah 14:16 and Revelation 20:1-6).

k. 16:13,14 What came out of the dragon, the beast, the false prophet and what was their purpose?

l. 16:15 What message does Jesus give and why does He give it?

m. 16:16 Where do the rulers of the earth gather?

n. 16:17-21 What did john see when this seventh bowl was poured out?