

33. The Description of the First Four Bowl Judgments

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the fact that once the glory of the Lord fills the temple in heaven, the time has passed when those then alive on the earth are able to repent so they can enter into heaven. Instead, the time of judgment will be completed without delay. In this topic, we are going to see the seven final judgments (the bowl judgments) that will judge the earth.

In Revelation 16:1-3, we read, “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.’ So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead *man*; and every living creature in the sea died.” We see that the seven angels were told to pour out their seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth. These judgments will come very quickly after one another.

We see what will happen when the first angel pours out his bowl of judgment on the earth. The people who have taken the mark of the beast, and have worshiped his image, will have foul and loathsome sores develop on their bodies. The word translated “foul” means *sores that are troublesome or destructive*. The word translated “loathsome” means *diseased*. The only other place this word is used in the New Testament, other than in this chapter, is in Luke 16:21 where it talks about Lazarus, the beggar, and said he was, “desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.” Here, we see that these were open sores that were licked by the dogs. In addition, the Greek translation of the Old Testament uses this word in Exodus 9:9-11 to talk about the sores on the people in Egypt, and in Job 2:7 to talk about the boils of Job. Together, these verses all indicate that these sores will be very painful.

The second angel poured out his bowl on the oceans and seas of the world. We see that all of the oceans and seas had their water become like the blood of a dead man. Again, this was similar to one of the plagues of Egypt but much worse because that plague only affected the river. Exodus 7:20-21 says, “And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. The fish that *were* in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.” However, the second trumpet will be much more destructive. Revelation 8:8-9 says, “Then 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. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” Here, we see that every living creature in the sea will die. Nothing in any ocean or sea will survive this judgment.

In Revelation 16:4-6, we go on to read, “Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying: ‘You

are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.” Here, we see that this angel will pour out his bowl of judgment on the fresh water sources on the earth. This will have a great effect on the people of the earth, because this will affect the water that they drink.

This angel will also speak about the judgment that he is pouring out on the earth. However, first this angel speaks several things about Christ. He will say that the Lord is righteous to judge the world in this way. The word translated “righteous” means *to be innocent, faultless or guiltless*. When it is used in the announcement of judgment, as it is in these verses, it means that *a person is right in bringing judgment both by his words and by his actions*. Since this angel is speaking of Christ, it means that it is right for Christ to judge the people of the earth for their sin and rebellion against God. Psalm 19:9 says, “The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.” That is the reason we are to leave all judgment to Christ.

Then, we see that Christ is the One who is, who was and who is to be. This is a reminder of the fact that Christ is the One who is eternal. In Revelation 1:8, we read, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,” says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’” Then, Revelation 4:8 says, “*The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!’” We see that the whole church will also speak of the fact that Christ is eternal, as Revelation 11:6-17 says, “And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned.’” Christ is the Eternal One who is righteous to judge.

We also see that the way that Christ will judge is also right. The people of the world are the ones who have shed the blood of the saints and the prophets. Now, the angel says that the Lord is righteous, because He has given those who have shed the blood of the saints blood to drink. Here, we see that the judgment fits the actions of those who have shed the blood of the saints. The angel said that this would be their just due. Revelation 6:9 says, “When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.” Here, we see that many tribulation saints will be killed for the Word of God and for the testimony they have given. We see this same thought when we come to Revelation 17:6, where we read: “I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.” We will see, when we reach that chapter, that this woman is religious Babylon that has killed the saints, and so this judgment certainly fits their actions.

Revelation 16:7-9 goes on to say, “And I heard another from the altar saying, ‘Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* Your judgments.’” Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not

repent and give Him glory.” Here, we see that the fourth angel will pour out his bowl of wrath on the people of the earth. However, before this angel pours out his judgments, another angel speaks of the fact that the Lord God Almighty is true and righteous in His judgments.

We see that the fourth angel will pour out his bowl on the sun. Amos was given a vision of the judgment of the Lord, which may describe what happens when this bowl is poured out. Amos 9:5-6 says, “The Lord GOD of hosts, He who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell there mourn; all of it shall swell like the River, and subside like the River of Egypt. He who builds His layers in the sky, and has founded His strata in the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea, and pours them out on the face of the earth—the LORD *is* His name.” When the sun touches the earth with a scorching heat, it will cause the polar icecaps at the North and South Poles to melt. Like all other rivers that receive part of their water from the mountains when the snow melts, the River of Egypt (the Nile River) floods and then recedes. This could cause the oceans to temporarily rise more than two hundred feet before receding. This would cause many cities near an ocean to be destroyed, just as if they were struck by a tidal or tsunami wave.

However, we also see that this angel is given power to scorch men with fire. This will be at a time when the water has been turned to blood and causes the people of the world to be affected by great thirst. At that time, it will be too late to respond to the invitation given in Isaiah 55:1-3, which says, “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you—the sure mercies of David.” The heavenly temple is filled with the smoke of the glory of the Lord. No one will be able to repent, because they waited too long and the time of the judgment of the earth is present.

We see what the response of the people will be when they experience the judgment of the Lord. The people will blaspheme the name of God, but they will not repent and give Him glory. This reminds us again how that the day of judgment will be like the time of the judgment in the time of Noah. Genesis 6:5 says, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.” Then, Luke 17:26-27 adds, “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.”

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to others the danger of waiting until it is too late to turn to Christ in repentance and faith. Once either death or the day of judgment mentioned here comes, it will be too late for all who do not believe. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.