

34. The Description of the Last Three Bowl Judgments

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain to others the danger of waiting too long before turning to the Lord. A person will no longer have the opportunity to repent once either physical death or the final judgments in Revelation come. In our topic today, we are going to see what will happen during the time of the last three bowl judgments.

Revelation 16:10-11 says, “Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” This is another of the judgments that remind us of the judgment of Egypt in Exodus. Exodus 10:21-23 says, “Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, darkness *which* may even be felt.’ So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days. They did not see one another; nor did anyone rise from his place for three days. But all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings.” We see that the darkness in Egypt could be felt.

Here, in Revelation, we see that the kingdom of the antichrist will become full of darkness. Since his kingdom will be worldwide, this means that the entire earth will become filled with darkness. In the Bible, darkness is seen when God is bringing judgment. Matthew 27:45-46 says, “Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” God placed our sins on Christ as He hung on the cross. Since God cannot look at sin with favor, it was necessary to cover the land with darkness, while Christ was bearing our sin. In fact, Luke 23:44 says that this darkness extended beyond the land of Judea. This darkness in Revelation speaks of the fact that this is the judgment of God.

During this darkness, we see that the people on the earth will gnaw their tongues with pain. This will be the pain that is continuing from the previous bowl judgment. Revelation 16:9 says, “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. Notice how similar their response is described in Revelation 16:11, where we read: “They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” In both verses, it says that the name of God will be blasphemed. In both verses, we see that they will not repent. Here, we see that, during this part of the tribulation, people throughout the whole earth will be speaking evil of God, but, at the same time, will refuse to repent of their sins.

We go on to read about the sixth bowl judgment in Revelation 16:12-16, where we read: “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

‘Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.’ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” Here, we see that this judgment will cause the Euphrates River to dry up and become a dry riverbed so that it will be easy for the armies of the east to move quickly to come and fight against the nation of Israel.

Those Jews who remain, during the last half of the tribulation, will come to the Lord. Before His coming to rule on the earth, the Lord promised to save those Jews who come to Him in repentance and faith. Zechariah 13:9 says, “I will bring the *one*-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This *is* My people’; and each one will say, ‘The LORD *is* my God.’” Here, we see that three demons (unclean spirits) will come out of the mouths of Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet (Satan’s unholy trinity). These demons will be given power to perform signs by Satan. These demons will go out to deceive the kings of the whole earth. The purpose of the demons is to gather the kings of the earth and their armies to come and completely destroy the land and the people of Israel.

The Lord will allow these demons to gather the kings and their people for a very different reason. He will even dry up the Euphrates River to make it easier for those from the east to come. In fact, the Lord will allow the demons to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Then, at that very time the nations think they will finally destroy Israel, the Lord says He is coming as a thief. For those who have received Christ, they will welcome His coming. However, most of the people will be in total rebellion against God, and will gather to try to totally destroy the Jews, since Christ was born through the Jewish nation.

We see that these demons will gather the kings and armies of the world to the place that is called in Hebrew, Armageddon. In the Old Testament, Megiddo was a city in the northern part of Israel. The Jordan River Valley, together with the Dead Sea and the area south of the Dead Sea, is also known as the Valley of Megiddo. Revelation 19:11-14 says, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.” This will be the final battle of Armageddon and Christ will destroy the armies with the word of His mouth.

Revelation 16:17-21 says, “Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, ‘It is done!’ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the

weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.” Here, we see that said that this judgment will complete the judgments of the tribulation. The only judgment remaining will be the judgment at the end of the millennium and the eternal judgment, which are both described in Revelation 20.

This final bowl judgment will have a very dramatic effect on the entire earth. It will include thunderings, lightnings, and a great earthquake. This earthquake will be much greater than any earthquake that has ever happened since the creation. This earthquake will affect Jerusalem in one way and the rest of the earth in a very different way. We see that Jerusalem will be divided into three parts. This will make it possible for the city to become much larger. Zechariah 14:4-5 says, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *making* a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, for the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah.” This will allow the Jews to escape as Satan and the people of the world make their final effort to destroy the Jews. However, it will also make Jerusalem much larger for the millennium. In addition, there will also be an expansion in a third direction (possibly toward the west).

This earthquake will be worldwide in its effects. Great Babylon will be remembered by God and He will bring total destruction on Babylon as it experiences the fierceness of the wrath of God against both the city and the whole system of evil for which Babylon stands. We will see this destruction of Babylon described in more detail in Revelation 17 and 18. Meanwhile, the total appearance of the entire earth will be changed. Every island in the oceans will be removed. The mountains of the earth as we know them today will cease to exist. There will be great hail from heaven that will strike many people of the earth. Hailstones are actually pieces of ice. Here, we see that each of these pieces of ice will be a talent in weight (about one hundred pounds). God had warned the Egyptians, in Exodus 9:19, “Therefore send now *and* gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.” Any person that is hit by one of these hailstones will probably be killed instantly since they are much larger than hailstones of Egypt.

This will not cause any of the rebellious people on the earth to repent. Instead, we see that the people of the earth will blaspheme God because of the plague of hail. This plague of hail will be different, and worse than any hailstorm that has ever struck the earth in the past, because it will be worldwide and have huge hailstones. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain completely how these last three bowl judgments will affect both the earth and all of the people that are on the earth. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these plagues.