



**THE BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

## VII. THE BOWL JUDGMENTS

(Revelation 15-16)



### THE AVENGERS

*The Revealing Angel gazed down upon the Elder's face with increasing concern. Though the angel displayed emotions with his usual passive stoicism, with one upraised eyebrow and slightly widened pupils, the human's emotions conversely racked his entire body. The countenance of the man's face alone twisted with a mixture of conflicting feelings as if anger, fear, sorrow, and joy all waged a war of supremacy for the moment. Too much! John had witnessed just too many terrible and glorious things, things that mere mortals should never set their eyes upon.*

*The radiance of the powerful emotions emanating from the Throne did not help settle the man's mind either, as the Almighty's own raw feelings pulsed like solar flares erupting from the sun as each judgment had passed. Both God and man appeared in synch, suffering and exalting both at the same time. Despite his powerful spiritual body, the weight of the shared experience had crushed the man down to his knees.*

*The angelic watcher felt sympathy for his charge but knew all too well that this was the heavy burden one carried as a messenger of God. The Elder had been called to record all that he saw so that the mortal world would know the Almighty's plan for the ages. And so, he must carry that weight, as staggering as it could be, but he did not have to carry it alone.*

*In one swift movement, John's guide bent down, grabbed one of the man's arms, and swung it over his broad shoulders. In hoisting him up from the ground, John's full weight sagged heavily against his bene-*

*factor's robe. The two locked eyes, and with a thin smile, the Elder gave his thanks.*

*John mustered the strength to proceed, for more was still to be witnessed. A lot more, and the worst of it. Like a weary boxer ready to step out into the ring for the eighth round, John fortified himself for what was about to come.*

*With eyes now cleared due to a few swipes of the back of his palm, the Elder's vision came back into focus. In looking upon that brilliant Crystal Sea, a lake as clear as glass and as bright as flame, he realized in his anguish that he had neglected to notice a large crowd had formed. All the pointless deaths that followed the Red Dragon and his mad minions across the earth had actually brought more life to Heaven. Before him stood the Tribulation martyrs. Where once they were dirty, abused, hunted and starved, now in their new abode they emanated joy and peace. Each held a golden harp, and led by no other than Moses himself, joined together in a song of the exaltation of the Lamb. For the first time in what felt like forever, John's face lit up once more.*

*The joyous moment left almost as soon as it had come. With a soundless order received, the Revealing Angel looked up sharply, displaying an uncharacteristic expression of surprise. The Father had just ordered the Heavenly Temple—His throne room—emptied! When had the Almighty ever commanded that? Though as triune, in reality, He was never truly alone, still whatever God was about to proceed with, He needed to perform the deed in solitude. And so, the Cherubim lowered the wheels of the Throne to the ground and set off four wings unfurled. The Choir Angels and the Heavenly Harpists placed delicate instruments into cases and shuffled off to parts unknown. The 24 Elders placed their crowns back upon their heads and went to join the martyrs. Even the Seraphim, for the first time the Revealing Angel could remember, ceased their endless praises and filed obediently out towards the Crystal Sea.*

*John realized with a start that he was now standing firmly on his own two feet and that his angelic companion had departed. The pang of confusion quickly passed, for John's attention riveted back to the throne room. The last image he could see through those golden doors*

*was Heaven's Temple filling thick with smoke. Seven remaining forms knelt before the Almighty. The Lamb laid a hand on each of the seven's shoulders while issuing a small vial and a set of instructions. The seven eventually filed in tandem out of the throne room. At last alone, the colossal doors slowly sealed with a bone-jarring thud.*

*John had a feeling the martyrs were about to be avenged.*

## **{54} THE FIRST BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

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...

(REVELATION 16:1-2)

### **The Martyrs Sing**

John will use all of Revelation 15 to paint the somber picture of Heaven's tense preparations for unleashing the remainder of God's judgments. Seven last plagues were about to be poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth, "for in them the wrath of God is complete" (15:1). Once completed, the number of the Almighty's judgments will total 21 in all. These judgments must be the end of it, they have to, for should God have added even a twenty-second judgment, the earth would become as dead as the planet Mars and as equally inhospitable to human life. God was preparing to take both the earth and the human race to the very brink of extermination.

But, before the remainder of God's wrath was to be unleashed like spring floodwaters out of a bursting dam, the Elder first beheld the catalyst for God's anger. John described what he was next seeing as a "great and marvelous" sign in Heaven (15:1). Suddenly standing there before him, literally *on* the River of Life which flowed "like a sea of glass mingled with fire," were the martyred Tribulation Saints (15:2). As Jesus had once walked upon the waters of the Sea of Galilee, these dead Saints now strode upon the waters of life. Where on earth they had made a stand for their faith in Christ by refusing to take the

damnable Mark of the Beast, and so were felled by the tens of thousands by incineration and beheadings, now they had claimed their eternal rest. Where once they hid terrified in spider holes and sang bitter songs of lament, now the martyrs were revealed in victory strumming golden harps while singing joyous praises to their Savior.

The martyrs sang the refrains of Moses, who in leading the Israelite slaves from Egypt passed from slavery and death into freedom and life, uttering these praises: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people” (Deuteronomy 32:43). The day of vengeance was at hand! The Tribulation martyrs knew this, and cried out to Jesus Christ in chorus singing, “Great and marvelous are Your works... for Your judgments have been manifested” (15:3-4).

The Almighty had used the horn of the Seventh Trumpet Judgment Angel (11:15-19; Angel #40) to call to assemble a set of seven of His mightiest angels. They would serve as the instruments for delivering His avenging wrath. John described these Bowl Judgment Angels only as “clothed in pure bright linen” representing their purity, “and having their chests girded with golden bands” which marks them as the standard-bearers of God’s glory (15:6). Upon receiving their marching orders and a vial of liquid wrath from the Lamb, they emerged out of the “smoke from the glory of God and from His power,” having exited from the “temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven” in single file like a line of Gregorian monks (15:8).

The Bowl Judgment Angels next encountered one of the Four Living Creatures who then issued each a golden bowl (15:7). Their vials were emptied. Sloshing about in those great vessels, the plague water representations of the wrath of God churned and bubbled and smoked. Like a man carrying a bucket of battery acid, the angels must have taken great care not to splash their dangerous contents.

John concluded chapter 15 with a most fascinating observation. He revealed, “No one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed” (15:8). God had actually given the order that He be left alone for a time. Always the bustling center of the

universe, full of angelic praise and the comings and goings of the flights of thousands, God had cleared His throne room and sealed its doors. Surely the prophesied day had finally come, “For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that He may avenge Himself on His adversaries” (Jeremiah 46:10).

But, what kind of toll does such carnage take on a divine being who is the very definition of love? All our Heavenly Father wanted was reconciliation between Himself and Man, having paid the ultimate price for it by His Son’s death, and all He got in return was rebellion and hatred. I can only imagine that God’s heart must have been breaking in two behind those magnificent doors. And yet, the steadfast heart of God requires justice. Satan and his allies—both demon and man—must be brought to justice. The martyrs must be avenged; the wicked world judged.

Abject sorrow had transformed into clear-cut action. Resolute, the deafening voice of God boomed from behind those closed Temple doors with an order to His angelic instruments of wrath. He commanded them, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth” (16:1).

## **The First Bowl Judgment**

Hold on to your seats! Revelation 16 may not be a horror movie, but it outmatches anything that Steve King has ever written. We will see these final seven judgments fall in rapid succession with the speed of, as one commentator described, “trip-hammer rapidity on a world that is reeling under previous judgments and a gigantic world war.”<sup>1</sup>

The first of the Seven Bowl Judgment Angels took a step forward. Stretching his arms beyond the folds of his billowing white robe, the First Bowl Judgment Angel tipped his golden bowl. The churning liquid spilled out and cascaded down upon the earth. The toxic contents fell only upon those who had taken the Mark of the Beast and worshiped his image. Their skins broke out all over in foul and loathsome sores (16:2).

Notice how the wrath of God in this particular judgment focused, much like the Fifth Trumpet Judgment did, solely upon rebellious

mankind. Don't pity the afflicted! Those who take the Mark are the worst of the worse. These are the God-haters. They are the worst of sinners. Why's that? Because they are the ones who, even though they knew fully well that God is real and that He loved them and sent His own Son to die for them, spit on that love. They scorned God's unconditional love and costly sacrifice. They shook their collective fists at their Creator and aligned themselves with the Enemy, Satan. These thoroughly despicable people will openly choose to ignore the Warning Angel (14:9-11; Angel #51) and take the Mark. This judgment, graciously enough, will not affect those Tribulation Saints still left alive on the earth, certainly much to their relief.

This First Bowl Judgment will result in the enemies of God being covered in stinking, burning sores, rather much like boils. The sixth of the ten plagues Moses inflicted upon Egypt also resulted in boils. A boil emerges from under your skin, like a bubble filling with clear-colored lymph. These boils are exceedingly painful and hurt like the dickens. When you scratch one, it breaks open and oozes, exposing the raw skin underneath, and is extremely sensitive to the touch.

What directly will cause these boils? Since there will be weapons of mass destruction used during the Tribulation, maybe these sores are the inevitable result of some kind of radiation or chemical poisoning. Maybe they will form due to a new disease bred on all the dead bodies that will have piled up during the many natural disasters and warfare, for when sanitation suffers disease runs rampant. Maybe whatever technology is behind the Mark of the Beast will end up actually being harmful to humanity and so produce those boils. Maybe this judgment is purely supernatural. Regardless of the cause, the Satan worshipers will writhe in agony, scratching and bleeding and lamenting over their diseased skin, exactly like Job once did under Satan's resentful touch.

## **{55} THE SECOND BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

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.  
(REVELATION 16:3)

## The Second Bowl Judgment

The second of the Seven Bowl Judgment Angels then took a step forward. Holding his golden bowl aloft, the Second Bowl Judgment Angel tipped out the churning wrath of God. The toxic contents deluged like a great waterfall into the seas of the earth. Saltwater transformed into human blood!

Imagine if you were there, like John, gazing from the heavens down upon our world and witnessed that dire scene unfolding. You'd likely gasp in shock as all across the planet the blue waters were devoured by a sickening shade of crimson, like octopus ink swirling in a fish tank. From high up in orbit, you'd see all five of the Earth's oceans—Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and the Arctic—turn red with blood.<sup>2</sup>

Imagine all the death, too, as marine life of every variety burst out of the waters in their desperate search for oxygen, inevitably suffocating, and left bobbing limply along the water's surface dead. The entire surface of the ocean will be covered in dead sea creatures. The stench of it, the rottenness of it, the disease from it all, will be catastrophic.

Save the whales? Not going to happen! All the whales will die. All the porpoises will die. All the plankton will die. All the coral reefs will die. Whatever sea life that had survived the Second Trumpet Judgment when a third of the salt waters were poisoned, will also die. Every single living creature in all the oceans will perish.

The oxygen produced by the ocean tides logically would be diminished, if not entirely halted. God will not just be annihilating the ocean's entire ecosystem, but destroying a major producer of the planet's oxygen. Carbon dioxide levels will skyrocket, making it harder and harder for people to breathe with each passing month.

The ships would also be trapped out there on the bloody waters, their propellers unable to churn through all the stinking corpses and thickly coagulated blood. Supply lines would be cut, paralyzing trade, and precious resources would grow ever scarcer. Every shore on every continent will be caked in dried gore, and the beach life will all perish as well. Crabs and mollusks and seagulls and turtles will rot in great



heaps upon the stained sands. The maggots will feast and disease will spread.

Some theologians have made the argument that “it is probable that the ocean here did not chemically correspond to human blood, but that it looked like blood and had the same effect in killing everything.”<sup>3</sup> Others chime in claiming that the phenomenon will be like a planet-wide red tide which will be “caused by an accumulation of algae called an algal bloom, which releases toxic bacteria and depletes oxygen in the water, killing sea life.”<sup>4</sup> I disagree. A localized red tide cannot compare to the hair-raising scope of this judgment. We are talking about all the oceans—every single one of them—filling with “blood as of a dead man” and every sea animal dying (16:3). The earth’s ability to support life is nearing collapse.

The Second Bowl Judgment will be, in reality, the total destruction of the oceanic ecosystem. This is why the Lord said earlier that if He did not cut those final days short, in other words, end the Tribulation in the prophesied seven years, the entire earth would become extinct.

## **{56} THE THIRD BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

THEN THE THIRD ANGEL Poured OUT HIS  
BOWL ON THE RIVERS AND SPRINGS OF  
WATER, AND THEY BECAME BLOOD.  
(REVELATION 16:4)

### **The Third Bowl Judgment**

Almost as soon as the Second Bowl Judgment Angel had stepped back into line, the Third Bowl Judgment Angel next stepped forward. Holding his golden bowl high over his head, the third instrument of God’s final wrath spilled his destructive contents into the rivers and springs of water. Freshwater transformed into human blood!

The first plague Moses afflicted upon Egypt was the turning of the Nile River into blood (Exodus 7:14-25). With the Third Trumpet Judgment, God had blasted a third of the freshwater with a star called Wormwood, causing the waters to become bitter and poison many

people (8:10-11). And now, with the Third Bowl Judgment, the angel tasked with the pouring out of one of God's final series of wrath turned the rivers above ground and the springs below ground into blood. This mighty instrument of God's judgment had finished what Moses had begun with the Nile River. But, the angel did not focus on one mere river, rather he poisoned every body of freshwater around the globe. All the freshwater—the lakes, the streams, the creeks, the rivers, the wells—will all be filled with blood.

The Christ who can turn water into wine would have no trouble transforming water into blood. By the time the angel had poured out the very last drop, there will be nothing for man, predator, prey, insect, or aquatic to drink. God through the Second Bowl Judgment had killed off the entire oceanic population. And now, the Third Bowl Judgment will also kill off all of the freshwater creatures.

I spent a summer in Alaska and was blessed to witness the phenomena of the running of the salmon. Salmon are compelled by instinct to swim upstream to the place where they were hatched, where they too will spawn. Many of those fish die in their attempt to reach the source of their stream and the remainder who make it end up dying after they've spawned. The result? Dead salmon all over the riverbanks. Their carcasses clog up the streams, stink to high heavens, and hum with a black covering of feasting flies. Picture this scenario on a global scale, as every lake, river and stream logjams with decaying fish and poisoned animals. Their putrefying bodies will add further diseases to the waters, and ongoing deaths.

A person who doesn't drink anything can last only a few days, maybe three or four, before they will inevitably die of dehydration. Without life-giving water, a person's body will cease to function. How then could any creature possibly survive this judgment? Maybe they will get their water from whatever food stores they have. Maybe they will drink bottled water and soda, from cans of beer, or from whatever fruits may still be growing. Maybe, like the Egyptians, they will dig all around the rivers looking for underground caches that are not tied to springs. We can only guess.

Also, just think of all the rioting and killing that will result as humanity desperately fights each other for whatever untainted waters remain. And yet, somehow, humanity will keep gasping along, though in Black Death conditions.

## {57} THE ANGEL OF THE WATERS

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.”

(REVELATION 16:5-6)

### A Righteous Judgment

If ever there was a fleeting thought that God was dealing too harshly with rebellious humanity by the pouring out His Bowl Judgments, another angel quickly puts that argument to rest. Enter the Angel of the Waters, or the Water Angel.

Like the Four Wind Angels (7:1; Angel #19), whose task it is to position themselves at the four “corners” of the earth and control the flow of air, the Water Angel’s responsibility is to care for the waters of the earth. Myriads of angels may serve the Lord as messengers, but countless others are charged with running the natural workings of the planet. Likely a force of nature himself, the Water Angel’s domain is control over the 71% of the surface of the earth that is covered in water.<sup>5</sup> Whereas pagan religions attributed names like Poseidon, Neptune, Triton, and Tiamat to the ruler under the oceans, the Bible points to the true angelic steward of the seas as the Angel of the Waters (but let’s not call him Aquaman).

For six whole millennia, the Water Angel carefully preserved those vibrant blue bodies of water. So just imagine then how disheartening it will be for him to watch their destruction at the hands of the Second and Third Bowl Judgment Angels. The emerald beauty, the sheer

majesty, the grand size, and myriads of trillions of intricately linked aquatic creatures—all gone in a snap. Like a farmer who feels utterly powerless watching as a locust swarm devours his harvest, this aquatic angel will also lose all he had been for so long entrusted to preserve.

And yet, despite his dejection, the Angel of the Waters lifted up a prayer to his Lord and proclaimed the righteousness of God’s judgment against the Antichrist and his followers. After praising the righteousness of “the One who is and who was and who is to be,” the angel explained, “for they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink” (16:5-6). As one commentator explained, “His [the Antichrist’s] quest for the blood of Christians during the first half of the Tribulation will result in his water supply turning to blood in the last half.”<sup>6</sup> The destruction of the drinking water will be, as the angel concluded in his prayer, “their just due” (16:6).

Chiming in came the Altar Angel (9:13-14; 16:7; Angel #33), who temporarily having been excused from his duties in tending God’s altar remarked, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments” (16:7). You can almost hear the martyred souls standing upon the Crystal Sea, whose prayers were so dramatically being answered, cry out in unison, “Amen!”

## **{58} THE FOURTH BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

THEN THE FOURTH ANGEL Poured OUT HIS  
BOWL ON THE SUN, AND POWER WAS GIVEN  
TO HIM TO SCORCH MEN WITH FIRE.  
(REVELATION 16:8-9)

### **The Fourth Bowl Judgment**

Once the Third Bowl Judgment Angel had stepped back into his position in the line, the Fourth Bowl Judgment Angel next launched forward. With a great heave, this angel of wrath flung the smoky liquid from his golden bowl, not at the earth this time, but at the sun. The home star, which provides the planet Earth with light and life and a sense of security, flared like a charcoal briquette doused in high-octane lighter fluid. Solar flares erupted all across the star’s surface. With

these flaming fingers, the sun reached desperately out into the void of space to touch the orbiting spheres.

In dispensing the wrath of God, the Almighty granted the Fourth Bowl Judgment Angel the power to scorch men with fire and great heat from the sun. At some 875,000 miles wide, wide enough to place 109 Earths in a line along its diameter, our sun rages as our solar system's nuclear fusion furnace.<sup>7</sup>

Along its 10 million degrees Fahrenheit surface, huge magnetic loops called prominences touch, and when they do, they short-circuit each other out, setting off massive explosions.<sup>8</sup> These explosions release the energy equivalent of a million 100-megaton hydrogen bombs exploding all at the same time.<sup>9</sup> The high energy photon and particle flares burn at a staggeringly hot 360,000 to 2.7 million degrees Fahrenheit and emit into space x-ray and gamma-ray radiation so deadly that if the planet's atmosphere did not act as a protective barrier, Earth would become a charred husk.<sup>10</sup>

The Fourth Bowl Judgment Angel sought to make Global Warming an actual reality. In accomplishing God's judgment, besides having caused the sun to flare out of control, he may rip holes in the atmospheric curtain so that it can no longer effectively shield the surface from the sun's harmful rays. Maybe the protective ozone layer will be peeled back due to a combination of nuclear radiation from the sun above and recently detonated warheads on the surface below. Or, maybe the staggering powers unleashed by previous devastations will actually move the planet a degree or two closer to the sun. Whatever the cause, the effect will be the stuff of nightmares.

Imagine you're standing in front of an x-ray machine for hours but forgot to put on a protective lead vest. What would happen? The radiation would blast microscopic holes through your body at a rate faster than the body can repair. This process is the natural cause of aging, but in intense doses, radiation kills swiftly.

And, it's not just people being blasted by radiation, but the scorching will cause the destruction of the flora across the planet, as well as the melting of the polar ice caps. The land animals, too, are literally going to burn up as if on a backyard grill. The whole earth will

start to set ablaze, raging like an unquenchable California wildfire. The angel will scorch mankind just like he was a kid burning ants with a magnifying glass. The result will be the almost total incineration of the entire ecosystem and the end of any real food production. The irradiating of the remaining populace will make their bodies appear like the burned and blistered citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki right after the atomic bombs had been dropped on their cities.

Even as God ratchets up the calamities to almost the point of destroying all life across the entire planet, you would think a normal person would cry out to God to relent and have mercy. But, alas, tragically no. Concerning the people's reaction to the Fourth Bowl Judgment, an incredulous John exclaimed, "They blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory" (16:9). Instead of waving the white flag of surrender, the Antichrist's sunburned people will instead, through gritted teeth, curse God and shake their fists at Him.

The Fourth Bowl Judgment proves just how utterly depraved the survivors of the Tribulation will have become. That is why Romans 1 says that God gives wicked people over to a depraved mind, because they choose to not turn to God and instead continue on in their own evil ways. The burning and the smoking and the stinking and all the rotting death will transform the earth into a hellscape. But, instead of making that obvious comparison and fearing for their mortal souls, repenting and calling out to God for deliverance, the Antichrist's followers will instead blaspheme God.

## **{59} THE FIFTH BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

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.  
(Revelation 16:10-11)

## The Fifth Bowl Judgment

Just as soon as the Fourth Bowl Judgment Angel had rejoined his brethren, the Fifth Bowl Judgment Angel prepared to take his turn as the instrument for dispensing God's wrath. Striding forward, he slowly tipped his golden bowl and an inky black liquid spilled forth.

The ebony mixture doused the raging sun, extinguishing its brilliant light. All across the Antichrist's global empire, the blinding light was traded for pitch darkness, the raging fires became encased in impenetrable ice, and the suffocating heat was replaced by the frigid cold. For those few who had miraculously survived the fires, their rejoicing at the end of their latest trial became short-lived. For the world became enshrouded in a darkness so devoid of any light that the surface rivaled the depths of a coal mine. The combined wailing and cursing of the terrified people could be heard all the way up to the angel's lofty position.

As we have been reading through Revelation 16 and learning about the Seven Bowl Judgments, we find that the conditions across the planet will continue to grow progressively worse. So far, loathsome sores have broken out on all those who have taken the Antichrist's loyalty mark. The oceans and freshwaters will have turned into blood, killing all the aquatic life. The sun will flare brightly, scorching the world and its inhabitants. And now, with the Fifth Bowl Judgment, what Jesus and the prophets foretold will have finally begun to come true: "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light" (Amos 5:18; Nahum 1:6,8; Zephaniah 1:15; Mark 13:24). The prophesied judgment of darkness and pain had at last arrived.

We learn from the text that this darkness will be both utter and complete. No longer just a diminishing of the daylight by a third as with the Fourth Trumpet Judgment, no, this time a total blackness will descend over the land. The extent of this judgment could likely stretch the ebony shroud over all the time zones and last 24/7 for days on end. John noted that this darkness will particularly affect "the throne of the Beast," meaning the Antichrist's capital city of Babylon (16:10). We'll look deeper at where this Babylon could be in Section 8. For now, we

see this judgment has left the Antichrist blinded and screaming in a rage from atop his throne.

How strange to learn that the side effect of this darkness is pain. There will be so much pain, in fact, that John described hearing the Antichrist's subjects as they "gnawed their tongues because of the pain" (16:10). Possibly then these Bowl Judgments are meant to act as a foretaste of the darkness and sufferings that inevitably await the Antichrist and his followers. Their eternal destiny in Hell had already been foretold by the Warning Angel (14:9-11; Angel #51), who cursed those who took the Mark of the Beast to the inevitable torment by fire and the pain of being separated from God, who is the eternal source of light and life.

Because the Bible describes Hell as a lake of fire, one would naturally conclude that the infernal place should burn very brightly, but ironically no, for Scriptures also describe Hell as a place of outer darkness. The darkness shrouding the Antichrist's kingdom foreshadows the outer darkness of Hell.

I've wondered what mechanics the Fifth Trumpet Judgment Angel will employ to block out the sun's light, much in the same way God directed through Moses in the ninth plague on Egypt. Will he be summoning legions of angels to stand between the earth and the sun, moon, and stars in order to black out the sun's rays with the unfurling of their robes and wings? And, how could so much of the planet fall into darkness, and yet a small portion of sunlight still remains shining on those who live outside of the Antichrist's control, such as those Jews protected in Petra? We can chalk it up to the supernatural, but God often works within His own laws of physics.

We'll read later in Revelation how all sorts of signs in the sky precede Jesus' arrival at His Second Coming. Therefore, the lights will eventually be turned back on again at some point after the Fifth Bowl Judgment. If they stayed off, the lack of light and heat would certainly cause the world to freeze under another ice age. For this appointed time, the Antichrist's kingdom will come under complete darkness to endure all the pain and cold that follows.



Satan's subjects will react to this judgment in the exact same way they did with the last fiery judgment—tragically. “They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds” (16:11). The whole evil lot will continue to blaspheme God instead of calling out to Him in repentance and begging for mercy. In doing so they will continue to call down even more judgment upon themselves. You could say the implied message of the Fifth Bowl Judgment Angel then rings true: Don't live in Satan's kingdom of darkness, or your life will become utter darkness.

## **{60} THE SIXTH BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL**

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.  
(REVELATION 16:12)

### **The Sixth Bowl Judgment**

As soon as the Fifth Bowl Judgment Angel returned, the sixth of the Bowl Judgment Angels next stepped forward and lifted aloft his golden vessel. A gurgling, concentrated, liquid heat filled the bowl up to its brim. The angel poured the wrath of God directly into the bloodied Euphrates River, which then began to steam and bubble and boil. The dark sludge of the polluted river evaporated like a snowflake landing in the Sahara during the summertime. Within a matter of moments, nothing but a dusty dried up riverbed remained of that once majestic river. In the distance, the sound of boots marching across the parched ground steadily increased in volume.

We read in Revelation 9 that a few years earlier the Sixth Trumpet Judgment Angel (9:13; Angel #32) had let loose the Four Horsemen of the Euphrates (9:14-15; Angel #34) and their murderous 200 Million Man Army (9:16; Angel #35) from their long captivity bound somewhere in or under the Euphrates River. Now a few years later, at this Sixth Bowl Judgment, the Euphrates River is mentioned yet again. This time that ancient waterway, so antediluvian that it ran along the

Garden of Eden and which today runs through the nation of Iraq, will be dried up by the Sixth Bowl Judgment Angel. The watery boundary that separates western from eastern continents will have been erased. The angel does this in order that “the way of the kings from the east might be prepared” (16:12).

Just who are these “kings from the east”? One commentator exasperatedly remarked that in his attempt to identify these kings he had surveyed a hundred commentaries and had ended up with fifty different interpretations!<sup>11</sup> I’ll add to that list my own interpretation and you can take it with whatever grain of salt. We simply just don’t know who they are this side of the Tribulation, but I believe there are enough clues to work up a pretty good sketch.

Remember that up to this point in the Tribulation, the Antichrist will have risen to power in a world already divided into ten regions, or ten kingdoms, and will likely leave these ten regional rulers in charge in order to help administrate his empire. In order to rule over such massive swaths of land, the Ten Kings must utilize sub-kings, likely former presidents and prime ministers of the old nation-state system.

The Asian continent, for example, would be ruled by one of the Ten, but then under him would serve sub-rulers presiding over the former nations of India, China, Japan, and the other smaller Asian nations. These then would constitute the “kings from the east.”

This conclusion is substantiated by the fact that the term “from the east” in the original Greek is *anatole helios*, which directly translated is “rising sun.”<sup>12</sup> The sun rises in the east. And, uniquely, Japan calls itself the “Land of the Rising Sun,” which in Japanese really means “land where the sun begins.” Japan’s flag also bears that symbol of the sun. Japan, at least, will provide one of these Kings of the East.

Why would the Kings of the East march their armies westward and seek to cross the Euphrates riverbed? If we look to the prophet Daniel to add some further information to John’s account, we learn that near the end of the prophesied seven years the Ten Kings will tire of the Antichrist’s inept reign. The planet had become devastated under the Antichrist’s leadership, and maddeningly his obsession with killing as many Jews and Tribulation Saints as possible instead of fixing a world

on the brink of collapse will force his own kings to attempt to overthrow him.

The Kings of the East will collect their soldiers from whoever is surprisingly left of their still numerous peoples. Then the eastern kings will start marching their army westwards, heading off to engage the Antichrist who is already warring against another rebellion led by the King of the South (Daniel 11). The King of the South will also be one of the Ten Kings who will rule over a united African continent.

As soon as the Antichrist's loyal soldiers defeat the King of the South, the Antichrist begins to worry over a report that the Kings of the East are marching towards him in their own rebellion. In quick response, the world's emperor redirects his battle-weary army north. There he will face down the Kings of the East upon reaching Israel's Jezreel Valley, having freshly arrived from their march across the dried up Euphrates River.

The judgment of the Sixth Trumpet Judgment Angel then, is in truth, an act of preparation for the battle of Armageddon. And, we already know what the Harvest Angels (14:14-20; Angel #52) had foretold about that inevitable confrontation. With each passing angel, John is beginning to learn more and more about what's involved with Armageddon, and now so are we.

## **{61} THE FROG DEMONS**

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.  
 (REVELATION 16:13-14,16)

### **Amphibians Assemble**

Tucked within the telling of the Sixth Bowl Judgment is a most disturbing scene. John must have stood watching aghast, disgusted by what he saw as Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet convened for a most wicked counsel. Whether some sort of satanic ritual was

involved, the text does not say, but the result was the same. Demons were summoned!

With loud choking, hacking, gasping sounds, the members of that evil trinity each puked up an unclean spirit. These upchucked demons looked amazingly like frogs. The “like” frogs, John noted, indicates that these amphibians will actually be, in truth, not amphibians, rather they just look like frogs in terms of their hideous appearances (16:13). These giant, slimy, wart-covered bullfrogs will ooze their way out of each of these evil beings’ mouths and slither onto the floor in puddles of vomit and spittle. Yuck!

The three frog-like demons will wield the ability to perform miraculous signs. They will need these powers in order to fulfill Satan’s command to “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” (16:14).

Remember that we’re speeding rapidly towards the climactic end of the Tribulation, and by this late point, the world will resemble something like a *Mad Max/Terminator* double feature. The deranged Antichrist will have been acting so insanely obsessed with killing both Jews and Tribulation Saints that he will make the brutally mad Roman Emperor Caligula, who appointed his own horse Incitatus as a consul, look sane by comparison.<sup>13</sup> That behavior will cause the Ten Kings who rule under this mad emperor to start a rebellion against his throne, first by the King of the South and next the King of the East and his sub-rulers.

Satan knows that his time is short because the world is on the precipice of the prophesied return of Jesus Christ to the location of the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). And so, as wild as it sounds, Satan will summon up three Frog Demons to preach one of his last messages. As the seventeenth-century author, Sir Roger L’Estrange, once remarked: “When the Devil preaches the world’s near an end.”<sup>14</sup>

These three demons will travel out into the wastelands and rally a chaotic world into joining in a civil war. And, where does Satan wish them to assemble? “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon” (16:16). With this Sixth Bowl Judgment, further preparations for that final battle are revealed to us, culminating in Revelation 19.

Why would Satan enflame a civil war within his own empire? His strategy can be found embedded within satanic music, such as “The Humbling River,” which tells of an impassible river that can only be forged when finally “the many join as one.”<sup>15</sup> It appears Satan’s looney enough to continue following his worn-out, two-times failed strategy of raising up an army against God. He sincerely believes that if he can just assemble an army big enough, that upon seeing Jesus return in the sky, the nations of the world would stop fighting each other and unite, and in doing so, Satan hopes this united army will possess the strength to defeat the King of Kings.

So, while it appears that Satan will use the three Frog Demons to further fuel a civil war against his own puppet’s throne, his actual end goal is to assemble those who hate Jesus to lay down their arms against each other and then unify against the returning King. It’s an insidious plan, one demonstrating not even a shred of concern whatsoever for his own subjects, but certainly a plan vilely characteristic of mankind’s true Adversary.

## **Demonic Possession**

This wild scene begs the question as to whether Satan consumes, or stores, other demons within himself. Multiple possessions of the Antichrist and False Prophet makes sense for they are merely humans; for as we know, Mary Magdalene herself had seven demons cast out of her by Jesus (Luke 8:2). Multiple demons can inhabit a human being. But, a demon inhabiting another demon? Clearly, the three Frog Demons demonstrate that somehow Satan can carry within himself other demons, maybe like a male seahorse carries his mate’s babies within a pouch. Yet again, everything demonic is quite disgusting.

For those who rightly fear demonic possession, remember that born-again believers in Jesus Christ have the Holy Spirit indwelling in them, and demons cannot cohabitate with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19; John 7:38-39; Ephesians 2:22). A Christian can experience demonic oppression, though, when we are not walking closely with the Lord.

It is important then that Christians swear off all influences that will hamper our relationship with our Lord by engaging daily in solid Christian fellowship, prayer, and the reading of the Bible. Rid yourself of anything from the occult such as the New Age, Yoga, and pornography. A Christian will begin to feel spiritually oppressed when we stray from our Christian walk. Satan always seeks to drag a man's soul down with him, and for those who are saved, then to hamper our heavenly relationship and effective Gospel witness. Therefore, heed Spurgeon's sobering warning about what comes from wandering off the Christian path:

*He who travels on the King's highway is under the King's protection; but he who takes to by-roads must protect himself, and the probability is that he will meet with robbers who will make him rue the day that ever he turned to the right hand or to the left... The man who professes to be a Christian must not expect God's angels to keep him if he goes in the way of worldliness.<sup>16</sup>*

## Encouraging Word

With always the Revelation reader's fears in mind, Jesus Himself speaks up in the middle of John's exposition of the Sixth Bowl Judgment with a message of encouragement to believers and of warning to unbelievers. He stated: "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches..." (16:15).

## {62} THE SEVENTH BOWL JUDGMENT ANGEL

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!"  
(Revelation 16:17-21)

## The Seventh Bowl Judgment

Having dispensed of his duty in pouring out God's wrath upon the Euphrates River, thereby removing the last barrier to the self-annihilation of the human race, the Sixth Bowl Judgment Angel stepped back into the procession. Without missing a beat, the seventh and final of the Bowl Judgment Angels took a large step forward. He poured out the smoking contents of his golden bowl into the air. As steaming liquid met polluted atmosphere, God Almighty's own voice could be heard booming from inside the sealed doors of the Heavenly Temple. Perhaps with a mixture of anguish and relief, the Creator of the universe shook the planets with His pronouncement: "IT IS DONE!" (16:17).

With the pouring out of the Seventh Bowl Judgment Angel's vessel, God's 21 righteous judgments upon the wicked inhabitants of the earth will have at last been completed. To say that God had saved the worst judgment for last would be an understatement. The destructive force of the Seventh Bowl Judgment is beyond mere human comprehension. How any person could remain alive after this final exhibit of God's wrath is certainly beyond probability.

The final judgment will involve the full fury of nature unleashed. This judgment will begin with the sky noisily erupting into a thunder and lightning storm so terrifying that it would cause the bravest soldier to wet his pants and run scurrying to hide under his bed. As violent as the sky will become, the ground will challenge it with the fiercest of intensity. To claim this earthquake will break the Richter scale would not be an exaggeration.

Already during the Tribulation, three other massive earthquakes had severely damaged the earth. The first of these earthquakes occurred near the beginning of the Tribulation during the Gog-Magog War as God supernaturally rescued the nation of Israel by causing the mountains there to be overturned and the cliffs to crumble in order to swallow up the attacking armies of Russia and her Islamic allies (Ezekiel 38-39). The second Tribulation earthquake occurred during the Sixth Seal Judgment, inciting an earthquake so massive John explained that it will literally bring every mountain down and every island to be moved from its place (6:12-17). The third earthquake was smaller in scope,

having happened at the mid-point of the Tribulation when the Two Witnesses were resurrected, causing a tenth of Jerusalem to collapse and killing 7,000 people (11:13). And, now, we've reached the very end of the seven-year Tribulation and the fourth and final prophetic earthquake.

John must have watched in a shocked stupor as this extinction-level earthquake shook the continents to their foundations. He described it as "a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth" (16:18). What?! It will be more powerful than the one that leveled all the mountains and sunk the islands? Apparently so, for "the great city was divided into three parts" and all "the cities of the nations fell" (16:19).

But, when it comes to the Seventh Bowl Judgment, as gameshow announcers are fond of saying, "And that's not all!" The atmosphere will also erupt in an electron-strewn fury, causing the cyclonic clouds to unleash the worst hailstorm ever seen in all of human history. God will empty what Job revealed as the Almighty's "treasury of hail, which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war" (Job 38:22-23).

John learned that each hailstone will weigh a talent. In today's measurements, that's 135 pounds each. That would make every one of these stones the size of a Volkswagen Beetle! Imagine car-sized hail streaking out of the storm clouds in torrents and crashing down upon the assembled armies of the world, crushing whole groups of people flat with each icy projectile. No wonder these evil men "blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great" (16:21).

The combination of earthquake and hail will destroy all of the combined works of Satan and man. In doing so, God will be erasing the old and preparing to usher in the new.