

# Revelation Step by Step 11

## Revelation 16

We now come to the Seven last plagues, which are the 7<sup>th</sup> Trump, (Revelation 11:15, 15:1), the summation of the wrath of God, and they end with the defeat of Christ's enemies, who have refused all God's warnings to repent. Inherently, the worship of the Beast or its image is the rejection of the true worship of God, a point not recognised by many people who bow before Babylonian hierarchical control in some of the churches of God.

Verses 1-3 Bowls, or vials one and two

God's patience is finally exhausted and the **first** bowls target those who have rejected His warnings to flee from organised dominion in their worship, Mathew 20:25-26, 'But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant." NLT. Revelation 18:4, 'And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.' This severe warning applies to 'Babylon': the evil system of oppression, hierarchy and control in religion which is finally epitomised in the worship demanded by the Beast (Revelation chapter 17) and the commercial oppression of the poor by the wealthy (Revelation chapter 18). Thousands gave their lives resisting this *image of the beast* during the Inquisition, and the British Empire, while it delivered development, law and stability to its colonies, also abused and oppressed the '3<sup>rd</sup> world', eventually bringing about its own destruction.

The fact is that Jesus Christ is the pattern and example of a true servant ruler, who like King David, loves and cares for his people, and must be the focus of our worship, not the Beast, or *its image*, or anyone who claims selfish authority to rule for their own advantage, ignoring Christ's word. To remain in a church which exercises oppressive rule, including over what its members *must* believe, in opposition to Jesus Christ's command, is actually to lose your *chastity* as a spiritual virgin, 2 Corinthians 11:2, 'For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a **chaste virgin** to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.' Why? Bowing before anyone's rule, who inserts themselves between you and Jesus Christ, makes that person the authority you obey *instead of* Christ, and therefore is an idol. It is akin to worshipping the "image of the Beast" and a violation of the Truth of Christ's words.

In my years as a pastor, I welcomed those into God's congregation who had been driven out of other Churches of God for discovering things in God's word which did

not match the beliefs of their church. It was only because of this, for example, that I learned the truth about the Rabbinic calendar, which brought about a change to the calendar used by the Jews and Jesus Christ.

The **second angel** pours his bowl upon the sea, which becomes blood, picturing the spiritually dead, morally defunct societies of this world, which have rejected the Bible because it conflicts with their desire of freedom to sin. If we do not love the truth of God's word, He sends **delusion** upon us, 2 Thessalonians 2:11, '[And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:](#)' Satan is very good at inventing lies and there are plenty of his examples in the End-Time doctrines of the Church of God!

The **third angel** poured his bowl upon the fresh waters, which also become blood, verses 4-7, and God is justified, because Christians and their teachers (here called prophets and their teaching often called prophesying) have had their blood shed, and now their persecutors deserve to have to drink blood!

The **fourth angel** pours his bowl upon the sun, verses 8-9, which brings scorching heat worldwide, compelling them to drink blood. The Trumpet plagues had previously been restricted to a third part of whatever object, but now punishment is intensified and afflicts the whole. Men blaspheme God, but most do not repent.

The **fifth angel**, verses 10-11, pours his bowl on the seat of the Beast, Rome, the headquarters of religious Babylon, the enemy of God Himself. It is plunged into darkness to reflect its spiritual condition, but despite the cumulative punishment, still most people do not repent, and blame God for their pains.

The **sixth angel**, verses 12-16, dries up the River Euphrates to enable the army of 200 million advancing troops from the East, Revelation 9:16, '[I heard the size of their army, which was 200 million mounted troops,](#)' NLT, to invade the Middle East. This is brought about then because the Beast has taken control of all the oil production there, devastating Eastern economies, Daniel 11:40-43. However, his enemy to be, China, is already constructing transportation infrastructure around the world with its 'belt and road' initiative, and military bases in the Indo-Pacific to fulfil its ambitious expansionist plans.

In verse 13, John the Apostle sees for the first time the Dragon, along with his acolytes, the Beast and the False Prophet. The frogs symbolise the evil seducing spirits which delude the leaders of nations to bring their soldiers to Armageddon.

Verse 15 represents a parenthesis which shows that there are still some Laodiceans keeping God's commandments, with God's help! (Cf. Revelation 12:17)

And so all these armies converge at Armageddon, verse 16, ‘[And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name Armageddon.](#)’

Finally, the **seventh Angel** pours out his bowl into the air, verses 17-21, the realm of “[the Prince of the power of the air](#)”, Ephesians 2:2. Satan is thereby restricted to the earth’s surface, to work through the Beast and the False Prophet.

But, as always, God is in control, and with this final bowl, God says, “[It is done.](#)” The punishment is almost complete, a most significant moment, which will influence events for 1100 years, for with that bowl God uses the tectonic plates of the earth’s crust, which move and cause earthquakes, to completely restructure the physical geography of the planet!

Continents are then likely to lose their sink coastal cities beneath the waves, as God lowers some polluted and irredeemable areas and causes other new areas to rise, to replace them. At the moment only about one tenth of the earth’s surface can grow crops, and the rest is mountains, desert, ice, barren land, too hot or too cold. It seems from scripture that these statistics will be reversed, one tenth being kept for beauty, nine tenths then, for agriculture. Even the new rolling hills will grow crops, Psalm 72:16, ‘[May there be abundant grain throughout the land, flourishing even on the hilltops. May the fruit trees flourish like the trees of Lebanon, and may the people thrive like grass in a field.](#)’

This is the coming Millennium, and all over the world God will maximise the possibility of a return to Eden-like conditions. In Israel, for example, the climate will be changed completely by the miraculous Holy waters issuing out from beneath the altar in the new Temple (Ezekiel 47:8-12), which increase *as they flow*, filling up the Dead Sea until it reaches Shittim, now some 10 miles from the Dead Sea, Joel 3:18, “[And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.](#)” This means that the Dead Sea will expand, so that if we follow the contours, we see that it will join the Sea of Galilee to the North, and also overflow down the Arabah into the Red Sea to the South, completely improving the climate and agricultural productivity of Israel and the Middle East, and refreshing the world’s oceans. The same pattern, of opening up large desert regions with inland seas in large continents like Australia, will occur all around the world.

Verse 19, for example, describing Great *Commercial* Babylon, the USA, which has large desert areas, will be split into three, contributing to future global fertility, which will be needed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection, the Great White Throne judgement. Revelation 20:11. The great cities of the world will be levelled, many never to be rebuilt.

Finally, this worldwide restructuring is summed up in Revelation 16:20, ‘**And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.**’ Worldwide destruction of virtually everything remaining continues in v. 21, by hailstones far too heavy to lift!

God describes the result in Isaiah 24:1, 5-6, ‘**Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.... The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.**’ I don’t think many people realise just how few will be left after the Great Tribulation, so few that the remnants from the US, UK and its dominions will fit into the (expanded) land of Israel in the Middle East!

It is not God’s wish that such horror comes about. That is why He has given us this information. If we are wise, it will incentivise us to turn from our sinful ways and begin living His way, keeping His Laws, which will change the world back into an Eden-like condition over the 1000 years of the Millennium!

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