

## Revelation Pastor Lou DeVizia

Revelation 15:5 - 16:21 Fellowship Bible Church; Woodbridge, NJ

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Introduction: The final four verses of Chapter 15 provide an introduction to the bowl judgments. As we have studied through Revelation, we have anticipated this specificity for some time. These seven bowl judgments are triggered by the final of the seven trumpets. All of this was first generally introduced in 11:19 (there the heavenly temple, the ark, and the earthquake, the hail, etc., are mentioned).

The bowl judgments, given their detailed description in Chapter 16, will be swift and severe. There will be virtually nothing left. Even the earth's topographical features, its water, and its climate will be drastically affected. And yet, right in the midst of it all, perhaps the most striking feature of the chapter is that men will not repent and give God glory. Also seen is the gathering of the armies of the world at Armageddon for the final battle, wherein Christ's return will seal the final crushing defeat of those armies.

The world is speeding towards this. From the time the Rapture occurs, it is only seven years until this happens. How much longer can there be? Only God knows. But the words of this section of Scripture ring true: "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches..." (16:15a).

1. Verses 15:5-8 - "And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues."

- v.5 - i.e., the "Holy of Holies"

- vv.6-7 - **bowls...** details of these final judgments, which will happen in virtually immediate succession to one another, are given in the next chapter.

- v.8 - Note the order of God: His own glory prevents anyone from entering the **temple** until His wrath is finished being poured out.

2. Verses 16:1-21 - "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

- v.1 - **loud voice...** since this is not identified as the voice of an angel, it is most likely the voice of God Himself. **...the bowls of the wrath of God** these will come in rapid succession, inflicting a terrible toll on the earth.

- v.2 - God knows how to discern between the masses of the world and His surviving remnant, and only those with the **mark of the beast** will be inflicted with these **sores**; the sores evoke memory of the plagues of Egypt (not the only time in this Chapter that that occurs).

- v.3 - This also happened in Egypt in the days of those plagues.

- vv.4-7 - This time the plague hits the fresh **water**, meaning, as an **angel** cried out, **You have given them blood to drink**. Man is *violent*, among his many other sins against God. **blood to drink** is his **just due**.

- vv.8-9 - This **bowl** is **poured** on the **sun**. Severe **global warming** will occur! John MacArthur points out that such sudden, extreme heat will melt polar icecaps and mountain glacial ice, and the result will be flooding. But remember - the water has been turned to blood. Coastal cities and river

beds will be flooded with bloody, unusable water. There will be nothing to drink at a time when people will really want such. Even in their extreme thirst and brutal heat, men will not **repent**.

- vv.10-11 - Starting at the **beast**'s **throne** and extending to all of **his kingdom** (i.e., the world) there will be total **darkness**. This and previous plagues cause extreme pain and sorrow, yet men will still not **repent** and will actually blaspheme **God**.

- vv.12-16 - The area of much of the Euphrates River is dammed and quite dry in places today, making some people skeptical of this passage. However, remember - the extreme heat will melt mountain ice and snow causing great rivers everywhere to flood. This plague will dry that up. Why? To make way for the kings from the east to come to the Battle of Armageddon. They will be further lured by Satan, the Antichrist, and the Antichrist's prophet.

NOTE: In the midst of this description there is an inserted word about *being ready* (v.15). Whatever the believer's place in the story is - Christians now, or Tribulation saints then - we must be ready. How? Trust and obey, watch and pray.

- vv.17-21 - **great earthquake** - this will be the most tremendous and devastating quake of all time. **mountains** will be destroyed, islands will move (so to speak, indicating great plate shifts) - this evokes the calamity of the Flood of Noah's day. *The earth that Jesus returns to will be quite different than what it is today!* Even Jerusalem (**the great city**) will be **divided** three ways (to prepare for Christ's rule). **Babylon** - the seat of power of the beast (Antichrist) - will be utterly destroyed (details in the next two chapters). A **talent**, by various measures throughout world history, could be anywhere from 60-130 pounds! **hail** of this mass would absolutely obliterate virtually anything. This will bring only more blasphemy from **Men**.