

REVELATION SURVEY – Chapters 16-19

INTRODUCTION

READ Rev

Illustration– I want a literalist pilot – one who believes in a literal airport with a literal landing strip.

Seven Bowls of Judgment – 15:5-8

16:1 – “Go and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth.” –

All three have hail, darkness, blood, sores and hordes from beyond the Euphrates...whether they be insects or demons.

But... Exod were local and partial
Trumpets were global and partial
Bowls are global and total.

1st Bowl – 16:2

Loathsome Sore – Earth

“a loathsome and malignant sore upon the men who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.”

From the Septuagint – **Exod 9:9-11** – “boils breaking out in sores” → incurable, open, oozing pustules

Gnats

Targeted wrath → like **Exod 8:22-23** – “on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where My people are living, so that no swarms of insects will be there, in order that you may know that I, the LORD, am in the midst of the land. ²³And I will put a division between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall occur.”

Cattle

Exod 9:4-6 – “the LORD will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing will die of all that belongs to the sons of Israel. ⁵And the LORD set a definite time, saying, ‘Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land.’ ⁶So the LORD did this thing on the morrow, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the sons of Israel, not one died.”

Hail

Exod 9:24-26 – “there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. ²⁵And the hail struck all that was in the field through all the land of Egypt, both man and beast; the hail also struck every plant of the field and shattered every tree of the field. ²⁶Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel *were*, there was no hail.”

Darkness

Exod 10:23 – “They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.”

First Born

Exod 11:7 – “against any of the sons of Israel a dog shall not *even* bark, whether against man or beast, that you may understand how the LORD makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel.”

- 1) **Pattern** of God targeting unbelievers and passing over or removing believers before pouring out wrath (Enoch, Noah, Lot, Rahab, Plagues of Egypt) and specific **promise** to the church (1 Thess 1:10; 5:9; Rev 3:10).
- 2) 24 Elders in Revelation – the Church – in Heaven throughout 4-19
- 3) Distinction between Israel and the Church in End Times
 - **11:1-2** speaks of Jews and Gentiles, not the Church

4) Purpose for the Tribulation is for Israel and unbelieving Gentiles, not the church

5) Difference in the return of Christ at the rapture and His Second Coming (More below).

6) Tribulation saints will populate the Millennium.

2nd Bowl – 16:3

Ocean Blood – Sea

“blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died” – second trumpet, first plague of Exod

3rd Bowl – 16:4

Fresh Water Blood – Rivers and Springs

Interlude – 16:5-7 → **Just judgment** – “Lex Talionis” (defined below)

16:6 – “**They deserve it.**”

4th Bowl – 16:8-9

Scorching Heat – Sun

16:8 – “**scorch men with fire**”

Amos 9:5 – “the Lord God of hosts, the One who touches the land so that it melts, and all those who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises up like the Nile and subsides like the Nile of Egypt; ⁶the One who builds His upper chambers in the heavens, and has founded His vaulted dome over the earth, He who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the face of the earth, the LORD is His name.”

16:9 – “**they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues; and they did not repent, so as to give Him glory.**”

5th Bowl – 16:10-11

Darkened Kingdom – Throne

“his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain”

“they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.” –

[This is the last time “repent” appears in the Bible.]

9:20-21 Why?? → **John 3:20** – “everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light”

Jer 17:9 – “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Reminder that the wrath of God has already been poured out on Christ on our behalf.

“God of Heaven” – Gen 24:3, 7; 2 Chron 36:23; Ezr 1:2; 5:11-12; 6:9-10; 7:12, 21, 23; Neh 1:4-5; 2:4, 20; Psa 136:26; Dan 2:18-19, 37, 44; Jon 1:9; **Rev 11:13; 16:11** – 6th Trumpet, 5th Bowl

6th Bowl – 16:12

Dried Up River – Euphrates

“its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings from the east.” – miraculous drying up

Armageddon – 16:13-16

16:13 – “the dragon ... the beast and ... the false prophet – the unholy trinity

16:14 – “they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty” – **6:17**

Application – If you think signs and wonders are going to lead somebody to Christ, guess again.

16:15 – “**Blessed is the one who stays awake**”

→ For the **seals, trumpets, bowls** ... there is an interlude between the sixth and the seventh and last.

Point – Purpose of biblical eschatology is: to warn, to exhort, to encourage. We must beware, be discerning, be ready, be strong.

16:16 – “**they** (the froglike unclean spirits of v. 13) **gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called HarMagedon**.” –

- *Mount of Megiddo*, overlooking a pass through the Carmel Range into Galilee
- Jgs 5:19; 2 Kgs 23:29f.; 2 Chron 35:22; Zech 12:11

Zech 12:11 – “In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.”

Joel 3:14 – “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.”

7th Bowl – 16:17-21

Great Earthquake – Air

16:18 – “**And the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air; and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, ‘It is done.’” – similar to “It is finished!”**

→ Huge similarity! Huge contrast! In both cases, the wrath of God is being poured out. Both are in the perfect tense.
→ But the staggering difference comes from the object(s) upon whom the wrath is being poured...

16:18 – “so great an earthquake, so mighty”

“**great**” – from the original Greek word μέγας (mega)

- seen 208 times in the New Testament; 80 of those times in Revelation
- used 7 times regarding the 7th bowl.
- Most frequent in the Judgment chapters – 6, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18

Rev. 16:1, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18 (twice), 19 (twice), 21 (twice)

Hag 2:6 – “I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land”

- Genesis language, **totality** of coming upheaval
- the Creator who made is the Creator who will destroy and renovate and recreate

16:19 – “**the great city**” – Jerusalem

16:19 – “**Babylon the great**” – capital of Antichrist empire

16:20 – “**every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**” – **Turn to: Zech 14:4-11**

The planet is reshaped, flattened out. Possible back to the one continental land mass of the Antediluvian world (Pangea).

→ **READ Rev 20:7-9** “the broad plain of the earth”

16:21 – “**huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.**” –

2 Pet 3:7 – “the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

The Great Harlot – “Babylon the Great”

Chapter 17 → the emphasis is on the spiritual abomination of the harlot

In Chapter 18 → the emphasis is on the secular abomination of the harlot

17:1 – “**the great harlot who sits on many waters**” – one world religion over all the nations (cf. v. 15)

17:3 – “**a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns**” – the Antichrist

→ Blasphemy is not incidental to his operation, it is essential

- **13:1, 5-6; 16:9, 11, 21; 17:3**

“seven heads and ten horns” – explanation given in vv. 9-13

17:5 – “**Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth**” –

Gen 11:9 – “its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

The people wanted a name for themselves. And they got one. Confusion. Shame. “**Babel**” – which means “babble” – onomatopoeic

Original – can also mean “gateway to god”
→ the original one-world-government

Babylon (seen 294 times in the Bible)

Revelation describes the final Babylon as a concentration of knowledge and wealth and power in opposition to God, united under one central governing power. **Rev 17, 18**

17:7-8 – “**mystery ... was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss ... he was and is not and will come**” –
13:3 – “*I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth was amazed and followed* after the beast;”

17:9-13 – explanation of “seven heads and ten horns” (v. 3)

17:10 – “**five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while**”

- Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome (**Dan 2**)

17:11 – “**the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is one of the seven**” – some massively significant transition? But what? → resurrection, abomination of desolation

17:12-13 – “**the ten horns which you saw are ten kings**” – ten rulers under the Antichrist in second half of the Tribulation, in the 8th Kingdom of v. 11

17:14 – “**He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful”**

- Unbreakable chain
- Believers (Old Testament, New Testament, Tribulation)

17:15 – “**The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.”**

5:9; 14:6 – for salvation. **17:15** – for condemnation.

17:16-18 – the one world ecumenical religion of the first half of the Tribulation is replaced by the worship of the beast in the second half – “Abomination of desolation”

Recall:

Chapter 17 → emphasis on the spiritual abomination of the harlot

Chapter 18 → emphasis on the secular abomination of the harlot

18:2 – “**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!**”

Isa 21:9 – “behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs. And one answered and said, ‘Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground.’”

18:4 – “**Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues**” –

18:5 – “**God has remembered her iniquities**”

Psa 103:12 – “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

18:6-7 – “**Pay her back even as she has paid ... To the degree that she ... to the same degree**” –

Lex Talionis – Latin, “law for retaliation”

- eye for an eye, measure for measure, quid pro quo → **life for life**
- **retribution** not **revenge**

Obad 15 – “the day of the LORD draws near on all the nations. as you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head.”

18:7 – “**I sit as a queen and I am not a widow, and will never see mourning.**” –

Isa 47:4 – “Our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.” → **Isa 47:7f**

18:10, 16, 19 – “**Woe, woe ... Woe, woe ... Woe, woe**” –

18:9-10 – political leaders lament

18:11-19 – business leaders lament

Donald Grey Barnhouse – *“It’s very interesting to note the union of the merchants and the kings in the wailing over the destruction of Babylon. In ancient times, government and business were not united as they are now. Kings ruled apart from the bourgeois, who carried on the business of the world. Business began to move into government at the time of the French Revolution and the upheaval in industry that followed the invention of the steam engine and the growth of modern commerce put the merchants into the government as never before where they stand today alongside the politicians and with common interests. It is to be noted that the wailing is for the luxuries of humanity, no necessities are mentioned.”*

Interesting to note, I’ve never looked at Dr. Barnhouse’s eschatological position, but given he pastored the historic 10th Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia (before James Montgomery Boice), it is safe to assume he is a covenantalist.

18:20 – Saints rejoice (*Lex Talionis* – v. 24)

- all saints I believe
- we rejoice over righteousness; over God’s judgment

Chapter 19 is the end of the Tribulation and a bridge to the Millennium.

19:1 – “**After these things**”

- this is a time marker
- also seen in **1:19; 4:1; 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1; 20:3**

19:1-6 – “**Hallelujah!**” – the Greek word ἀλληλουϊά appears: Psa 104:1; 105:1; 106:1; 110:1; 111:1; 112:1; 113:1; 114:1; 115:1; 116:1; 117:1; 118:1; 134:1; 135:1; 145:1; 146:1; 147:1; 148:1; 149:1; 150:1, 6

- this word appears in the first verse of multiple psalms with the exception of the last psalm – Psalm 150 - where it appears in both the first and last verse.

Rev 19:1, 3, 4, 6 – “Hallelujah” in English only seen four times in Scripture – all right here

19:2 – “**because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.**” – *Lex Talionis* again

Psa 19:9 – “the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.”

Deut 32:43 – “Rejoice, O nations, *with* His people; for He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance on His adversaries, and will atone for His land *and* His people.”

19:3 – “**Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever.**” –

Isa 34:10 – “It shall not be quenched night or day; its smoke shall go up forever; from generation to generation it shall be desolate; none shall pass through it forever and ever.”

19:4 – “**And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sits on the throne saying, ‘Amen. Hallelujah!’**” – 4:4, 10; 5:8; 11:16

19:6 – “**the Almighty**” – appears only in Revelation in the New Testament and it appears 9 times

- 41 times in Old Testament – 31 of these times are in Job

19:7-10 – The marriage of the Lamb

19:7 – “**the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready.**”

19:10 – “**worship God**” – same as in **22:9**

19:11-16 – The Coming of Christ – **Joel 3:9-17**

The difference between the return of Christ in the rapture the return of Christ at His Second Coming:

Rapture

- Imminent
- Christ meets Church in the air
- Christ comes for His people
- The body goes to heaven
- All the righteous will be changed
- Christ gathers His saints
- Mount of Olives untouched
- Living saints are translated
- All believers removed, unbelievers left
- The world is not judged and sin gets worse
- Concerns only the saved
- Is a mystery (not in OT)

Second Coming

- Follows definite predicted signs
- Christ lands on the Mt of Olives (and Bozrah)
- Christ comes with His people
- The body comes down to earth
- All the unrighteous will be destroyed
- The angels gather the elect
- Mount of Olives is split
- No saints are translated
- All unbelievers are removed, believers left
- The world is judged and sin is dealt with
- Concerns the saved and the unsaved.
- Is predicted in both testaments

→ No reference to Satan Satan bound

19:13 – “*He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood*” – **Isa 63:1-3**

19:15 – “**from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them** (future – Millennium) **with a rod of iron; and He treads** (present – end of the Tribulation, Armageddon) **the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty**”

Psa 2:9 – “You will break them with a rod of iron, You will shatter them like earthenware.

- also brought out earlier in **Rev 2:26-27**–from **Psa 2:8-9**

→ Christ will rule in the Millennium and He will rule through us, we will carry out His will, armed with His authority

→ 2:28 – “**and I will give him the morning star.**” → Amazing!!

19:16 – “**on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘King of kings and Lord of lords’**” –

1 Tim 6:15 – “He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;

17:14 – “These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful.”

19:17-21 – The **Great Supper of God**

- judgment on unbelievers, the Beast, and the False Prophet

19:17 – “**I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, ‘Come, assemble for the great supper of God;’**”

19:19 – “the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.”

19:20-21 – “the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet ... these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone ... and the rest” –

Dan 7:11 – “I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.”

CONCLUSION