

Revelation Chapter 16

The Bowl Judgments

Overview

In the judgments of the vials, or bowls, we have undoubtedly a maturation of what has been already foretold in the _____ and seal visions.

The following comparison will illustrate the points of resemblance and _____ between the visions of the trumpets and of the bowls.

Trumpets.

1. Hail, fire, and blood cast upon THE _____; *one third* trees, etc., burnt.
2. *One third* of _____ made blood; one third of creatures therein and of ships destroyed.
3. *One third* of the _____ made bitter; *many* men destroyed.
4. *One third* of the _____, etc. smitten; one third of the day darkened.
5. Star from heaven falls into the _____; he sends forth locusts; men *seek death*; Hebrew name of their king is Abaddon.
6. Armies from the _____ destroy *one third* part of men; men *repent not*.

Episode:—The two witnesses of God WITNESS for him and work _____; WAR against them by the beast.

7. VOICES in heaven; the JUDGMENT; earthquake, etc., and _____.

Bowls.

1. Bowl poured ON THE EARTH; sore upon *the* _____ of the beast.
2. The SEA made blood *as of a* _____ *man*; *every soul* therein destroyed.
3. RIVERS made _____; declared to be God's vengeance upon [ALL] men.
4. SUN smitten; *men* scorched; men blaspheme, men _____ *not*.
5. The _____ and kingdom of the beast smitten; men, in pain, *blaspheme* God; men *repent not*.
6. The way prepared for _____ beyond the EUPHRATES.

Episode:—Three unclean _____ of the *dragon* WITNESS for him and work MIRACLES; WAR by the world at Armageddon.

7. VOICES in heaven; the FALL of Babylon; _____, etc., and HAIL.,

We may from this comparison notice—

(1) The bowls form a series of visions denouncing God's judgments against the _____.

(2) The number seven as well as their character indicates the universal and _____ nature of these judgments.

(3) The events portrayed occupy the same period in time as the seals and trumpets; that is to say, the period of the world's history _____ with the last judgment day.

(4) In comparison with the seals and trumpets, we may observe some points in common and some in which the visions differ.

(a) Like the former visions, these may be divided into _____ groups of four and three.

(b) The structure of the bowl visions is almost exactly _____ to that of the seals.

(c) The visions all terminate with the same events portrayed in similar language, though, as the 3 sets of visions proceed, more stress is laid upon the judgment of the wicked, and less on the _____ of the redeemed.

(d) An episode occurs after the 6th bowl of almost identical nature with, though much shorter than, that after the _____ trumpet.

(e) The severity of the nature of the bowl judgments is conspicuous. Whereas under the seals _____ was afflicted, and under the trumpets _____, there is nothing to indicate any exemption in the bowl visions.

(6) The reason of the employment of the term "vial," or "bowl," is most likely to be found in the expression, "_____ of God's anger," in Revelation 4:10. It indicates the pouring out of God's _____ in an overwhelming and irresistible flood.

A. Bowls directed against natural phenomenon.

1. (1) A voice from the temple.

(1) 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."

Since no one could enter the temple (Revelation 15:8), this loud voice from the temple must be _____ Himself, who personally initiates the horrific judgment of the bowls.

These bowls of judgment are the *third* _____ described in Revelation 11:14.

As such, we usually think of these as occurring at the _____ of the seven-year period, immediately before Jesus' return.

Images from Israel's _____ are prominent in the bowl judgments

We can remember that the reality behind a symbol is always more real - and in this case therefore more _____ - than the symbol itself.

The point is clear. If earth doesn't mean earth, then _____ can tell what it means, and God may as well not have written it.

2. (2) The first bowl: foul and loathsome sores.

(2) So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

As John earlier told of seeing seven angels, as if he were seeing them all at once in his earlier summary in the preceding chapter, he now takes us through the vision of each angel _____.

Perhaps it is a purposefully rapid fire describing of one angel after another, to stress the _____ with which these final judgments are carried out.

Those who worshiped the beast and received his mark are now marked by God with loathsome _____.

All of those received the mark of the beast and worship his image, as in Revelation 13:15-16, will experience this wrath, which is only the _____ of the bowl judgments.

3. (3) The second bowl: the sea turned to blood.

(3) 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.

Whereas the first angel poured his bowl upon the _____ or the land, this second angel is said to pour his upon the _____, thus the entire earth, land and sea is addressed in two bowls of wrath.

Here in the third bowl judgment, the contamination is made _____.

Almost an exact reproduction of the second _____, and of the first of the Egyptian plagues.

The sea doesn't necessarily _____ blood, but as of a corpse's blood. It will match the appearance and sickening character of the blood in a dead body.

4. (4) The third bowl: fresh waters polluted.

(4) Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

Now the _____ water has also become the target, and now all waters of the earth will be affected.

This _____ contamination is in contrast to the partial pollution of fresh waters shown in Revelation 8:10-11 during the third trumpet judgment when the star Wormwood fell and made one third of the waters bitter and many died.

In addition to the interpretation of the second bowl given above, it is possible that the blood signifies the slaughter and _____ which is part of God's vengeance on the wicked.

5. (5-7) The righteousness of God's judgments.

(5) 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. (6) For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." (7) And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

John _____ for a moment here after the pouring out of the 3rd bowl.

It is completely fitting that those who delighted in shedding the blood of the saints should now be forced to _____ blood.

The ungodly have shed the blood of _____, therefore God deals out death to them.

Not only is God's justice _____, it is also *pure* and *appropriate*. There is no "vigilante justice" with God.

This other voice from the altar is either an angel speaking from the altar, or the altar personified, representing the corporate testimony of the _____ and the _____ of the saints.

The altar here personified speaks as concurring in the _____ of those judgments sent on account of the saints who are represented by it.

God is declared _____ because He has thus judged; here the judgments are *righteous* because they are His.

6. (8-9) The fourth bowl: the sun scorches men.

(8) Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. (9) 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.

In Revelation 8:12, the fourth trumpet _____ the sun by a third, which would likely resulted in less light and heat from the sun. Now the sun was so hot, that it was _____ persons residing on earth.

The failure of men to respond with repentance shows that knowledge or experience of *judgment* will not change man's _____ condition. Those who are not won by _____ will never be won.

"The wishful thinking of some that men would repent if they only knew the power and righteous judgment of God is shattered by frequent mention in this chapter of the _____ of the human heart in the face of the most stringent and evident divine discipline." (Walvoord)

As with Pharaoh and the Egyptians, the judgments of God, instead of awakening them to repentance, only serve to _____ their hearts.

Also in the sixth trumpet, we are told, men repented _____—a statement also made in the subsequent part of this verse.

As before pointed out Revelation 13:1, the two things are identical; non repentance, continuance in the service of the _____, is blasphemy against God.