

# COMING SOON...

## Revelation Bible Study – Session 6 - Chapters 15-16, 17-18

### The Seven Bowls of Wrath – 4<sup>th</sup> Chronological section – Chapters 15-16

- A. These final 7 judgment events are released on the Antichrist's empire immediately after the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, which begins Jesus' second coming procession with the rapture and the rewarding of all the saints. See Mt.24:29-31..*Immediately after the Tribulation of those days....* The rapture takes place at the last trumpet, which is the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet (1 Cor.15:51-52). Jesus accomplishes a procession across the sky as He raptures the Church, and within the next 30 days, a procession across the land through Edom (Jordan) to Israel (Is.63, Hab.3), and a procession to the Mount of Olives and on into Jerusalem for His coronation. The 7 Bowls of Wrath are released as Jesus marches through Edom on His way to His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Read Isaiah 63:1-6.
- B. John references Isaiah's passage in describing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem in Chapter 19:11-16. The bowls are being released as Jesus *strikes the nations* and *treads the winepress*, His robe *dipped in blood*. Habakkuk also prophesied that when the Messiah comes, He would march through the land in victory. He describes Him releasing the seven bowls of judgment similar to Moses's ten plagues of Egypt. (Hab.3:3-13)
- C. David prophesied in Psalms 2:8-9 that when the Messiah come to earth to receive the nations as His inheritance, He will need to break them and even dash their infrastructure to pieces, as described in Rev.16. Isaiah, too, prophesied that when the Messiah comes, *He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and...slay the wicked.* (Is.11:4)

### The Context for the preparation to release the Seven Bowls of Wrath – Chapter 15

- A. In Rev.15:1-4, John sees those who were victorious over the Antichrist singing on the sea of glass. (Ezekiel saw a firmament, or expanse of awesome crystal, before the throne in Ez.1:22-26.This is likely the same sea of glass John saw.) The rapture has already taken place, and from this time forward, the saints will *always* be with Jesus (1 Thes.4:17). All the saints may not necessarily be on the ground with Him marching into Jerusalem, but could possibly be in a "grand amphitheater" in the sky as a great cloud of witnesses with transformed resurrected bodies near Jesus, so as to watch all that is occurring.
- B. Remember, we must keep the continuous story line in view – the last events on earth in chronological order were Rev.11:15 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming) and especially Rev. 11:19 where the temple opens in heaven. This corresponds to the temple opening in 15:5. Immediately after the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet, and after the saints are then gathered on the sea of glass to worship Jesus, the angels are commissioned to pour out the bowls (Rev. 16:1). Jesus will then march across the land of Jordan as the greater Moses, going through the wilderness to deliver the unsaved remnant of Israel. At that time, Jesus will release the first 5 bowls to destroy the resources of the Antichrist's empire. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowls will be released just before Jesus enters Jerusalem.

### The Bowls of Wrath - Chapter 16

1. **FIRST BOWL** – 16:2 – **painful sores** on those who worship the Antichrist. These sores will be *foul* with terrible odor and *loathsome* in being so painful that men will loath them. Only during the seals and trumpets does John mention believers having a divine seal of protection (Rev.7:3, 9:4). (The saints have already been raptured and are not present for the bowls). The 6<sup>th</sup> plague of Egypt was sores, or boils (Ex.9:8-11). Moses warned that rebellion toward God would bring judgment of severe boils (Deut.28:35).
2. **SECOND BOWL** – 16:3 - affects the **food supply**, destroying the sea with blood, and killing all sea life. This may be focused on the Mediterranean Sea (Dan. 7). The sea will become like congealed blood with an unimaginable stench, causing total destruction of marine life, not just 1/3 destruction like in the 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet judgment.

3. **THIRD BOWL** – 16:4-7 - affects **water supply** by poisoning the fresh water with blood. The 3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet (8:10) is similar. The first plague of Egypt struck the Nile with similar impact.
4. **FOURTH BOWL** – 16:8-9 – **torment** -scorching heat and fire from the sun; this is a supernatural act, not merely a natural one. Men blaspheme God (vs.11, 21) as the heat of the sun is intensified. The 4<sup>th</sup> trumpet affect the sun in the opposite way, making it less intense.
5. **FIFTH BOWL** – 16:10-11 – **destruction** –darkness on the Antichrist’s global empire. This darkness is so black and thick and demonic that it is utterly painful and torturous. The 9<sup>th</sup> plague of Egypt caused darkness for 3 days (Ex.10:21-23). Isaiah prophesied that deep darkness would cover the earth (Is.60:2). The Antichrist’s worshipers will still blaspheme God (vs.9,11) showing their deep hatred of Him. As God’s judgments continue to increase, their hatred and blasphemy likewise increases and are fully exposed.
6. **SIXTH BOWL** – 16:12-16 – **global guilt** –demons lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus. It seems surprising that the nations come to fight Jesus as He is marching toward Jerusalem. (Rev.17:14, 19:19-21). The kings of the nations have urgency to gather because of Jesus’ sign in the sky, which is understood as an open challenge to the Antichrist and his armies (Mt. 24:30). They wrongly interpret the sign in the sky as being a demonic sign of a false messiah. The Antichrist convinces them with miracles that defeating Jesus is necessary and doable.
  - a. The kings of the east will resist the Antichrist throughout the entire Great Tribulation period. The Antichrist receives troubling news from the Asian kings of the east, in other words, they resist his financial seductions, refuse his miracles and stand against his threats (Dan.11:44).
  - b. However, in the final 30 days, the Antichrist wins them over and other kings who had formerly resisted him. These kings are not coming to fight Israel persay, but to fight Jesus, whom they see as a Jewish king with demonic powers who can be defeated. The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing miracles by Satan’s power (Mt.12:24), and Jesus taught them that to attribute the power of the Holy Spirit to being demonic was to blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Mt.12:31-32). This is only done by those who are hardened to such a degree that they will not and cannot ever repent. So here, there is *global blasphemy* against the Spirit as the nations receive “*the lie*” (2 Thes.2:9-11) – i.e. that attributes Jesus’ power as being supernatural, yet demonic.
  - c. Those who take the mark of the Beast have already blasphemed the Spirit. However the Antichrist wants all the nations brought into this. Many unsaved resisters will yield to this and many will refuse it. But at the end of the age, untold millions will be swept away into this lie. So why does the Antichrist want all the nations to be made guilty as in the 6<sup>th</sup> bowl?? He wants all the nations involved, in a mixture of arrogance and destruction, so he can destroy his people as Hitler did. Why? Hitler ordered the destruction of Germany in April 1945 when he knew he was going to die.
7. **SEVENTH BOWL** – 16:17-21 – **annihilation** – shaking by earthquakes and 100 lb. hailstones. This bowl, poured out *into the air* is likely the cause of the plague Zechariah prophesied (Zech.14:12,15) which causes the flesh, eyes, and tongues of people and livestock to dissolve. This bowl releases the worst earthquake in history that shakes the cities of the nations.
  - a. In vs. 20, the earthquake causes islands to flee (to sink into the ocean) and the mountains to fall. It will impact every city on earth as great skyscrapers collapse, causing fires. The earthquake sequence in Rev. (6:14, 8:5, 11:13, 16:18-20) ends with this final one. (Is.2:10,19,21; 13:13, 29:6; Ez.38:19; Hag.2;6,21; Zech.14:4-5; Heb.12:26-27)
  - b. Hailstones weighing 100 lbs. (a talent) fall on the people who are seeking safety from earthquakes. A 100 lb. hailstone hits the ground with the equivalent force of two tons. Hail was released in the first trumpet (Rev.8:7) and the 7<sup>th</sup> plague with Moses (Ex.9:23-24). God uses hail in His judgments (Josh.10:11; Is.28:17; Ez.38:22-23). Moses’ law required the stoning to death of idol worshipers (Deut.13:6-11, 17:2-5; Lev.24;16). Since the Antichrist’s worship movement is idolatry, Jesus will stone them to death from heaven.

***The next event after the seven bowls is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev.19:11-12)***

**The Harlot Babylon: A Coming One-World Religion – 4<sup>th</sup> Angelic Explanation - Chapters 17-19:10**

- A. **Overview:** These 2 chapters, deserving of much careful study and dialogue, contain one of the most significant end-time prophecies, because it gives insight into Satan's strategy to deceive the nations while causing many Christians to fall away from the faith. Those who are deceived by the harlot will end up in the lake of fire; some saints who resist the harlot will be martyred (17:6). Rev. 17 is the most symbolic passage in Revelation with many intricate details, which may make it the most difficult one to understand. However, the main message is easy to understand: the seductive power of the harlot system and cruel persecution of the saints, along with the inevitable and total destruction of the harlot Babylon.

**Note:** Satan knows it is too big of a jump for a compromising Christian, Muslim, Hindu, etc. to suddenly become a devoted Satan worshipper. Therefore, he will first call all to join a one-world religion of tolerance, which will declare that all paths lead to God and to salvation. People will rejoice in the unity it brings, believing it will help to establish world peace (1 Thes.5:3). Part of the seduction is that it will be a *counterfeit justice movement* that will feed the poor and be deeply involved in humanitarian projects. As multitudes are seduced into joining this harlot Babylon religion, it will weaken their religious conscience. Next, Satan (embodied in the Antichrist) will mandate that they all become Satan worshippers, under penalty of death (See 2 Thes.2:3 – the *falling away*, and 2 Tim.4:1-4 *they will turn their ears away...*, 2 Thes.2:9-10 *they did not receive the love of the truth*)

1. The **harlot Babylon** will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon in Iraq (50 mi. south of Baghdad), and which will be restored and used as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as the center of worldwide, demonic, religious and economic networks (Rev.17-18, Is.13-14, Jer.50-51). As Jerusalem came out of the ashes and was rebuilt, so Babylon will be suddenly rebuilt. The judgments prophesied in Jeremiah 50-51 that suddenly destroy Babylon forever have not yet happened. God's wrath on Babylon will come in two stages.

2. **Focus of Rev.17:** the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of Babylon's fall relates to the worldwide religious system of tolerance and syncretism. This occurs in the beginning of the Great Tribulation at the hand of the 10 kings (17:16), who burn the harlot to replace it with Antichrist worship.

3. **Focus of Rev.18:** the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of her fall will be at the end of the Tribulation. This chapter focuses on the collapse of the Antichrist's global economic system at God's hands (18:8)

4. **Focus of Rev.19:1-10:** the marriage supper of the Lamb and the rewards for each believer occurs in the context of the second coming and the rapture (Rev.19:7-10)

**The Great Harlot (the counterfeit Bride)– her seductions and persecutions – Chapter 17**

- A. Before the angel shows John the wealth and counterfeit beauty of the harlot religion, he shows him her inevitable judgment and sure defeat (vs.1), as she will fail and be utterly destroyed. The harlot will sit on, or have authority over, many nations by seducing and controlling the world's most powerful leaders. This system will cause the nations to be drunk with her seductions, or great benefits (vs.2), which include humanitarian aid, a unified religion of 'peace', and a prosperous world economy. They will be drunk, or intoxicated by, her promises of goodness, prosperity, and compassion, along with her theology of tolerance, all based in deception.
- B. The harlot's name was a *mystery* (vs.5) and surprised John, i.e. the angel gave John new information that had not yet been revealed. This name links to her origin, which goes back to the tower of Babel, and reveals her true nature. Babel was the city in which the first organized religion in history developed, resulting in the first organized rebellion and war against God by mankind. John was surprised the harlot was the *mother of harlots* (source of false religion) all throughout history, as well as being the primary source in the end times. He *marveled with great amazement* at this mysterious plan, which will ultimately bring forth the salvation of Israel as it purifies and empowers the Church to be used in the great end-time harvest and revival.

- C. The harlot religion will have great prominence (vs.4). It will be *arrayed in purple* (royal status), *adorned with gold* (the wealthiest religious network in all of history), and respected by the elite financial leaders of the earth who will give their allegiance to her. With the *golden cup* (appears valuable and good), she “serves” the nations, offering unprecedented humanitarian service in helping the poor. As the harlot emerges, war will disappear, and for the first time in modern history there will be world peace (1 Thes.5:3).
- D. This cup, however is evil, full of *abominations and the filthiness of her fornication*. Abomination refers to being filled with demonic activity. Filthiness points to being filled with moral perversions. The kings *commit fornication* (vs.2) by supporting her lies and agenda to gain wealth, knowingly prostituting themselves with her.
- E. The harlot will deceive the nations by *sorcery*, which is a combination of drugs and demonic power (witchcraft). It will be demonically inspired and seductive (Rev.18:23). The end-time Church’s prayer and worship movement will increase simultaneously with this Satanic prayer and worship movement. Two *houses of prayer* will be contending and jousting for preeminence on the earth.
- F. The influence of the harlot will cause multitudes to be *drunk or intoxicated with the blood of the saints* (17:6). In killing the saints who expose her lies, or who refuse to engage in demonic worship, the more she kills – the bolder she will become. The one and only formidable enemy of the harlot religion will be the saints of Jesus Christ in the end-time prophetic Church. The Praying Church must expose the harlot for who she really is, and the Church will be *hated by all the nations for His name’s sake* (Mt.24:9-11)
- G. The harlot (*who sits on the Beast*) will depend on the Antichrist, who will *carry her* (provide resources and protection) – Rev.17:3,7. But surprisingly, the harlot’s worldwide religion will be hated and destroyed by the jealousy of the 10 primary kings who serve the Antichrist (Dan.7:7, 20, 24). They will burn the harlot at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. Satan’s kingdom is filled with hatred, not unity. (We see this in part in the world of Islam – Shi-ites hate Sunnis, Hamas hates Fatah, etc.) It appears that after a short season of prominence, she will be *burned* by the leaders of the Antichrist’s empire (Rev.17:12,16)
- H. In the middle of the final seven years of this age (at the start of the Great Tribulation), the Antichrist’s plan is to replace the harlot religion of tolerance with Antichrist worship. This new worldwide religion with will be strict, enforced by the False Prophet, and all who refuse to worship the Antichrist will be killed (13:4-18). Satan’s purpose for the harlot religion is as a “forerunner” to prepare the nations for Antichrist worship.

#### **The Finality of the Destruction of Babylon – the counterfeit Jerusalem – Chapter 18**

- A. In Rev. 18, the **great city** is referred to 5 times (v. 10, 16, 18, 19, 21). It is the city of Babylon. In Vs.1, an angel with great authority declares that *Babylon the great is fallen*. In vs. 4, a voice from heaven urges God’s people to *come out of her, lest you share in her sins, lest you receive of her plagues*. John prophesies that her plagues will come in one day, *death and mourning and famine* (vs.8), and she will be utterly burned with fire *for strong is the Lord who judges her*. Rev.18:9-19 – *all the kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning...for in one hour such great riches came to nothing*. Vs.24 *And in her was found the blood of the prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth*.
- B. The ultimate **great city** in God’s plan, our everlasting HOME, is the one, the only -**New Jerusalem**:  
*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, (Rev. 21:10)*

#### **The Marriage Supper of the Lamb – Chapter 19:1-10**

- A. Multitudes of saints, 24 elders, and four living creatures all fall down and worship God. The multitudes’ voice is the *sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings*. The *marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready!!* **HOMEWORK: Review parts (will be a test©) Read Ch.19-22 carefully.**