

Lesson 12 The Seven Bowl Judgments

⑥ Babylon

Recap from last week:

Last week we looked at the seven personages of Chapters 12-14:5. These were

1. The **woman** clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and on her head was a crown of twelve stars is Israel.
2. The woman's **male child** is the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
3. The **great red dragon** is the Devil or ha-Satan himself. He is thrown down to the earth
4. **Michael, the archangel** and his angels are the common angels. They are waging war with the great red dragon (Satan) and his fallen angels (demons) in Heaven
5. The **First Beast** coming out of the nations is **the anti-Christ**. He had all the power of all the world rulers that came before him
6. The **Second Beast** apparently coming up out of the earth. Some say he will be a Jew. This beast is **the False Prophet**. He will turn all of his attention on the anti-Christ to be worshiped by others.
7. **The 144,000** standing on Mt. Zion with the Coming of Christ re the same as the 144,000 evangelists of Revelation 7. Last week I told you this scene was probably in Heaven. This week I am unsure as to its location. I read more this past week that indicated these 144,000 Jews from Revelation 7, will enter the Millennial Kingdom while still on earth. They will be supernaturally sealed and protected and they will endure on the earth and still be alive at His Second Coming. I would think, if this scenario is true, then the 144,000 may appear standing with Jesus on Mt. Zion on the earth at His Second Coming instead of in Heaven.

Day 1 Six Angels

Please read **Revelation 14:6-20**.

There are six angels here. Please explain each angel and their special task each has.

Angel 1:

This angel flies in mid-heaven. He preaches an eternal gospel to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people. He speaks with a loud voice, saying "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come: worship Him who made the heaven and the earth, and the sea and springs of water."

What is God doing here? We haven't yet had the outpouring of the last seven bowls of judgment on the earth and the earth dwellers? What is God giving the earth dwellers before the last Trump is sounded and the last seven bowls are released upon the earth?

Isn't this just like our God? What does **2 Peter 3:9** say about God's desire to save?

Angel 2:

Who is Babylon the great here?

We will find in the following chapters that Babylon is called many things. She is either representative of Rome (called the Little Babylon in Rome's day), Jerusalem, or even seen as the world (or its current life-style that we live in). We are buying, selling, sex, goods, philosophies, religions, and freedom to do what we please, to and from Babylon. I believe "Babylon" encompasses all of these: literal Babylon, literal Rome as the head of the apostate church, and the lifestyle we live today.

What is the **wine** of the passion of Babylon's immorality?

How do you think Babylon can cause all the nations to drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality? This is another "think" question.

Angel 3:

The third angel proclaims, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the **wine** of the wrath of God which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

Have those who have taken the mark of the beast by this time, gone beyond the point of no return? Is there any salvation for those who have done this already? See **2 Thess 2:11-12**.

What is the **wine** of the wrath of God?

What is the destiny of those who drink of the wine of the wrath of God?

Please read **Matthew 24:36-41, Matthew 25:31-33** and **Luke 17: 26-37**. Who are the ones who are taken? Who are the ones who will be left behind? Is this talking about how individuals will be judged or how nations will be judged for their treatment of Israel?

We have a little reprieve here in **Revelation 14: 13** before we get to Angel 4. What is this reprieve? Who are the two voices mentioned here and are they in agreement?

Then what does John see in 14:14?

Who is this one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand?

Who is the one like the son of man in the Gospel of Matthew? See **Matt 8:20, 9:6, 11:19, 12:8, 32; 13:41**.

What is the sickle in His hand suggest?

The next three angels messages in **Revelation 14:15-20** also support this sickle in Christ's hand is suggesting "judgment."

Message 1 of Angel 4:

This harvest mentioned here is "over ripe or withered." It cannot be a harvest of the saints as it is difficult to imagine a harvest of the saints as withered. It has to be the harvest of the wicked.

Messages 2,3 of Angels 5 and 6:

Now we have another angel with a sharp sickle. He is commanded to gather clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because the grapes are ripe. The **Gk** word used here for "ripe" is **ekmasan** and means "to be fully grown" or "in prime condition." Why does the fifth angel gather these and throw them into the great winepress of God's wrath?

What does it mean that the grapes were trampled outside the city until the blood flowed out of the wine press rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 200 miles or 600 stadia?

Is this a 200 mile radius around the city of Jerusalem?

William Kelly's Lectures on the Book of Revelation, page 330, says this chapter 14 is an outline of major events that occur at the end of the age:

1. The appearance of the godly remnant of Israel
2. The testimony to the Gentile world
3. The fall of Babylon
4. The doom of the worshipers of the Beast
5. The blessedness of saints who are martyred
6. The harvest for judgment
7. The wrath of God on the world

Day 2 Preparation for the Seven Bowl Judgments to be poured out

Please read **Revelation 15: 1-8**.

What sign does John see in Heaven in **Revelation 15:1**? Is this the third and final sign? What were the other two signs? **See Rev 12:1** and **Rev 12:3**?

Who is on the sea of glass mixed with fire? What were they holding? Is this the same sea of **Revelation 4:6**? Is this the same martyred group of **Revelation 7:9-17**?

What songs did they sing?

Please read **Exodus 15: 1-18** for the Song of Moses. Some think this song is in **Deut 32** that gives a total history of God's faithfulness to Israel. d

Please read **Revelation 5:9-10** for the Song of the Lamb.

How do these two songs agree with the song sung here in **Revelation 15:3**?

What is then predicted in **Revelation 15:4**?

What happens in heaven after the conclusion of the singing?

What is the Temple of the Testimony in Heaven?

Who came out of the Temple? How were they dressed?

Who gives the seven angels the seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God? Are these the same angels of **Revelation 14** we just finished?

Who is this Living Creature? What are the normal duties of this Living Creature?

With what was the Temple filled in **Revelation 15:8**?

What did this smoke make impossible? Why? This also is a “think” question.

Days 3-4 **The Seven Bowl Judgments**

Please read **Revelation 16**.

We are once again in real time on the front of the scroll. Time is marching on and it will culminate with the pouring out of the seven bowl judgments. This pouring out will be rapid. This is very close to the Second coming of the Lord. So, we are right on the edge of the end of the Great Tribulation. These closing days will be a time of world war. Please review **Daniel 11:36-45**.

The First Bowl: see **Revelation 16:1-2**.

Who does John hear speak in a loud voice from the Temple, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God?”

What happened to those who had the beast’s mark and worshiped his image?

In the first bowl judgment, the people who follow the anti-Christ will receive painful sores. These same people will receive more sores when the fifth bowl is poured out upon the earth and the earth dwellers.

The Second Bowl: see **Revelation 16:3**.

What does it mean that the sea became blood like that of a dead man?

Who dies from the second bowl judgment?

Do you think this is actual blood or does it just look like blood?

With the sea turning completely to blood, will this kill everything in the sea?

Whether or not the sea will actually turn into blood or will be something that looks like blood, the results will be the same: it will kill everything.

Please read **Exodus 7:20-25**.

The plague in Egypt was local. The plague via the second bowl judgment will be worldwide. There will be no fresh water after the second bowl judgment is poured out on the earth. It seems to me, that the earth is going to experience the biggest drought it has ever had.

The Third Bowl Judgment: See **Revelation 16:4-7**.

What does this third bowl judgment effect?

This third bowl judgment extends the second bowl judgment to the rivers and the springs. This means, the rivers and the springs become blood or bloodlike, also.

Is this judgment of God fair? Do those on the earth deserve this judgment?

Why do those on the earth deserve this judgment?

Even the altar of God speaks here, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

The Fourth Bowl Judgment: See **Revelation 16:8-9**.

What does this fourth bowl judgment cause?

This fourth bowl judgment causes the sun to scorch men with fire. Please cross reference to **2 Peter 3:7**.

The LORD promised Noah that never again would He destroy all of Mankind with water? Did the LORD promise not to destroy Mankind or the earth with fire?

What dramatic changes in climate will the earth be experiencing during the time of the fourth bowl judgment?

Did men repent with the fourth bowl judgment?

The Fifth Bowl Judgment: see Revelation 16:10-11.

Where was this fifth bowl judgment directed?

What happened to the beast's kingdom?

What did those who worshiped the beast do to their tongues? Why did they gnaw their tongues? What kind of pains and sores did they have from this fifth bowl judgment being poured out upon them?

How did those who worshiped the beast handle this judgment? Did they repent? What did they do instead?

The Sixth Bowl Judgment: see Revelation 16:12-16.

What did the sixth bowl judgment do to the River Euphrates?

How did this work out for the kings of the East who were preparing to war against God (in the Holy Land) at Har-Magedon?

Who are these kings of the East?

Currently who has the largest population of people who could be turned into a huge army?

See **Genesis 15:18, Deut 1:7, 11:24, Joshua 1:4** for references to the Euphrates River. What do you know about the Euphrates River today? Check out the Internet for "dams on the Euphrates' River."

What did John see as preparation for the final bowl judgment of God's wrath in **Revelation 16:13-14**? What are these three unclean spirits like frogs?

Who will be influenced by these demons? What are the kings throughout the world planning?

Wouldn't you think that by now, people would give up and repent, especially since God has made sure that everyone has heard the Gospel message by this time?

Satan knows that the second coming of Christ is near. He gathers the military might of the world into the Holy Land under false pretenses. Those being gathered believe they are coming into the land to acquire some worldly political power, Satan intends to use them for the battle against the Christ who is coming with His own. Satan knows from the Scripture, that Jesus will come back the Second time to the Mount of Olives, thus he is directing the worlds' armies to the Holy Land. The war will continue to go on right up to the day of Christ's return. See **Zechariah 14:1-3**. The war will go on for some time, but the climax will come with the Second Coming of Jesus. The "war of Armageddon" is a better translation rather than the "battle of Armageddon" because it will have been going on for some time before Jesus returns on the last day. Armageddon comes from the *Gk "Harmagedon"* when transliterated means the Mount of Megiddo (the Valley of Jezreel) where many battles have been fought before.

What do you think it means when Jesus says in **Revelation 16:15**, "Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame?"

As far as unbelievers go, they will be unprepared and suddenly surprised by Christ's Second Coming. As far as Believer go, they are not to be surprised by His Second coming; they are to be prepared, ready, and waiting.

The Seventh Bowl Judgment see Revelation: 16:17-20.

What does John hear from the throne when the last bowl judgment is poured out?

What happens after this final judgment blow? See **Revelation 16:18-21**.

What city does "the great city which split into three parts" refer to? **See Revelation 16:19.**

God will give Babylon, "the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath." We spoke of this earlier, that Babylon may be Rome, Jerusalem, or literal Babylon, but the consensus of the scholars is that Babylon will be the rebuilt city and capital of the final world government." ⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Walvoord, John, Roy Zuck, The Bible Knowledge Handbook, Chariot Victor Publishing, , 1983, p. 968.

Are the bowls of the wrath of God chronologically subsequent to or identical with the seven trumpet judgments? If they are or are not, what similarities do you see between the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments?

See **Revelation 8:7, 16:2.**

The first trumpet judgment and the first bowl judgment both have to do with the earth or the land.

See **Revelation 8:8, 16:3.**

The second trumpet judgment and the second bowl judgment both have to do with the sea.

See **Revelation 8:10, 16:4.**

The third trumpet judgment and the third bowl judgment both have to do with the rivers and springs of water.

See **Revelation 8:12, 16:8-9.**

The fourth trumpet judgment and the fourth bowl judgment both have to do with the sun, moon, and stars, with only the sun mentioned in the bowl judgments.

See **Revelation 9:1-3, 16:10-11.**

The fifth trumpet judgment deals with demon possession with the sun and the sky darkening, which is similar to the fifth bowl in which darkness will cover the earth and the earth dwellers will have sores that cause agony, maybe like skin cancers caused by the earlier judgments of scorching sun, i.e., in fourth bowl judgment.

See **Revelation 9:13-14, 16:12.**

The sixth trumpet judgment deals with the Euphrates River where the four angels are bound who are released to kill one-third of Mankind, and the sixth bowl dries up the same Euphrates River so that the way could be prepared for the kings of the east to come over to the Promised Land for battle.

See **Revelation 11:15-19, 16:17**

With the seventh trumpet judgment the Great Tribulation is coming to its end and with the seventh bowl judgment, God says in a L O U D voice, "It is done."

"In the trumpet judgments, generally speaking, a third of the earth or heaven is afflicted, whereas in the bowl judgments the effects of the judgments are on the entire earth and are much more sever and final in character. Accordingly it seems best to follow the interpretation that has long been held in the church that the seven bowls are an expansion of the seventh trumpet, just as the seven trumpets are an expansion of the breaking of the seventh seal."⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Ibid, p. 967.

Day 5 **Babylon**

Please read **Revelation 17-18**.

These chapters are not chronological and its hard to fit them on the back side of the scroll of Revelation 5. They also do not fit into the structure of the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments. In **Revelation 17**, Babylon is seen as the world's religious center during the Tribulation Period of seven years. This same chapter also records Babylon's destruction by ten kings. In **Revelation 18**, Babylon is seen as the world's political seat which will dominate in the last half of the Tribulation.

Religious Babylon Destroyed Please refer to **Revelation 17**.

What does one of the seven angels call the great city of Babylon in **Revelation 17**?

He calls the great city of Babylon, "the great harlot who sits on many waters." What do you think this designation of Babylon means?

Who are the many waters?

Who does the harlot, the evil woman, symbolize?

Who committed adultery with the harlot?

Where was John taken to see the woman herself?

What was she sitting on? With what was this seat covered?

How many heads and how many horns did the scarlet beast have? See **Revelation 17:12**.

Who does the scarlet beast represent?

How was the woman dressed? Of whom or what might this woman's dress remind you?

What did she hold in her hand?

With what was this golden cup filled?

What was written on her forehead?

The Bible is full of references to Babylon. The first reference is the Tower of Babel in **Genesis 10-11**. The name Babel means "confusion," for God confused their

languages when the Tower fell and he spread the people out on the earth. Babylon is first seen as a city about 3000 B.C. Hammurabi was one of its rulers before its decline. Then it rose to prominence again under Nebuchadnezzar. Neb's reign is background for the book of **Daniel**. This was 600 years before Christ. Babylon was important both politically and religiously. Remember talking about the religion that began in Babylon and then filtered down to all world empires afterwards where the names of the gods worshipped changed to Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman names? My understanding of this differs from this reference and goes back to the Assyrian empire and the worship of the resurrected son of Nimrod and his wife. This is what John Walvoord's Bible Knowledge Commentary says about the various religious practices in Babylon:

"Various religious practices were observed in connection with this false Babylonian religion, including recognition of the mother and child as God and of creating an order of virgins who became religious prostitutes. Tammuz, according to the tradition, was killed by a wild animal and then restored to life, a satanic anticipation and counterfeit of Christ's resurrection. Scripture condemns this false religion repeatedly (**Jer 7:18; 44:17-19, 25; Ezek 8:14**). The worship of Baal is related to the worship of Tammuz."⁴⁷

To make this much shorter, the Medo-Persians frowned on the "mystery" religion of Babylon when they took over as the world empire. This "mystery" religion then spread to Pergamum (which we studied in the seven churches of Revelation), and moved from there to Rome. When the teachers of this "mystery" religion moved to Rome, they were influential in paganizing Christianity."⁴⁸ It stuck and became part of the Catholic Church.

With what was the woman who rode the beast drunk according to **Revelation 17:6**?

An angel explains the meaning of "the woman and the beast she is riding?" What did the angel say?

What kind of "spiritual" insight is necessary to understand this woman and the beast?

In the end, who will hate this prostitute and bring her to ruin?

What is the final description of the woman given in **Revelation 17:18**?

⁴⁷ Ibid, p. 970

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Political Babylon Destroyed

Please refer to **Revelation 18** for the remainder of today's lesson. This chapter is probably an enlargement of what is to happen to Babylon in **Revelation 16**. By contrast to **Revelation 17**, this chapter shows the political destruction that comes from the earthquake of the seventh bowl judgment. Babylon is pictured in **Revelation 18** as a large prosperous city, the center of economic and political life of the entire world.

A voice from heaven instructs the people of God to leave this city. Why?

What will come on the city in one day?

Why will the kings involved in the city cry, "Woe! Woe!" in verse 18:10?

Why will the merchants involved in the city cry, "Woe! Woe!"?

Why will the sailors involved in the city bemoan the city's downfall?

What is the violent and final destruction of the city compared to in **Revelation 18:21-24**?

What is the reason for the city's judgment? See **Revelation 18:23**.