

I. The Seven Bowls: Specific Punishment

- a. According to 2 Pet. 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
- b. *If men are not won by grace, they will never be won.* – William R. Newell, pastor and teacher.
- c. The wrath of God will be poured out by seven angels, each has a specific *target*.
- d. The people have already suffered the *Seal* and *Trumpet* judgments. The judgement of the Seven Bowls is for those who have submitted to *the beast* and rejected all other warnings. (Rev 14:6 -7)
- e. **First Bowl** (vv.1-2)
 1. Poured out on *specific people*. The sores will remain throughout the pouring of the other bowls.
 2. Horrible malignant sores break out on those who have received the mark of *the beast*
 3. The population of the world will suffer from painful sores that nothing can cure.
- f. **Second Bowl** (v.3)
 1. Poured out on the seas turning it all into blood. During the the 2nd Trumpet judgment, a 1/3 of the sea became blood, now the entire sea will turn to blood.
 2. The wicked have shed innocent blood so now they will have to drink blood.
- g. **Third Bowl** (vv.3-6)
 1. Poured out on the seas and *inland waters* (rivers, streams, ponds).
 2. The 3rd *Trumpet* judgment turned a 1/3 of the *waters* bitter, now they will *all* be turned to blood.
 3. All natural and manmade water systems will be polluted (made bitter).
- h. **Fourth Bowl** (vv.8-9)
 1. In Rev 8:12, part of the sun was dimmed, now the heat of the sun is increased.
 2. Water has been contaminated and people will suffer from dehydration.
- i. **Fifth Bowl** (vv.10-11)
 1. This reminds us of the 5th *Trumpet* judgment and the ninth plague in Egypt. (Exodus 10:21-23)
 2. The fifth bowl brings darkness at the headquarters of *the beast*, but there is light in the world.
- j. **Sixth Bowl** (vv.12-16)
 1. The Euphrates River dries up which allows the *armies of the East* to march on Palestine and invade the Holy Land. The military movement is according to God's plan. **Who are they?**
 2. This battle is often referred to as the "Battle of Armageddon", although the phrase does not appear in the Bible.
 3. The name Armageddon comes from two words (*har Megiddo*-the mountain; *Megiddo*-place of troops/slaughter).
 4. The "Battle of Armageddon" is not a location or historical event, but points to God's ultimate victory over the "evil trinity." How can flesh stand against God?
 5. The outcome of the battle is recorded in Rev. 19. The Lord will be victorious! (Zech. 14)
- k. **Seventh Bowl** (vv.17-21)
 1. It is done! The last bowl impacts Satan's infrastructure of evil (economic, political, military systems).
 2. An earthquake affects the cities of the nations, hail stones (100 pounds) fall from the sky.
- l. The purpose of these catastrophes are summed up in these words, "*they did not repent.*" (vv.9b, 11b)

II. What Shall We Say About These Things?

- a. No matter how terrible these judgments are, the Apostle John proclaimed they are just. The world is unjust unfaithful, but God is just and faithful. God's grace is available to all, but His grace will be rejected.
- b. John's words to the Church were not designed to instill fear, (2 Timothy 1:17), but serve as a challenge from Christ to re-orient our lives, in the *present*, so that we can live with Him in the *future*.