

## Hear Prophecy

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### REVELATION PART 20

#### BOWL JUDGEMENTS

1 - 4



Chapter 16 reveals 7 Bowl Judgements, representing the final judgements on a reprobate world.

The Christians have been taken away. The people who are left behind are those who are continually shaking their fist in the face of Almighty God. It isn't nice to shake your fist in the face of Almighty God!

Certainly there will be some people who will repent and come to Jesus Christ after the Holy Spirit (residing in the hearts of Christians) leaves the world. Most of these converts will have been martyred by now and, consequently, taken to heaven.

So, most of the people who will experience these last judgements will indeed be enemies of God, fist-shakers.

But God still loves them and gives them one more chance, even in the midst of these final judgements.

Let's look at the first 4 of these Bowl Judgements.

Verse 1 reveals the instructions given by God (as we discovered last time, the actual marching orders will come from one of the "*four living creatures*" (which I still think is fascinating).

*"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'".*

Wonder why John described the voice as “a *loud voice*”? Why would it have to be “*loud*”?

And, to verify the severity of these judgements, they contain the “*wrath of God*”. You do NOT want to be on the receiving end of a bowlful of the “*wrath of God*”.

#### The First Bowl – Loathsome Sores

Verse 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 worshipped his image*”.

Remember back in earlier chapters, Satan, in the form of the Beast, the Anti-Christ, took over the world (after the Christians were “snatched away”). He created a world-wide system of control and forced everyone to worship him, confirming that worship with a “666” mark on their foreheads or right hands.

So “*foul and loathsome sore(s)*” came on the people who bore the “*mark of the beast*”.

This just *sounds* painful. And, maybe that is the idea!

#### The Second Bowl – Oceans Turns to Blood

Verse 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*”.

So, you are a passenger on a cruise ship, *The Pleasure Beast*, celebrating the finality of a unified world order that promises to bring about global peace. When suddenly you whiff an awful smell. And then you notice that the water all around the boat is red – not just red, blood-red. You have heard about red-tides, but this seems so much more serious.

Over the next couple hours, you realize that the sea creatures are all floating on the top of the water. What’s going on here?

You have the captain put in an emergency call to the global leader. He has fixed everything else, surely he can fix this. Or at least explain what is going on and have a plan to eliminate the dead fish, and turn the water back to normal.

You soon learn that all of the world's seas have been turned to blood, and that all sea creatures have died. But the global leader has said that it is no big deal – the space aliens are just trying to get our attention.

### The Third Bowl – Rivers Turn to Blood

Verse 4: *“Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood”.*

So, you get back from the luxury cruise, only to discover that the inland waterways have also been turned into blood. And, of course, all the river creatures have died.

It is interesting that the oceans were changed into blood before the rivers, since the rivers run into the oceans. It would have made more sense to change the rivers into blood, then the oceans. I can't believe God didn't consult me before doing it in this order.

Then we see in verses 5 and 6 something we have seen before. The angel who poured out the bowl of judgement on the rivers begins to praise God, seemingly telling God that he is justified in this judgement. Of course, nobody has the right to tell God that he is justified in any kind of judgement – these words were obviously meant to let us earthlings know that God is indeed justified in carrying out his pre-determined judgements.

*“You are righteous O Lord, the one who is and who was and who is to be. Because you have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due”.*

*“For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink”.* That about sums it up. They have shed the blood of God's people – they deserve blood to drink!

Verse 7 continues the praise. *“And I heard another from the altar saying, ‘Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgements”.* Amen!

### The Fourth Bowl – Men are Scorched

Here is where “the rubber meets the road”. Verse 8 says *“Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire”.*

Now we all know how bad it is when we stay in the sun too long – we get sunburned, and it is really painful. We have also heard about what happens when the sun spurts out stronger “energy rays” than normal, and how that can affect the planet, and the people.

It looks like here that God causes the sun to become abnormally hot and spew harmful rays of solar energy to the earth. So much so that it “scorches men with fire”. We can only imagine how painful this would be.

Verse 9 concludes this chapter, and is the main point of emphasis in this judgement.

*“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”.*

OK – I get the picture now. God is not out to torment mankind because he enjoys tormenting mankind. His goal is repentance and restoration.

This is not the first time we have seen in these judgements, where God discloses that he is still holding out the olive branch to get the fist-shakers to repent and turn to him for forgiveness and restoration.

But, as in the previous judgements, nobody responds to God. Their loss!

So, we have reviewed the first 4 Bowl Judgements. Next time, we will look at the last 3. The remaining judgements will conclude God’s attempts to provide justice and salvation to a fallen world.

