

THE 7 BOWLS

Revelation 16

The 7 bowls of wrath are poured out towards the end of the Tribulation so there may be a tentative time of "peace" from mid-Tribulation to this point, much like being in the eye of a hurricane. As you read the first 10 verses, notice the sufferings: scorching heat, darkness, no water, no refreshment, at the mercy of the enemy, no relief from physical torment. This is a preview of Hell, yet the world responds with blasphemy and unrepentance.

“ So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and a harmful and painful sore afflicted the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, the One who is and who was, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

And the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given power to scorch people with fire. And the people were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

And the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds. ”

Rev 16:2-11

Most of these bowl judgments parallel the plagues of the Exodus. There the nation of Egypt held Israel captive and the judgments brought Israel freedom and ultimately entrance into the Promised Land. Likewise, these judgments are part of the plan to free Israel from slavery to sin and unbelief and into the Kingdom.

Imagine living with excruciating sores in a world with little to no rain, and no natural sources of fresh water. Now add to that a scorching sun that literally expels tongues of fire. Fuel and fires would ignite and spread everywhere with no means of extinguishing them. There may not be electricity and vehicles may not operate under these conditions.

The heat would also increase the rate of decomposition of the dead animals and people, making the air wretched.

HAR-MEGIDDO

The 6th and 7th bowls may seem insignificant compared to the first five, but they set in motion a larger set of events. We call this climax the War of Armageddon, which ends the Tribulation and leads to Christ's Second Coming.

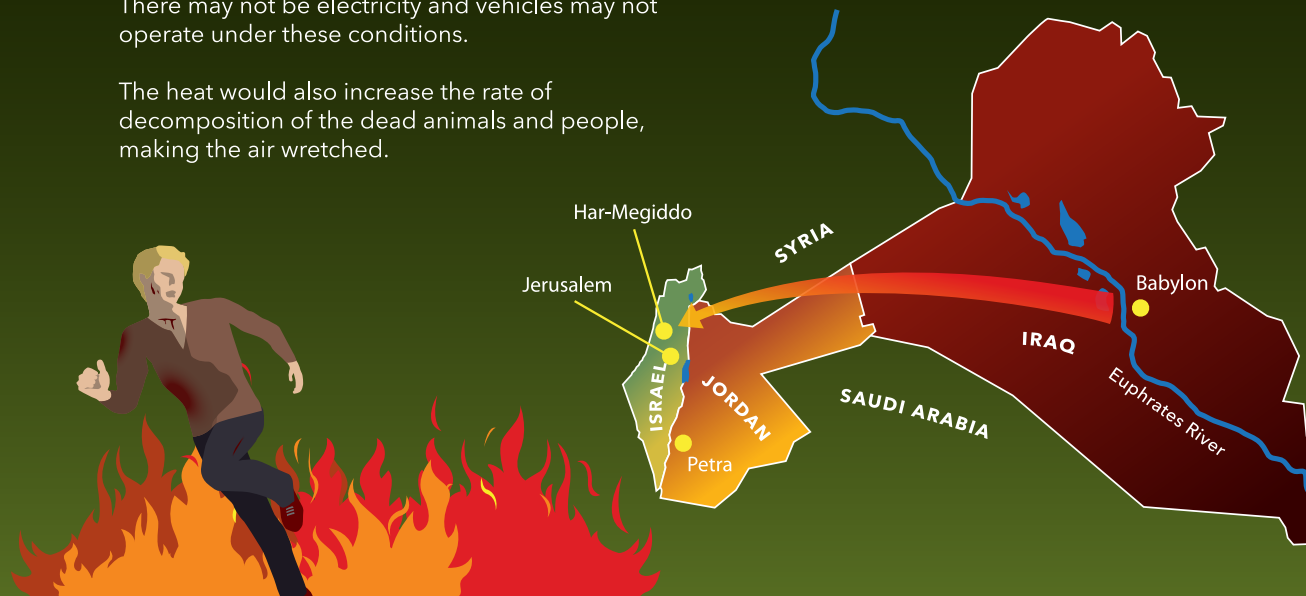
As the 6th angel pours out his bowl, the great river Euphrates dries up. This is the major river of Mesopotamia in present-day Iraq running near the ancient city of Babylon. As a natural barrier between Babylon and Jerusalem, its drying up will allow the Antichrist to move his military forces westward towards Jerusalem. The world is in a virtually unlivable state, and seeing this opportunity arise, Satan and his demons quickly gather the remaining rulers of the world, amassing their armies at a location named Har-megiddo in northern Israel.

With no water, the world knows that death is closing in, and they know God is behind these judgments. The call goes out to attack the Lord's city so that when Christ returns to the Mount of Olives and the temple, the Antichrist's forces will be waiting to destroy Him. Moreover, the enemy will target the remaining Jews in the city. If he can destroy these Jews, he hopes to make Christ's return impossible. This war unfolds in five stages over the next several chapters.

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE

The final judgment is a tremendous earthquake unlike any earthquake before. It levels all the mountains, every island disappears and continents are split apart. Then 100 pound rocks rain down from the sky crushing people, obliterating everything.

Jerusalem is spared this carnage, and to an extent, Babylon survives, but is split into three. This brings an end to all the judgment on the world, and a voice from Heaven is heard, saying, "It is finished!".



1 LOATHSOME SORES

Wicked, vile sores that disrupt the flesh in unimaginable ways

2 SEAS TURNED TO BLOOD

All sea creatures die. This would shut down the water cycle of the planet, resulting in no rain.

3 FRESH WATER TURNED TO BLOOD

How long can the world survive on stockpiles of water? All animals would die.

4 SCORCHING SUN

No water, with a sun that scorches flesh. The stench of burning and decaying bodies would fill the air.

5 PAINFUL DARKNESS

Malignant sores, burnt skin and no water, now an intense and tormenting darkness.

6 EUPHRATES DRIES UP

This paves the way for the Antichrist and 7 kings to attack Jerusalem.

7 EARTHQUAKE & HAILSTONES

The Earth is completely pummelled and levelled. Babylon is split into three.