

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“It is done!” (Revelation 16.1-21)



1. Review of Revelation (15.1-8)

- a. “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.” (15.1; Lev 26.14-24; Ps 79.12)
- b. The Song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev 15.2-4)
- c. The seven angels with the seven bowls of God’s wrath (15.5-8)
 - i. The tent of witness (Ex 25.21-22; 31.18; 32.15)
 - ii. Seven golden bowls (cf. Rev 5.8; 8.3-5)
 - iii. Smoke from the glory of God and from his power (cf. Ex 19.16-18 [declogue in Ex 20]; 1 Kings 9.9-10; Lev 16.12-13; Ps 18.7-9; 104.31-32; Is 6.1-13; Ezek 10.1-19)

Revelation 16.1-21

¹6 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

²So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

³The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

⁴The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,

“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.

⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.
It is what they deserve!”

⁷And I heard the altar saying,

“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!”

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

¹⁰The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish ¹¹and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

¹²The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.¹⁵ (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!”¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

1. Trumpets and Bowls¹

Trumpet 1: Hail, fire, and blood fall on the *earth*, one third of which is burned up. (cf. Ex 9.22ff)

Trumpet 2: A blazing mountain falls into the *sea*. One third of the seas becomes *blood*, a third of the *sea creatures die*, and third of all ships are destroyed. (cf. Ex 7.17ff)

Trumpet 3: A blazing star falls on a third of the *rivers and springs of water*; their waters are poisoned and many die. (cf. Ex 7.17ff)

Trumpet 4: A third of the *sun, moon, and stars* are struck. Darkness results for a third of the night and day. (cf. Ex 10.21ff)

Trumpet 5: The shaft of the pit is opened. Sun and air are *darkened* with smoke from which the locust emerge to *torment* people without the seal of God. (cf. Ex 10.4ff)

Trumpet 6: Four angels bound at the *Euphrates* are released, with their cavalry of 200 000 000, which kills a third of humanity.

Trumpet 7: *Loud voices in heaven* announce the coming of the kingdom of God and of Christ. *Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and hail* occur. (cf. Ex 9.22ff; 19.16-19)

Bowl 1: A bowl is poured on the *earth*. Sores come on those who have the mark of the beast and who worship his image. (cf. Ex 9.8ff)

Bowl 2: A bowl is poured on the *seas*, which become *blood*, and *every living thing in them dies*. (cf. Ex 7.17ff)

Bowl 3: A bowl is poured on the *rivers and springs of water*, and they become blood. (cf. Ex 7.17ff)

Bowl 4: A bowl is poured on the *sun*, which scorches people with fire. (cf. Ex 9.22ff)

Bowl 5: A Bowl is poured on the throne of the beast. His kingdom is *darkened* and the people are in *anguish*. (cf. Ex 10.21ff)

Bowl 6: A bowl is poured on the *Euphrates*, which dries up for kings from the east. Demonic frogs deceive the kings of the world to assemble for battle at Armageddon. (cf. Ex 8.2ff)

Bowl 7: A bowl is poured into the air, and a *loud voice from God's throne* announces "it is done." *Lightning, thunder, and unprecedented earthquake* occur, and terrible *hail* falls. (cf. Ex 9.22ff; 19.16-19)

2. Angelic Commission (16.1)

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

a. Angelic/priestly judgment;

Isaiah 66:6 "The [voice] of an uproar from the city! A sound from the temple! The sound of the LORD, rendering recompense to his enemies!"

¹ G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1999), 809-10.

Deuteronomy 7:15 And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you.

Jeremiah 10:25 Pour out your wrath on the nations that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name, for they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation. (cf. Ezek 14.19; Ps 69.24; Zeph 3.8)

3. Bowls 1-3: Judgment on the earth, sea, rivers, and springs (16.2-4)

²So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. ³The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. ⁴The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

- a. Judgment on the earth; i.e., the source of idolatry (worshipping creation instead of Creator; cf. Rev 8-9; Rom 1)
- b. Judgment on maritime economy (cf. Rev 18; Ex 7.17-21 [re: Nile])

Revelation 13:16-17 Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, ¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

4. Doxology (16.5-7)

⁵And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say,

“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.

⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.
It is what they deserve!”

⁷And I heard the altar saying,

“Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!”

- a. “the angel in charge of waters”

Romans 8:19-22 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

- b. “who is and who was” and *lex talionis* (“it is what they deserve”)

- c. Answer to the cry of the witnesses (“I heard the altar saying”)

Revelation 6:9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been. (cf. Rev 8.3-5)

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!”

Deuteronomy 32:4 “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”

5. The Fourth Bowl: Judgment on Idolatry I (16.8-9)

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

- a. Condemnation and Vindication

Revelation 7:13-17 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”¹⁴ I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.¹⁵ “Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- b. “They did not repent and give him glory”

Revelation 9:20-21 (re: sixth trumpet) The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,²¹ nor did they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

6. The Fifth Bowl: Judgment on Idolatry II (16.10-11)

¹⁰The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

- a. “throne of the beast”

Revelation 2:13 “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

- b. “darkness” (separation from God, the Father of lights, and the kingdom of light: Acts 26.18; Rom 13.12; Eph 5.8-11; 6.12; Col 1.13; 1 Thess 5.4-5; 1 Pet 2.9)

Matthew 8:11 I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Matthew 25:30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

John 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 3:19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 12:46 I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.

7. The Sixth Bowl: Gathering for Judgment (16.12-16)

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. ¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. ¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ¹⁵ (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) ¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

- a. Exodus Reversed: drying up the Euphrates to prepare the way for judgment (cf. Isaiah 41-46: Cyrus conquers Babylon from the East – historic judgment on Babylon now universally and typologically applied to apocalyptic Babylon)

Isaiah 11:15 And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. (cf. Is 44.27; Jer 50.38; 51.36)

- b. Frogs from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet Kings deceived and assemble at Armageddon [*har-m'giddô*] for battle on the great day of God the Almighty (Lord of Hosts) (cf. Ezek 38-39)

Joel 2:11 The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

Revelation 6:17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?

- c. “Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!” (“croaking” of

false teaching in the church: Matt 7.12; 24.11, 24; Mark 13.22; Luke 6.22; Acts 13.6; 2 Cor 11.13-15; 2 Pet 2.1; 1 John 4.1)

Revelation 3:2-3 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

Ezekiel 16:36-39 Thus says the Lord GOD, Because your lust was poured out and your nakedness uncovered in your whorings with your lovers, and with all your abominable idols, and because of the blood of your children that you gave to them, ³⁷ therefore, behold, I will gather all your lovers with whom you took pleasure, all those you loved and all those you hated. I will gather them against you from every side and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness. ³⁸ And I will judge you as women who commit adultery and shed blood are judged, and bring upon you the blood of wrath and jealousy. ³⁹ And I will give you into their hands, and they shall throw down your vaulted chamber and break down your lofty places. They shall strip you of your clothes and take your beautiful jewels and leave you naked and bare.

Revelation 19:7-9 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

8. The Seventh Bowl: "It is Done" (16.17-21)

¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. ²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

a. "It is done!"

John 19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Revelation 21:1-8 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall

there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

- b. Lightning, rumblings, peals of thunders, earthquake, and hail (Ex 19.16-18; Rev 4.5; 8.5; 11.19; cf. Hag 2.6; Zech 14.4; Heb 12.26-27)
- c. The fall of Babylon (cf. 17.1-19.10)