

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #20
Revelation 16:12-21 – The 6th & 7th Bowls of Wrath (1/17/2010 PM)

In our last message we the first five “bowls of wrath” (16:1-11). We saw that “in them the wrath of God is complete.”

Bowl #1 – Ulcerous Sores (2)

Bowl #2 – The Pollution of the World’s Oceans (3)

Bowl #3 – The Pollution of the Earth’s Water (4-7)

Bowl #4 – The Scorching Sun (8-9)

Bowl #5 – Worldwide Darkness (10-11)

We also saw that with the 5th Bowl the last reference is made in Revelation to the fact that the unbelievers will refuse to repent.

1. **Bowl #6 – The Drying up of the Euphrates River (12-16)**

A Preparation of What Is To Come

(12) “Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.”

This river is the eastern border of the Promised Land, [Genesis 15:18](#). It is the most significant river in the Middle East. The Euphrates was seen earlier in relation to the Sixth Trumpet Judgment ([9:13-21](#)). There a demon army associated with this area was released on mankind. We said it is possible that these demons could be associated with the four major world empires of Daniel’s prophecy; Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. Daniel 10 reveals that there are specific demons connected with world governments. This is to make it possible for human armies from the east to enter the land of Israel. This is an act of judgment in preparation for their destruction as God’s parting of the Red Sea was for Pharaoh.

• **Demonic activity is again revealed**

(13-14) “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

What John sees is a symbolic vision describing real events.

These are not literal frogs as in the plague upon Egypt but they are literal demons. Like Ahab before them lying spirits will lead these nations to their own destruction. Through deceptive miracles of some sort these nations will be demonically influenced to attack Israel.

• **This will make the way for human armies from the East to come to the final battle of Armageddon**

(14) “...the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”

(16) “And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.”

Nations such as Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the former Muslim soviet republics are dominated by Islam. This is the climax of military events described in [Daniel 11:40-45](#) where Antichrist hears “tidings from the East”. Also [Ezekiel 38 & 39](#) may be fulfilled here as well. The final battle will involve armies from (14) “the whole world”. “Armageddon” is a Hebrew word which means “Mount Megiddo”. There is no specific mountain by that name. It could be understood as the mountains surrounding the plain of Megiddo. The valley is about 14 miles wide and 20 miles long. The entire conflict according to scripture will include the entire 200 mile area from here to Jerusalem.

- **Jesus Christ Himself gives a word of comfort to the redeemed**

(15) “Behold, I am coming as a thief.”

A thief comes to steal while Jesus is coming to claim what is rightfully His. The imagery of the thief is that He comes unexpectedly. Jesus used this same imagery in Matthew 24:43-44, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Peter speaking of Christ’s return writes in 2 Peter 3:10-11, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.”

(15) “Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

To keep one’s clothes on and to be watching is the idea of being prepared for these prophesied events. This is the same picture as the wise and foolish virgins in Matthew 25:1-13.

The Idea of Suddenness and That the Unprepared Will Suffer Loss

2. **Bowl #7 – The Completion of God’s Wrath (17-21)**

The Final Judgments Fall upon Earth

After this bowl is poured out Jesus Christ will return in His glorious second coming to the earth seen in Chapter 19. Chapters 17 & 18 will add more detail to the final world system of the Antichrist.

- **The divine announcement**

(17) “Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, “It is done!”

God’s words are in the perfect tense describing a completed action with ongoing results. These words are similar “It is finished” that Jesus spoke from the cross when He suffered for man’s redemption.

- **The massive earthquake**

(18-19) “And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”

The earthquake that recently devastated Haiti was recorded at 7.0. 100,000 people are feared dead as of this writing. This earthquake will be the most powerful that the world has ever experienced.

It appears that every city in the world will be devastated. Walvoord writes describing this earthquake “which leaves all monuments of men’s ingenuity in shambles.”

Two cities in particular are mentioned: Jerusalem & Babylon. “The great city” refers to Jerusalem which was identified by that name during the martyrdom of the Two Witnesses.

Revelation 11:8, “And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

According to Zechariah there will be physical changes to the city of Jerusalem when Christ returns.

Zechariah 14:4, “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west,

Making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.”

The effect on Jerusalem will be to provide a place of escape for God’s people. This also prepares the city for the “living waters” which will flow out from her, Zechariah 14:8.

Babylon is mentioned here by name which is the capital of the Antichrist’s kingdom. This downfall will be described in detail in the next two chapters.

(20) “Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.”

The islands of the world will disappear and every mountain will be flattened.

Henry Morris has an interesting view on what this means.

“The gentle rolling topography of the world as originally created will be restored. No more will there be great inaccessible, uninhabitable mountain ranges or deserts or ice caps. The physical environment of the millennium will be, in large measure, a restoration of the antediluvian (pre-Flood) environment.”

- **The great hailstones**

(21) “And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.”

The weight is estimated to be about 100 lbs. The seventh plague upon Egypt and the First Trumpet Judgment both included hailstones. These will be far more devastating. The largest recorded hailstones to date were 2 lbs. The remaining survivors continue to blaspheme God’s name.

MacArthur, “It is too late for these hardened sinners; they have sold their souls to Satan; they are totally committed to Antichrist’s blasphemous, idolatrous, anti-God system. Children of wrath they are, catapulting into hell.”

The Prophecies of Revelation Will Come to Pass, the Only Escape Is Jesus Christ