

Supplemental Study

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REVELATION OUR FINAL VICTORY

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The Arrival of Armageddon

Revelation 16:1-21 (NKJV) – Bible passage [my explanatory notes]

1) First Bowl: Loathsome Sores (Rev. 16:1-2)

¹ 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." [The "loud voice" is the voice of God. This command initiates the seven bowl judgments, which are far more severe than the previous seal and trumpet judgments. These judgments occur rapidly, likely over days or weeks, unlike the longer intervals between earlier judgments.]

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 worshiped his image. [This judgment targets those who worship the beast and bear his mark (Revelation 13:16-18). The "foul and loathsome sore" refers to painful, oozing ulcers, similar to the sixth Egyptian plague (Exodus 9:8-12). These sores also resemble the afflictions of Job (Job 2:7).]

2) Second Bowl: The Sea Turns to Blood (Rev. 16:3)

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. [The sea turns into something resembling the coagulated, rotting blood of a corpse. This judgment recalls the first Egyptian plague (Exodus 7:20-21). The death of all marine life creates catastrophic environmental and economic consequences.]

3) Third Bowl: The Rivers Turn to Blood (Rev. 16:4-7)

⁴ Then **the third angel** poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. [This judgment affects all freshwater sources, turning them into blood. It builds upon the earlier trumpet judgment, which had destroyed one-third of the freshwater supply (Revelation 8:10-11).]

⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." ["just due" means "deserving" or "worthy".]

⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." [This voice affirms the justice of God's actions. It likely comes from the martyrs under the altar, who cried out for vindication in Revelation 6:9-11.]

Judgment

- 1 Earth** 666
Those with the mark of the beast who worship its image break out in sores
- 2 Sea**
Sea turns to blood that kills all life in it
- 3 Rivers/Springs**
Waters turn to blood
- 4 Sun**
Sun scorches people with fire
- 5 Beast's throne**
Darkness covers beast's kingdom; people gnaw their tongues and curse God
- 6 Euphrates River**
River dries up to allow kings to cross for battle at Armageddon
- 7 Air**
Earthquake collapses cities and splits the great city; 100-pound hailstones fall on people

Source: The NIV Quickview Bible - www.thequickviewbible.com

4) Fourth Bowl: Men Are Scorched (Rev. 16:8-9)

⁸ Then **the fourth angel** poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. [The sun's heat increases to an unbearable intensity, scorching humanity with fire. This judgment contrasts with the fourth trumpet judgment, which dimmed the sun (Revelation 8:12).]

⁹ 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. [Even in their suffering, people refuse to repent. Instead, they blaspheme God, showing the hardness of their hearts.]

5) Fifth Bowl: Darkness and Pain (Rev. 16:10-11)

¹⁰ Then **the fifth angel** poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. [This judgment brings darkness to the Antichrist's kingdom, reminiscent of the ninth Egyptian plague (Exodus 10:21-23). The pain from the earlier sores intensifies, causing people to gnaw their tongues.]

¹¹ **They blasphemed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. [Despite their agony, people continue to blaspheme God and refuse to repent.]

6) Sixth Bowl: Euphrates Dried Up (Rev. 16:12-16)

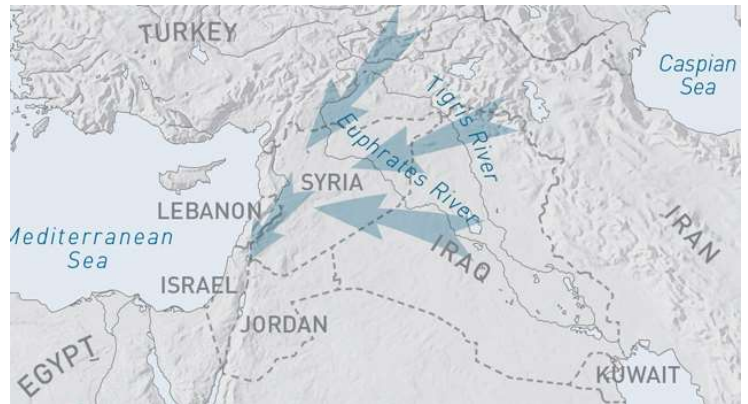
¹² Then **the sixth angel** poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. [The drying of the Euphrates River prepares the way for the "kings of the east" to march toward Israel.]

¹³ 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. [These demons described as frogs represent the unholy trinity: the dragon (Satan), the beast (Antichrist), and the false prophet.]

¹⁴ 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. [The demons deceive world leaders through miraculous signs, gathering them for the final battle (similar to what happened in 1 Kings 22:19-22).]

¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." [This is a warning from Christ to remain spiritually alert and prepared for His coming.]

¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, **Armageddon**. [Armageddon, or "Har-Megiddo," refers to the Jezreel Valley in Israel. It is the site of the final battle between good and evil.]



7) Seventh Bowl: The Earth Utterly Shaken (Rev. 16:17-21)

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!" [This final bowl judgment completes God's wrath. The declaration "It is done!" signifies the end of the judgments, similar to the seventh seal (Revelation 8:1) and seventh trumpet (Revelation 11:15).]

¹⁸ 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. [This earthquake is unprecedented in magnitude, surpassing any seismic event in history.]

¹⁹ 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 great city" is likely Babylon, representing the world system opposed to God. The judgment causes widespread devastation to cities across the globe.]

²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. [The earthquake flattens mountains and submerges islands, drastically altering the earth's topography.]

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. [Hailstones, weighing about 100 pounds each, fall from the sky, causing massive destruction. Despite the severity of this plague, people blaspheme God instead of repenting.]