

The Second Exodus & The Bowls of Wrath (Rev. 15 & 16)

I. Laying Out The Context For *Revelation 15 & 16*

- a. As we've been studying *Revelation 12-14* it's important to remember that those chapters put the main storyline on pause and take us through a "parenthetical section" explaining particular events, timing indicators, and specific details related to the final 3 ½ years of this age (The Great Tribulation). *Revelation 15 & 16* bring us back to the main storyline of the book of Revelation.
- b. At this point in the main storyline, both the 7 seal and trumpet judgments have taken place, including the *rapture of the church at the 7th trumpet (Matthew 24:29-31;36-41; 1 Corinthians 15:50-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*. When we reach *Revelation 15 & 16*, we know we are at the conclusion of the 1260 period known as the Great Tribulation (*Revelation 11:2-3; Revelation 12:6*).

(Matthew 24:29-31 NASB) "But immediately after the tribulation of those days...30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet blast, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NASB) "...We will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 NASB) "That we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air..."

- c. The conclusion of the Great Tribulation and the rapture of the saints isn't the exact finish of this age. Before God transitions the earth into the millennial age (1,000 year reign of Jesus), God will completely annihilate the empire of the Antichrist through the 7 bowl judgments. As a result of the severity of these judgments, the earth will look dramatically different as earthquakes displace mountains and islands. To the prophet Daniel, an angel spoke of a transitional period that would place after the initial 1260 days lasting for 75 days.

(Daniel 12:11-12 NASB) "And from the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 [30 days] days. 12 Blessed is the one who is patient and attains to the 1,335 days [45 days]!"

- i. The angel broke these 75 days up in two parts: 1) A period of 30 days 2) followed by a period of 45 days.
- ii. During the 30-day period (which takes place immediately after the 1260 days), the abomination of desolation will still be set up in the Temple. **It's during this 30-day period that the 7 bowls of God's wrath will be poured out.**
- iii. During the 45-day period (which takes place immediately after the 1290 days), the rest of the wicked will be judged and Jesus will establish new governmental systems.

II. The Second Exodus & The Return of Jesus

- a. Rightly understanding the 7th trumpet is important in understanding what will happen during this 30-day period. *Revelation 10* tells us that the sounding of the 7th trumpet will last for multiple days (*Revelation 10:7*), meaning the events of the 7th trumpet also last multiple days. The 7th trumpet

includes the saints being caught up to meet the Lord in the air at the 2nd coming of Jesus. The second coming of Jesus is not something that happens as a secret in a moment, but on the global stage and includes a 3 stage royal procession:

(Revelation 10:7 NASB) “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets.”

- i. Stage 1 – Jesus travels across the sky on the clouds to rapture the saints (*Matthew 24:30-31; Mark 13:26-27; Revelation 1:7*).
- ii. Stage 2 – Jesus (*likely touches down from Heaven onto Mt. Sinai*) marches up through the land in the Middle East *delivering Israeli captives (Daniel 11:33; Revelation 13:10) while destroying His enemies on the way to the Mount of Olives. (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 45:3-5; Isaiah 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Micah 7:15; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah 9:11-17; 14:1-9).*

(Deuteronomy 33:2 NASB1995) “The Lord came from Sinai, And dawned on them from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran, And He came from the midst of ten thousand holy ones; At His right hand there was flashing lightning for them.”

(Jude 14-15 NASB) “It was also about these people that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord has come with many thousands of His holy ones, 15 to execute judgment upon all...”

(1 Enoch 1:4,9 NASB) “And the eternal God will tread upon the earth, on Mount Sinai, [And appear from His camp] And appear in the strength of His might from the heaven of heavens. 9 and behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones to execute judgment upon all...”

(Psalm 110:5-7 NASB) “The Lord is at your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. 7 He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.”

- iii. Stage 3 – Jesus will come down from the Mount of Olives and triumphantly enter the city of Jerusalem as King over all the Earth (*Zechariah 14:1-9*). At His arrival upon the Mount of Olives, He will rescue the remnant of Israel as half the city will have been forced out of the city as refugees (*Zechariah 14:1-5*).
- b. When we understand what will take place during these 30 days, We must understand that Jesus, the Greater Moses/Joshua, will lead a victorious royal procession with myriads of angles and all glorified believers through the middle east into Jerusalem (just like the Exodus). This leaves 3 groups of people on the planet at the end of the age:
- i. The redeemed (now raptured) – Righteous believers
 - ii. The reprobate – unrighteous people of the earth who willingly reject God
 - iii. The resisters – Those who don’t receive salvation from Jesus but resist the mark of the Beast (including the Jewish people Jesus rescues from captivity during His royal procession through the Middle East).

III. Revelation 15 – The Victorious Song of Moses & The Lamb

(Revelation 15:1-3 NASB) “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished. 2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb”

(Revelation 15:5-8 NASB) “After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and their chests wrapped with golden sashes. 7 And one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.”

- a. John calls these 7 angles in charge of the final 7 plagues a great and marvelous sign. The judgment of God is completed with these final 7 plagues.
- b. John now sees the sea of glass, but instead of it having the appearance of crystal (***Revelation 4:6***), he says the sea of glass is *mixed with fire*. This is speaking to the redemptive purposes of God in a two-fold way: 1) Those standing on it are victorious, likely martyred (***Revelation 12:11***), and now redeemed before God, singing a prophetic song related to the true and righteous judgments of God 2) The redemptive judgment of God on the earth is about to be complete through the 7 bowls of His wrath.
- c. The song(s) those on the sea of glass are singing is/are referred to as the song of Moses, and the song of the Lamb. The song of Moses is likely related to ***Exodus 15*** and ***Deuteronomy 32***, and the song of the Lamb is likely related to ***Revelation 5***. Either way, we get at least some of the lyrics to the song (***Revelation 15:3-4***). We know two things for sure: 1) it’s a song of victorious overcomers 2) It’s a song about the righteous leadership of God. Perhaps it’s even related to the ***Song of Songs***.

(Revelation 15:3-4 NASB) “They sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! 4 Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”

- d. ***Verse 5*** blends two historical references: *the temple* and *the tabernacle of testimony* (The tabernacle in the wilderness was called “*the tabernacles of the testimony* [***Exodus 38:21; Numbers 10:11; 17:7; Acts 7:44***]). It’s out of this place that the 7 angels with the 7 bowls of wrath emerge to fulfill the covenant of God (compare ***Deuteronomy 28***). When this happens, the thickness of the power and glory of God will prevent anyone from entering the heavenly temple until the bowls are poured out.
- e. The context for the final judgment series (7 bowls of wrath) is intentionally set up to recall the first exodus. His redemptive end time battle plan was played out (in part) at the time when He delivered His people from Egypt. This is why the Lord commanded His people to “*remember the exodus*” because He set it up to happen again in greater measure at the end of the age. As we look at the details of the 7 bowls, it’s no surprise that they seem to parallel the judgments that God used on Pharaoh in Egypt.

(Deuteronomy 5:15 NASB) “And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to celebrate the Sabbath day.”

(Deuteronomy 7:18-19 NASB) “You shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: 19 the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders, and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. The Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.”

(Micah 7:15 NASB) “As in the days when you went out from the land of Egypt, I will show you miracles.”

IV. The Bowls of Wrath

(Revelation 16:1 NASB) “Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”

- a. It’s important to understand that the bowls of wrath are directed at the antichrist and his followers and are the most severe judgments in the book of Revelation. They are intended to dismantle the earth in preparation for the millennial kingdom.
- b. The First Bowl – Painful sores for those with the mark of the beast.

(Revelation 16:2 NASB) “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.”

- c. The Second Bowl – The Sea becomes blood and every living thing in it dies. The Sea could be a reference to just the Mediterranean, however the rest of these judgments seem to be worldwide, so it’s likely that this is referring to the entire ocean.

(Revelation 16:3 NASB) “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.”

- d. The Third Bowl – The fresh water now becomes blood. An angel responds to this judgment by saying those on the earth rightfully deserve this judgment because they spilled the blood of God’s people and God now has “given them blood to drink”.

(Revelation 16:4-7 NASB) “Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 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; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” 7 And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”

- e. The Fourth Bowl – The heat of the sun intensifies and scorches people with fire. Despite this judgment’s severity, the people on the earth won’t repent and they’ll continue to speak against God.

(Revelation 16:8-9 NASB) “And the fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given power to scorch people with fire. 9 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.”

- f. The Fifth Bowl – Deep darkness covers the Antichrist Empire. The pain of their sores continues in severity, yet the people will still not repent nor stop speaking against God.

(Revelation 16:10-11 NASB) “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, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.”

- g. The Sixth Bowl – The Euphrates river dries up, making it easy for the “kings of the east” to come to Jerusalem for the final battle. Global deception reaches it’s height as Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet perform signs that convince the world to gather to make war against God.

(Revelation 16:12-16 NASB) “The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east. 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 spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the entire world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and people will not see his shame.”) 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.”

- h. The Seventh Bowl – The complete destruction of the earth through the most severe weather, the greatest earthquake ever, 100-pound hailstones, and the displacing of islands and mountains.

(Revelation 16:17-21 NASB) “Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon 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 and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since mankind came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered in the sight of God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 And every island fled, and no mountains were found. 21 And huge hailstones, weighing about a talent each, came down from heaven upon people; and people blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because the hailstone plague was extremely severe.”