

Chapter 13

Seven Bowls of Wrath

All nations attempt to conquer Israel.
God responds by pouring out wrath.

From seven golden bowls, angels will pour out God's wrath upon the Gentile nations. God's wrath comes from his intolerance of sin, from his holiness. God's command center during these attacks is the temple in heaven. *Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.* (Revelation 15:6-7)

God's wrath is holy; so the seven angels who are to pour out God's wrath upon the earth leave the temple wearing *golden sashes*, symbolic of royal and priestly functions. (Ezekiel 9:2) God's wrath is awesome. *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power.* (Revelation 15:8)

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." (Revelation 16:1) The *seven bowls* are similar to the plagues that God delivered against Pharaoh and ancient Egypt.

BOWL #1: *The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the land, and ugly and painful sores broke out on the people who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image.* (Revelation 16:2)

The *ugly and painful sores* will only afflict people having *the mark of the beast*—so Israel will be spared. This plague could be anthrax, which causes *boils* on both *men and animals*. This event matches the plague of boils Moses brought against Egypt. *So they took soot from a furnace and stood before Pharaoh. Moses tossed it into the air, and festering boils broke out on men and animals.* (Exodus 9:10)

BOWL #2: *The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in the sea died.* (Revelation 16:3)

The oceans and sea turn from water into blood. Note the similarity to another plague that God delivered through Moses. *This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.”* (Exodus 7:17-18)

BOWL #3: *The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: “You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve.” And I heard the altar respond: “Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments.”* (Revelation 16:4-7)

The martyrs under the *altar* are now satisfied seeing justice. Remember these martyrs had cried out at the fifth seal. *They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”* (Revelation 6:10) At the third bowl, the altar responds with approval concerning God’s judgment.

BOWL #4: *The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him.* (Revelation 16:8-9)

Now the sun will scorch people with intense heat. It is likely that the natural atmospheric protection, such as the ozone layer, will have been destroyed. People responded by cursing God. With hardened hearts, the walking dead (condemned) people are incapable of repenting. This occurred in ancient Egypt—when *the LORD hardened Pharaoh’s heart*. (Exodus 10:27)

BOWL #5: *The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done.* (Revelation 16:10-11)

Moses delivered a similar judgment against Egypt. *Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness will spread over Egypt—darkness that can be felt.” So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. No one could see anyone else or leave his place for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.* (Exodus 10:21-23)

There is a potential human cause for the searing hot earth becoming dark. Proposals address methods of lowering the earth’s temperature should global warming spiral out of control. Plans include a massive shield on the edge of space to deflect sunrays. Also, countless tons of metallic “scatterers” could be launched into the atmosphere. Should such measures overcorrect, the Antichrist’s *kingdom* could be *plunged into darkness*. (1)

BOWL #6: *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.* (Revelation 16:12)

At the time of Armageddon, the flow of the Euphrates River in Iraq will dry to allow armies to invade Israel. This dried riverbed opens the way for the armies of *the kings from the East*, to travel to the valley of Armageddon in Israel. (Revelation 16:16) The Ataturk Dam in Turkey has already stopped the flow of the Euphrates in 1990 while filling a reservoir. This drying of the Euphrates River could also occur supernaturally.

That there are *kings from the East* (plural, *kings*, more than one king) could result from China dissolving into multiple smaller countries that are unified in a confederacy. A Chinese confederacy could result from the desire of China to bring Taiwan into the fold—while also allowing the liberal freedoms that Hong Kong needs to prosper. Such a confederacy might include economic powerhouses such as Japan and South Korea. It could also include the other population powerhouse in the region, India.

Consider that a huge army of *two hundred million* will travel from the East, across the Euphrates River to the Valley of Armageddon. *It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."* And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind. The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number. (Revelation 9:14-16)

Three *evil spirits* are now speaking through the *dragon* (Satan), the *beast* (Antichrist), and the *false prophet*. Their message is to world leaders—for them to send armies to Armageddon. *Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.* (Revelation 16:13-14)

At Armageddon, these armies will attempt to destroy Jesus as he returns to earth. *Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.* (Revelation 16:16) The battle of Armageddon is the final battle of this Age. (Revelation 19:11-21; Zechariah 14:2-9)

TABLE 13-1: THE SEVEN BOWLS

Bowl	Poured	Results
1	On land	Sores upon people with the mark of the beast
2	On the sea	The sea turns to blood; the sea dies
3	On rivers and springs	Rivers and springs turn into blood
4	On the sun	Sun scorches people with intense heat
5	On the throne of the beast	Kingdom of the beast is plunged into darkness; men gnaw in agony and curse God
6	On the Euphrates River	River dries to allow armies from East to cross; armies travel to Armageddon, a valley in Israel
7	Into the air	Large earthquakes and one hundred pound hailstones collapse cities, to include Rome

BOWL #7: *The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "It is done!" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible.*
(Revelation 16:17-21)

People will mourn Rome, called *Babylon the Great*. God gives this city of the false king (Antichrist) and the false high priest (Pope) *the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath*. God reserves the final judgment for people who keep religious traditions from ancient Babylon. God reserves this judgment for the priesthood that claims to represent Christ, yet is notorious for molesting children.

This final bowl will be the most horrible. Peter spoke of the later judgments being most severe. *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* (1 Peter 4:17)

This final judgment features the destruction of Rome. The geography of the earth changes as every island disappears and mountains become level.

"When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

" 'Woe! Woe, O great city,

O Babylon, city of power!

In one hour your doom has come!' (Revelation 18:9-10)

Then a might angel picked up a bolder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

"With such violence the great city of Babylon

will be thrown down, never to be found again. (Revelation 18:21)

Note:

1. Giant space shield plan to save planet. The Observer. Mark Townsend. 11 January 2004.
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2004/jan/11/research.science>