

Session 9 - The 7 Bowls of Wrath and Jesus' Entrance into Jerusalem (ch. 15-22)

An overview of the last two chronological sections of the book of Revelation and their angelic interpretations

I. THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. The book of Revelation is comprised of 4 parts:
1. John's Commissioning (1)
 2. The Seven Letters to the Seven Churches (2-3)
 3. John's Vision of the Throne Room and the Transition of Power from the Father to the Son (4-5)
 4. The Transition Period Between This Age and the Next (6-22)
- B. In this section we're going to begin a survey of the fourth part. This fourth part is comprised of **5 chronological "scenes."** Each chronological scene contains the description of a future literal event. And each event is further explained by an angelic interpretation. Thus the fourth part of the book of Revelation is comprised of **5 chronological scenes** and **5 angelic interpretations.**
- C. The 5 Chronological scenes and their angelic interpretations are in this order:
1. **The Tearing of the Seven Seals** (chapter 6)
 1. *The Protection of the Elect* (chapter 7)
 2. **The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets** (chapter 8-9)
 2. *The Promise of Prophetic Leadership and Direction* (chapter 10-11)

3. **The 7th Trumpet & Commencement of the Second Coming** (11:15-19)
 3. *The Rage of Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet* (12-14)
4. **The Seven Bowls of Wrath** (15-16)
 4. *The Harlot's Religious and Economic Empire* (17-19:15)
5. **Jesus' Entrance into Jerusalem** (19:16-20:15)
 5. *The Restoration of All Things* (21-22)

(*which includes Jesus' 1,000 yr. reign and Satan's final defeat at its end)

- D. In this session we're going to deal with the last 2 chronological scenes and their angelic explanations:
1. The Seven Bowls of Wrath (ch. 15-16)
 1. The Harlot's Religious and Economic Empire (ch. 17-19:5)
 2. Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem (ch. 19-20)
 2. The Restoration of all Things (ch. 21-22)

II. THE NATURE OF THE SEALS TRUMPETS AND BOWLS

- A. The 3 judgment series are ***literal*** events that must not be explained away symbolically or historically.
- B. The 3 judgment series are ***future***. They have not yet occurred in history.
- C. The 3 judgment series are ***numbered*** according to the chronological order in which they occur. For example, the first seal is followed by the second seal, which in turns leads to the third and so on. Because God's judgments occur according to a numbered sequence, the Church will become greatly unified. Momentum will build as the Church sees them released according to their order.
- D. The 3 judgment series are ***redemptive***. They will create a global crisis that results in many crying out for salvation, while hindering the Antichrist's persecution of the saints and destroying all the evil governments on earth.

- E. The 3 judgment series are **progressive** in that they increase in intensity as each series is released. The 7 seal judgments are surpassed in severity by the 7 trumpet judgments which are surpassed by the 7 bowl judgments. For example, 1/4 of the human race dies in the fourth seal (Rev. 6:8), yet at a later time this increases to 1/3 dying in the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:15).

III. AN OVERVIEW OF THE LAST TWO SCENES OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. The fourth chronological section in Revelation reveals the 7 judgment events that Jesus will release on the Antichrist's empire as He marches through Edom (modern day Jordan) to make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

¹ ***Who is this who comes from Edom (modern Jordan), with dyed garments from Bozrah (ancient capital of Edom), this One (Jesus) who is glorious in His apparel, traveling in the greatness of His strength?-- "I (Jesus) who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." 2 Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? 3 "I have trodden the winepress...in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. 4 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come....6 I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, made them drunk in My fury, and brought down their strength to the earth." (Isa. 63:1-6)***

- B. This journey **begins** with the 7th trumpet and **concludes** with the 7th bowl as Jesus marches into Jerusalem to destroy Antichrist and the False Prophet and to incarcerate Satan for 1,000 years.
- C. On this journey, Jesus will dash the nations or destroy the infrastructures of the Antichrist empire that have been permeated by evil (Ps. 2:8-9; Isa. 11:4, 15; 19:22; Rev. 2:26-27; 19:15).

¹¹ ***Behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him...He judges and makes war...13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses...15 He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of...the wrath of Almighty God. 16 He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)***

- D. This journey will take 30 days.

¹¹ *From the time...the Abomination of Desolation is set up there shall be 1,290 days. (Dan. 12:11)*

IV. THE 4TH CHRONOLOGICAL SCENE: THE 7 BOWLS OF WRATH (REV. 15-16)

After the 7th Trumpet sounds (11:15-19), and after the saints gather on the sea of glass to worship Jesus (15:1-8), 7 angels with 7 bowls of wrath take their stand and pour out their bowls on the earth (16:1-21).

A. First Bowl (Sores): Painful sores on those who worship the Antichrist (Rev. 16:2)

² *The first went and poured out his bowl...and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast... (Rev. 16:2)*

1. These sores will be foul with a terrible odor as foul meat is rotten or putrid. They will be loathsome in being so painful that men will loath them.
2. Only during the seals and trumpets does John mention believers having a divine seal of protection (Rev. 7:3; 9:4). The saints were raptured at the 7th Trumpet.
3. The sixth plague of Egypt was sores or boils (Ex. 9:8-11). Moses warned that rebellion toward God would bring God's judgment of severe boils (Deut. 28:35).

B. Second Bowl (Food Supply): Destroying the sea with blood killing all sea life (Rev. 16:3). This may be globally but I doubt it. It's my opinion that this is focused on the Mediterranean Sea from Dan. 7. The sea will become like the blood of a dead man with unimaginable stench. There will be complete destruction of marine life not just 1/3 destruction as in the second trumpet.

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. (Rev. 16:3)*

C. Third Bowl (Water Supply): Poisoning the earth's fresh water with blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) is similar to the third bowl in defiling the drinking water. The first plague of Egypt struck the Nile with a similar impact as this (Ex. 7:19-21).

⁴ *Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. 5 I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord...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." 7 I heard*

another from the altar (heavenly intercession) saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (Rev. 16:4-7)

- D. Fourth Bowl (Torment): Scorching heat and fire from the sun (Rev. 16:8-9) is a supernatural act, not merely a natural one. Men blaspheme God (v. 11, 21). This bowl will intensify the heat of the sun. The fourth trumpet affected the sun in the opposite way by making it less intense.

⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. 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. (Rev. 16:8-9)

- E. Fifth Bowl (Destruction): Darkness on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11)

¹⁰ 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. 11 They blasphemed the God...because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11)

- F. Sixth Bowl (Global Guilt): Demons lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus (Rev. 16:12-16)

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the East might be prepared. 13 I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), out of the mouth of the beast (Antichrist), and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the Battle of that great day of God Almighty...16 They gathered them together to...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)

- G. Seventh Bowl (Annihilation): Shaking by earthquakes and 100 lbs. hail stones (Rev. 16:17-21)

¹⁷ Poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice... from the Throne, saying, "It is done!" 18...there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. 19 Now the great city (Jerusalem) 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. 20 Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent (100 pounds). Men blasphemed God... (Rev. 16:17-21)

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1. This bowl poured out into the air is probably the cause of the plague Zechariah prophesied that will cause the flesh, eyes and tongues of people and livestock to dissolve (Zech. 14:12, 15).
- H. The next event following the 7 bowls is Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21).

¹¹ Behold, a white horse. He (Jesus) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war....¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...¹⁴ The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...¹⁶ He has on His robe...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...¹⁹ I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword... (Rev. 19:11-21)

V. THE ANGELIC EXPLANATION: HARLOT BABYLON (REV. 17-19:5)

Seeing and comprehending the severity and comprehensive nature of the bowls of wrath provoke anyone to ask the question, “Why is this necessary?!” This section answers the question by explaining the maturity of sin that will cover the earth at the end of the age.

- A. This is clearly the most difficult section of the book to understand. Combined with Isaiah 13-14 and Jeremiah 50-51 this is the longest prophecy in Scripture. The Lord wants us to understand this facet of the end-time drama.
1. It is the most difficult because it contains so much symbolism. The good news is, the angel interpreted the symbolism for us giving us a basis of interpretation and solid ground to understand it. But, nevertheless, the symbolism is confusing at first – even with the angelic interpretation.
 2. In this session we’ll only briefly look at the main themes of the subject of the Harlot Babylon without looking at the details.
 3. Chapters 12 and 17 are the only chapters in the book that deal with events that take place before the Great Tribulation begins with the setting up of the Abomination of Desolation and the tearing of the first seal. Chapter 12 explains the cosmic conflict

between Satan and the Seed of Abraham. And chapter 17 deals with the emergence of Antichrist and the Harlot system in the days that precede the Great Tribulation.

- B. The **three main themes** of Revelation 17-19:5 are:
1. The Emergence of the Antichrist
 2. The 10 Nation Coalition that Comprises Antichrist's Power Base
 3. The Emergence of Judgment of Babylon
- C. There are **3 key messages** within the text that help explain what the Harlot Babylon is:
1. It is a **global empire** that will hold sway over the whole earth through unprecedented **financial power** (17:2, 4, 15, 18; 18:3, 7, 9, 11-19, 23); it is a literal **city**, and global **empire** and a international **network**.
 2. It will **emerge** in concentrated unity with Antichrist (17:3, 7)
 3. It will **fall** in two stages: (1) at the beginning of the Great Tribulation as Antichrist turns against it and attacks it and (2) at the End of the Tribulation as the 7 bowls of wrath are dispensed.
- D. Though this Harlot will be a global network and a global empire, it will have a "capital city." Many have argued in favor of it being many different cities from Rome to Jerusalem to New York City. But the mass of Old Testament prophecies about the destruction of Babylon (which have never been fulfilled) press us to acknowledge the literal nature of this prophecy in that the city of ancient Babylon will be the governmental headquarters of this empire. In the same way that Jerusalem emerged miraculously in the wake of WWII, so too will Babylon emerge out of a Middle Eastern conflict (that may be precipitating now with the current war) to assume global influence and great financial power in a very short amount of time.

VI. THE 5TH CHRONOLOGICAL SCENE: JESUS' ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM (REV. 19:6-21)

This section is one of the most straightforward and easy to understand portions of Scripture in the book. It is comprised of seven successive "I saw"'s. That is, seven times in a row John said, "I saw." All unbiblical systems of eschatology emerge from a distortion of these seven scenes. John saw them unfolding one after another with each being contingent upon the other.

- A. The 7 Scenes are:

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1. Jesus presents Himself and enters Jerusalem (19:11-16)
2. Jesus defeats Antichrist (19:17-21)
3. Satan is cast into prison for 1,000 years (20:1-3)
4. Saints are given governmental leadership over the earth (20:4-6)
5. Satan is released after the 1,000 years (20:7-10)
6. The Great White Throne Judgment of All (20:11-15)
7. The Father Dwells on Earth with Men (21:1-8)

VII. THE ANGELIC EXPLANATION: THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS (REV. 21-22)

- A. After the release of Satan at the end of the Millennium we see that there is one final judgment.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15)

- B. After the Great White Throne Judgment, eternity begins. This is clear. But what confused many commentators and preachers about what follows the Great White Throne Judgment is the elusive blend of chronological and parenthetical explanation. That is, the Lord shows Him the Great White Throne (which ends "time" and begins endless eternity) and THEN shows him what appears to be the Millennium again.
- C. We know that Revelation 21-22 are not chronological in that John begins to describe the MILLENNIAL New Jerusalem AND the ETERNAL New Jerusalem. There are at least 5 reasons why we must see a distinction between the Millennial Jerusalem and the Eternal Jerusalem.
1. First, the Kings of the earth come into the New Jerusalem during the Millennium to bring their glory (Rev. 21:24). Why are there kings with ethnic distinction making trips to Jerusalem if there is no Millennium?

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2. Second, the leaves are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2). Healing is progressive not immediate.
3. Third, the angels guard sinners from entry (Rev. 21:12, 22:14-15; Gen. 3:22-24). Why are sinners on the earth if there is no Millennial city?
4. Fourth, the New Jerusalem lights up the saved nations on the Millennial earth not unsaved ones (Rev. 21:24; 20:7-9). Why are there unsaved peoples if there is no Millennium?
5. Fifth, the size of the Millennial Jerusalem is approximately 10 square miles (4,500 rods x 4,500 rods) (Ezek. 48:30-35; 45:6; 48:15-19) whereas, the New Jerusalem is 1500 miles. Why is there such a dramatic distinction between the two descriptions of the city if there is only one city?