

Revelation Part 13 | 8/6/17

- The introduction and preparation of the final 7 bowls of God's judgment and wrath. | Revelation 15:1-8
 - **Read Revelation 15:1-8**
 - The 7 plagues which are the last of God's wrath
 - Throughout the 7 years of the tribulation God has been pouring out His wrath upon the world.
 - His judgments have been severe and many have perished. But this judgment we cannot forget is a righteous judgment.
 - None of us are worthy, we are only made righteous by the blood of the lamb and our faith in Jesus Christ.
 - But in the midst of God's wrath He has shown grace and mercy.
 - All sinners deserve His wrath, but because of His mercy not all will receive it.
 - All through these 7 years and the millennia before this time He seeks and desires for all to come to repentance.
 - We are approaching the end of the 7-year tribulation and are in the "Great Tribulation" where God's judgment and wrath is the most severe.
 - They are plagues that are called "bowls" in chapter 16 where they are poured out.
 - These will be poured out in rapid succession.
 - There will not be a long period of time in-between each of the bowls, they will be poured out one right after the other which will be with great intensity and calamity.
 - Then God's wrath will be finished
 - God' wrath will come to an end with these bowls judgments.
 - God will bring down the world system that was established under the antichrist, then when Christ returns (chapter 19) He will throw him and the false prophet into the lake of fire.
 - We are given a glimpse of the Christians who refused the mark of the beast and died as martyrs.
 - There will be many Christians who stand up to the antichrist and do not take the mark or worship the image.
 - However, many of them will perish.
 - **Here we given a glimpse of those Christians. They stood for Christ on Earth and therefore they will stand with God in heaven.**
 - Matthew 10:32
 - "So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,"
 - These Christians are given harps and will sing a song of praise and glory to God.
 - They will sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.
 - Interestingly they will sing the song of Moses, which was sung by the Israelites when God brought them out of Egypt and delivered them.
 - Exodus 15:1-21
 - This is a wonderful reminder that God fulfills His promises and that everything that has taken place in Scripture it intertwined together.
 - The song of the lamb signifies the great work of God and what he has accomplished.

- The Christians in heaven know full well what God has done and that He alone should receive the glory and praise.
 - Then comes the final time of preparation where the sanctuary was filled with the glory of God.
 - Even in this time of God's wrath we see His overwhelming glory and power.
 - Not even the heavenly beings could enter until the seven plagues/bowls had been poured out upon the world.
- The seven bowls of God's Wrath | Revelation 16:1-21
 - God then gave the command to pour out the final bowl judgments of God's wrath.
 - These resemble the plagues that God brought upon the Egyptians.
 - This will be the climax of His wrath and judgment upon the earth.
 - Bowls 1-3 | Revelation 16:1-7
 - **Read Revelation 16:1-7**
 - The first bowl contained painful sores.
 - The first bowl contained painful and harmful sores that appeared ONLY on those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped the image.
 - As was stated in Chapter 14, any who took the mark would receive God's judgment.
 - These sores will be excruciating and will be immensely painful.
 - The Greek Septuagint uses the same Greek word for the boils that plagued the Egyptians.
 - It is also the same word used for the open sores that Lazarus had.
 - Luke 16:21
 - The second bowl turned all the worlds seas into blood.
 - This bowl resembles the 2nd trumpet in Revelation 8:8-9 however that one only effected 1/3 of the seas. This affects them all.
 - While this resembles when God turned the Nile river to blood, this will affect the entire world.
 - Every ocean on the Earth will turn to blood and ALL of the creatures living within it will die.
 - This will be a mass extinction event for the creatures of the sea, they will be wiped out in totality.
 - The third bowl turns the rivers and springs into blood.
 - All of the oceans of the world were turned to blood now all of the rivers and springs were effected.
 - This is similar as well to the third trumpet in Revelation 8:10-11 but in that one the water was "bitter as wormwood" and it was only 1/3. Here all of the rivers and springs will be blood.
 - This would seem to wipe out the worlds water supply
 - God is just and true with His judgment | Revelation 16:5-7
 - **Read Revelation 16:5-7**
 - After the third bowl, we hear the angel proclaim that God is true and just in His judgment.
 - Very clearly, we are told that God is just for turning the waters into blood.
 - Just as these sinners have sought to kill and shed the blood of those who follow Christ, so then they are well deserved to drink blood.
 - God is just, He is not evil or without compassion.
 - Those who are suffering during this time are not likely thinking, wow God is so just and compassionate.

- However, that is EXACTLY what He is.
 - **God pouring out His wrath is not God tormenting people for His enjoyment, they were given every opportunity to turn to Him and repent. But THEY chose not to.**
 - Everyone who denies Christ MUST receive the punishment for their sin. Christ's atoning blood would cover them IF they believe in Him.
- Scripture is clear that God will judge and that we should be fearful to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - Hebrews 10:29-31
 - "How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, Vengeance is mine; I will repay. And again, The Lord will judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:5-6
 - "This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,"
- **What do you think of God's "righteous judgment"?**
- **Do you think this concept is hard for non-believers to comprehend? What is it they focus on instead?**
 - If God was good than bad things wouldn't happen.
 - God would NEVER "hurt" someone.
- **What does the world (and sometimes Christians) miss when it comes to God's righteous judgment?**
- Bowls 4-5 | Revelation 16:8-11
 - ***Read Revelation 16:8-11***
 - The fourth bowl was poured on the sun and it scorched the earth with fire.
 - Now it is going to get very hot and the sun will scorch the earth and its inhabitants.
 - The sun will turn up the heat and the earth will be exposed to heat that it has not likely ever felt before.
 - This won't be so extreme that life cannot exist, but it will be enough to cause great torment and suffering on top of what they are already experiencing.
 - Malachi foretold of the burning oven
 - Malachi 4:1
 - "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch."
 - The lost will not repent or give glory to God.
 - These people will be aware that God is the one causing these things to happen and they WILL NOT repent, instead they will curse Him, the very one that can save them.
 - This speaks to the extent of those who have hardened their hearts to God.

- Even when God is seemingly right there, they still deny and curse Him. Such is what the world does today. Even those that may even actually believe there is a God, still “hate” Him.
- **Do you see this kind of hardened heart and hatred towards God today? Not one who is an atheist, but seems to believe in a God but hate Him because of their afflictions?**
- The fifth bowl brings darkness to the kingdom of the antichrist
 - The throne of the beast maybe the temple in Jerusalem where is image is located, regardless of the beginning it will cover his entire kingdom.
 - Darkness is associated with God’s judgment in Scripture and when Christ was on the cross taking on the sins of the world, there was also darkness.
 - The continuing suffering of the lost is seen in that they are gnawing their tongues.
 - This describes extreme agony and suffering. They still have their sores from the first bowl, have scarce water and food and have been tormented by the sun.
 - Again, they still do not repent of their sins.
- The sixth bowl prepares the battle of Armageddon | Revelation 16:12-16
 - **Read Revelation 16:12-16**
 - What is the meaning of the word “Armageddon”?
 - The meaning around Armageddon has perhaps been a bit misunderstood and misused today.
 - The term in today’s society means total destruction and devastation of the end of the world.
 - As it was portrayed in the movie Armageddon in 1998.
 - However, it’s true meaning is a bit different.
 - The word “Armageddon” only appears once in Scripture
 - This word only occurs once in Scripture and that is in Revelation 16:16
 - Revelation 16:16
 - “And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”
 - In fact, we commonly say and think of “The battle of Armageddon”, but this phrase never appears in the Scriptures. It certainly is implied though as we will see.
 - Armageddon is the Hebrew name for Mount Megiddo
 - Armageddon is actually the Hebrew name for a mountain which is called Mount Megiddo.
 - **So how then do we know that?**
 - Scripture tells us that the Greek word presented (Harmagedon) is actually a transliteration of Hebrew.
 - A transliteration is to take a word from a different language and put it into letters that you can pronounce.
 - Original Greek for “Armageddon” and its transliteration: (Ἀρμαγεδών, *Harmagedōn*)
 - The Greek word in the manuscript (Harmagedon) actually had an underlying Hebrew word.
 - Scholars believe the underlying Hebrew words to be (har-megiddon) which means “Mountain of Megiddo”

- So, Armageddon is actually a place, it is the Mountain of Megiddo and it also encompasses the neighboring biblical town of Megiddo and its plains in the Jezreel Valley.
 - Mount Megiddo is 60 miles north of Jerusalem.
 - This also includes a town called Megiddo that is located in the Jezreel Valley.
- This has been the sight for several battles over the years.
 - Deborah and Barak's battle against the Canaanites – Judges 5:19
 - Pharaoh Neco and Josiah – 2 Kings 23:29
 - This is also where King Saul died – 1 Samuel 31
 - Napoleon even gazed on this field and said that it was “the most natural battlefield of the whole earth.”
- **Armageddon is a great battlefield**
 - **Armageddon is the location of a great battle, a great war that will take place between the antichrist with his earthly followers and Jesus Christ with the armies of heaven.**
 - When Christ returns he will come with the **heavenly armies prepared for war.** The location of that war is called Armageddon which will be located in the plains of Megiddo.
 - Revelation 19:13-14
 - “He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.”
- The sixth bowl prepares the land to allow the armies of men (kings from the east) led by the antichrist to make their way to battle.
 - This is fascinating in that this battle is God ordained, He is even making it physically possible for these armies to amass.
 - However, what they do not know is they are essentially being led to slaughter, where they will lose the battle against Jesus Christ.
 - This battle and its results was proclaimed by Paul. The enemies of Jesus Christ will be annihilated.
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:7-9
 - “and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the glory of his might,”
- The Satanic trinity will send out demonic spirits to gather their armies.
 - We have a picture of the “Satanic trinity” of the Dragon (Satan), the beast (antichrist) and the false prophet.
 - They send out demonic spirits who will deceive the kings of the world into gathering into a battle against Jesus Christ.
- The seventh bowl finished the wrath of God with great earthquakes and hail. | Revelation 16:17-21
 - **Read Revelation 16:17-21**

- This last and final bowl puts a great climax on the devastation of His righteous judgment.
- There will be a great earthquake that will be greater than any earthquake the world has ever experienced.
 - It will spit Jerusalem into three parts, although this is not to destroy it, but to prepare it for the millennial kingdom.
 - Zechariah 14:1-8
 - Babylon the great which is to say the antichrist and its kingdom, will fall and will feel the full fury of God's wrath.
 - There will be significant geological changes that will take place.
- There will be 100lbs hailstones that will fall from the sky.
- The people who survive will still curse God and refuse to repent.
- It is done
 - God's voice will call out from heaven that "it is done", the last of his wrath, his righteous judgment, has been poured out upon the world.