

The Seven Last Super Bowls

Chapter 15 was about Two Visions that Prepare for the Seven Last Super Bowls

The rejoicing over this announcement, 15:2-4

The preparation for seven last plagues (bowls), 15:5-8

The pouring out of God's final wrath

With the execution of these seven, God's anger will have been completed; the final cycle of such cosmic displays of God's wrath will end with these.

The Bowls

The word "great" occurs at least eight times

16:1 loud (17), 9, intense, 12, great, 14 great, 18, severe, 19, great, 21, terrible. This is one of the "greatest" chapters in the Bible.

The command is given to the seven angels simultaneously, indicating that the last seven will come quickly. 16:1

If they happened with regularity, there would be one "bowl" every six months.

Imagine an activity greater in scope than 9/11 happening every 6 months.

The first bowl, 16:2

Ugly and incurable sores on all who have the mark of the beast. This is similar to the boils in Exodus 9:9-11

The second bowl, 16:3

This is where all the sea (salt water?) turns into blood. All sea life dies. Imagine the stench and disease, not to mention the loss of income.

The third bowl, 16:4

This is apparently where all fresh water turns to a blood-like substance.

Evaluation, 16:5-7

What God is doing is right and it is pre-eminently the work of the Holy God.

You have shed the blood of my people, so you shall drink it.

The forth bowl, 16:8-9

This judgment is that people are scorched by the intensified heat of the sun.

The fifth bowl, 16:10-11

Darkness upon the beast's kingdom. This is similar to the ninth plague of Egypt (Ex 10:21-22) but worse, for somehow it seems to aggravate the previous plagues. It does not seem to refer to spiritual darkness, but physical darkness.

To gnaw one's tongue is a statement of extreme agony. How darkness causes this is not stated.

The sixth bowl has no immediate visitation upon mankind, but looks forward to a coming battle, 16:12-16

The river Euphrates is dried up to prepare a way for an army.

Is this the same matter as Daniel 11:40-45?

Is this the preparation for Armageddon?

The battle in the plain of Megiddo, 14:20

Are these both related? It appears so...

Three spirits go throughout the whole earth to encourage the armies of the world to gather for this battle.

Encouragement to be ready, 16:15

Like a thief = unexpectedly, or perhaps when one is distracted

There will be much to distract!

The seventh bowl, 16:17-21

The great city faces an earthquake like none other, v 18

The city splits in three and the cities of the nations collapsed, 19

Hail from heaven kills many

Do people repent over these things?

No, their hearts are hardened.

These miraculous judgments only harden hearts.

This shows how hard people's hearts are apart from grace.

Yet it appears that an offer to repent is "on the table," Rev 16:9,11

Miracles of any sort do not create believers in and of themselves

Luke 16:27-31

Why this way?