

## I. Timing of the Bowls of Wrath

- A. The fourth chronological section of the book of Revelation describes the seven bowl judgment events that Jesus will release upon the Antichrist's empire. I see the events in this section as occurring right after the sounding of the seventh trumpet, when an announcement in heaven declares that the Lord is taking over and replacing all the governments on earth. (Rev. 11:15)
1. Scriptures are clear that the rapture would occur at the last trumpet. The seven trumpets in the book of Revelation are the only numbered trumpets in the Bible. I believe that Paul's "last trumpet" is the seventh trumpet since the seventh trumpet is the "last" trumpet mentioned in Revelation and in the Bible. If the rapture does not occur at the seventh trumpet, then it must occur sometime after it, in order to occur at the "last" trumpet. (1 Cor. 15:51-52; Rev. 8-9, 10:7, 11:15)
  2. Jesus told about many events concerning the final days before His return, He spoke of the "abomination of desolation" and then pointed to the prophecies of Daniel to understand it. It is the only political event that Jesus identified to let His people know that the Tribulation has started. The abomination occurs when the Antichrist puts an image of himself in the temple (called the image of the beast) and then forces people to worship it. (Mt. 24:15-21; 2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 13:14-18)
    - a) Daniel prophesied that the abomination of desolation would last for 1,290 days (43 months). The Antichrist's activity will continue 43 months from the beginning of the "abomination" to the time when the Antichrist is killed. (Dan. 12:11)
- B. John highlighted three activities that would continue for exactly 1,260 days (42 months).
1. Provision: God will supernaturally provide for ethnic Israel for exactly 1,260 days through the sanctuary of the Gentile believers. (Rev. 12:6, 14).
  2. Prophecy: The two witnesses will prophesy for exactly 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3).
  3. Persecution: The Antichrist will persecute the saints (Dan. 7:25; Rev. 13:5-7) and oppress Jerusalem (Rev. 11:2; cf. Dan. 12:7) for exactly 1,260 days.

- C. If we apply the truth from Daniel (1,290 days) with the truth from John (1,260 days) we can conclude that the Antichrist will persecute the saints for 42 months, but he will function for 43 months. His activities will continue for an additional 30 days after Israel's provision in the wilderness, the prophesying of the two witnesses, and the persecution of the saints and Jerusalem all end.
- D. If we put this all together I believe the scriptures are saying very clearly that after the 1,260 days (42 months, or 3½ years) of the abomination of desolation, the seventh trumpet will sound, the Church will be raptured, and the Antichrist's unchallenged domination of Jerusalem will come to an end. At that point his focus will then change in a dramatic way during the final 30 days (the 43rd month of Daniel); He will stop persecuting Israel and the Church to rally the nations to make war against Jesus as He returns to the earth. (Rev. 17:14; 19:11, 19)
1. In my opinion, Jesus will pour out the bowls of wrath on the Antichrist in the 43rd month during the first 2 stages of His return. As we have laid out in session 21 of this study, Jesus returns to the earth in a 3-stage procession that I believe takes place over the final 30-day period prophesied by Daniel.
    - a) His procession across the sky (Zech. 9:14, Mat. 24:23-27, Rev. 1:7)
    - b) His procession across the land (Deut. 33:2; Num. 24:17-19; Isa. 10:16-19, 32-34, 14:22-25, 19:1-2, 30:30-33, 34:5-10; Hab. 3:3-18; Zech. 9:14, 10:1-12; Rev. 19:11-16)
    - c) His procession into Jerusalem (Ps. 16:11, 24:7-10, 118; Is. 25:6-9; Mat. 23:29; Lk 22:15-18; Rev. 19:9)

## II. The Bowls of Wrath

- A. As we looked at last week the wrath of God in scripture is poured out for two reasons. They are chastisements in order to remove everything that hinders love growing in order to produce a greater and deeper level of love. They are punishments that dispensed perfect justice to wicked deeds of men who refuse to ask for forgiveness and mercy. I believe that the language is clear that these bowls of wrath are poured out because of the latter.
1. First bowl (sores): Sores will cause great suffering for those who worship the Antichrist. (Rev. 16:2)

2. Second bowl (sea to blood): The sea will become blood, killing all the sea life. This will be a complete destruction of marine life, not just 1/3 destruction as in the second trumpet. The sea will become like the congealed blood of a dead man, with an unimaginable stench. Some believe this refers to the Mediterranean Sea only.
3. Third bowl (clean water supply to blood): The earth's fresh water will be poisoned with blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The third trumpet (Rev. 8:10) is similar to the third bowl in that it defiles the drinking water. The first plague on Egypt struck the Nile with a similar impact to this (Ex. 7:19-21).
4. Fourth bowl (torment from the sun): The sun will produce scorching heat (Rev. 16:8-9). I see this intensification of the heat of the sun as a supernatural act of God, not merely a natural one. The fourth trumpet affected the sun in the opposite way, making it less intense.
5. Fifth bowl (darkness): Darkness will fall on the Antichrist's global empire (Rev. 16:10-11). This darkness will probably have a supernatural, demonic element to it. The ninth plague of Egypt caused darkness for three days (Ex. 10:21-23).
  - a) They blasphemed God...because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds. (Rev. 16:10-11) G. The Antichrist's worshipers will not repent, but will blaspheme God (Rev. 16:9, 11, 21), showing their deep hatred of Him. As God's judgments increase, the hatred and blasphemy of the wicked will come fully into the open.

*“The wishful thinking of some that men would repent if they only knew the power and righteous judgment of God is shattered by frequent mention in this chapter of the hardness of the human heart in the face of the most stringent and evident divine discipline.” (Walvoord)*

6. Sixth bowl (God allows final demonic deception): Demons will lure the nations to gather to fight Jesus (Rev. 16:12-16). It is very surprising to me that the nations will come to fight Jesus as He marches toward Jerusalem, but they are surely not gathering from around the world to fight Israel's small, poorly armed army. In my opinion, the kings of the nations will see the sign of the Son of Man in the sky (Mt. 24:30), but will wrongly interpret it as a demonic sign of a false messiah coming to disrupt their kingdoms. I imagine that these kings will have urgency to gather to war against Jesus after seeing His sign in the sky, and that the Antichrist will convince them that defeating Jesus is necessary and doable.
  
  7. Seventh bowl (total devastation of the earth): This bowl will involve releasing the most severe earthquake in history, followed by 100-lb. hailstones (Rev. 16:17-21). This last earthquake will cause islands to flee (sink in the ocean) and the mountains to fall (Rev. 16:20). The seventh bowl may be further described in (Isaiah 24). A 100-pound hailstone hits the ground with the equivalent force of two tons. Hail was released in the first trumpet (Rev. 8:7) and the seventh plague on Egypt with Moses (Ex. 9:23-24).
- B. The next chronological event after the seven bowls is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Rev. 19:11-21).

***“11 Behold, a white horse. He [Jesus] who sat on him...judges and makes war...13He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood...19I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him...20Then the beast was captured, and...cast alive into the lake of fire...21The rest were killed with the sword...” (Rev. 19:11-21)***