The Seven Bowls

The seven bowls of God's wrath or judgements or plagues, that are to be poured out during the second half of Tribulation invite our attention here. This is the third "**Woe**" pronounced by the eagle(angel-Rev.8:13,.11:14).

"After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. 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 chest. 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."(Rev.15:5-7) "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" (Rev.16:1)

Each plague breaks out at the pouring out of each of the seven bowls.

1. First Bowl - Sores (Rev.16:1,2)

"The first angel went out 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 worshipped his image"(16:2). This is identical with the sixth plague that came upon Egypt (Ex.9:8-12) This is the **wine of God's fury** mentioned in Ch.14:9-11.

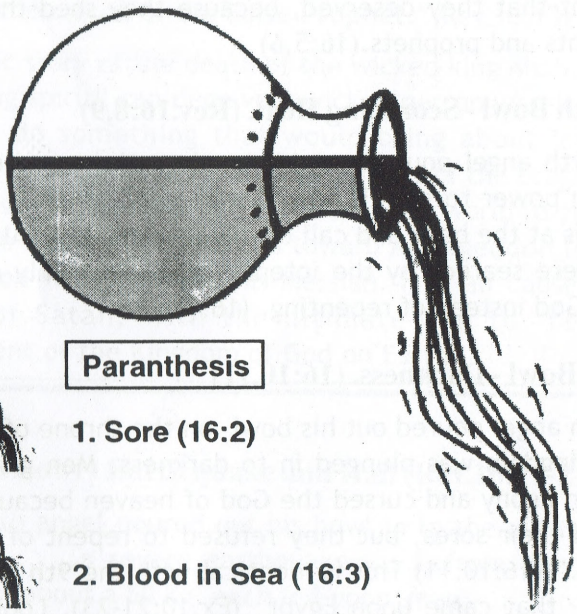
2. Second Bowl - Sea water turned into Blood. (Rev.16:3)

"The second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and turned it to blood like that of a dead man, and every living thing in sea died." (16:3) This is the **implementation of the second trumpet** declaration referred in Ch.8:8.

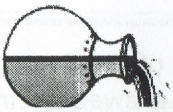
3. Third Bowl- Drinking water turned into Blood. (Rev.16:4-7)

"The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood" (16:4) This is identical with the

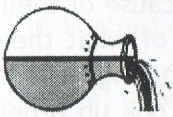
7. Bowls (15:1-16:21)



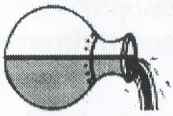
Paranthesis



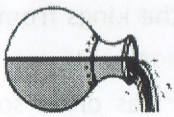
1. Sore (16:2)



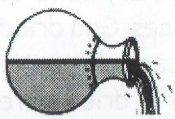
2. Blood in Sea (16:3)



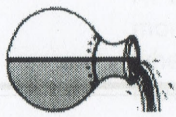
3. Blood in River (16:4-7)



4. Scorching Heat (16:8,9)

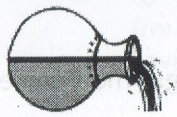


5. Darkness (16:10,11)



6. River Dried (16:12)

Paranthesis (16:13-16)



7. Hailstone (16:17-21)

first plague that came upon Egypt. (Ex.7:20,21). This was a just judgement that they deserved, because they shed the blood of God's saints and prophets.(16:5,6)

4. Fourth Bowl - Scorching Heat. (Rev.16:8,9)

"The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and the sun was given power to scorch people with fire" (16:8) [The entire creation is at the beck and call of the Creator God] Although the people were seared by the intense heat, they only cursed the name of God instead of repenting. (16:9).

5. Fifth Bowl - Darkness. (16:10,11)

"The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the Beast, and his kingdom was plunged in to 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." (16:10,11) This is identical with the **9th plague- felt darkness**- that came upon Egypt (Ex.10:21-23). Look up other references in this connection. (Mk.13:24, Joel.2:1,2)

6. Sixth Bowl - Euphrates dried up. (Rev.16:12)

" 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." (!6:12).

When the angel poured the bowl into the river it was dried so that the army of the Antichrist could pass through dry land to reach the Armageddon Battlefield. In previous instances God dried the red sea for Israel to pass through, while at the same time He used it to drown Pharaoh's army. Similarly the river is dried here so that the army of Antichrist may be gathered at the battle field for their extinction.

[Parenthesise]

The Occurrence Between Sixth and Seventh Bowl (Rev.16:13-16)

The Three Unclean Spirits.

"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.**"(Rev.16:13)

In the tragic story of the death of the wicked king Ahab, we read how "a lying spirit" can deceive a wicked person who is forsaken by God to do something that would bring about his death. (1King.22:20-38) Here these three evil spirits of the Dragon, Beast and the False prophet will wander around the world to entice and mobilise the rulers of the nations toward **Armageddon** for a final confrontation with God and His Messiah. It is all caused by the kingdom of Satan, with the ultimate aim to resist the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

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7. Seventh Bowl - Earth quake and Hail (Rev.16:17-21)

"The seventh angel poured out his bowl in to the air,.....then there came .....a severe earthquake .....from the sky huge hailstones of about a 50 Kg. each fell upon men ...." (16:17-21)

The **Earthquake** and the **Hailstone** mentioned at the **seventh seal, seventh trumpet** and the **seventh bowl** are pointing to the same things:

1) At the opening of the **seventh seal** (Rev.8:1,5) - It was announced about the event..

2) At the **seventh Trumpet** blast (11:15,19) - It was informed about the nearness of the event.

3) At the **seventh bowl** (16:17,21) - Judgement executed.

   a) **Earthquake.**

   "No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake" (Rev.16:18). At this quake the great city split in to three, while the mount of Olives split in two (Zach.14:4,5) This happens when the Lord descends on the mount of Olives and His feet touch the peak. Remember at the time of Jesus' ascension from the **Mount Olive,** two men in white cloth said to the disciples " This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the **same way** you have seen Him going into heaven"(Acts.1:11)

b) **Hailstone.**

The Law laid it down that the blasphemers must be stoned to death (Lev.24:15,16). The hailstones as heavy as fifty Kg. resembles the stone throwing at the blasphemers in the O.T.time.

Exercise

1. *Bring out the depictions of the seven bowls, when are they relevant?*
2. *Give an account of the occurrences of the pouring out of each bowl.*
3. *Point out the three unclean spirits and their missions.*
4. *State the similarities between the pouring out of the seventh bowl*

   with that of the seventh trumpet and seal.

M.V.: Mala. 4:1