

Interlude and 7th Bowl

Rev. 16:13-21

12/2/2020

We are once again seeing a break between the 6th and 7th vial (bowl) to fill in details.

V13. "And I saw": John is again being shown what is going to happen at the end of this dispensation. He is viewing and writing what he is given.

"The unclean spirits like frogs": Here once again we are not left in the dark or wandering after some extended knowledge which is not given. Far too many times people spiritualize what is literal. Books have been written about these next few verses attempting to spiritualize what is being plainly explained to us. If we would, as His people, simply let the Bible say what it says and not try to bend or lengthen what is not there we would spare ourselves a lot of grief. The language here is clear that what we have being presented to us in these "unclean spirits" are not literal frogs but like frogs.

J. A. Seiss: "They are spirits; they are "unclean spirits"; they are "demon spirits", they are sent forth into activity by the Dragon Trinity; they are the elect agents to awaken the world to the attempt to abolish God from the earth; and they are frog-like in that they come forth out of the pestiferous quagmires of the universe, do their work amid the world's evening shadows, and creep, and croak, and fill the ears of the nations with their noisy demonstrations, till they set all the kings and armies of the whole earth in enthusiastic commotion for the final attempt of crushing out of the Lamb and all His powers. As in chapter 9, the Spirits of God and of Christ went forth into all the earth to make up and gather together into one holy fellowship the great congregation of the sanctified: so these spirits of hell go forth upon the kings and potentates of the world, to make up and gather together the grand army of the Devil's worshippers."

Propaganda: Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular cause or point of view.

"Three": There is a trinity shown us of the Godhead in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Mankind is shown with a trinity body, soul, and spirit. Here we are viewing the trinity of evil which is Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet. The "unclean spirits" will come out of each of this trinity and will work in unison in forcing the nations of the world to march against Israel in an attempt to destroy God's purposes on earth. God gave certain promises to Abraham and to those who would come after him. He made certain covenants with the Hebrew people, and those covenants are going to stand, just like John 3:16 stands for believers today.

V14. "For they are the spirits of devils": Remember we are studying Satan's last stand coming to a head. These are the same "seducing spirits" that we are warned about in I Tim. 4:1. They are spreading the propaganda of the doctrine of Satan. They are going to be using impressive "miracles" to bring together the armies of the entire world against God and His covenant plans and the establishment of the Kingdom of the King of Kings in His own land of Palestine.

"Whole world": This is fulfillment of prophecy that begins after the disobedience of mankind in the Garden of Eden. In the Garden of Eden the war started, when Satan beguiled the human race and God declared war upon the serpent and his seed. For six thousand years the battle has raged, during which time the heel of the seed of the woman was bruised, but the time will come when the seed of the woman, The Christ of God, will crush the head of the serpent. The armies of the world, deceived by Satan and his foul spirits, will gather in the Battle of Armageddon, on the greatest natural battleground in the world, in the valley of Jehoshaphat to the north of Palestine among the hills of Megiddo. The word "Armageddon" means the "hill of the slaughter". We have already mentioned thru the study of this book that the blood will run to the horses' bridles and again in Rev. 19 we are told of the unprecedented slaughter of the armies of Satan when Christ comes to defeat them.

V15. "Behold": This is defined as "to see with attention; to observe with care". Anywhere we find this word in the Bible we are being awakened to a subject matter that might otherwise be passed over.

"Come as a thief": The thief is one whose "craft" demands stealth like moves to be effective. His job is not done with fanfare and advanced notice.

This is Jesus speaking here and we must figure out to whom this statement is being made. As always when we search the Scriptures and let them reveal truths we will be able to have a solid understanding. Jesus will not come as a thief to the church. 1 Thess. 5:4: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief". The Church (called-out) is looking for Him. Titus 2:13: "Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

At the end of the Great Tribulation, where we are now studying, He will come as a thief to the world. Mat. 24:37-39: "But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming (2nd) of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

"Blessed": This word is defined as "enjoying spiritual happiness and the favor of God". In the Sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5:3-11) Jesus uses this same word over and over. Please note what Jesus is saying in that passage is not things that people can do or become but what will be the effect on those who are born again having now the Spirit of Grace within them allowing these conditions to be the very foundation of life.

"Keepeth his garments": This is referring to the spiritual garments that are part of all the born again. When we surrender to Him he clothes us in the "inner man" with His righteousness. Thru the blood shed by the Lamb of God we receive (imputed) the right standing with God.

Eldersheim: "This statement is lifted from the practice of the captain of the temple who would make his rounds during the night to see if the guards were awake and alert. If one was found asleep, he would either be beaten or his garments set on fire."

J. Vernon McGee: "Don't lose your shirt. Be sure that you are clothed with the righteousness of Christ."

V16. "Armageddon": This is the only reference of this word in the Bible although many verses reference it. It means "Mount of Meggiddo" which is a mount in the plain of Esdraelon.

The battlefield called Armageddon is near the city of Meggido (southeast of the modern port of Haifa), which guarded a large plain in northern Israel. It is a strategic location near a prominent inter-national highway leading north from Egypt through Israel, along the coast, and on to Babylon. Megiddo overlooked the entire plain southward toward Galilee and westward toward Mount Giboa.

Vincent: "...which has been a chosen place for encampment in every contest carried on in Palestine from the days of Nebuchodonozor king of Assyria, unto the disastrous march of Napoleon Bonaparte from Egypt into Syria. Jews, Gentiles, Saracens, Christian crusaders, and anti-Christian Frenchmen; Egyptians, Persians, Druses, Turks, and Arabs, warriors of every nation that is under heaven have pitched their tents on the plain of Esdraelon, and have beheld the banners of their nation wet with the dews of Tabor and Hermon."

"He gathered them together": This is referring to the work of Satan acting in his trinity, as we have discussed, forcing the nations of the world to march against Israel. This is fulfilling the Word of God.

V17. "Seventh angel...into the air": This is the last series of seven judgments before the Coming of Christ (2nd), and this is seventh and last of the last seven. We are right at the end of the Great Tribulation now.

"Into the air": This is meaning in space with no specific geographical location. Jesus controls space and He is getting ready to come through space.

"Temple of Heaven": This is the one of which the "Tabernacle" that Moses was instructed to build was a pattern from. It has been mentioned repeatedly through this time of the seals being opened. This will be the last reference to this Temple as there will be no temple in the New Jerusalem.

“Voice saying it is done”: It is worthy of note that at the breaking of the 7th Seal, and the sounding of the 7th Trumpet, and the pouring out of the 7th Vial, that the same things occur. That is, voices and thunderings are heard, great lightening is seen, and there is a Great Earthquake. And at the sounding of the 7th Trumpet and the pouring of the 7th Vial there is a Great Hail Storm. This only confirms what has been already stated that the 7th Seal includes the “Trumpets” and “Vials”, and that the 7th Trumpet includes the “Vials”, and that what happens during the 7th Seal, and the 7th Trumpet, and the 7th Vial, all refers to the same period, the “End of the Week”. In other words, the opening of the 7th Seal reveals the events that are about to happen; the blast of the 7th Trumpet announces the events as forthcoming, and the outpouring of the 7th Vial executes them.

When the 7th seal was broken there was silence in Heaven, but when the 7th trumpet sounded and the 7th vial was poured out there were great voices in Heaven. The “great voice” we are dealing with in this verse sounds from Heaven at the pouring out of this 7th vial cries “It is done”. When Christ expired on the Cross, He cried—“It is finished”, that is, the way and plan of Salvation was complete and this voice from the Throne is Christ again announcing the 7th vial finishes the wrath of God. Mankind has a finished redemption but if it is refused there will be judgment.

V18. “Voices, thunders, and lightnings”: This is same thing we are shown in the announcement of the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 4:5). Now again the conclusion of Tribulation we have the same voices and thunders and lightnings.

“Great earthquake”: This is clear language that this is the most massive earthquake ever on this earth. This is foretold in Zech. 14:4-5 Rd.

V19-20 “Great city”: This is Jerusalem which is divided into three parts. The center of this great quake will be here but will extend to the whole world and cause the cities of nations to fall.

“Babylon”: This city was mentioned in chapter 14 and verse 8. The next two chapters are devoted to giving us the details of Babylon’s fall.

"Every island fled away": The Bible student understands that God by His mouth created the universe out of nothing. We understand that this earth underwent a tremendous change during the Flood. (The Genesis Flood by John C. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris.) Now we are once again seeing a dramatic change in the landscape. It will level mountains. It will raise the Dead Sea so that its waters shall flow again into the Red Sea. Ezek. 47:1-12 Ref. The "cities of the nations" is believed by most Bible scholars to be the ten federated nations that have come together in power.

V21 "Every stone about the weight of a talent": A talent is 100 pounds! God has used this method of judgment before. The 7th plague in Egypt was hail. (Exod. 9:13-35) In Joshua 10:11 God used hail to kill more of Israel's enemies while they were in retreat than they had done by sword. The Law required that the blasphemer should be stoned to death. (Lev. 24:16) May we understand what we are seeing is the final judgment of the Great Tribulation where the blasphemers of the end time are being stoned from heaven. This hailstorm ends the Great Tribulation Period.

In Rev. 19:15, we are told that out of the mouth of Christ, at His return, will go a sharp sword, and that with it He should smite the nations, and in II Thess. 2:8, we are told that Antichrist (that Wicked), shall be consumed by the spirit of the Lord's mouth. Whether we take these statements as literal or not, it is clear that they stand for some supernatural means of destruction, and refer more to the followers of Antichrist, than to Antichrist himself, for he personally is not to be destroyed, but is to be cast alive into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 19:20.

As the pouring out of the 7th vial finishes the Wrath of God, it is in harmony with the purposes of the Book of Revelation to foretell at this point what then will happen to the enemies of God. These we will be examining under the heading of the 7 Dooms.