

Revelation: The Wrath of God

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Chapters 16-19

- The Seven Bowls of Wrath
- The Fall of Babylon
- Celebration of the Saints
- The End of the Beast

Revelation: The Wrath of God

How we got here

- Scroll with seven seals
 - Four horsemen of the Apocalypse
 - How long?
- Seven trumpets
 - A third of the earth, sea, rivers, sky
 - Locusts / scorpions
 - 200 million mounted troops
 - A third of mankind killed

Revelation: The Wrath of God

How we got here: What it means

- Seven seals, seven trumpets
 - Wait - more martyrs at the hand of Rome
 - God would discipline Roman Empire
 - They would not repent
- Vengeance of God was coming
 - Justice would be done - sweet as honey
 - Wrath and devastation – sour
- Reward promised to the faithful!

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Warning to be faithful (Rom 14:9-11)

- Do not worship the beast!
 - But we know some did (Pliny's letter).
- Those who did:
 - Receive God's fury, full strength!
 - Tormented with burning sulfur
 - For ever and ever, with no rest!
- God demanded a lot!

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Warning to be faithful

- God is not just about love and mercy
 - Beware his wrath!
- God is not playing around!
 - Are you faithful under trial?

Revelation: The Wrath of God

As we observe seven bowls of wrath

- Consider which side you want to be on!

Luk 12:5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

Revelation: Seven Bowls of Wrath

*Rev 16:1 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."*

Revelation: Seven Bowls of Wrath

First four bowls (chapter 16)

- Earth, sea, rivers, sky
- 100%, minus those who did not worship beast

Compare to first four trumpets (chapter 8):

- Earth, sea, rivers, sky
- Only 1/3 of each

This time, not a warning shot across the bow

- Rome would be destroyed!

Revelation: Seven Bowls of Wrath

Fifth bowl (Rev 16:10-11)

- Darkness, pain and agony from sores

Compare to fifth trumpet (chapter 9)

- Pain and agony from locusts / scorpions

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Sixth bowl (Rev 16:12)

- Dried up the Euphrates river
- Eastern border of Roman Empire
- Rome would be stripped of her defenses
 - Vulnerable to invasion
 - No hope of rescue

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Sixth bowl: parallel in OT history

- 593 BC, Cyrus invading Babylon
 - Heavily fortified city
- Euphrates river ran through center of city
- Cyrus had the river diverted
 - River bed provided highway into the city
 - Led to fall of Babylon
- Symbolic of fall of Rome

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Rev 16:13-14 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan], out of the mouth of the beast [Roman Empire] and out of the mouth of the false prophet [emperor worship]. They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty.

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Demons gather armies for battle

- On the great day of God Almighty
- Armageddon!
 - Site of epic, decisive battles
 - Symbolic
 - Day of judgment on Rome
- Demons' efforts were utterly futile!

Revelation: Seven Bowls of Wrath

The final desperate attacks from the dragon

- Satan knew he would be defeated
- Tried to do maximum damage while he could

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Seventh bowl of wrath

- Greatest earthquake in history!
- Islands, mountains destroyed
- 100 pound hailstones!
- Symbolic, like everything else...
 - Overwhelming force
 - Did demons' armies even strike a blow?



Revelation: Punishment of Rome

Identifying the prostitute (Rev 17)

- City set on seven hills
- Drunk on blood of saints
- Rode on the beast (Roman Empire)
- City that rules over kings of the earth

This could only be Rome!

Rome: The Woman Sitting on Seven Hills



Revelation: Punishment of Rome

The devastation of Rome (Rev 18:1-24)

- *Rev 18:18-19* When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: **"Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!"**

Revelation: Punishment of Rome

Fear the wrath of God!

- Which side do you want to be on?
- Merciful, loving God brought devastation on Rome
- Because they refused to repent

Rom 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Revelation: Celebration!

Celebrating the devastation of Rome

- *Rev 18:20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you."*

The martyrs have their answer:

- *Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"*

Revelation: Celebration!

Celebrating the devastation of Rome

- *Rev 18:20 **Rejoice over her**, O heaven!
Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets!
God has judged her for the way she treated you."*

The answer to the martyr's question from chapter 6:

- *Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you **judge** the inhabitants of the earth and **avenge** our blood?"*

Revelation: Celebration!

Celebrating the devastation of Rome

- *Rev 19:1-2 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, **for true and just are his judgments**. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has **avenged** on her the blood of his servants.*

Revelation: Celebration!

Celebrating the devastation of Rome

- *Rev 19:3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah!
The smoke from her goes up for ever and
ever."*

Revelation: Celebration

Celebrating the devastation of Rome

- It's ok to celebrate God's true and just judgment!

Revelation: Celebration

*Rev 19:6-9 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For **the wedding of the Lamb has come**, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, **was given her to wear.**" (Fine linen stands for the **righteous acts of the saints.**) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are **invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

Revelation: The White Horse and the Armies of God

*Rev 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was **a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True.** With justice he judges and makes war.*



Revelation: Defeat of the Beast

- *Rev 19:19 Then I saw **the beast and the kings of the earth** and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army.*

Revelation: Defeat of the Beast

- *Rev 19:20 **But the beast was captured,** and with him **the false prophet** who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were **thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.***

Revelation: Defeat of the Beast

- *Rev 19:21 The rest of them were **killed** **with the sword** that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.*

Revelation: Next Week

The binding of Satan!

Thousand year reign!

Satan set free for a short time!

Final defeat of Satan!

Judgment day!