

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 16

### Introductory Notes

- The Seven Vial judgments are poured out on the earth as the Tribulation draws to a close.
- These judgments are on a scope and scale beyond anything we have seen before.
- It is also important to bear in mind that God is working through these cataclysmic judgments to also prepare the earth itself for the Millennial Kingdom, which will in no wise be desolate.

### Outline

- The First Vial (Sore) - vs. 1-2
- The Second Vial (Sea to Blood) - vs. 3
- The Third Vial (Freshwater to Blood) - vs. 4-7
- The Fourth Vial (Burning Sun) - vs. 8-9
- The Fifth Vial (Darkness) - vs. 10-11
- The Sixth Vial (Drying of Euphrates) - vs. 12-16
- The Seventh Vial (Earthquake, Hail, etc.) - vs. 17-21

### Notes

- vs. 1 – great voice – this is God speaking.
  - note – the word *great* appears 11x in this chapter.
- vs. 2 – **First Vial** - noisome and grievous sore - literally an “evil ulcer”. Harkens back to the 6th Plague in Egypt in Exodus 9:8-12
  - “Rottenness of body corresponding to rottenness of soul.” - Godsoe
  - Note the target: those that had the mark of the beast.
- vs. 3 – **Second Vial** – sea became as blood - hearkens back to the 1st Egyptian Plague in Exodus 7:14-24.
  - In the 2nd Trumpet (8:11) 1/3 of the waters are poisoned. Now it is universal.
  - vs. 3 - blood of a dead man – blood normally gives life (Leviticus 17:11), but the allusion here is to worthless, coagulated blood.
    - Note also that it is “as” or “like” blood, so may not be literal blood.
- vs. 4 – **Third Vial** – rivers and fountains of waters - now the fresh water is affected as the sea water before.
- vs. 5-7 - these verses reinforce that God is just and right in executing judgment.
  - vs. 5 - angel of the waters - Either an angel assigned to water or the angel who affected the waters. The latter is the simplest answer.

- vs. 7 – voice out of the altar – another angel out of heaven – both heaven and earth agree to the righteousness of God’s judgment.
- vs. 8 - **Fourth Vial** - the sun - which formerly had been darkened (8:12).
  - A side affect of receiving the mark of the beast? Intensification of UV rays?
  - vs. 9 - they repented not - nothing will cause them to turn from sin to God.
- vs. 10 – **Fifth Vial** – darkness – hearkens back to the 9th Egyptian Plague in Exodus 10:22. This is an unnatural darkness, as it seems to also cause tremendous pain.
  - This event is prophesied in Joel 2:31 and Mark 13:24-25
  - Note the target is that is the kingdom of the beast (antichrist).
  - vs. 11 – No repentance...
- vs. 12 – **Sixth Vial** – gathering pieces for Armageddon
  - vs. 12 – Euphrates dries - one of the major rivers in Middle East, flows through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Something about the drying up of this river allows forces from the East (Iran? China?) to move in preparation for Armageddon.
  - vs. 13-14 - unclean spirits – demons or demon-possessed individuals (diplomats?) that aid in assembling all the world’s forces to Armageddon.
  - vs. 15 - Christ cannot keep silent. The idea is that His coming is unexpected (“as a thief”) and has consequences (“keepeth his garments”, etc.).
    - Christ’s coming compared to a “thief in the night” – Matthew 24:43; Luke 12:39; I Thessalonians 5:2,4; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3.
  - vs. 16 - Armageddon - “Mount of Megiddo”, located in the Jezreel Valley in Northern Israel. Since ancient times an important and strategic location on trade routes.
- vs. 17 – **Seventh Vial** – global catastrophe, fall of the wicked.
  - vs. 17 – into the air - I think this represents its effect is worldwide.
  - vs. 17 – It is done - God Himself speaks to signal the completion of judgment.
  - vs. 18 - the entire Earth is shaken, the land below and the sky above.
  - vs. 19 - great city - I think this is Jerusalem, see 11:8.
  - vs. 19 - Babylon – we will address this in the coming weeks.
  - vs. 20 - it appears the entire Earth is reshaped. I believe that God is recreating the earth through the judgments of the Tribulation in preparation for the Eden-like Kingdom to come.
  - vs. 21 - talent - slightly over 100 pounds.
    - The heaviest hailstone recorded weighed 2.2 pounds and fell in Bangladesh on April 14, 1986.
    - There is a phenomena called *megacryometeors* which can produce chunks of ice this large.
  - vs. 21 - men blasphemed – no repentance, only anger towards God.
- The next event, chronologically, is Christ’s Second Coming in 19:11. The next couple of chapters step back from the narrative to discuss the fates of the empires of the two beasts.