

Journey Through the Bible: Revelation

Session 29: The Seventh Bowl and the Woman Riding the Beast (Ch. 16&17)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Previous Bowls of Wrath:

1. Disfigurement by Sores
(Taking the Beast’s Image)
2. The Sea Turns to Blood
(The Love of Money)
3. Fresh Water Turns to Blood
(Persecution of the Saints)
4. Darkness Against the Kingdom of the Beast
(Foolishness of the Fallen)
5. The Sun Burns the Unrepentant
(Prelude to Condemnation)

Errata from Session 28:

3 Frogs vs. 3+3+3

Prophetic Image:

- Ceremonially Unclean
- Noisy (Constant Call)
- Attributed to Paganistic Practices (Cf. Ex. 7:25–8:11)
- A Living Snare (Trap Leading to Death)

Pattern of Heptadic Judgments/Plagues:

- 4 Related Plagues (Ex. 4 Horsemen)
- 2 Related Worse Plagues (Cry of the Angel 8:13)
- Pause (Parenthetical Passage)
- Final Judgement that Opens to Others

4 + 2 (Pause) + 1

Review The 6th Bowl (16:12-16):

- The Euphrates was Dried Up
 - o The “Kings of the East”
 - o Northeastern Border of the Promised Land
- Demonic Spirits Sent to Influence Rulers
 - o Abandoning the Beasts?
 - o Sent as Messengers?
 - o Assemble Armies for Battle Against God
- Ref. Joel 3:9-17

Har Megiddo (Hill of Megiddo):

מִגִּדּוֹ Megiddo: “Place of Crowds” (OBU)
“Rendezvous” (Strong’s)

- Debora and Barak Defeat Jabin (Judges 4)
- Gideon’s 300 Defeated the Midianites (Judges 7)
- Samson Defeated the Philistines (Judges 15-16)
- King Saul Defeated by the Philistines (1 Sam. 31)
- Josiah Defeated by Egypt (2 Kings 23)

“A perfect place for a war...” Napoleon Bonaparte
Cf. Defeat of the Nations Ch. 19

The Seventh Bowl (v. 17-21):

- Judgement Delivered Through the Air
- God Declares the Final Plague Delivered
 - o Next Judgements will be Directly Delivered
- Repeating Sign of a Completed Judgement
 - o Voices, Thunders, Lightnings, a Great Earthquake
 - o Cities of the Nations (Gentiles/Unbelievers)
 - o Islands and Mountains Reduced (Cf. 6:14)

Γίνομαι Ginomai: to become, i.e. to come into existence,
to become, i.e. to come to pass,
to arise, appear in history,
to be made, finished (OBU)

- “Completed”
 - o Human History is Complete
 - o The Work of Wrath is Complete (Specifically).
 - o The Plagues Upon the Earth is Complete
- The Great City Split Into 3 Pieces
 - o Babylon (17:5) City of the Fallen
 - o Jerusalem (11:8) City of God, Corrupted
 - Remains Unnamed Until Rebuilt by God
 - Ref. New Jerusalem (3:12; 21:2, 10)
 - Split of the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4)
- Judgement Through the Air
 - o “Prince of the Power of the air...” (Eph. 2:2)
 - o All Nature Turning Against the Beast
 - o Delivers Judgement Against the Blasphemers
 - o Legal Punishment: Stoning

The Seventh Bowl (cont.):

- Hail of a Talent’s Weight
 - Variation: Basic Unit of Weight Approx. 75lbs. (HCSB Study Bible)
 - Silver Approx. 100lbs. (OBU)
 - Gold Approx. 200lbs. (Ibid.)

“The stones that were cast were of the weight of a talent (c. 71lbs.) and were carried two furlongs (1,320 feet) and farther. The blow they gave was no way to be sustained, not only by those that stood first in the way, but by those that were beyond them for a great space.”

-Josephus, *The Jewish Wars* V.6.3

- 7th Plague of Egypt (Ex. 9:22-26)
- Joshua Battles Against the Amorites (Josh. 10:11)
- Only Legal Method of Capital Punishment
- Symbolic of God’s Condemnation
- Still No Repentance

Babylon (17:1-5):

- A City of Organized Rebellion Against God (Gen. 11)
- A Global Empire with a Central Ruler (Gen. 10:8-12)
- A Military Force Against the People of God (II Kgs. 24-25)
- The Birthplace and Spread of Paganism (Rev. 17:4-6)
- The Lord will Destroy and Silence (Jer. 51:11&55)
- The Assyrians will be Conquered by Christ (Micah 5)

Birthplace of Spiritual Adultery:

- Spiritual Unchastity
 - Marriage: Dedication/Obedience to God
 - Covenantal Commitment (Sustained by Grace)
 - To Worship (Rebel) Another is “Adultery” (Fornication)
 - Mother of Harlots: Birthplace of Paganism/Idolatry

The Red Dragon (12:3-4):

Πυρρός “Pyrros”: Having the color of fire, red. (OBU)

Δράκων “Drakon”: Dragon, a great serpent (Thayer’s)

- 7 Heads and Crowns (Stephanos): Completion/Rule
- 10 Horns (Symbolic: Power & Strength):
 - o 6 (Fallen) +4 (Nature) (Dan. 7:7-8; 8:9-10)

Expanded In This Image (v. 7-14):

- Heads = Mountains and Kings
- Horns = Coming Powers (Kings) with a Brief Reign
- Demonic Purpose (Unknowingly)
- Divine Purpose to be Fulfilled (Unwittingly)
- Enticed (By Babylon) to Serving the Beast
- Will Engage in a Futile War Against God

Was, Is Not, Will Come Again:

- Is Present from Gen. – Armageddon (19:20-21)
- Imprisoned During the Millennial Kingdom (20:1-6)
- Released Prior to Final Judgement (20:7-10)

Or: “Resurrection” of the Antichrist (13:3; Zech. 11:17)

Cities on 7 Mountains (Hills):

Rome (Originally 7, 12 by John’s Time)

Athens	Barcelona/Madrid	Brussels
Bucharest	Edinburgh	Istanbul
Kyiv	Lisbon	Moscow
Prague		
Albany, NY	Richmond, VA	Providence, RI
St. Paul, MN	Seattle, WA	Tallahassee, FL
Washington, DC		
Jerusalem	Mecca, Saudi Arabia	Mumbai
Tehran, Iran	Ibadan, Nigeria	Kampala, Ugan.
Yaoundé, Cameroon		

Prophetic Image of “Mountains”:

- Power Structures (Governments)
 - o Ties to the Horns (Kings)
 - (Cf. Dan. 2:25, 44)
- Historic Description Points to Prophetic Interp.

By John's Day:

Five are Fallen:

Egypt
Assyria
Babylon
Persia
Macedonian

One is:

Rome

One Yet to Come:

New Babylon

The 10 Horns (v. 12-18):

- Future Rulers with No Present Kingdom
 - o Present Speculations are Futile (Dan. 7:7)
 - o Satan Empowers and Completely Controls 1
- Waters (v. 1) = The Nations of Earth (Citizens)
- Obligated to Follow Babylon but Detest Her
 - o Prostitution Answered with Feigned Love
- Rulers and the Beast Destroy Her
 - o Remove Her Emblems of Power
 - o Rob Her of Her Accumulated Wealth
 - o Unbelievers Serve as God's Instrument of Judgement ("burn with fire")
Cf. Jezebel and the Dogs (II Kgs. 9:10)

A Tale of Two Women:

Comparison

Israel

Babylon

Location:	The Heavens	Many Waters
The Mother:	Christ (Body of)	Harlots
Clothed:	Sun, Moon, Stars	Purple, Scarlett, Gold
Values:	Eternal Things	Temporal Things
Identity:	Motherhood	Corruption/Influence
Enemy:	Satan (World)	God (10 Rulers)
The World:	Hates	Is Used by (Uses)
Final Destiny:	United with God	Utterly Destroyed

For Session 30:

- Read Rev. 18; Isaiah 14; Jeremiah 50 & 51
- What Happens when Any Group Gets Unchecked Power?
- What Does God Put in Place to Constrain Us?
- Journal and Discuss