

**Revelation 16: 3; “The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bowl of Wrath Introduced”, Sermon #117 in the series –  
“The Faithful and True Witness”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall  
on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

It is my conviction that we are living in the latter times of the Antichristian powers. These times will eventually come to an end, and Satan’s greatest schemes against the Church of Jesus Christ, coming to spiritually reign upon the earth, shall be destroyed. The word pictures which we find in these verses, the pouring out of these bowls of wrath on the Antichristian kingdoms of the beast, ought to be compared by us with what Moses and Aaron did before Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. For that is what the language of these verses is taken from; Israel’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt by the means of God’s sending plagues upon Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. This afternoon I would like to demonstrate the correlation between these two great events. When it says in verse 3 that “the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died”, what does it mean? I think that if we will go back and look at the account in Exodus Chapter 7 about the first plague poured out on Egypt, we will be able to draw a comparison with the 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual bowl of wrath poured out on the Antichristian system. In doing this, we will be able to get a better idea of what these words mean, and what they refer to. So I want us to ask 3 questions in relation to the words of verse 3. 1<sup>st</sup> – What is “the sea” which this second bowl of wrath is poured out upon? 2<sup>nd</sup> – Who is the Angel who pours out this 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath? And 3<sup>rd</sup> – What was the effect of the pouring out this bowl of wrath and what does it mean?

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – What is “the sea” which this second bowl of wrath is poured out upon?**

“Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.” I have tried to show you in past sermons on the first verse of this chapter, that it is my conviction that the bowls of wrath which are being poured out here in verses 1-11 are the judgments of God which He sends upon the Antichristian system of Roman Catholicism, and her daughters in Liberal Protestantism, from the earliest point of the Reformation until the time of the raising of the two witnesses 3 and a half years after the 1260 days/or years prophecy comes to an end. We have looked, in past sermons, at John Wycliffe and John Hus as being the “angels” who poured out the 1<sup>st</sup> bowl of wrath upon this false system of Antichrist. The beast coming out of the earth in Revelation 13: 11 is Papal Rome. And it is composed of a false prophet, representing the Pope and his bishops, and a false church, the harlot, who is described in more detail in Chapter 18. This great system of false Christianity is supported politically by the Beast rising up out of the Sea, described in Revelation 13: 1-9. Papal Rome has largely been promoted, protected, and defended by the political rulers of the 10 kingdoms of the Beast over the time of the 1260 years prophecy.

I have said to you before, that in the past, these beasts were responsible for the persecution of millions of Christians, and they are still deceiving many unsuspecting people world-wide today with false doctrine. The Beast coming out of the sea in its persecuting days was directly related to the 10 kingdoms which emerged out of the fallen Roman Empire. These 10 kingdoms eventually became countries, each having their own sovereignty and their own authority, but at many points in the time period that we are studying, they yielded their power to the ecclesiastical-political power of the Pope. This unholy union of church and state then persecuted those true Christians who held to Christ as the only true head of the Church. Let us understand that a true Christian’s submission is to the Word of God, the Bible. A Christian desiring to honor God will place it over all the authority of church and state where those authorities deviate from the Word of God. It is my conviction that this Antichristian system of Papal Rome will not be primarily destroyed by political wars waged against the kingdoms which make up the beast. It will be destroyed primarily by the “breath of Christ’s mouth”.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2: 7 and 8 say – “For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.” “And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and destroy with the brightness of His

coming.” “The breath of Christ’s mouth” is a word picture for the preaching of His word by faithful ministers. Satan’s two greatest strategies against Christ’s Church in the West, during the whole of these New Testament times thus far, have been, 1<sup>st</sup> of all, to get those in authority, Emperors and others in the Pagan Roman Empire, to persecute true Christians and churches; and then 2<sup>nd</sup>, during the time of the Papal Dominion, to raise up false Christians and a false Church through the propagation of an unbiblical authority and false doctrine, and where they could then persecute those true Christians who would not comply. The Papal power working with this beast would then have a base of operations to persecute and oppose true Christians and true churches where it could.

This mystery of lawlessness was already at work in the days of the apostles. The lawlessness being referred to, in the times of the early Church all the way until the days of Constantine in 323 A.D., was Satan’s standing behind the efforts of many Roman Emperors in persecuting true Christians, demanding that they worship them, or other false gods. This was a violation of God’s law, but it was Satan’s “heaven”, mentioned in Revelation 12, verse 3. That is, direct persecution of Christians by the Emperors of Rome exercising direct political rule over them to make them conform to what was false was a breaking of God’s holy law. Pagan Rome was the first great beast of New Testament times; the great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns. Satan was kicked out of this “heaven”, as it is described in Revelation 12, verse 9, when the persecution of true Christians ceased under Constantine, and when the Roman Empire fell in 410 A.D. when Alaric and his hordes overtook the city, plundered it, and destroyed it. Pagan Rome had received its head wound.

But in Revelation 13: 3 we read this: I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed.” “And all the world marveled and followed the beast.” The head of the 6<sup>th</sup> form of Roman government, the Emperors, was healed when the 10 kingdoms were formed in Europe out of the ruins of the Roman Empire, and the Pope began to exercise authority and power over them. He exercised this authority like an Emperor and even greater than an Emperor. He exercised both political and ecclesiastical power over many people in these 10 kingdoms of the beast. His power was greater than that of kings among these countries; many of which were outwardly professing to be Christian. The kings and their people, many of them, were willing to give their allegiance to the Roman Catholic doctrine and practice, and to further the Pope’s goals and aims. This is what formed the basis of the Antichristian Papal system from about 756 A.D. on forward until the time of the Reformation.

What then was “the sea” that this second bowl of wrath was poured out on? We are given an interpretive clue in Revelation 17: 15 – “And he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.” So, using this divinely inspired interpretation, we should understand that “the sea” which the second angel’s bowl was poured out on, was those 10 kingdoms which made up the Holy Roman Empire of Europe, and has included France and Britain as well. Today, we could say that it is basically all the major countries which make up Europe. In the days that we are studying, it was all of those people in those countries who at that time were favorable to this Papal system; a system which was using beast-like power to persecute true Christians, both inside and outside of its pale. Satan’s strategy has been to deceive many people in those countries with false doctrine, set up a Pope in the midst of the visible church, and have them worship and serve God in an idolatrous way.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – Who is the Angel who pours out this 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath?**

In the days of the pouring out of this 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath, which time period I am taking to be from about 1420 – 1520 A.D., these kinds of spiritual issues of truth and falsehood in relation to doctrine, and how they should be worked out in practice, were a very great concern to men who preached the gospel. For things had been dark, spiritually speaking, for hundreds of years. The truth of what the Bible really said about worship, doctrine, and practice was far different from what the majority of the people of the 10 kingdoms had been taught. And so, for the deceptions of Roman Catholicism to be confronted and be exposed, and for the true gospel to shine forth in the preaching of many men, was not an easy task. It would take God raising up a set of men (pastor/angels; Revelation 2: 1) who

would be bold and intrepid preachers. (That is, that they would be characterized by resolute fearlessness, fortitude, and endurance in what they were called to do.) Among those who were the bold pastor/preachers of that day, the most well-known were Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli. I will be sharing with you some good information in coming sermons about their lives and ministries. But there were other men as well who came before them; William Sautree, John Badby, and Girolamo Savonarola, whose stories I do not have time to tell you now. These were men who were boldly preaching the truth of the true gospel, and they spoke against the authority of the Pope. They raised up their voices against false doctrines such as transubstantiation; the falsehood that the priest could supposedly change the wafer of bread into the actual body and blood of Christ. They preached the truth that the Pope should not be seen as the vicar of Christ; His earthly representative, and head of the Church on earth. For this, they lost their lives.

But we should think of these men who preached during these times, at the advent of the Reformation, as being much like Moses and Aaron; confronting Pharaoh, in order that he would let the people go, so that they could worship God as He had commanded them. Many of the men who held the office of the Papacy over the many years of its rise and establishment over Christendom, are quite comparable to Pharaoh, king of Egypt for their pride and lust for power. And they thought that that they should be able to control what people everywhere believed. They wanted those people to implicitly obey them; not only in spiritual matters, but also in regard to political matters. You will recall that the children of Israel were forced into bondage when Pharaoh demanded that they become his servants after the days of Joseph. The Lord God, when he gave them this commission to Moses and Aaron, had told them that Pharaoh would not let the people go; but that He (the Lord God) would, through their instrumentality, pour out His plagues upon Egypt so that the Pharaoh would eventually be forced to let the people go. This is really quite similar to what has characterized the two mystical witnesses of true Church teaching and true Church discipline, during the time of the 1260 years prophecy; those who are mentioned in Revelation chapter 11. The Lord Christ would send out “the rod of His strength”, (Psalm 110, verse 2) the preaching of the true gospel and the preaching of the word of God, out of Zion. He would do so through certain select men; those who were originally within the visible church of Roman Catholicism, who would be converted out it, and they would confront the authorities of that false church with their errors and heresies and false worship, and call them to repent. This leads me to ask –

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – What was the effect of the pouring out this bowl of wrath and what does it mean?**

“Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.” This second angel’s bowl of wrath became blood as it was poured out. This bowl of wrath was poured out, I have said to you, by a number of preachers who had come to know the Lord in the Roman Catholic Church, led to the Reformation of the Church, and it was the beginning of the destruction of the Antichristian beast’s power to deceive or to enforce their deception. There is a type of this found in the first plague which was poured out on Egypt; upon the river Nile. It is found in Exodus chapter 7, verses 15-25 if you will turn over there with me. “Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall your stand by the river’s bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. And you shall say to him, ‘The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, “Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness’; but indeed, until now you would not hear!”

“Thus says the LORD: ‘By this you shall know that I am the LORD.’ “Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood.” “And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.” “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, ‘Say to Aaron, “Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood.” “And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.”

“And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded.” “So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants.” “And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.” “The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river.” “So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.” “Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh’s heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.” “And Pharaoh turned and went into his house.” “Neither was his heart moved by this.” “So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river. And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.”

Let’s see now whether we can make the comparison to the spiritual truth of the pouring out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath. When the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it says that “the sea became blood as of a dead man”, it is speaking of the fact that as the truth of the word of God was preached by this set of men, like Savonarola, Zwingli, and Luther, those who heard them with the hearing of true and saving faith, experientially they realized in their minds and hearts that they could not live in this sea, drinking in the false doctrine of Rome; that sea of deception and false doctrine. The word of God was coming with power; speaking about the blood of the dead man; the One who had died for sinners and who was raised for their justification. This perfect righteousness in Christ was to be received by faith in Him, not by taking the sacraments. The preaching of the blood of Christ had shown them where they were deceived, and so when the word of God was preached to the people, in the sea of the kingdoms of the beast, it slew them, spiritually speaking. These “fish” who had been living in the rivers and the sea of the Egyptian bondage, and had worshiped God according to the doctrines of Roman Catholicism; they “died”. That is, when they realized that they were not believing the truths which are absolutely necessary for salvation, they died to the old system of salvation by works. They were fished out of it by the true gospel being preached to them. And those who did not believe had the declaration of eternal judgment coming to them, because they did not repent.

Every living creature, every teaching priest who knew anything about the word of God, something within them died. They realized that they had been deceived by their own Pope and priests to think that they could be saved by their good works, their ceremonial works, their penances, and by their purchasing indulgences. Every living creature, every one claiming to be speaking for God; a priest or a preacher who was declaring what the gospel was, if they were in error, and many were in error, they died in relation to their thinking that they could be justified by works; ceremonial or moral. The apostle Paul says in Galatians 1: 8 – “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” This was what God was doing through the preachers of the word to awaken many to the truth, and to save some during that time period. It is true that many of the priests of Roman Catholicism continued to do the same as the Reformers did, like the magicians in Egypt. They too preached about the blood of Christ. They still performed the counterfeit miracle of the mass, and told the people that they would be saved by taking the sacrament. And so the Pope continued to harden his heart to the idea that what the Reformers were saying, was true, and that His kingdom would be destroyed by plagues if he did not repent.

Let us understand that it is because of the deception of false doctrine by Papal Rome that many professed Christians are in spiritual bondage, even in our generation. There are many professed Christians who are Roman Catholics or Liberal Protestants. And what is it that they really believe? Do they really believe in the doctrines set forth in the Bible; the doctrines of the depravity of mankind, and their absolute need of coming to God, through faith in the crucified Christ, in order to be saved? Or do they believe in a sacramental salvation, where they think that only the ceremonial works, performed over them by a priest or a minister, are necessary for them to be saved? Do they believe that the Pope is the vicar of Christ, the visible head of the Church here on earth? Or do they believe that the living, risen Christ is the Head of the Church, and does not need to have any man to be His vicar here upon the earth; that the presence of the Holy Spirit with His Church is His sent representative? This is the overview of the pouring out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath. I will speak more to

you about Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli, and their role in pouring out the 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl of wrath, in coming sermons.