

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE VIAL JUDGMENTS
REVELATION 16:1-21**

INTRODUCTION

These judgments are the most horrific that this world has ever known or ever will know. They are similar, yet different than the Trumpet Judgments.

The Vial Judgments will not be partial, but complete and they will directly inflict pain upon those living on the earth during the Great Tribulation.

Judgment can no longer be delayed. It will be poured out on the earth and be more intense than any or all of the judgments that have come before them to this point.

We are not talking about localized disasters which we often see. These judgments will be much worse! They will be worldwide!

I. DESTRUCTIVE SORES. (16:1-2)

This judgment falls specifically upon those who worship the Antichrist.

The word *“noisome”* means *“injurious.”*

The word *“grievous”* means *“hurtful or painful causing grief or sorrow.”*

The word *“sore”* means *“an ulcerated, inflamed, oozing, sore, or boil.”*

This is similar to what happened in Egypt during **plague number 6** in *Exodus 9:8-11*. (Ashes of the furnace sprinkled toward heaven.)

This is also the word used to describe **the sores that covered Lazarus in Luke 16**. (Rich man and Lazarus)

Those in the medical field suggest that these sores will possibly have a very offensive odor.

Some commentators have suggested that it is possible that whatever the mark of the beast is made of may cause these sores. But, we’re not told that specifically in the Scripture.

DESTRUCTIVE SORES...

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II. DEATH IN THE SEA. (16:3)

The Bible says that the sea became *“as blood.”* This is similar to the **first plague in Egypt recorded in Exodus 7:19-21**.

This will wipe out the fishing industry and greatly diminish the food supply for the world.

It is possible that this judgment is comparable to the effects of Red Tide algae. Red Tide algae kills fish and poisons those who eat contaminated shellfish.

When the Red Tide algae hit the coast of Florida in 1949, the water first turned yellow and then by midsummer it was thick and sticky with countless billions of tiny one-celled organisms. Marine life in the area affected by this algae was wiped out.

III. THE DREGS OF BLOOD. (16:4-7)

Here the Bible says **the waters became blood** in this judgment. The reason for this is also given here.

The wicked have shed the blood of the saints and prophets and now they will reap what they have sown and desired.

God more or less says, *“You wanted blood and now you have it!”*

As the waters are corrupted, all animal life will suffer because water is absolutely necessary to sustain life.

The Bible says that the blood of saints and prophets has been shed, but who is a saint? Is a saint someone who is perfect? Is it someone who is recognized by the Catholic Church?

No, a saint is a person who has trusted Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour.

DESTRUCTIVE SORES...DEATH IN THE SEA...DREGS OF BLOOD...

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IV. DAMAGING HEAT. (16:8-9) (Solar flares ?)
The sun will scorch men with fire and great heat. With the destruction of the ozone layer caused by previous judgments, the damage will be intense.

Already the thinning ozone layer is being blamed for severe sunburns in many places in the world. Sun glasses and sunblock are in big demand because of this. Imagine the problem being magnified many times.

The fact that the water is corrupted will make this judgment unbearable. Yet, the heat will not soften men's hearts, but instead will harden them more.

V. DARKNESS. (16:10-11)
The kingdom of the Beast will be full of darkness. This darkness will **not** be ordinary darkness. It seems to produce pain or at least intensify the pain that people already are burdened with.

The tongues which blaspheme God will be punished, yet, they refuse to repent.

VI. DECEPTION OF THE KINGS. (16:12-16) (Arab Nations ?)
We see here that the great river Euphrates is dried up to prepare for the kings of the east to invade Israel.

Three unclean spirits in the unholy trinity deceive the Kings of the earth and the people of the earth into gathering to fight the battle of Armageddon.

Armageddon comes from the word "Har" which means "mountain" and "Megiddo" which means "slaughter."

It is formed from a Hebrew root word which means "to cut off or to slay." So, Armageddon means "mountain of slaughter."

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REVELATION 16:1-21**

It is located 10 miles south of Nazareth and 15 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. It is also known as *Megiddo, the Valley of Jezreel or Esdraelon.*

At one time it was a city with massive fortifications and an important center for the Canaanites until Israel took it over about 1100 B.C.

It has been called the perfect battlefield.

Over the past 5000 years, over 200 million people have died in wars with **over half** of those people dying in the 20th and 21st centuries.

But the battle of Armageddon will make all other battles and wars look tame by comparison.

The Gentile nations will look on Armageddon as a battle, but to God, it will only be a supper for the fowls of the air.

(Revelation 19:17-21)

VII. DESTRUCTIVE EARTHQUAKE AND HAILSTONES.(16:17-21)
With the pouring of the seventh vial, the judgments are complete. A voice from heaven cries, "*It is done!*"

The earthquake will be extremely powerful. It will renovate and reconfigure the entire planet, preparing the planet for the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. *Verse 20* indicates that every island and mountain will be leveled.

Places like Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas will be gone.

Isaiah 24:19-20—“The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

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THE VIAL JUDGMENTS
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Haggai 2:6–“For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; 7And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”

The identity of the great city is debated. Some believe it refers to Babylon and others believe it refers to the city of Jerusalem because of the reference in Revelation 11:8.

However we do know that great Babylon will fall as prophesied in Isaiah.

Isaiah 13:19-20–“And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees’ excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. 20It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.”

Hailstones will fall from heaven weighing anywhere from 100-125 pounds. A talent of silver weighs 125 pounds.

Men will not repent, but will continue to blaspheme the Lord.

Hailstones are appropriate for these blasphemers because blasphemy was a stoning offense under God’s law.

(Leviticus 24:16)

Conclusion

And thus concludes the vial or bowl judgments!

2 Timothy 3:13–“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of...”