

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 35

# THE FIRST TO THE FIFTH BOWLS

(REVELATION 16:1-11)



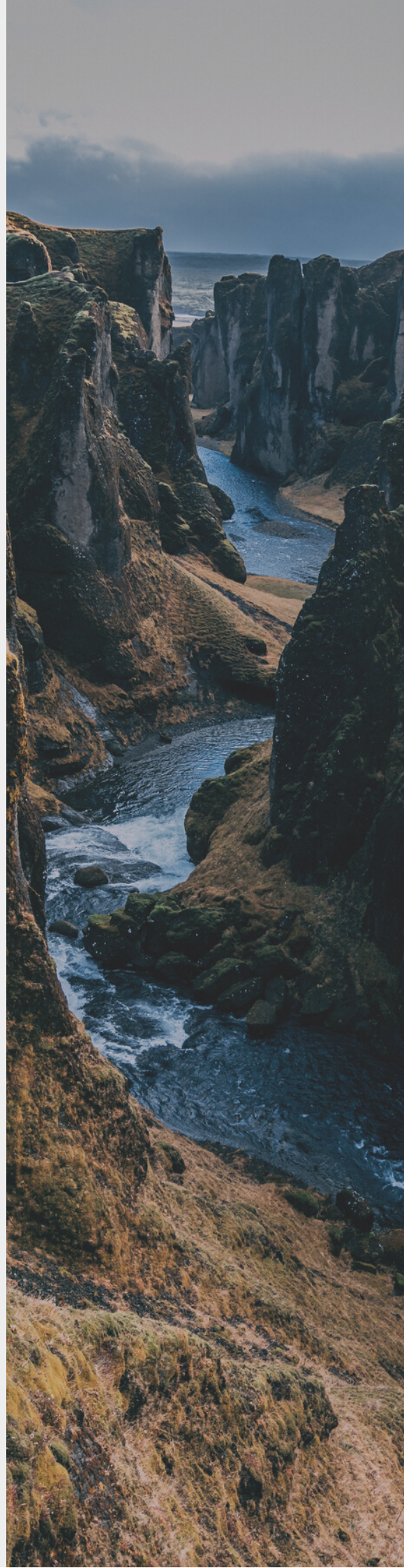
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**The seven bowls of wrath will be the final outpouring of God's judgment on the earth that will bring His judgments to completion.** It will be the third woe of God and it will happen after the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet.

**The bowls are released in the context of the Second Coming Procession of Jesus on the land.** The Lord will land somewhere in Egypt, march through the nation of Jordan, rescuing the Jewish people who were previously taken captive (Isa. 27:12-13; Hab. 3:3-13) and those taking refuge from the Antichrist. Jesus will be releasing the seven bowls upon the Antichrist, his army and his empire along the way (Isa. 34:5-8).





Both Habakkuk 3 and Isaiah 63 describe Jesus' Second Coming procession across Jordan. Isaiah 63:1-6, in particular, describes Jesus coming into Jerusalem after His final battle with the Antichrist at the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:1-2,12-13; Zech. 14:3-4).

In His judgments, Jesus will destroy the infrastructure of nations (Ps. 2:9) because, by that time, the values of the Harlot Babylon will have totally permeated and influenced the entire world system. The entire system will be so corrupted that Jesus has to judge, destroy and pull down the old system in order to rebuild and establish His kingdom here on earth (Jer. 1:10).


**Two reasons** why we need to understand the seven bowls of wrath in Revelation 16:

A silhouette of a person's head and shoulders is centered in the upper half of the image, looking out over a sunset. The sun is a large, bright, glowing orb on the right side, partially obscured by a dark, leafy tree. The sky is a mix of blue and orange hues with soft, white clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

## **I. IT IS THE MANDATE OF GOD FOR THE CHURCH TO BE GOD'S VOICE IN WARNING ABOUT COMING JUDGMENT**

Consistently in the Bible, God will raise up voices to warn when judgment is coming. It is the mandate of the Church to warn both believers and unbelievers. Ezekiel 33:6 tells us that if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not warn, God will require the blood at the watchman's hand! The voices will need courage and boldness to speak because it is not a popular message and will run counter to the prevailing narrative.





## **II. BY STUDYING THE THREE-NUMBERED JUDGMENT SERIES, WE RECEIVE INSIGHT INTO GOD'S CHARACTER AND WHO HE IS AS THE JUDGE**

**Intimacy with the Lord is not just about knowing Him as the Bridegroom or King, but it's also about understanding Him as the Judge.**

Jesus does not contradict Himself whether He is the Bridegroom, King or Judge. This is what Jeremiah 9:23-24 is about — He is the Lord exercising lovingkindness (intimacy), judgment and righteousness! Even in His judgment, He demonstrates grace and mercy. There are parenthetical sections in the Book of Revelation where the heart of God is declared and revealed in the midst of judgment. God wants us to know His heart so deeply that we will not be ashamed of proclaiming Him as the Judge.

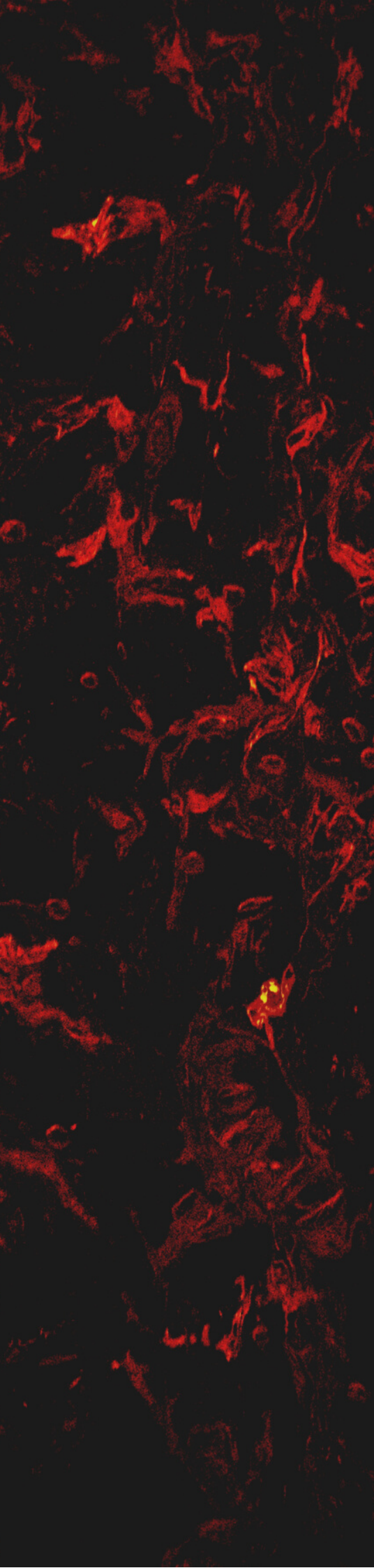
In Revelation 16:1, the loud voice that came forth from the temple is the voice of God. It is God Himself who gave the command to release the bowls of wrath according to His own timing. Though the judgments are primarily punitive, there is still a redemptive element to them as the unsaved resisters who have not put on the Mark of the Beast could still repent.

**The First Bowl is about foul and loathsome sores** that came onto those who had the Mark of the Beast (Rev. 16:2). These sores were foul in smell and they caused great pain. The First, Fourth and Fifth Bowls all inflict pain and these are similar to the Sixth Plague (Exo. 9:8-12).

**The fact that the sores came on those who carried the Mark of the Beast implies that there were resisters who did not put on the Mark of the Beast.** An example is the kings in the East who resisted the Antichrist (Dan. 11:44). China could be one of these nations. Eventually, the kings of the East were deceived by Satan and the Antichrist during the Sixth Bowl (Rev. 16:12-16).







At the release of the **Second Bowl**, all the seas of the world became blood (Rev. 16:3). This destroyed all marine life and severely affected the food supply worldwide and the sea trade. This bowl parallels the First, Fifth, Seventh and the Eighth Plague (Exo. 7:14-25; 9:1-7,13-35; 10:1-20); the latter three plagues were ones that involved the destruction of food supply.

At the pouring of the **Third Bowl**, all the sources of water in the earth, the rivers and the springs, etc., became blood (Rev. 16:4-7). The potable water supply of the whole world was totally destroyed! The Jewish people whom Jesus was rescuing, however, witnessed the supernatural provision of God, who caused fountains to spring forth in the valleys and rivers to flow in the desert (Isa. 41:17-18; 43:18-19). The prophetic message of the Third Bowl can be found in the First Plague (Exo. 7:17) — **God wants the nations to know that He alone is the Lord!**

The Third Bowl is the only time in the Three-Numbered Judgment Series where angels interjected in the midst of the judgment with declarations. The purpose is for the End-Time Church to understand God's heart regarding the intense judgments.

The angels interjected because they wanted us to understand a few things:





***“You are righteous, O Lord...”***  
**(Rev. 16:5)**

The angel with the Third Bowl declared that **God is righteous in all His judgments**. He is saying that Jesus is releasing the seven bowls out of His zeal and love, and all that He does is right!

The angel wants us to know that God's judgments are necessary and appropriate. They are neither too little nor too much and they are perfect, precise and exact in their timing.





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***“For they have shed the blood of  
saints and prophets, and You have  
given them their blood to drink.  
For it is their just due.”***

**(Rev. 16:6)**

The angel is giving us the reason why the judgments have to be so severe. It's because the Antichrist and His army have killed many saints and prophets. So, the judgment is just and right, and the recipients are deserving of the severe judgment.



***“Even so, Lord God Almighty,  
true and righteous are  
Your judgments.”  
(Rev. 16:7)***

The second angel came from the altar, from the place of intercession. The angels and the martyred saints are agreeing and interceding before the altar, saying that God's judgments are true, righteous and right (Rev. 6:9-10). And they are asking God to release them. In like manner, the saints on the earth will be interceding and agreeing with God's judgments.



**The Fourth Bowl was poured out on the sun**, and power was given to the angel to scorch men with fire (Rev. 16:8-9). The sun became so intense that it burnt men. But despite the severe afflictions, the people who were judged did not repent. Instead, they became angry and they blasphemed and cursed God.

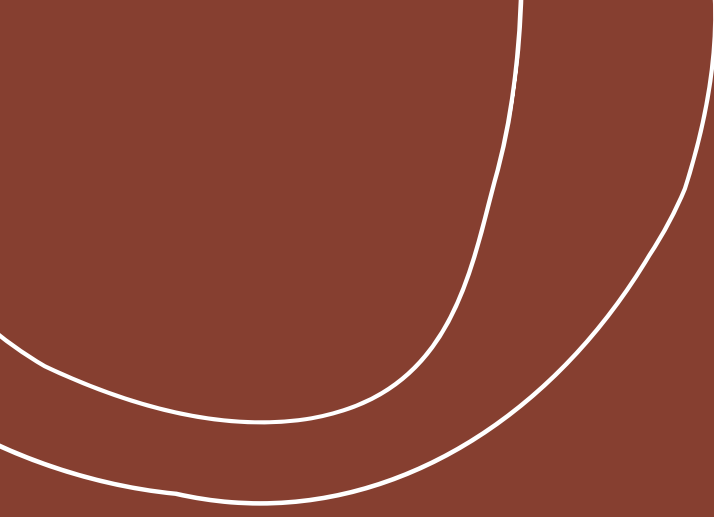
**At the Fifth Bowl, demonic darkness came upon the Antichrist empire** (Rev. 16:10-11). The darkness was so intense that it caused severe pain. This bowl is specifically targeted at the Antichrist empire and his governmental centre.



Once again, the people did not repent but they blasphemed God instead. Their anger, bitterness and offense towards God eventually led to their ultimate act of rebellion at the Sixth Bowl, where nations gathered at the Valley of Jehoshaphat to war against Jesus!

Isaiah 60:1-2 gives us a prophetic picture of the Fifth Bowl. At the time when deep darkness covers the earth and its people, Jesus, who has already returned to the earth, will shine like the sun and His glory and light will be seen upon his saints (Hab. 3:3-4)!





**Surely, it's not an option for the Church to understand the seals, trumpets and bowls. Because it is the mandate of the Church to warn of the coming judgment.**

Let's not take this casually!

**Let's get clarity, develop understanding and depth now, so that we can arise to speak. Ask God for grace and courage to do so, for it is an honour and a privilege for us to stand with Jesus and be His voice!**





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