

REVELATION 16:1-21

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REVELATION 16:1-21



OPENING PRAYER

Let us take a few moments to prepare for the most important activity in the life of God's child...studying God's Word. We will pause for silent prayer, then I will pray out loud.

We never cease to be amazed, heavenly Father, with all You have given us. First, we are grateful for Your wonderful plan of salvation. We thank You that Your Son has made it possible for us to live with You, forever. He who was rich became poor that we might share His riches. He who is eternal life died that we might not suffer the second death. We are grateful for all He has done for us. May Your Spirit teach us now as we open Your Word and listen with our Spiritual ears. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

REVIEW

Vocabulary List

Purpose of the judgments of Tribulation

In addition to judging unbelievers, God's purpose is to purify and prepare His creation for the return and rule of His Son.

Sea of glass with fire

Symbolic of turbulence among nations, picturing specifically in Chapter 15 the restless martyrs who waited in heaven for God's wrath to be carried out on those who murdered them.



Sea of glass

Symbolic of the absence of war and turbulence among nations. In this case, representing peace and lack of restlessness among Tribulation martyrs because their murders are being avenged.

Summary

In a heavenly scene, God directed the action from His temple. A high ranking angel (one of four living creatures familiar to us) prepared to give seven elect or holy angels seven golden drinking goblets. The angels came out of the glory-filled temple. Thick smoke prohibited those outside from entering or seeing into the temple until the angels poured God's wrath onto earth. All props are in place for delivery of God's final set of Tribulation judgments: His wrath. The stage is set.

I. SEVEN GOBLET JUDGMENTS

Display seven goblets symbol. One goblet with a seven and "the wrath of God" pouring out.

Here is an excellent opportunity to deal with the assumption that the seals, trumpets and goblets are not recorded in chronological order, but present three different viewpoints of the Tribulation judgments.

"The law of Recurrence" is applicable.

James Gray, Author-Theologian in the last century said, "Now, what is the law of recurrence (and what does it have to do with the Tribulation judgments?) It is that peculiarity of the Holy Spirit as an author by which He gives first the outlines of a subject, and then refers to it again for the purpose of adding details. To quote the language of a great authority on Bible exegesis, 'Many have quite overlooked this, and read scripture as if the order of narration were always the order of accomplishment, and, as if consecutive chapters were necessarily consecutive as to time. But if scripture be read so, confusion and mistakes are certain'" Synthetic Bible Studies, Gray, James M., D.D., Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, c. 1906-1923, p.12.



COMPILER'S NOTE: I am not a Theologian. I did not attend any seminary. I cannot claim any knowledge of Scripture that did not come from reading and studying (under the direction of the Holy Spirit) the Bible and the words of great men of faith who came before me. Concentrated study of The Revelation of Jesus Christ, led me to believe the three sets of judgments in the Tribulation are progressive reports of the same events. It is presented here, for young people who might find it helpful in understanding THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.

CHAPTER 16 introduces seven execution angels who carry out their grim task of judgment. God directs the action from His temple in heaven.

REVELATION 16:1 **And I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the seven bowls (Goblets) of the wrath of God into the earth.**



A. GOD'S WRATH

Seven goblet judgments occurring close to the end of the Tribulation appear to have progressed from their introduction in the seals, grown worse in the subsequent judgments and are now coming to a rapid conclusion. The Goblet judgments virtually trip over each other. Charles Ryrie supports this view.

“The brief descriptions of these last seven judgments (vv. 2-12, 17-21) may suggest they occur in rapid succession.” Ryrie Study Bible, footnote p. 1913



Charting all three judgments on a timeline. Show the seal judgments summarize the entire seven years. Explain the trumpet judgments cover the last half of the Tribulation. And finally, point to the goblet judgments clustered at the end of the Tribulation.

Seven goblet judgments, directed by God and viewed from heaven’s vantage point, pour out on unbelievers, the followers of Antichrist. Antichrist’s power, deception, authority and craftiness fail to protect his followers.



1. FIRST GOBLET

Display first goblet symbol.

a. Class Activity.

Use a large Tribulation chart with idol symbol in the middle. Also, if using a flannel board, place the two different judgment symbols side by side to better compare their common characteristics. Symbols on Student’s Class Activity should be in place up to this point. Students should spread their individual timelines across their desks so they can view the previous judgment symbols.



Discuss with students which previously studied judgments might have common characteristics with a goblet judgment before allowing students to paste goblet symbol on their timelines.

As a teaching aid, Scriptures describing seal or trumpet judgments are in red print. Goblet judgments are printed as usual.

b. Description.

REVELATION 16:2 And the first angel went and poured out his bowl (*goblet*) into the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore (*an ulcer or cancer*) upon the men who had the mark of the beast (666) and who worshipped his (*Antichrist’s*) **image** (*the idol in the temple*).



1) This verse is a marvelous example of God’s sense of justice. Followers of the beast, infected with spiritual cancer, accept Antichrist’s mark (666) on their skin and ultimately receive skin cancers to match their spiritual cancer.

2) They are foul, smelly, open sores, which grow larger and larger until the person dies. Antichrist's followers are infected with ulcerous, skin cancers that will not heal.

c. Matching judgment.

Students should search their personal timelines (with seals and trumpets pasted in place) for a judgment similar to the first goblet. Allow discussion, but help students notice plagues are also connected with the sixth trumpet judgment.



1) Plagues were mentioned with the Sixth Trumpet judgment.

REVELATION 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and brimstone, which preceded out of their mouths.



Display symbol for Sixth Trumpet Judgment next to First Goblet symbol.



2) The sight of festering sores caused by fire from demon's mouths would cause viewers to exclaim "He's suffering from a plague!" The plagues from the Sixth Trumpet have progressed by the time of the First Goblet and are more painful. Notice, also REVELATION 15:8.



Students might paste the First Goblet symbol close to the end of the Great Tribulation, leaving room for the remaining six goblet judgments. The goblets occur in rapid succession and should be pasted close together on the timeline. They might even overlap. The visual lesson reinforces the verbal lesson.



2. SECOND GOBLET

Display the Second Goblet Judgment symbol.

REVELATION 16:3 And the second angel poured out his bowl (*goblet*) into the sea and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.



This judgment is also reminiscent of the first plague in Egypt, when the Nile River became blood. (EXODUS 7:20-25)



a. Description.

Again, God demonstrates His sense of justice! Those who shed the blood of God's people now have seas of thick blood.

b. Matching judgment.



Place symbols for Second Trumpet and Second Goblet judgments side by side and call attention to similarities in the symbols and descriptions.

The Second Goblet sounds like an update of the Second Trumpet judgment. Things have progressed since the first report in Chapter 8.

REVELATION 8:8, 9 **And the second angel sounded and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood; and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.**



3. THIRD GOBLET



Display Third Goblet judgment symbol.

REVELATION 16:4-6 **And the third angel poured out his bowl into the river and the springs of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous art Thou, who art and who wast, O Holy One, because Thou didst judge these things; so they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and Thou hast given them blood to drink. They deserve it. (They deserve to drink blood, because they murdered and shed the blood of God's people) **And I heard the altar** (Those described as being under the altar) saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Thy judgments."**



Again...reference to those who shed the blood of saints having blood to "drink" is in harmony with our descriptive "drinking goblet" term. Wrath is "poured out". People "drink" God's wrath.



a. Description.

1) With the Third Goblet judgment, even ***fresh*** water becomes blood. The Second Goblet affected the salt water seas. Now, those who shed the blood of God's children must ***drink*** bloody water that will

eventually kill them. Ironic is it not? The angel pouring the goblet agrees that the judgment fits their evil deeds. Verse 6 says, “**They deserve it!**”

2) God’s sense of justice again is in play. God-rejecters exhibit a complete lack of “thirst or desire for “the water of life” and their drinking water, necessary for sustaining physical life, turns to blood. They now have thick blood. to drink. Those who drank Babylon’s immorality with her must swallow Gods’ wrath.

b. Matching judgment.

1) A cry for vengeance was heard with the Fifth Seal and those martyrs, described as being under the altar at that time, are now avenged. The Third Goblet reports their vindication. Remember the Fifth Seal?

REVELATION 6:9,10 And when He (the Lamb) broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”



2) People protected by the altar (believers in heaven) cry out. At the Third Goblet judgment Tribulation martyrs, associated with the altar praise God for avenging their murders and agree the judgments are just and well deserved.

Students should place the Third Goblet symbol right after the Second Goblet symbol on the Tribulation timeline.



4. FOURTH GOBLET

Display fourth goblet symbol.

REVELATION 16:8, 9 And the fourth angel poured out his bowl (goblet) upon the sun; and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues; and they did not repent (change their minds), so as to give Him (God) glory.



a. Description.

The sun scorches and men feel as if they are boiling alive in a fire. Unbelievers are given a vivid preview of the lake of fire. Still they will not change their minds about God.

b. Matching judgment.



Interesting Old Testament predictions correspond to the descriptions of the Fourth Goblet. DEUTERONOMY 32:24 (wasted by famines) ISAIAH 24:6 (inhabitants of the earth burned) ISAIAH 42:25 (pouring out the heat of God's anger) MALACHI 4:1 (Day of the Lord would come burning like a furnace).



Display Fourth Goblet and Seventh Seal symbols side by side on the board for comparison.

Place the symbol for the Fourth Goblet judgment on the timeline close to the end of the Tribulation.

1) The Seventh Seal speaks of heat, fire and burning.



REVELATION 8:5 And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and threw it to the earth.

2) The First Trumpet speaks of hail and fire mixed with blood and a third of the earth burning up.



Point to the First Trumpet symbol and read REVELATION 8:7.



REVELATION 8:7 And the first (trumpet) sounded, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth, and a third of the earth was burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.



3) The Second Trumpet judgment speaks of a great mountain burning.

Point to the Second Trumpet symbol.



REVELATION 8:8 And the second angel sounded (the second trumpet), and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood...

4) The Fourth Goblet judgment connects with almost all of the Trumpet judgments in some way.

Point to the Seventh Seal symbol and call attention to all Seven Trumpets. Remind students that the trumpets explode from the seventh seal.



5. FIFTH GOBLET

Display the Fifth Goblet symbol.



Place the Fifth Goblet symbol at the end of the Tribulation. This judgment is associated with Jesus Christ's Second Advent.

REVELATION 16:10-11 And the fifth angel poured out his bowl (*goblet*) upon the throne of the beast (*Antichrist*); and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores (*their cancers are worse*) and they did not repent (*change their minds*) of their (*evil*) deeds.



a. Description.

MEN SHAKE THEIR FISTS IN GOD'S FACE
AND CHOOSE TO LIVE IN DARKNESS.

The Fifth Goblet judgment is against the beast dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, the king of the west and his kingdom. The kingdom is described as dark, which means the kingdom has rejected God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (*the light of the world*). Though judgment brings terrible pain upon the beast and the citizens of his kingdom (they gnaw their tongues and blaspheme God because of pain from sores, cancers are eating them up), they do not change their minds about God. They remain God-rejecters. Darkness at the Fifth Goblet involves Antichrist, his government and the absolute absence of light in the world without Jesus Christ.

b. Matching judgment.

1) Words describing the Fifth Goblet have a familiar ring to them. They are the same words uttered by God-rejecters at the Sixth Trumpet.

Display Sixth Trumpet symbol close to the symbol for the Fifth Goblet.





REVELATION 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and silver and of brass and of stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

2) Gospel.



Remind students of the difference between “deeds” or “works” done in the power of the Holy spirit and those done in our own power. Evil deeds originate from our nature to sin. Use the attitude of the God rejecters to present the gospel.

“They did not repent”. Repent means “change their minds”. The God rejecters would not change their minds and believe that Jesus Christ had done all the work for them to become God’s children. We cannot work our way up to God by doing good deeds. We cannot reach God on our own. If you believe Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins, you are a Christian, a child of God. If you do not believe He died as your substitute, you are not a Christian, you are not God’s child.

After we become God’s child, we have the privilege of studying God’s Word and using what we learn to glorify God on earth. Thus, Jesus Christ accomplishes good works for us and through us.

3) The Fourth Trumpet speaks of the sun, moon and stars being darkened.



Point to the symbol for the Fourth Trumpet.

REVELATION 8:12 And the fourth angel sounded (*Fourth Trumpet*), and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened.

4) The Fifth Trumpet speaks of darkness because smoke rises from the abyss when scorpion-locust-demons come out of the smoke and the smoke chokes out the air and light from the sun.



Point to the symbol for the Fifth Trumpet judgment.

REVELATION 9:2 ...And he (*Satan*) opened the bottomless pit (*the abyss*); and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.



5) Darkness swept over the world at the cross to conceal Jesus Christ's agony as He was dying in our place for our sins. LUKE 23:44; MARK 15:33. Darkness is employed to reveal Jesus Christ as He (the light of the world) returns at the Second Advent. Imagine His spectacular glory piercing the thick darkness surrounding earth. Darkness is total by the time of the Fifth Goblet. Earth is prepared for Christ's Second Advent when every eye will see Him! LUKE 21:25-28. **It will be impossible not to see the Light of the World as He descends to earth.**



6) The Fifth Goblet could be a progress report of the First Goblet because sores are mentioned again. People gnaw their tongues and blaspheme God because of pain from sores. Cancers are eating them up.

6. SIXTH GOBLET

Place the Sixth Goblet symbol beside the Sixth Trumpet symbol to call attention to their common characteristics.

REVELATION 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his bowl (*goblet*) upon the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings of the east (*the oriental bloc of nations*).



a. Description.

Through the ages, the Euphrates River has separated the people of the east from the people of the west and served as protection for Israel. When the Euphrates dries up, the kings of the east (China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam) have a clear path to move a two hundred million man army toward the valley of Megiddo (Armageddon). The way is open for them to march their armies over the eastern boundary of Palestine into little Jerusalem. The final, infamous battle of Armageddon is about to begin.

b. Matching judgment.

1) The Sixth Trumpet had something to say about the Euphrates River.

REVELATION 9:14 ...One saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.



The Sixth Trumpet and Sixth Goblet judgments describe the same event: the





drying up of the Euphrates River to enable the gathering of the world's armies at Armageddon. Advise students to paste the Sixth Goblet symbol close to the Fifth Goblet symbol... directly under the Sixth Trumpet symbol.

2) The Sixth Trumpet tells of four evil, prisoner angels released from the Euphrates River by authorization from a holy angel. They are guilty of an action so horrible it is not even named.

THE EUPHRATES IS THE GREAT RIVER IN THE BIBLE JUST AS
THE MEDITERRANEAN IS THE GREAT SEA.



GENESIS 15:18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendents I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river Euphrates..."

c. Missing verses 13 through 16.

Notice verses 13 through 16 of Chapter 16 are omitted in this session. These verses cover the pause between the Sixth and Seventh Goblets. The pause is studied after all Seven Goblet judgments. The pause in the goblet judgments is closely connected to Satan's conspiracy behind the battle of Armageddon.



7. SEVENTH GOBLET

Display Seventh Goblet symbol.



REVELATION 16:17-21 And the seventh angel poured out his bowl (goblet) upon the air (Satan is the prince of the power of the air; Eph. 2:2); and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."

a. Description.

1) The Seventh Goblet describes complete destruction. The world, as we know it, comes to an end with this judgment. God who has been directing the judgments from His throne, declares that the judgments are over. The second coming of Jesus Christ brings the Tribulation judgments to an abrupt end.

2) The Seventh Goblet pours into the air, Satan's former dwelling place, and a magnificent, heavenly voice declares the judgments are done. It is wonderful, is it not, that God always knows when a work is totally accomplished? Satan's earthly reign is over. His next

destination is the abyss, where he remains a prisoner during the 1,000 year Millennium.

3) Jesus said, “It is finished!” from the cross. God, the Father says “It is done!” from His temple in heaven.

4) Perhaps, when the statement comes from the temple saying, “It is done!” it will be like Jesus Christ’s statement from the cross when he said one word, “Tetelestai”. He simply said, “FINISHED”, meaning His redemptive work on the cross was accomplished. In this case, when the work of purifying His creation is accomplished, God may call out one word, “DONE!” It is God’s announcement that, although one more judgment description follows, His process of purification has essentially come to an end.

b. Matching judgment.

The Sixth Seal, and the Seventh Trumpet provide details concerning the end of the Tribulation. Both relate to the Seventh Goblet, when God declares Tribulation judgment is DONE!

Display Sixth Seal, Seventh Trumpet and Seventh Goblet symbols in a row.

REVELATION 11:15-19 *And the seventh angel sounded (seventh Trumpet); and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”*



B. CONCLUSION

1. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

a. Technically, the goblet judgments come from Jesus Christ since God the Father has given all judgment to God the Son.

JOHN 5:22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.



b. Tribulation judgments are over.

1) ***Technically***, Chapters 17 and 18 give details of Babylon’s destruction, but time does not move on. Our study moves forward, again in Chapter 19 with details of the second coming of Christ and



the Marriage of the Lamb. CHAPTERS 17 and 18 describe the judgment of Babylon. Babylon has been mentioned before (REVELATION 14:8) and her judgment is part of creation's purification.

2) ***Technically***, documentation of God's wrath makes clear that God's justice is equally as important as God's love. The world prefers to emphasize God's love and it is, indeed, awesome. However, in perfect justice God's precious Lamb purifies His own creation in preparation for His own return as Judah's Lion, the King of kings.

3) ***Technically***, the goblet judgments are from God (the terms "God's wrath"; "from the temple" etc., connect them with God).

4) ***Technically***, Tribulation judgments are directed against Satan and those who have chosen to line up with Satan. Unbelievers alive at the end of the Tribulation go to Sheol-Hades in the center of the earth to wait for the Great White Throne judgment. Unbelievers are the goats at the separation of the sheep and goats. Believers alive at the end of the Tribulation go straight into the Millennium in their physical bodies. Believers are the sheep at the separation of the sheep and goats.

Display sheep and goats chart or sketch a quick diagram on the board to remind students of the separation of the sheep and the goats at the end of the Tribulation.



2. DESCRIPTION OF THE END

REVELATION 16:18-21 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great, an earthquake was it, and so mighty. And the great city (*Jerusalem*) was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of wine of His fierce wrath. (*Babylon is destroyed, too*) And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. (*total destruction*) And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.



a. This portion of Scripture concludes the report of Tribulation judgments.

CHAPTERS 17, 18 AND 19 BACK UP AND PROVIDE DETAILS OF BABYLON'S JUDGMENT AND ARMAGEDDON, BUT ESSENTIALLY THE TRIBULATION IS OVER.



b. Six chapters remain in our study.

We have come a long way, but God still has some truth (about the future) He wants to teach us. The remainder of the book covers some new features and adds some new details to familiar subjects.

AS FAR AS THE THREE SETS OF JUDGMENTS OF THE TRIBULATION ARE CONCERNED, THEY ARE "DONE"!

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank You, Father for the knowledge that Your children will never experience Your wrath. Thank You for Your matchless Word, the Bible, and for the privilege of studying under the teaching ministry of Your Spirit. Thank You for young people who love Your Word and want to study. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



TRIBULATION JUDGMENTS

