

THE JUDGMENTS OF THE TRIBULATION:
PART 3—THE BOWLS
(Revelation 16:1-21)

- I. Review of the Seals and Trumpets: a Possible Correlation of Events (Rev. 6, 8, 9)
 - A. First Seal—Israel’s PEACE TREATY with the BEAST
 - B. Second Seal—Invasion by Kings of the NORTH and the Beast’s occupation of PALESTINE
 - C. Third and Fourth Seals—WARS and the Beast’s ECONOMIC policies bring widespread famine and death
 - D. Fifth Seal—The Beast breaks his TREATY and begins active PERSECUTION of the saints
 - E. Sixth Seal—World REBELLION against the Beast brings anarchy
 - F. Seventh Seal—Contains the Seven TRUMPETS
 1. Trumpets 1 and 2—Great judgments and persecution result in the death of one-third of all JEWS and GENTILES
 2. Trumpet 3—Ascendancy of the apostate world CHURCH and the FALSE PROPHET
 3. Trumpet 4—All world rulers come under the DOMINATION of the Beast
 4. Trumpet 5 (First Woe)—The Beast and his armies TERRORIZE the WORLD
 5. Trumpet 6 (Second Woe)—Kings of the EAST gather their armies and sweep westward
 6. Trumpet 7 (Third Woe)—Contains Seven BOWLS, followed by the Lord’s return to DESTROY the world’s ARMIES

II. The Seven BOWLS [“Vials” KJV] (Rev. 16:1-21)

A. Occur during a very BRIEF period at END of the Tribulation

B. Constitute God’s WRATH upon UNBELIEVERS

C. Sequence of the judgments

1. Bowl 1 (16:1-2)—Running sores afflict EVERYONE who has the MARK OF THE BEAST [either a “designer DISEASE” or an INFECTION caused by the mark]
2. Bowl 2 (16:3)—The SEA turns to BLOOD and all life in it perishes
3. Bowl 3 (16:4-7)—Rivers and streams (“LIVING WATER”) turn to BLOOD [viewed together with the second, may represent spiritual death among the NATIONS represented by the sea and removal of the possibility of finding life also for the JEWS represented by the fresh water found on land, with no more opportunity for ANYONE to be saved: all unbelievers now are DOOMED]
4. Bowl 4 (16:8-9)—The SUN’S intensity is increased so that it SCORCHES mankind [could represent BLINDNESS imposed upon followers of the Beast]
5. Bowl 5 (16:10-11)—The Beast’s kingdom becomes DARK while the other plagues REMAIN [could represent a darkness imposed upon the Beast so he will believe he can DESTROY the kingdom of Christ and DEFEAT Him when He RETURNS]
6. Bowl 6 (16:12)—The Euphrates DRIES UP [could signify its removal as a BARRIER, allowing the passage of the armies of the EAST]
7. Bowl 7 (16:17-21)—Worldwide catastrophe of LIGHTNING, THUNDER, EARTHQUAKES, and HAIL [could represent the overthrow of the world order, both geologically and politically, in the “fierce wrath of God” (19:11-21)], followed by the Lord’s RETURN to do BATTLE at Armageddon