

THE THIRD WOE, Part 1
(Revelation 16:1-11)

- I. The ADMINISTRATION of the Seven Bowls (Rev. 16:1)
 - A. Commanded by a LOUD VOICE from the heavenly TEMPLE
 - B. Consigned to SEVEN ANGELS for distribution
 - C. Constituted the WRATH of GOD

- II. The ENUMERATION of the First Five Bowls (Rev. 16:2-11)
 - A. A plague of PAINFUL SORES (16:2; cf. Ex. 9:9-11)
 - 1. Described as MALIGNANT
 - 2. Afflicts ALL those with the MARK of the BEAST
 - 3. Afflicts ONLY those with the MARK of the BEAST
 - B. A plague of SEA WATER to BLOOD (16:3; cf. Ex. 7:20-25)
 - 1. May be RESTRICTED to Mediterranean, but seems UNIVERSAL
 - 2. KILLS every LIVING CREATURE in the SEA
 - C. A plague of FRESH WATER to BLOOD (16:4-7)
 - 1. Affects all NATURAL sources of WATER
 - 2. PRAISED by the “ANGEL of the WATERS”
 - a. The JUDGMENT of the ETERNAL God is JUST
 - b. The AFFLICTION upon WICKED man is DESERVED

3. PRAISED from the ALTAR
- D. A plague on the SUN (16:8-9)
1. Increased INTENSITY to SCORCH men (cf. Amos 9:5-6)
 2. Results in BLASPHEMY, not REPENTANCE
- E. A plague of DARKNESS (16:10-11; cf. Ex. 10:21-23)
1. Specifically affects the THRONE of the BEAST
 2. Probably UNIVERSAL throughout his KINGDOM
 3. May not affect the SAINTS
 4. Causes increased PAIN
 5. Results in more BLASPHEMY, not REPENTANCE

III. The SIGNIFICATION of the First Five Bowls

- A. The SORES represent “the INCURABLE CORRUPTION” in the HEARTS of men—having chosen to side with the corrupt leader, the MARK of IDENTIFICATION becomes INFECTED
- B. The WATER-to-BLOOD represents God’s retribution for His MARTYRED SAINTS—having SLAUGHTERED the saints, they are given blood to DRINK
- C. The SCORCHING HEAT proves that not even the suffering of HELL would lead men to REPENTANCE
- D. The DARKNESS illustrates the SPIRITUAL distinction between GOD and SATAN
1. God is LIGHT, but Satan is the prince of DARKNESS (Rom 13:12; 1 Pet. 2:9)
 2. Men love DARKNESS rather than LIGHT (John 3:19-21)