

“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” – Revelation 16:15

Overview:

In Rev 16:1-11 we saw the first 5 angels pour out upon specific targets the bowl full of God's wrath that was given to him by one of the four living creatures. - Rev 15:7 From heaven's perspective, God's judgments are “true and righteous” - Rev 16:5-7, but on earth man refuses to repent and instead they “blaspheme the God of heaven.” - Rev 16:11 Now we get to the 5th and 6th bowl judgments.

The 6th bowl judgment prepares the earth for the end. The Euphrates river runs about 1,800 miles from its source in Turkey down through Syria, into Iraq where it joins with the Tigris and flows into the Persian Gulf. The result of this judgment causes the river to dry up that prepares the way of the “kings from the East” - Rev 16:12 This is the setting of the stage for the battle of Armageddon. In Rev 16:15, John is given a familiar promise, a blessing, and an exhortation for us to be ready. In the middle of our trial, we need to be reminded of these things because we grow weary and our faith needs strengthening

The 7th bowl judgment is poured into the air. The earth has a great earthquake, the city of Babylon is split into 3 parts and all the cities of the nations fall. Islands disappear and the mountains are removed. And hailstones weighing about 75 to 100 pounds fall upon man. But even after all this, Rev 16:21 says, “Men blasphemed God”.

References:

Rev 16:12 – Great river Euphrates

- Eastern boundary of the land promised to Abraham – Genesis 15:18, Deuteronomy 1:7, Joshua 1:4
- Approximated this boundary under David and Solomon – 2 Samuel 8:3, 1 Kings 4:24

Rev 16:12 – Might be prepared or made ready – John 14:3

Rev 16:12 – Setting the stage for end of global conflict – Daniel 11:36-44, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, Rev 13:7, Rev 16:12, Rev 9:16

Rev 16:13 – Source is demonic and action is on 3 levels:

- Physical – an army from the east
- Spiritual – Demons from mouth of the dragon – Rev 12:9, Rev 13:13
- Sovereign – The Lord is accomplishing this – Zechariah 14:2

Rev 16:15

- A promise – I am coming – Matthew 24:41-44, Luke 12:39-40, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, 2 Peter 3:10. Rev 2:2-3
- A blessing – Watch and keep his garments – 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6
- An exhortation – Be ready – Matthew 25:1-13

Rev 16:16 – Armageddon – Goes back to Rev 14:19-20

Rev 16:18 – Similar to end of each period of judgment – Rev 8:5, Rev 11:19, Rev 16:18

Rev 16:19 – Great city was divided – A reference to Jerusalem – Rev 11:8, Most likely to Babylon – Rev 14:8

Rev 16:21 – God proving the unrepentant heart. We always have a choice in trials – 1 Peter 1:6-9

Questions:

- * Read Rev 16:15 – Are you ready for Christ's return? Are you watching for Christ's return?
- * How is this study of Revelation affecting your burden for the unsaved people in your life? Ask God to give you a burden for the lost.

Additional Study:

Rev 16:12

- * might be prepared (*hetoimazo*) – might be made ready

Daniel 12:44

- * troubled (*bahal*) – to be terrified, to cause trembling

Rev 16:14

- * to gather them (*sunago*)

Rev 16:16

- * Armageddon comes from two Hebrew words, (*har Megiddo*) – the hill of Megiddo. The word Megiddo means “place of troops” or “place of slaughter.” It is also called the Plain of Esdraelon and the Valley of Jezreel.

Rev 16:17

- * It is done (*gegone*) – It has become, it has happened

Rev 16:20

- * fled away (*pheugo*) – to disappear quickly, become invisible – to sink
- * And the mountains were not found (*heurisko*)