REVELATION 16:16 NOTES: ARMAGEDDON

Revelation 16:16 – *"and they (demons) gathered them (armies) together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue – "hill of Megiddo-Armageddon"*

This is the military judgment before the 2nd Advent.

The 7th Vial, drinking cup (bowl), each filled with the wrath of God; divine judgment, ALL DIRECTED TOWARD RELIGION.

Drinking cups in the Bible always refer to wrath or judgment.

Matthew 26:39, 42 – Jesus drinking the cup

Matthew 20:22 – Jesus said to his disciples: *"Do you think you can drink from the cup I drink from?"* In ignorance, they said: *"YES"*

Jesus actually drank God's judgment upon the sins of the world. They were poured out upon Him and He drank from the goblet.

John 5:22 – *"For the Father judges no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son;"*

AFTER JESUS DRANK, THEN HE NO LONGER DRINKS, BUT NOW POURS THE CUP (BOWL) UPON THE EARTH.

ONCE HE BECOMES THE JUDGE, HE JUDGES. ON THE CROSS HE DRANK! NOW HE POURS. HE HAS THE RIGHT!

HE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO EXPRESS HIS LOVE, NOW, BY POURING THE BOWL (THE VIAL, THE CUP) OF ANGER UPON THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SPURN, REJECT AND NOT ACCEPT HIS MANIFESTATION OF GRACE.

One cannot get into the details of the 16th verse (or even verse 15) and the subject of Armageddon, without first reviewing and giving an overview from Chapters 6-11:

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Chapter 6:1-12 –– 6 Seals

Chapter 7 –––––– Evangelism

Chapter 8:1 –––– 7th Seal

Chapter 8 presents 7 Trumpets – Gentile judgment

- 8:7-13 – only 7 verses, the first 4 judgments.
- Chapts. 9 & 10 – 51 verses – last 3 trumpets
- They are called: *Woe I* (9:1-12 5th Trumpet); *Woe II* (9:13 6th Trumpet); and *Woe III* (11:15 7th Trumpet)
- Review the Trumpets section presented in Revelation 8:2 from last November.

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REVELATION 16:16 NOTES: ARMAGEDDON (Continued)

Next we have 6 of the 7 Vials (cups, bowls) in Chapter 16 – Jews being judged.

16:2 – Loss of Health

16:3 – Loss of Food

16:4-7 – Water shortage

16:8, 9 – Weather disaster

16:10, 11 – Darkness

16:12-18 – Military disaster

7th vial or bowl, found in Rev. 16:17 – Wrath on religion.

PARENTHETICAL EPISODES

(*Parenthetical* is from a transliteration of Greek *para en titheme*, meaning to insert: παρα εν τιθημι – literally *beside, in, place*.)

- Between the 6th & 7th Seals is a parenthetical episode (7th Chapter-144,000 Evangelist) there are 17 verses
- Between the 6th and 7th Trumpet (Rev. 10:1-11:14) there are 28 verses – another parenthetical portion, presenting two categories of heralds: angelic and human (Moses and Elijah).
- Between the 6th and 7th vials (bowls) we have another parenthetical episode (the subject matter is complete within itself); it's only one verse (Rev. 16:15), announcing the 2nd advent of our Lord and His promises to the BELIEVERS OF THE TRIBULATION.

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COMPARISON OF TRUMPETS AND VIALS

TRUMPETS	VIALS
1. Hail, fire and blood on the earth, 1/3 of the trees burned.	1. Poured on earth malignant sores on followers of the beast
2. 1/3 of the sea made blood, 1/3 ships, creatures killed.	2. Sea made blood; every person killed
3. 1/3 of the rivers made bitter; many killed.	3. Rivers made blood
4. 1/3 of the sun smitten; 1/3 of the day darkened.	4. Sun smitten, men scorched, NO repentance; men blasphemed
5. Star falls from Heaven into the Abyss, locusts, men seek death.	5. Throne of Beast smitten; men in pain, blaspheme; NO repentance
6. Armies from the Euphrates destroy ½ part of men; again no repentance.	6. The way prepared for kings beyond the Euphrates
Note: Between the 6th and 7th Trumpets there are two witnesses of God who witness for Him and work miracles. There is war against them by the Beast.	**Note**: Between the 6th and 7th Vials, there are 3 unclean spirits of the dragon who witness for him and work miracles. Then there is war, the Armageddon campaign.
7. Voices in Heaven; the judgment; earthquake and hail.	7. Voices in Heaven; fall of Babylon; earthquake, hail.

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REVELATION 16:16 NOTES: ARMAGEDDON (Continued)

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The Vials form a series of visions given to John on the isle of Patmos presenting God's judgments.
2. The number seven indicates the completeness of these expressions of discipline.
3. The seals, trumpets and vials terminate with the 2nd Advent.
4. As we study the 3 sets of visions (seals, trumpets and vials) we will note that more stress is laid upon the judgment of the wicked and less on the Victory of this Redeemed.
5. The severity of the nature of the vial judgments is very evident.
6. The use of the word *"vial", "bowl"* or *"goblet"* refers to the *Cup of God's Anger* (Rev. 14:10), and reveals the pouring out of God's wrath in an overwhelming and irresistible flood.

This wrath is an *anthropopathism* to explain, in more understandable terms, God's way of dealing with those who reject Him. The Lord Jesus Christ loves us exceedingly. God manifests His love through Jesus Christ, yet when man continues to reject that love, His love must be manifested through discipline.

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