

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #40  
6/06/2007

**The Judgment of God, The Great Tribulation, The Great Day of God's Wrath**  
**Chapter Sixteen - The Bowl Judgments**  
**The Last Series of Judgments, The End of The Tribulation Period**

Continuing our study of the **Bowl Judgments** we remind ourselves that these judgments are **cumulative** with each judgment continuing and the following ones being added to the previous ones. In addition to (1) the pain being caused by the **“sores,”** and (2) the distress over the drastic changes taking place in the climate because of the seas being turned into coagulated blood, (3) the panic over the absence of the availability of any fresh water for drinking and bathing is added (4) an unbearable, **“scorching fire.”**

In addition to being cumulative the judgments are **ascendative**, they ascend in intensity and severity and each judgment is worse than the one that precedes it. As we shall see, as bad as the effects of the first three Bowl Judgments are, the effects of this fourth Bowl Judgment is even worse.

Besides being **cumulative** and **ascendative** the **Bowl Judgments** are **fulfilling** in nature. God has provided both specific oral warnings and a typical sampling of each judgment prior to this time. Throughout the Scriptures God gives examples and warnings about what He will do in these days. Yet, many people remain ignorant of what He says, treat His Words as simple poetry or some form of symbolism, or just reject them as not being worthy of their serious thought. In so handling God's Word such people make themselves vulnerable to the dangers associated with the judgment of God. In addition they assume full responsibility for their own destinies and the pain and destruction that all will face who ignore God's warnings.

**The Fourth Bowl Judgment** is another horrible judgment upon those who have the **“mark of the beast”** and the effects of it will added to the pain and trauma which continue from the **first three Bowl Judgments**. **The first Bowl Judgment**, the terribly painful and debilitating ulcerous **“sores”** covering their entire bodies, **“from the top of their head to the bottom of their feet,”** affects only those who have the **“mark of the beast.”** **The next two Bowl Judgments** affect everyone on the earth because all of both the salt and the fresh waters are affected.

As we turn our attention to the **Fourth Bowl Judgment** we will see more clearly its **ascendative** nature. It is **ascendative** because, not only is it **cumulative**, in that the effects of **the first Three Bowl Judgments** are added to the effects of **the Fourth Bowl Judgment**, but also, for the first time, God uses resources of His creation from beyond this earth to administer His judgment.

In the beginning God spoke and created the sun and the other planetary bodies for specific functions: **“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it**

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*was so*" (Genesis 1:14-15). They all belong to Him and do His bidding. He now changes their assignment to be used as instruments of His judgment. With the **Fourth Bowl Judgment** God utilizes His ownership of the entire solar system to plague the earth.

**8 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.**

**9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.**

In our present day the godless arrogance of men has reached new heights. Down through the ages men have worshipped the earth upon which they live and the solar system in which it is one tiny planet. However, today, presumptuous, arrogant "scientists" have become "high priests" of this earth and its solar system, thinking and saying that they can determine its temperatures. Such "science" has become a religion reminiscent of the ancients who worshipped the very dirt upon which they walked, along with its trees and rocks, and the stars they could see in the distant sky. Of course, man has no such control or power, and, with the **Fourth Bowl Judgment**, God will demonstrate the vanity of man's arrogance.

Rejecting God as Creator, Sustainer, and Controller of this universe, and all that is within it, such "high priests" have illogically assumed that they can control this earth and the planets out in space. "Global warming," a cyclical process as natural as the rotation of the earth, has become a "catch-word" for a new form of religion, the religion of environmentalism. In such, men think that they can control the temperatures of this planet if they can control how other men live.

The scientists of our world, who study the various particulars of climatology like other scientific disciplines, have accumulated pieces of knowledge which they have gained via different mediums of observation. One of the results of this accumulation of information has, at times by some scientists, been a presumption that they have more knowledge and understanding about our planet and solar system than they actually possess. Sometimes this produces an arrogance that manifests itself in a type of religious fervor more characteristic of religious conviction than scientific observation.

What is seldom admitted is an awareness by such men that they do not know what they don't know. Such honesty is rare, but occasionally expressed. On May, 30, 2007, Mr. Michael Griffin, the new chief administrator of NASA was interviewed by NPR (National Public Radio) and did just that. He was questioned regarding man's responsibility for climate change and what we

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should do about it. Mr. Griffin's response was honest and not influenced by the modern day "high priests" of environmentalism. There was a religious-type of uproar by those who are persuaded that man controls this planet's climate, and, who think that they know all that needs to be known, and should, therefore, take control of all who live here and determine what is permissible. Mr. Griffin said that he was aware that scientific observation indicated a possibility that man's activities had caused the temperature of the earth's surface to increase about 1 degree centigrade over the past 100 years. He said that he was not confident any one man knew enough to decide if this was true, and, if it were true, no one knew if it was harmful. And he said, if it was harmful, he did not know that anyone should try to do anything about it or could remedy the situation.

Even though he presides over the world's foremost source of data on the climate of our earth and solar system, Mr. Griffin was factual and humble. He is a scientist, observing data, not a "high priest" of a new religion of environmentalism. However, many in our world actually seem to think they are gods who can control what is beyond their control. The arrogance of wicked men always produces an illogical form of lunacy in which men assume control over, and then worship, the objects God created (Isaiah 44:9-18) and what we see today is nothing really new.

While men cannot control the temperature of this earth, God can and, with this **Fourth Bowl of Judgment**, does, as He suddenly raises the temperature of the earth **"to scorch men with fire."** How He does it He does not explain, but He does do it.

**The fulfilling nature of these judgments is clear. The first three Bowl Judgments** were prophetically pictured in the plagues God sent upon Egypt. God gives a "sample" of these judgments in the **Trumpet Judgments**. The **Second Trumpet Judgment** (Rev. 8:8-9) is a prelude to the **Second Bowl Judgment** in that one-third of the seas are turned into blood and **"the third part of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died."**

The **Third Trumpet Judgment** (Rev. 8:10-11) is a prelude to the **Third Bowl Judgment** in that one-third of the fresh waters is poisoned with **"worm-wood."** The **Fourth Trumpet Judgment** (Rev. 8:12) is a prelude to the **Fifth Bowl Judgment** which we shall study in the next lesson.

**What happens with the Fourth Bowl Judgment** is something of which He has warned man many times. In Deuteronomy God said that **"They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction ..."** (32:24). In Isaiah He said, **"Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the**

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*inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left*" (24:6) and *"Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days ...."* (30:26). Also in Amos, *"And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn"* (9:5) and in Malachi, *"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch"* (4:1) God closed out his warnings about this day in the Old Testament. But then Jesus added His Words to His warnings already given when He said, *"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity"* (Luke 21:25). Yes, God has warned man that this day is coming.

Today, there is a great deal of anxiety over what is the normal and minimal rise in temperatures, even to the extent that many people seem to be willing to adapt their life styles lest they contribute to the warming of the earth, though, in actuality, whatever changes they make will likely have little effect upon the world's climate. Some even seem to be hysterical about these things. Most, if not all, of this anxiety is fostered upon mankind by those who have assimilated little bits of partial knowledge, drawn erroneous conclusions from their imagined "truths." Then, they have attempted to exercise inordinate control over the lives of the people of the world to cause them to conform to their world-view, which promotes the belief that it is man, not God, who is in control of this world. It is all a prelude to the open rebellion against God described in Revelation thirteen, led by Satan and his obedient servants. It will fail and fail miserably. God has no patience with such arrogant impudence.

God acts — whatever He does He does not choose to describe, having many times over already described the result of His actions. The sun does his bidding. Its heat is suddenly increased seven times hotter (Isaiah. 30:26). Men, who are desperately trying to cope with the accumulative effects of the first three **Bowl Judgments** are now forced to endure scorching heat, hot enough to boil water, even in the shade, if they had any water to boil. Air conditioners will be no help and there will be no wind or rain to provide relief.

Some today, in reading about this, might be tempted to think that surely, now, when they must realize that God has done this, will fall on their faces in confession of sin and turn in repentance from their wicked rebellion. However, the opposite is true. Rather than repent and seek the mercy and forgiveness of God, they erupt in an increased arrogant anger and curse His name.

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Having “...refused to glorify Him as God, and having no gratitude for His blessings, they have become vain in their imaginations” (Romans 1:21), and “despised His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God was given to lead them to repentance” (Romans 2:4). They have so hardened their hearts that all they can do is curse God. It is as God has said it would be. “After the hardness of their impenitent hearts they have treasured up unto themselves the wrath and righteous indignation of God Who will render to every man according to his deeds” (Romans 2:4-6).

It is a horrible scene, but that which happened in the first Four Bowl Judgments will pale when compared to that which is yet to come!

There is one more thing — according to Psalm 12:6, God promised His children that they will be protected from this terrible heat: “*The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.*”