

# THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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## Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
  - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
  - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
  - C. The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
  - D. The Seven Bowls (15:1–16:21)
    1. The Seven Angels with the Seven Final Plagues (15:1–8)
    2. The Seven Bowl Judgments (16:1–21)
      - a. The Command to Initiate the Judgments (16:1)—bowls of God’s wrath
      - b. The First Bowl: *Loathsome and malignant sore* (16:2)
        - Injurious labor, pain, and sorrow. Cp. 6th plague (boils) on Egypt (Exod 9:10).
        - Objects are people having the mark of the beast and worshipping his image.
          - ✓ The Man of Sin and the False Prophet will gain a worldwide following.
          - ✓ Implies that there will still be some who are not followers of the Man of Sin.
      - c. The Second Bowl: *The sea becomes blood* (16:3)
        - All living things in the sea will die. Cp. with 2nd trumpet judgment (8:8–9).
          - ✓ This judgment affects the counterfeit kingdom indirectly.
          - ✓ See 18:16, 17, 19.
      - d. The Third Bowl: *Fresh water becomes blood* (16:4–7)
        - These judgments display God’s righteousness and holiness. Cf. 15:3–4.
        - The reason for judgment: the counterfeit kingdom has slain saints and prophets.
        - The voice from the altar confirms the reason for judgment.
        - Appears to bring discomfort, rather than death (cp. Exod 7:14–25; Rev 8:10–11).
      - e. The Fourth Bowl: *The sun scorches the earth* (16:8–9)
        - Again, this judgment brings discomfort rather than death.
        - Citizens of the counterfeit kingdom blaspheme. Contrast with 14:7.
        - The unholy trinity cannot stop God’s wrath.
        - Cp. the 4th trumpet judgment in 8:12.
      - f. The Fifth Bowl: *Darkness upon the throne of the beast* (16:10–11)
        - Discomforting darkness afflicts the counterfeit kingdom directly (cf. Exod 10:21).
        - Great anguish with swollen tongues might combine effects from previous bowls.
        - Mankind continues to blaspheme (cf. v. 9) and refuses to repent (the fifth and final mention of the subject of repentance in this book—cf. 2:21; 9:20, 21; 16:9).
        - Cp. the 5th trumpet judgment in 9:1–12.

- g. The Sixth Bowl: *The River Euphrates dries up* (16:12–16)
- The 4th bowl prepared for this event by melting the mountain snows and evaporating other water sources.
  - The dried up river prepares a highway for the kings from the East.
    - ✓ These represent the peoples of modern nations of the East.
    - ✓ They might arrive by sea at the dried up mouth of the Euphrates.
    - ✓ Events involved in the Campaign of Armageddon:
      - (1) March of the Kings of the East (Rev 16:12)
      - (2) Destruction of Babylon (Rev 16:19; 17:16–17; 18:1–24)
      - (3) Return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings (Rev 19:11–16)
        - a) Christ’s feet touch the Mt. of Olives and it divides (Zech 14:4)
        - b) The judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:9–17)
        - c) The occupational movements of the house of Jacob (Obad 17–20)
        - d) Christ’s judgment of Edom (Isa 63:1–6)
        - e) Judgment at Armageddon (Rev 16:12–16; 19:17–21)
  - Verse 13 provides a key to understanding 12:3–13:18, since all three persons of the unholy trinity lead the world’s armies against the Messiah.
  - The three demons (v. 14) serve as subordinates to the unholy trinity in gathering the world’s armies to fight the Messiah.
  - “the war of the great day of God, the Almighty” = the third and final battle of the campaign of Armageddon that takes place at Megiddo. Cf. 19:19–20:3.
  - Christ’s parenthetical statement (v. 15): “I am coming” (cf. 19:11–16; Matt 24:27–25:46) and “blessed” (cf. Matt 24:36–51).
  - Cp. with the 6th trumpet judgment in 9:13–21.
- h. The Seventh Bowl: *Poured out upon the air* (16:17–21)
- Satan is the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2).
  - “It is done” (v. 17)—cp. 10:7; 11:14–19.
  - A great earthquake without precedent—see geophysical changes in v. 20.
  - Division of Jerusalem (“the great city,” v. 19; 11:8; 17:18) into three parts (cf. Zech 14:4–5; Isa 2:21; Rev 11:13).
  - God judges Babylon—cf. 14:8 and chapters 17–18.
  - Great hail (v. 21)—each hail stone approximately 125 pounds.
  - Mankind continues to blaspheme—contrast with 11:13.
  - Cp. to the 7th trumpet judgment in 11:15–19.

### Questions for Discussion

- a. Why do unbelievers deserve judgment?
- b. Who are “the kings from the east”?

### Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ Jesus, as the Judge, is the Holy One.
- ▶ Jesus is the Lord God, the Almighty.
- ▶ Jesus is true and righteous.
- ▶ Jesus is coming again.
- ▶ Jesus will bring Babylon into judgment.
- ▶ Mankind will still blaspheme Jesus and refuse to repent.