

# Eschatology 14

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## The Great Tribulation 5

1. **The End of The Great Tribulation:** The horrific ending of the Great Tribulation period will be the Battle of Armageddon which is part of God's Bowl Judgments. (15:5-16:21)
  - a. **FIRST BOWL (Rev 16:2):** Foul and Loathsome sores.
    - i. **Mark of the Beast-**The evil world leader will enforce all people to receive a mark on the right hand or forehead that will be used in all commercial transactions. Without it, no financial purchases or sales can be made.
      1. The identification of the number is 666. This number is called "the number of a man," but the identification of this man is uncertain.
      2. What will the mark of the beast be? The details of the "mark" are unknown, however, he will require the people to receive the mark on their right hand or their forehead.
      3. Those who receive the mark will be doomed to eternal punishment!
      4. Some see the development of a global currency as part of the process leading to this mark, yet global transactions already take place despite the wide variety of currencies in use. Others believe a particular type of technology will be used, such as: a RFID chip implanted within the skin but the prophecy does not specify this detail.
      5. **The Timing of The mark of the beast-** It will come about sometime during the seven-year tribulation period that follows the rapture of believers from the earth. Since this is the case, no Christian needs to fear whether he or she is accidentally taking the mark of the beast by using some type of modern technology. The use of the Internet, a credit card, or other digital transaction system is not the mark of the beast.
    - ii. Those who worship the beast and receive his mark are now marked by God with loathsome sores
  - b. **THE SECOND BOWL (Rev. 16:3):** The Sea turned to blood.
    - i. Every living creature in the sea died.
  - c. **THE THIRD BOWL (16:4):** Fresh waters polluted.
    - i. This speaks of complete contamination which is different from the partial pollution of the third trumpet.

- ii. As these judgments come, we know the time must be very short until the return of Jesus. The human race cannot survive long with such devastating ecological disasters.
- d. THE FOURTH BOWL (16:8): The Sun scorches men.
  - i. What was given as a blessing now becomes a curse.
- e. THE FIFTH BOWL(16:10): A Plague of Darkness.
  - i. It appears that those who are under this judgment are standing on the shore of the lake of fire.
    - 1. They gnawed their tongues because of the pain and torment but they would not repent.
- f. THE SIXTH BOWL (16:12): The Battle of Armageddon.
  - i. The Euphrates River- Throughout history the river has not only marked boundaries but also served as a secure barrier against invasion from the empires of the east.
    - 1. If the Euphrates dries up it would make an easy access road and massive armies from the east, (such as China, India, and Japan) could move in with ease.
  - ii. "Three unclean spirits like frogs" tells us that the invitation to this battle is not just by conventional political alliances, but by a demonic seduction.
  - iii. Who will be the combatants of the battle of Armageddon?
    - 1. This battle is not nation against nation, but the nations against God. (Psalms 2:2) When the Antichrist leads the world system against Jerusalem and a returning Jesus. (Revelation 17:12-16, 19:19)
    - 2. The focus of this great event will be Jerusalem, which is confirmed by the prophet Zechariah: "For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle" (Zechariah 14:2-3).
  - iv. That Great Day of God almighty: The winner of this battle is apparent.
  - v. They gathered together to the place called Armageddon- The valley of Megiddo has seen tremendous battles through the centuries. Over 200 battles have been fought in the region. This will be a staging area where the multi-national troops will assemble prior to their advance on Jerusalem.
- g. THE SEVENTH BOWL(16:17): The Final Judgments.
  - i. "It is Done"- This announcement, coming from the throne itself confirms what the angel of chapter 12 said about there being no more delay. In

mercy God has stretched out this scene as much as He could. The seals were followed by trumpets, the trumpets followed by bowls; but there will be no more judgments upon the earth after this- It is done!

ii. The great earthquake- In these final judgments there will be great geological destruction.

1. Zechariah 14:4-5 suggest that Jesus' return will be accompanied by an earthquake.