

Super Bowl VII

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2 Harvest Festival

II. Slide3a/b **Intro: Super Bowl VII**

A. Who won *Super Bowl VII*? The year, 1973. Miami 14 - Washington 7.

1. Why significant? Because in this chapter is... **Super Bowl VII**.

B. **The bowls** are God's final judgment prior to the *great white throne judgment* in ch. 20. These judgments are similar to the plagues on **Egypt** and the **trumpet** judgments earlier in the book.

1. 4 of the 7 trumpets correspond to the Exodus plagues: *fiery hail, bodies of water turned to blood, darkness, and locusts*. Likewise, the sores, bodies of water turned to blood, darkness, and hail caused by the **bowl judgments** reflect the Exodus plagues.

2. The trumpet and bowl judgments share 5 judgments, with the exception of the timing of the hail, they also follow the same order.

3. However, the trumpets were only meant to *call sinners to repentance*.

The bowls, their final judgment, *are more severe*.

III. Slide4a **1st BOWL SORES (1,2)**

A. Tension has been steadily mounting - The chapters have been *pregnant w/doom*.

1. Now, time for the storm. With all its pent-up fury it will make landfall as a **Category 5 Tropical Cyclone**. With *each verse* of ch.16 it picks up speed & reeks havoc on humanity.

2. Slide4b *Mercifully, the storm will be short and best of all...it will leave the skies sunny & clear for 1000 yrs*. J. Phillips

B. **Bowls** - were shallow bowls used for the **sweet smelling incense** in Gods temple, **but** are now filled with a **foul stench**.

C. **Upon the earth** - Each Angel has a specific **target** for the contents of his bowl.

1. Slide4c Each *laser guided* with precision accuracy.

- D. **A foul and loathsome sore** (severe & malignant, harmful and painful sore) - describes oozing, open wounds or ulcers.
- E. **Boils was the 6th plague of Egypt** (Ex.9).
1. **A boil is an outward sign of an inward problem.** (hmmmm, spiritually also)
 2. Satan used this against Gods servant Job, **now** God uses it against Satan's servants.
 3. Vs.11 seems to say these sores **do not disappear** (i.e. an incurable disease?)
- F. **Upon the men who had the mark** - This plague was limited to those who took the *slavebrand* of Satan. *You want a mark? have another.*

IV. Slide5a **2nd BOWL BLOODY SEA** (3)

- A. Angel #2 steps up to the plate.
- B. The Lord's 1st miracle was to turn **water** into **wine**, **now** it's **water** into **blood**.
1. **Slide5b The sea** - which cover approximately 70% of the earth's surface, **and** contain roughly **326 million trillion gallons of water** (326 quintillion) - fill with **rancid blood**. *Life will be impossible to sustain.*
 2. **Red Tide** in 1949 on the Florida coast killed millions of fish & poisoned those ate contaminated shellfish. 60 miles of stinky fish lined the beaches. The phenomenon of billions of **dinoflagellates**, these tiny 1-celled organisms is well known, **but scientists don't know what brings it on or keeps it at bay.** Phillips 190,191
- C. **Imagine the smell?** (the Oyster Bars in the French Quarter after Katrina)

V. Slide6a **3rd BOWL BLOODY RIVERS** (4-7)

- A. (5,6) Heaven shouts, *God's Justified in all this terrible judgment!*
- B. **Slide6b** (6b) Those who delighted in **shedding blood** **now** are forced to **drink blood** as a fitting form of punishment.
- C. In God's government *the punishment fits the crime.*
1. **This was not cruel & unusual punishment.**
 - a) **Pharaoh** tried to drown the *Jewish baby boys*, **but** it was his own army that eventually drowned in the Red sea.

- b) **Haman** planned to hang Mordecai on the gallows & to exterminate the Jews, **but** he himself was hanged on the gallows & his family exterminated.
- c) **King Saul** refused to obey God & slay the Amalekites, **so** it was the claim of one Amalekite that he killed Saul.

2. This wasn't cruel/unusual punishment, actually, it's **their just do** (6b). They deserve it

VI. Slide7a 4th BOWL GLOBAL WARMING (8,9)

- A. Slide7b Here's where the global warming proponents say, *I told you so!*
- B. Picture all the water systems full of blood & now coupled w/*intense heat*...imagine the thirst.
 - 1. Malachi 4:1 *For behold, the day is coming, **Burning like an oven**, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall **burn them up**, Says the LORD of hosts, That will leave them neither root nor branch.* SlideX Suntain Lotion #100 won't help, *Tanijuana*.
- C. Slide7c (8) Who knows how long this will last? What if the great ice sheets on Greenland & the continent of Antarctica start melting?
 - 1. Morris says, *There is enough ice stored in these great reservoirs, it is estimated, to raise the world's sea levels about **200 feet** if it were all melted.*
- D. Slide7d (9) William Newell reminds us, *If men are not won by **Grace**, they will never be won.*
 - 1. **God's judgments** usually **don't** change men's hearts, **nor** do they seem designed to.
 - 2. *God judges sinners not to reveal His **Grace**, but to reveal His **Holiness**.*
 - 3. These sinners will suffer from **acute Pharaoh-itis**...the hardening of the heart.

VII. Slide8,9 5th BOWL DARKNESS (10,11)

- A. (10) The first 4 bowls were directed toward *the natural world*. The **5th** is a frontal assault on **evil**.
- B. So far the beast has been immune...**but now** his throne is shaken.
 - 1. Like the throne of Pharaoh, *he is powerless to defend himself.*

- C. They gnawed their tongues - this may suggest *confusion and mental derangement* brought on by prolonged, intense physical suffering.
- D. (11) The crescendo of **Hurt** brings a crescendo of **Hate**.
1. In a 1000 tongues & dialects men lift up *their fists, their fits & their filthy words...of blasphemy*.

VIII.Slide10 6th BOWL EUPHRATES (12-16)

- A. (12) I take Literally.
- B. (13) 3 Frogs [not literal frogs, no not Kermit, *frog-like demons*] *Satanic trinity at work*.
1. Frogs are *cold-blooded, amphibians who dwell in 2 worlds. Many have poison in their skin. Many can change color at will, & can leap a remarkable distance.*
 - a) So these demons are cold-blooded fiends, creatures of 2 worlds. Full of venom & poison for mankind. And are swift paced to lead men to their blood-bathed-end.
- C. (14) The kings will think they are moving upon their own *free will*.
1. *How often men think they are free to do as they please, but in reality, they are accomplishing the plans & purpose of God.* www
 2. *Ironically*, though they were commissioned by the **unholy trinity**, they unknowingly work for the **Holy Trinity** by gathering the nations together in one place for judgment.
- D. (15) *Why is this verse here?* (vs.13-16 is a *parenthesis*) I believe vs.15 is another pause for John's readers to *take heed*.
- E. *Blessed is he who watches* - Watch for Him & Watch out.
- F. *Slide11* When a **soldier** enlisted in the **Roman army**, he had to take a **triple** oath:
1. That he would **do whatever** he was called on to do.
 2. That he would **be ready** at any moment.
 3. That he would **never leave** the army without the commander's consent.
 - a) This triple oath was called *sacramentum*.
 - b) Hence our word *sacrament*. Which was the believer's military oath of obedience to the great Commander.

G. **Keeps his garments** - During the night the captain of the Temple made his rounds. On his approach the guards had to rise and salute him in a particular manner. Any guard found asleep when on duty was beaten, or his garments were set on fire. The confession of one of the Rabbis is on record that, on a certain occasion, his own maternal uncle had actually undergone the punishment of having his clothes set on fire by the captain of the Temple.

(Edersheim, *The Temple*)

H. We also need to keep watch out for *the world*.

1. Watch out for ***the embrace of the world***.

2. ***The Lion of persecution might not be a threat to us, but we are being hugged by the Bear of this world.***

a) We're often comfortable in his *warm, fuzzy arms*, but he's *slowly squeezing, & the church doesn't feel it*.

I. **Slide12 (16) That great day of God Almighty** - judgment day.

J. **Armageddon** = har/hill Meggido (the hill of Meggido)

1. Also called **The plain of Esdraelon, Valley of Jezreel**.

2. **Here: Barak** defeated the armies of Canaan. **Gideon** defeated the Midianites. And **King Saul** lost his life.

3. **Post biblical times battles fought here:** The Egyptians, Crusaders, Druz, Turks, Arabs, Persians, even Napoleon Bonaparte who called this ***The most natural battlefield of the whole earth.***

K. **Who is able to make war w/him?** (asked in 13:4) - **GOD!** (The *outcome* is in ch.19)

IX. **Slide13a 7th BOWL SHAKE-N-QUAKE (17-21)**

A. **The seventh poured out his bowl** - In contrast with the seal & trumpet judgments, *no interlude takes place between the 6th & 7th bowls*. The time allotted for repentance has passed.

B. (20) **Every island fled away** - because of the quake in v.18, the earth appeared to be ***running away***. This type of language is used to describe *divine punishment* in the OT.

C. (21) **Hail** - (around 100 lbs.) Missiles of ice - (ice sculptures)

1. **Slide13b Hard to imagine hail the size of Old English sheep Dogs :)**

2. **Hailstones of this size would bring total destruction.** Such a storm would level cities, obliterate forests, and leave few survivors among people or animals. This final bowl judgment brings wholesale devastation upon the earth.
3. **Why the Hail? *Blasphemers are supposed to be stoned to death.*** Lev.24:16

D. **Slide14** From here, we'd go to ch.19...**but** John takes a magnifying glass back to ***a word*** in vs.19 ***Babylon***.

1. Ch.17 & 18 are what he sees under the magnification...**Babylon's Destruction.**

a) **Satan's entire system is about to be judged:**

(1)His **Religious system** in ch.17.

(2)His **Political & Economic system** in ch.18.

(3)His **Military system** in ch.19.

E. **END:** We here so much concern about the ***over-population of the earth***...May we be as concerned w/***the over-population of Hell***.

F. **Around the dial of a clock in a church in Strasburg, Germany, are these words:**
One of these hours the Lord is coming.