INTRODUCTION

1. <u>Rv 16</u> - bowls of wrath - review & overview.   Dig down to see that the curse of death has permeated, saturated, is extensive throughout all creation.

1st: Some Preliminary Perspectives on These Plagues

1. <u>Gn 3:17-19</u> Adam's sin -> cursed soil: includes Adam's body of dust.   An implication: when the last Adam [Jesus] rose bodily in victory over death, He guaranteed that this fallen cosmos must also be resurrected.

   i. We yet live in *bodies of this death* [Rm 7:24].   We must learn to go the way of the Lamb thru death into resurrection glory.

   ii. The bowls encompass the entire created order.   Earth-dwellers experience their jdgmnts differently than Xns, but we too live in a cursed world.

2. It is hard to interpret the relationship of symbols to created realities.   The Exo plagues were actual, historical events that are types: prophetic prefigurements of events fulfilled by Jesus.   These symbols signify the reality of the curse.

   i. e.g. blood - Life is in the blood [Gn 9:4; Lev 17:14; Deu 12:23].

   ii. Cursed earth & water becomes blood: depicts our death.

3. See the progress in Progressive Parallelism: we are rushing to the End.

1st: The First Bowl is Poured Out on the Earth - <u>Rv 16:2</u>

1. Who is punished: idolaters.   Xns are not punished [we are sealed], but that does not mean we are exempt from jdgmnt that removes common grace.   We persevere: display faith, good works.

   i. Israel in Goshen - <u>Exo 8:22-23; 9:4-7; 9:19-21, 25-26</u>

   ii. Church - <u>Rv 12:14</u>.   A biblical church is our Goshen.

2. Cursed soil -> bodily sores.   6th Egyptian plague - <u>Exo 9:8-12</u>.

3. Other people punished by plagues: apostates.   <u>Dt 28:27-29; 34-35</u>.   Egyptian boils along w/ *madness & bewilderment*.   5th trmpt: demon scorpions - *torment*: Rv 9:5-6.   psychological despair of living life having been stung by scorpions.

4. The plague = *loathsome & malignant sores*.   Synonyms for evil: *horrible, ugly, painful, foul, noisome* [disgusting odor, noxious, stinking].   Think of Job.

   i. Sickness signals impending death [wrath, jdgmnt].   Some sicknesses are the result of sinful behavior [Rm 1:24].

   ii. Xn's sicknesses give opportunity to prove vitality of faith [Jn 9:3].

   iii. Humility - self-examination.   In Cor some were *weak, sick & some slept* [1C11:30] due to mistreatment of church & abuse of LT.   As we age & experience aches/pains; let us grow in grace.

2nd: The Second & Third Bowls Are Poured Out on the Waters - <u>v3-4</u>

1. 2nd bowl parallels 2nd trmpt - 1/3 of sea bec/ blood & 1st plague: Nile bec/ blood

2. War is a bloody affair: Jesus' enemies bleed [Rv 11:6; 14:20; 19:13; 6:12].   Jesus & saints bleed: [1:5; 5:9; 6:10; 12:11; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2].

3. 3rd bowl parallels 3rd trmpt: 1/3 of rivers poisoned - drinking water is removed.

4. What is symbolized?   Economic collapse due to loss of maritime commerce.   Rv 18 - destruction of Babylon - Rv 18:19

3rd: The Fourth Bowl is Poured Out on the Sun - <u>Rv 16:8</u>.

1. Parallel w/ 4th trmpt - 1/3 of sun, moon, & stars darkened; here sun's heat bec/s scorching fire that burns *w/ fierce heat* [v9].   No Egyptian equivalent except swarm of locust & darken land & darkness for 3 days [8th & 9th plague].

2. Creation is not morally neutral: it is *good*.   It is fallen: cursed.   It's future is *the restoration of all things* [A3:21].   Israel's fidelity or infidelity impacts the order of creation.   Apostasy, idolatry -> disorder; de-creation back into chaos [Zeph 1:2-3].   Idolatry throws created order out of whack.

3. How are Xns sealed; protected?   Hard to interp - <u>Rv 7:3-4 [144K]; v16.</u>

4. Is our ecosystem affected by jdgmnt?   Next: not flood, but fire - <u>2Pt 3:7, 10-11</u>.

5. Review.   These truths concern everything, everyone, everywhere.

6. Thank God for Last Adam: Jesus & the hope we have for this fallen world - <u>Rm 8:18-25</u>.   Let us travel thru this wilderness to that blessed hope.