

## Revelation 16:1-21

### I. The Pain

- a. Like it or not, pain is a central feature of this chapter
  - i. A pain chart that goes to “666”
  - ii. This is a foretaste, a vision of hell
- b. Direct physical pain
  - i. Ugly, festering sores (1<sup>st</sup> bowl)
  - ii. The sun scorching people (4<sup>th</sup> bowl)
  - iii. Plunged into darkness (5<sup>th</sup> bowl)
- c. Indirect physical pain & assault on the *psyche*
  - i. The sea turned into blood (2<sup>nd</sup> bowl)
  - ii. Rivers & springs turned into blood (3<sup>rd</sup> bowl)
  - iii. Darkness revisited: chaos of the soul

### II. The Purpose

- a. Ugly, festering sores
  - i. Tested Job’s faith (Job chapter 2)
  - ii. Destroys people’s idols (e.g., *health*)
- b. Water turned to blood: the waters’ angel explains
- c. Sun scorching and darkness penetrating
  - i. Reveals God’s control over creation
  - ii. Reveals hardness of unrepentant hearts
- d. The gathering of kings to Armageddon
  - i. *Har-Megiddo(n)*: lit. “Mount Megiddo”
  - ii. God’s enemies deceived by the deceivers
  - iii. The “battle” is their total defeat

### III. The Pronouncement – the seventh bowl of God’s wrath

- a. A loud voice from the throne: “It is done!”
  - i. One word, *Gegonen*, in Greek
  - ii. Lit. “it is coming into being, becoming”!
- b. The 7<sup>th</sup> bowl connects us to the 7<sup>th</sup> *day of creation*
  - i. No glee in destruction (Ezekiel 33:11)
  - ii. But end of sin/ners begins new creation