**Revelation 16-17**

**The Bowls**

Rev. 16:1-11: (the first five bowls) Because of their persecution and idolatry, God punishes the ungodly by depriving them of earthly security

Rev. 16:12-21: (the sixth and seventh bowl) a picture of God’s final judgement of an evil world

Rev. 17:1-18: The influence of the world’s “religious-economic system” with the “state” and how their alliance brings judgement and the downfall of both

Rev. 17:1-3: introduction to the vision: angel announces a vision of judgement for the world’s idolatrous religious-economic system

Rev. 17: 4-7: John is amazed at the magnificent appearance of the hostile religious-economic system in alliance with the state

Rev. 17: 8-14: the beast is interpreted for John: the deceptive religious-economic system in alliance with the state will be revealed as a sham to all when they are judged

Rev. 17: 15-18: the interpretation of the woman in relation to the beast: God will instigate the state to turn on its alliance with the religious-economic system in order to undermine its perceived security and finally destroy it