

Oakland International Fellowship Calvin Chiang

Revelation 15:5-16:21 Handout

Punishment for the World

**Revelations 15:5-8**

**Preparations for God’s Wrath**

**5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean *and* bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. 7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.**

1. V. 5-6 John saw the “temple in heaven”. It was the most holy place and seven angels who has just been in the presence of God would strike the earth with plagues to punish those that have chosen to serve the Antichrist. These angels are identified with Christ by the description of their apparel.
2. V. 7 Each of the seven angels received a gold bowl from one of the creatures. These bowls contained the 7 judgments coming from God. The temple was filled with smoke because God is about to act.

**Revelation 16:1-12**

**Six Bowls of Wrath**

**Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” 2 So the first *angel* went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image. 3 The second *angel* poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died. 4 Then the third *angel* poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, “Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; 6 for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it.” 7 And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.” 8 The fourth *angel* poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. 9 Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory. 10 Then the fifth *angel* poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, 11 and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds. 12 The sixth *angel* poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tribulation Judgments** | | | |
|  | **Seals (ch. 6)** | **Trumpets (chs. 8-9)** | **Bowls (ch. 16)** |
| 1. | Antichrist | Storm |  |
| 2. | War | Meteor |  |
| 3. | Famine | Bitterness |  |
| 4. | Death (¼ of Population) | Darkness |  |
| 5. | Imprecations | Locusts |  |
| 6. | Earthquake | Horses (1/3 of Population) |  |
| 7. | 7 Trumpets | 7 Bowls |  |

1. V. 1 The voice that John heard was from God. The fact that God told the angels to pour out their bowls seems to indicate that these judgments will follow each other in rapid succession. The first four plagues seem to affect individuals directly through personal affliction or through objects of nature while the last three are on more on an international scale.
2. V. 2 First Bowl: poured on the land and brings harmful and painful sores on those who have the mark of the beast and worship it’s image. (Compare with the present spread of the AIDS epidemic)
3. V. 3 Second Bowl: poured on the sea, turning it into blood and killing all living things. (Similar to Nile turning to blood in Exodus)
4. V. 4 Third Bowl: poured on the rivers and springs of water and they become blood.
5. V. 5-7 John heard praises of God in heaven that interrupted his narration of the outpouring of the bowls of wrath. Specifically God poured out blood on the earth dwellers because of what they did to the saints and prophets. (i.e. Pharaoh/Jewish babies, Haman/Mordecai)
6. V. 8 Fourth Bowl: poured out on the sun, giving it power to scorch people with fire.
7. V. 10-11 Fifth Bowl: poured out on the throne of the beast, plunging it into darkness.
8. V. 12 Sixth Bowl: poured out on the great river Euphrates drying it up to prepare the way for the kings of the East (represents all ruling authority of humanity).

**Revelation 16:13-16**

**Armageddon**

**13 And I saw *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; 14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.**

1. V. 13, the Trinity of Evil: dragon (devil and Satan Rev. 12:9) beast (Antichrist from the sea Rev. 13:1-10), and false prophet (second beast that came from the earth Rev. 13:11-17) = FROGS?
2. V. 14 Have the spirits of demons, performing signs and goes out to the kings of the whole world to gather them for war against the forces of God.
3. In the sixth bowl we also see the assembling of the kings of the earth at the place called Armageddon (Harmagedon is the Hebrew word, “Har-Megiddo” which mean the mountain of Megiddo. All that is revealed here is that this is a place they will gather. The text doesn’t actually say if a battle will take place there.
4. In the OT, we do see several decisive battles that take place at Megiddo. In 2Kings 9:27 we see that Ahaziah, king of Judah was slain there. In 2Kings 23:29, and 2 Chron 35:22, King Josiah is slain in battle. Judges 5:19 speaks of kings fighting by the waters of Megiddo but failing to take the spoil. When you put all of these things together, you can see that the work of Satan will dry up and fail. They may gather up battle but it is a decisive loss for Satan. Gathering in Armageddon is a symbol of destruction and judgment.
5. V. 15, gives a call to preparation for the people of God. God’s judgment will come like a thief. Be prepared. Stay awake. Do not be caught by surprise.
   1. Matt 24:42-44; Mk 13:32-33, 2Pet 3:10
   2. This is the 3rd of the 7 blessings in Revelation mentioned in v. 15. Those who trust in the Lord must be ready for this great event. The Lord describes them like soldiers before the command to go into battle. Such a soldier has his clothes ready for the battle. Those who are not ready will be ashamed. Don’t be caught like the soldier without any clothes to protect them for battle.

**Revelation 16:17-21**

**Seventh Bowl of Wrath**

**17 Then the seventh *angel* poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, “It is done.” 18 And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake *was it, and* so mighty. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, \*came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.**

1. V. 17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl of God’s anger into the air and with a loud voice, God shouts “It is done.”
2. V. 18 There were flashes of lightning and crashes of thunder followed by the most powerful earthquake that shook the earth.
3. V.19 The great city that split into three seems to mean Babylon. It was a city on the Euphrates and was the heart of evil practices. Perhaps Babylon will become powerful again or it is just a description of another powerful city. This city will be the most important city for religion and trade.
4. V.21 Huge hailstones fell from the sky but even this didn’t persuade people to turn to God. Instead they cursed God for this terrible storm.

**Summary:**

“Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for the helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thess 5:1-11 ESV)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the verses 16:9; 16:11 epitomize the response and condition of the human heart?
2. What are some ways that we can remain faithful in the face of any calamity?