

THE SEVEN BOWLS OF THE WRATH OF GOD

—PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD—

***ROAD
WORK
AHEAD***



- Settle accounts with the current tenants
- Expose the current tenants
- Prepare the planet for the coming kingdom

*EVERYTHING ...
TO HIS GLORY AND FOR OUR GOOD ...*



OUTLINE ... (Revelation 16:1-21 ESV)

4 NECESSARY, OVERRIDING COORDINATES TO HELP US UNDERSTAND REVELATION AND MAINTAIN OUR PERSPECTIVE

- I. **GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGN, PROVIDENTIAL CARE FOR HIS OWN WORKS EVERYTHING—INCLUDING HIS WRATH—FOR HIS GLORY AND OUR ULTIMATE GOOD.**
 - (Romans 8:28 NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
 - (1 Timothy 1:17 ESV) To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- II. **WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT REVELATION IS THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**
 - (Revelation 1:1a ESV) The revelation of Jesus Christ.
- III. **WE MUST REMEMBER THAT REVELATION IS WRITTEN TO SHOW US—HIS SERVANTS—WHAT GOD IS GOING TO DO.**
 - (Revelation 1:1b ESV) The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.
- IV. **WE ARE TO SET OUR HOPE FULLY ON THE GRACE TO COME TO US AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.**
 - (1 Peter 1:13 ESV) Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. SETTLE ACCOUNTS: IN PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE COMING KINGDOM GOD WILL BRING HIS WRATH ON THE CURRENT TENANTS FOR THEIR DEBT OF SIN, 16:1-7.

A. A loud voice commands the seven angels to pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God on the earth, 16:1.

- (Revelation 16:1 ESV) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.”
- i. His wrath has previously been revealed from heaven throughout the ages.
 - (Romans 1:18 ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness

and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

ii. But now his wrath is poured out on the earth in full fury.

- (Romans 12:19 ESV) Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”
- (Hebrews 10:30a ESV) For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.”

B. The first three angels pour out their bowls, 16:2-4.

- (Revelation 16:2-4 ESV) So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. 3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea. 4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

C. The angel of the waters affirms the just/righteous vengeance of the Holy One, 16:5-6.

- (Revelation 16:5-6 ESV) And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. 6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”
- (Luke 11:49-51 ESV) Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,’ 50 so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.

D. A second voice affirms the true and just/righteous nature of these judgments, 16:7.

- (Revelation 16:7 ESV) And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, **true and just are your judgments!**”

It seems here the altar is personified to affirm the true and just nature of God—most likely the voice of God.

- (Hosea 14:9 ESV) Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; **for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.**
- (Job 37:5 ESV) God thunders wondrously with his voice; **he does great things that we cannot comprehend.**
- (Psalm 145:17–21 ESV) **The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works.** 18 **The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.** 19 **He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.** 20 **The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.** 21 **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

2. EXPOSE THE CURRENT TENANTS: THE TRUE AND JUST JUDGMENTS OF GOD WILL FULLY REVEAL THE DEEP-SEATED HATRED OF AND OPPOSITION TO GOD AND THE WAYS OF GOD BY THE UNREPENTANT, 16:8-16.

A. The fourth angel pours out his bowl on the sun and the earth dwellers curse the name of God and do not repent and give him glory, 16:8-9.

- (Revelation 16:8–9 ESV) **The fourth angel** poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and **they cursed the name of God** who had power over these plagues. **They did not repent and give him glory.**

B. The fifth angel pours out his bowl on the throne of the beast and the earth dwellers and the curse God and do not repent of their deeds, 16:10-11.

- (Revelation 16:10–11 ESV) **The fifth angel** poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and **its kingdom was plunged into darkness.** People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 **and cursed the God of heaven** for their pain and sores. **They did not repent of their deeds.**

The throne is the chair of state for a

monarch or other official. It is the symbol for the power and authority of the king. **Could it be that the fifth bowl brought even more confusion and frustration to a political empire that was already unraveling by widespread dissension and discontent?**

C. The sixth angel pours out his bowl which prepares the way for the assembling of the kings of the world for the battle at Armageddon, 16:12-16.

- (Revelation 16:12–16 ESV) **The sixth angel** poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 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 demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

3. PREPARE THE PLANET FOR THE COMING KINGDOM:

THE SEVENTH ANGEL POURS OUT HIS BOWL WHICH BRINGS ABOUT THE WORST EARTHQUAKE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, 16:17-21.

- (Revelation 16:17–21 ESV) **The seventh angel** poured out his bowl into 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, rumblings, peals of thunder, and **a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth,** so great was that earthquake. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

This earthquake brings worldwide devastation, splits Jerusalem into three parts, and brings down the cities of the nations. It also transforms the topography of the planet in

anticipation of the coming earthly rule of our Lord Jesus Christ as islands are submerged and mountains are flattened. Huge hailstones fall from heaven at this time also.

LEARN THE BLESSING OF REPENTANCE FROM THE UNREPENTANT

So what can a follower of Jesus learn from the blaspheming, unrepentant earth-dwellers.

- (Revelation 16:9 ESV) They were scorched by the fierce heat, and **they cursed the name of God** who had power over these plagues. They **did not repent** and give him glory.
- (Revelation 16:11 ESV) And **cursed the God of heaven** for their pain and sores. They **did not repent** of their deeds.

CURSE: blaspheme ... βλασφημέω [*blasphemeo*] ... to vilify; to defame, rail on, revile, speak evil of; to speak reproachfully.

REPENT: μετανοέω [*metanoeo*] ... to change one's mind ... to think differently; to reconsider.

LEARN WHY A PERSON DOES NOT REPENT.

The earth-dwellers knew that God was responsible for their anguish, and yet they still chose to curse him and not repent. **WHY?**

i. Because that is who they are.

They are slaves to a deep-seated hatred of God that originates in the very core of their being and finds its roots in the original sin of Adam and Eve.

ii. Because they believe they are right and God is wrong.

They refuse to change their minds and reconsider their opposition to God's righteous rules because they believe that God is wrong in determining that he alone has the right to decide what is good and evil.

- (Genesis 3:5 ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, **and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**

LEARN WHY A PERSON CONTINUES IN UNREPENTANCE.

When a person refuses to repent—to reconsider, change their mind and agree with God—the person does not honor God as God and does not give him thanks.

- (Romans 1:21 ESV) For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Every time this person refuses to honor God and repent, he trades truth for a lie and worships and serves the creature rather than the Creator.

- (Romans 1:25 ESV) Because they **exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen.

This person has alienated himself (herself) from what is blessed forever and become more calloused to God and his truth.

- (Ephesians 4:18–19a ESV) They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.** They have become callous.

LEARN THE BLESSING OF REPENTANCE.

i. We agree with God and the truth is in us, so we worship the Creator. (*See also Romans 1:25 above.*)

- (1 John 1:8 ESV) **If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

ii. We agree with God and he cleanses and forgives.

- (1 John 1:9 ESV) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

iii. Changing our mind and agreeing with God does not mean we will never sin.

iv. It does mean that our hearts will grow "softer" to God's truth and we will walk in his light.

- (1 John 1:7 ESV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.