

“Eye of the Storm”

Revelation 16; 1 Thessalonians 5; Revelation 2

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Hurricane Ian
- Waves of Judgment like destructive rings around the “eye” of the storm
- Review of the “Sealed” and “Trumpet” Judgments

The “Eye” of the Storm

A. Severity of the Storm

1. General Comments

- Revelations 16:1-- *“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, ‘Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.’”*
 - a. Rapidity of the judgments
 - b. Similar but more intense than Trumpet Judgments

2. Specifics: “Bowl” Judgments

a. “Malignant Sores”

- Revelation 16:1-2-- *“So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.”*

b. Sea turned to blood

- Revelation 16:3-- *“Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”*

c. All fresh water polluted

- Revelation 16:4-7-- *“Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters saying, ‘You are righteous, O Lord, the One who is and who was and who is to be, because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.’ And I heard another from the altar saying, ‘Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.’”*

d. Global Warming

- Revelation 16:8-9-- *“Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.”*
- Malachi 4:1-2-- *“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the LORD of hosts, “that will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; And you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves.”*

e. Darkness

- Revelation 16:10-- *“Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain”*

- Zephaniah 1:15-- *"will be a day of wrath, and day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness!"*
- Revelation 16:11-- *"They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds."*

f. **Preparation for Armageddon**

- Revelation 16:12-16-- *"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."*

g. **Widespread Destruction**

- Revelation 16:17-21-- *"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations' fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great."*

B. Saved from the Storm

1. ***"God has not appointed us to wrath"***

- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11-- *"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."*
- a. The ***"Day of the Lord"***-- From Tribulation to Second Coming
 - b. **God has appointed us to suffer persecution from men but not the wrath of God !**
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:1-4-- *"Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know."*
 - c. **The way we are delivered from the wrath is by *"living together with Christ"*-- or by *"being with Christ"***

2. ***“God will keep us from the very hour of trial to come on the earth”***

- Revelation 3:7-10-- *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, “These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”” I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”*

- a. **What is the “hour of trial”?**

- b. **Promised to be “kept FROM the hour of trial.”**

- c. **How does God keep us from the hour of trial?**
 - Revelation 3:11a--*“Behold, I am coming quickly!”*

- d. **Ready or not, Jesus is coming!**
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10-- *“How you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10-- *“He died that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”*
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- *“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises as some men understand slowness. But He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*