

What God Really Thinks about Evil

Revelation 15 & 16; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 1-22-2023

Huge Question: *Is God 'okay' with the evil and suffering in this world?*

Are you bothered by the evil and suffering in the world? - 2 Peter 2:7-9

Is there a sneaky suspicion in the heart of man that God must be in favor of all the evil and suffering in the world? – Malachi 2:16-3:6

- 1. 7 Bowls: God has a plan regarding evil.** The 7 bowls of wrath are communicated in apocalyptic imagery and symbolism so it is challenging to know how much of what is pictured is physical (and similar to the picture) and how much is purely figurative and spiritual. Either way, it is often the case that the reality is worse than the symbol!

1st Bowl (16:1-2): Malignant Sores (end of health)

2nd Bowl (16:3): Sea turned to Blood (end of resources for life)

3rd Bowl (16:4-7): Waters turned to Blood (end of joy)

4th Bowl (16:8-9): Sun's Scorching Heat (end of comforts)

5th Bowl (16:10-11): Darkening of the Beast's Kingdom (end of order)

6th Bowl (16:12-16): Drying Up of the Euphrates River (end of restraint)

7th Bowl (16:17-21): Great Earthquake and Hailstorm (end of earthly powers)

The temporal wrath of God will be completed in the 7 Bowls. (15:1, 7, 8; 16:1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17) From the beginning, God never intended for evil to last forever!

Why did God send Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden? – Genesis 3:21-24

Why did Jesus come? – 1 John 3:8b

- 2. The Wrath of God: God hates evil.** The Scripture reveals that, regardless of how things appear, God hates evil and the suffering it brings and will deal with it justly and thoroughly.

Righteous and True (15:3-4)

Seven Plagues from the Temple (15:5-8)

They Deserve It (16:5-7)

The wrath of God is justice, not injustice. (15:3-4; 16:5-7)

Abraham and the Ten – Genesis 18:22-33

God is Not Mocked – Galatians 6:7-8

According to Our Deeds – Romans 2:4-11

- 3. The Rescue: God delivers from evil.** We talk about being 'saved' and many times we don't really think much about what we are saved 'from' and saved 'to'! Jesus came to save sinners from the wrath we deserve.

The Two Harvests – Revelation 14:14-20

The Song of the Redeemed (15:2-4)

Believers will be saved from the wrath of God. (15:2-4; 14:14-20)

Noah's Rescue from the Flood and Lot's Rescue from Sodom – 2 Peter 2:4-10

Should we expect to be rescued from great tribulation or from great wrath? – Romans 5:1-11

The Victorious Overcomers – Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21; 1 John 5:4; Romans 8:35-39

- 4. The Unrepentant: God opposes evil.** God brings temporal judgments on sinners in this world to varying degrees of intensity in order to oppose evil and to call sinners to repentance.

Refusing to Repent (16:9-11)

Blaspheming God (16:21)

Unbelievers will refuse to repent under God's wrath. (16:9, 11, 21)

Pharaoh's hardened heart – Exodus 9:22-35

Job's Blaspheming Wife – Job 2:1-10

Where is the lock on the door of hell located? – Matthew 8:23-34

- 5. The Battle of Armageddon: God will end evil.** We've all heard of Armageddon and the end of the world. But we often hear it talked about as if humans will bring about Armageddon and the end of the world. But the Bible says that this is what God Himself will do in judgment upon evil in order to bring an end to it.

The Mount of Megiddo or The Mount of Assembly (16:12-16)

The conflict between God and the devil and rebellious man will reach its climax at the battle of Armageddon. (16:14, 16; 17:14; 19:11-21; 20:7-10)

You Will Be Like God – Genesis 3:4-6

The Tower of Babel – Genesis 11:1-9

What will be the 'shout' when Christ returns? – 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

As a non-Christian, what should you do?

- Be very afraid! – Matthew 10:28
- Don't let God's kindness to you now make you think that He will overlook your sins. - Romans 2:4-6
- Don't minimize your sins against a holy God. – Matthew 5:22
- Know that you will experience God's wrath if you do not repent and believe in Jesus. – Luke 13:1-5
- Call on God for mercy and give your life to Jesus. – Romans 10:9-13

As a Christian, what should you do?

- Do not be afraid, but rejoice that you have been rescued from the wrath of God. – Luke 10:20
- See God's judgment and wrath as a 'strange work' compared to His heart to show mercy and grace. – Isaiah 28:21 (KJV); Revelation 16:15
- Expect King Jesus to rule well. – Revelation 1:4-7
- Leave justice to God and be thankful for it. – Romans 12:14-21
- Pray for the lost people in your life and serve them well. – Luke 6:27-36
- Pray for opportunities and courage to speak the good news. – Colossians 4:2-6