

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 16 we are shown the 7 bowl judgments of God's wrath.

- I. The 1<sup>st</sup> bowl is poured on the earth:  
God's enemies suffer (vs. 1-2).
- II. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl is poured on the sea:  
God's enemies die (v. 3).
- III. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl is poured on the rivers & springs: God's enemies receive economic hardship  
(v. 4).

First Interlude of Reminder: God's wrath is deserved because God, in His holy and just character, has sent His wrath (vs. 5-7).

- IV. The 4<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured on the sun:  
God's enemies suffer physically prompting cursing rather than repentance (vs. 8-9).
- V. The 5<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured on the beast's throne:  
God's enemies suffer separation from Him prompting more cursing rather than repentance (vs. 10-11).
- VI. The 6<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured on the Euphrates:  
God gathers His enemies for final judgment  
(vs. 12-14; 16).

Second Interlude of Reminder: Stay awake (v. 15)!

- VII. The 7<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured into the air:  
God's final judgment arrives (vs. 17-21).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 6, 2019

Passage: Revelation 16:1-11

Memory Passage: Revelation 16:5-6

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 16:1-21.** Though we will save 16:12-21 for next week, we will examine the entire chapter as we start our study this week. Compare what you read concerning the images in the 7 bowl judgments with the images in the 7 trumpet judgments (8:6-9:21 & 11:15-19) and the 10 plagues (Exodus 7:14-11:10). In what ways are these 3 passages similar? In what ways are they different? Be sure to answer concerning both the content and structure of these passages.

(b) How does the relationship of the bowl judgment images to the trumpet judgment images and to the plagues help you understand what time in history the bowl judgments will actually be carried out?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 16:1-11.** Whose is the “loud voice from the temple,” how do you know, and why is this important?

(b) Are the “painful sores” literal sores or figurative of something else? How do you know (keep your hermeneutical principles in tact as you proceed through these verses, as well as the rest of Revelation)?

(c) What relationship can you see between the judgment of sores and the recipients of those sores mentioned in v. 1?

(d) If you see these images as symbolic (i.e. not literal sores), and you should, what will be the actual experience of those who have the mark of the beast and worship it?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 16:1-11.** What is similar about the judgments inflicted by the pouring of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> bowls?

(b) To what do the images of the judgments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> bowls refer (cf. 8:8-11 & 18:11-19)?

(c) Why is “the angel in charge of the waters” the one who speaks in vs. 5-7?

(d) Why does the angel omit “who is to come” from his description of God (cf. 1:4, 8; 4:8, 11:17)? What bearing does this have on when you think the judgments symbolized by the bowls actually occur?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 16:1-11.** Upon what basis does the angel and the altar declare God’s actions righteous and just?

(b) What would you say to someone who said in response to vs.5-7, “So that’s how your God is? If someone spits at him he will spit back? If someone takes his toys he will take theirs? I thought you said your God was a God who forgives?”

(c) What does the fire represent in the 4<sup>th</sup> bowl and the darkness represent in the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl?

(d) What is the response of those upon whom these judgments fall (vs. 9 & 11), and what does this prove about them?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 16:1-11.** We have now seen on several occasions God being worshiped and praised for unleashing His wrath on unbelievers. How is this affecting you? Are you struggling with the idea that God should be praised for the destruction of the wicked? If so, in what ways? If you are not struggling, are you becoming apathetic to the severity of His righteous judgment? Does it cease to burden you that people you know will suffer this judgment if they remain unrepentant?

(b) Passages such as this should cause us to take stock of what kind of God we actually believe we serve. Is your God so loving that He would never judge the unrighteous? Is your God so sterile that thoughts of judgment never enter your mind at the same time you contemplate Him? Do you consider the holiness and righteousness of God in your everyday life?

(c) How does the reality of God’s righteous and just judgment affect your response to others when they wrong you? How should it affect you? How quick are you to pronounce judgment against someone else based on only your own knowledge of what they have done? How quick are you to seek your own vengeance upon them?

(d) We as believers are safe from the wrath of God. But if we interact with the truths about God’s righteous and just wrath without asking God to reveal sinfulness in our own heart and mind, then we miss the blessings of sanctification. Please take time today to ask God to give you a burden to love others better and give them the benefit of the doubt, to seek their interests over your own, and to leave the judgment, the vengeance, actions that require perfect righteousness, to Him.

DATE: January 6, 2019

PASSAGE: Revelation 16:1-11

*Just God = Just Deserts*