

Book of Revelation

23. The Seven Bowls



Revelation 16

Introduction

God is a God of love. This has been revealed to us in the cross. God gave His only Son so that we could come back to Him. The cross not only reveals God's love, but also His justice. Sin must be punished. Sadly many will reject that love, and so God has no choice but to pour out His wrath on them. As we come to Revelation 16 we see what this means.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 16:1-21

The seven angels now pour out the seven bowls of wrath. Bowls were used in the temple to burn incense and we have seen the connection between prayer and judgment. These bowls were shallow pans, and this could indicate that these bowls of wrath will be poured out quickly, over a short period of time.



God's judgment is described here as 'bowls', but elsewhere different terms are used. What are some of the phrases that are used elsewhere in the Book of Revelation? Chapters 14:7, 14:19, 15:1, 15:7, 16:19

*(Hour of His judgment; Winepress of God's wrath; Seven last plagues
Bowls filled with wrath of God; Cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath)*



As we mentioned in the last study there is a similarity between the trumpets and the bowls. Note the comparison between the two. Ask someone to fill in the attached chart. What conclusions can you draw from this?

Compare Revelation	8:7	with	16:2
	8:8		16:3
	8:10		16:4
	8:12		16:8-9
	9:1-3, 5		16:12, 14
	11:19		16:17-21



Notice that each bowl is poured out **on** different areas. For example the first bowl is poured out **on** the land. What about the others? 16:3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17

(They are poured out on the land, sea, rivers and springs, sun, throne of the beast, River Euphrates, into the air.)



In the second and third bowls all the waters on the earth are turned to blood. What reason is given for such a judgment? 16:5-7 What is this referring to?

(The reason given for this judgment is that mankind has shed the blood of the saints and prophets. This no doubt refers to the many that were put to death)

throughout the ages – including the prophets from Old Testament times, and the great multitude of believers who are killed during the Tribulation.)



How does mankind respond to these judgments? Is there any evidence that there is still opportunity to repent? 16:9, 11 and 16:15

(Most people curse God and refuse to repent, however it would seem that there is still an opportunity to do so, as v15 urges God's people to stay awake.)



When people face hardship they often blame God. How would you answer a friend who asks you why God allowed something bad to happen to them?



How do you feel when you read about God's wrath? Do you think God is really just, or do you think it is too much? Why do you feel like this? Discuss.

Conclusion

Many people have an incorrect view of God. Some see Him as a Father Christmas who just does nice things for everybody, and they cannot accept that He will judge the world. Others see Him like a very strict earthly father who wants to beat them for every mistake.

Jesus prayed in John 17: "I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known." Let's ask Him to reveal the Father to us more and more, so that we will know who He really is.

God's Judgement

	Trumpets	Area / People Affected	Bowls	Area / People Affected
1.	<i>Revelation 8:7</i>		<i>Revelation 16:2</i>	
2.	<i>Revelation 8:8</i>		<i>Revelation 16:3</i>	
3.	<i>Revelation 8:10</i>		<i>Revelation 16:4</i>	
4.	<i>Revelation 8:12</i>		<i>Revelation 16:8-9</i>	
5.	<i>Revelation 9:1-3, 5</i>		<i>Revelation 16:10-11</i>	
6.	<i>Revelation 9:13-15</i>		<i>Revelation 16:12, 14</i>	
7.	<i>Revelation 11:19</i>		<i>Revelation 16:17-21</i>	