

"The Wrath of God"

Revelation 15:1-8

Introduction & Review: Chapter 15 presents an overview of seven angels who deliver seven plagues as the final wrath of God on sinful mankind. See chapter 16 for details.

Question: The words that we find in Revelation 15-16 can cause us to wonder at God; is he just in acting so decisively? Do these people deserve what is coming?

Revelation 15 - Seven Angels and Seven Plagues

Verse 1 – John connects this final scene with the seventh trumpet of Revelation 11:15-12:3.

Verses 2-4 – The scene changes to a sea of glass mingled with fire and around it are those who have faced and conquered the influence and evil of Satan's earthly rule and they are singing the praise of God who carried them through.

Question: Those who conquered the beast are those who resisted the influence of culture, people, social media and all sorts of noise. What is the dominant influence in each of our lives?

Verses 5-8 – A third scene appears and it is dominated by a sanctuary tent in heaven. (Revelation 16; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10) A commentator writes, "No longer does he stand knocking; he enters to act in sovereign judgment." (Mounce, 289)

Question: How wide or encompassing are the judgments of God? Is God involved in all judgment or is he hands off for the most part?

Precept: The glory of God is incomplete until the wrath of God against sin is finished and in our text we see these two things come together for God's glory.

Conclusion: When God pours out his wrath it comes in categories. First, there is the 'wrath' of "reaping and sowing" (Job 4:8; Galatians 6:7-8). Second, there is the wrath of cataclysm (Genesis 6-8; 19). Third, there is the wrath of abandonment (Romans 1:24, 26, 28; Hosea 4:17). Fourth, there is eternal wrath that is poured out on the whole world (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9).

Choose your influences! God intends to influence us but so does the culture and the people that surround us. That means that we need discernment regarding influences. Satan knows the importance of influences to get a foothold in our hearts and minds to move us away from a commitment to Jesus Christ.

The wrath of God was specifically directed at Israel in the Old Testament (1 Samuel 6:19; 1 Chronicles 13:10; Psalm 95:10-11; Zephaniah 1:15) but the New Testament challenges us to see the wrath of God against sin and sinful peoples of all nations. God will not only hold his people, Israel, accountable; he will hold all peoples accountable and that takes place at the end of time.