

"The Wrath of God"

Revelation 16

Introduction & Review:

Revelation 16 – In rapid fire we read about the end of God's wrath on sin and sinful mankind. It is apparent that there is similarity between these final plagues and what God did in Egypt (Exodus 4-14).

1. "Painful sores" - Revelation 16:2 - Exodus 9:9-10; Job 2:7; Luke 16:21
2. "Seas turned to blood" - Revelation 16:3 - This is a judgment that reflects the local judgment of Egypt in Exodus 7:7-21.
3. "Rivers & springs turned to blood" - Revelation 16:4 - People are left to find clean water sources. And this mirrors the third trumpet judgment. What happened to the Nile (Exodus 7:20-24) now takes over the whole world.
4. "Sun scorches people" - Revelation 16:8-9 - This is the only plague that has no comparison in the plagues of Egypt but the picture that comes through these two verses is "actual tongues of fire burning people". (Osbourne, 586)
5. "Beast's kingdom Darkened" - Revelation 16:10-11 - This mirrors the plague that engulfed Egypt. (Exodus 10:21-29; Joel 2:2; 3:14-15 ; Mark 13:24; Luke 21:25)
6. "Euphrates dried up" - Revelation 16:12 - This sixth bowl mirrors the sixth trumpet. (Revelation 9:13-19)
7. "A Loud voice, Greatest Earthquake, Massive Hail" - Revelation 16:17-21 - We should see this as the most devastating environmental disaster of history. The surface of the earth and everything on it will be altered or destroyed (18-19).

Conclusion: Being alive during the days described as the final seven plagues of God's wrath will be unparalleled in history. Commerce will end, geography will be transformed and fear will rule, not fear of any man but fear of the unknown and of God who controls the unknown.

The 'mark of the beast' and the 'battle of Armageddon' are passing buzz words that have turned into cult like obsessions. We should see the 'mark of the beast' as an indicator of those who are against Christ and 'Armageddon' as the defeat of Satan and his human forces in space and time.

There seems to be a real shift in these seven plagues from the former seals and trumpets; the possibility of repentance has faded dramatically. These bowl judgments reflect that direct accountability that God took with Pharaoh and leads to a divine plan to free God's people of Satan's stranglehold on culture and cultural influences.

An important idea comes full circle in these plagues; "Evil participates in its own destruction." (Osbourne, 601) (Romans 8:19-21) This coming reality should remind us that deception will rule the end times and discernment is vital for a blessed life.