

And Justice For All

Long Beach Alliance Church • Happy Father's Day! • June 16th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***Behold, I am coming like a thief!
Blessed is the one who stays awake,
keeping his garments on, that he may
not go about naked and be seen exposed!***

~Revelation 16:15 (ESV)

1) The Smoking Bowls Of God's Wrath

- A) After the songs of victory (the song of Moses & song of the Lamb, Revelation 15:3-4), the entire dwelling place of God fills with thick smoke from the seven bowls of God's wrath, setting the scene for ensuing judgment (15:7-8).
- B) Just as it is implied in the previous verse (15:8), the angels which were summoned for the bowls of God's wrath are almost immediately commanded to "go and pour out" God's wrath on the earth (16:1).
- C) Like the previous seals (6:1-17, 8:1-5) and trumpets (8:6-9:19, 11:15-19), the bowl judgments pour out justice on earth-dwellers who do not belong to Jesus Christ (16:2-21).
- D) The bowl judgments all reflect the Egyptian judgments of Exodus. They are (by far) the most terrifying and global of all the judgments in the Apocalypse, including the entirety of mankind/earth/universe.
- E) There is strong "recapitulation" (repetition/restatement) between all the judgments in Revelation, but especially between the trumpet & bowl judgments.

2) The Rapid & Devastating Bowl Judgments

- A) The first bowl is poured out, resulting in terrible physical/ spiritual sores on the people of the earth (16:2).
- B) The second bowl is poured out, resulting in dark blood infecting the sea, killing all sea life (16:3).
- C) The third bowl is poured out, turning all the fresh water on the earth into blood (16:3).
- D) The first three judgments are all “blood judgments,” to which the angel with authority over the waters cries out praise for the goodness of God’s judgments (16:5-7).
- E) The fourth bowl is poured out, resulting in scorching fire and heat on earth, hardening people against God (16:8-9).
- F) The fifth bowl is poured out, resulting in total darkness on earth, and stubborn rebellion against God (16:10-11).
- G) The sixth bowl is poured out, resulting in the drying up of the “great Euphrates” (16:12). The Euphrates was the ancient “border” of Israel, protecting from enemies.
- H) Upon the drying up of the Euphrates, the full demonic force of the anti-trinity comes to bear (Egyptian-esque frogs), gathering the military (and spiritual) forces of the earth together for a battle at Armageddon (16:14, 16).
- I) Despite God’s grace (16:15), the pouring of the final bowl ushers in the “typical” earthquake of the conclusion of the Apocalypse, and mankind’s continued rebellion (16:17-21).

The Unrestrained, Comprehensive Expression of God’s Wrath

Bowl	Area Affected	Reference	Result
Bowl 1	earth	16:2	sores on the beast’s worshipers
Bowl 2	sea	16:3	blood and death
Bowl 3	rivers and springs	16:4-7	blood to drink
Bowl 4	sun	16:8-9	burning heat
Bowl 5	beast’s throne	16:10-11	palpable darkness
Bowl 6	Euphrates River	16:12-16	gathering for the battle
Bowl 7	air	16:17-21	earthquake shattering the great city



“And Justice For All” (Revelation 16)
Week of June 16th – June 21st, 2013

Growth Group Homework



Powering Up

1. What observations from this weekend’s message, “*And Justice for All*,” did you find the most interesting or challenging? Do you have any questions? Share with your group.
2. **Take Cover!** Have you ever experienced a natural disaster (earthquake, tornado, hurricane, blizzard, etc)? Where were you? What happened? Share with your group.



Digging In

3. **Awake!** In the midst of cataclysmic judgment raining down upon the earth, an interesting aside appears in Revelation 16:15. While evil gathers its forces, Jesus slips in a caution to the reader. Read Revelation 16:13-16. What context is this warning placed in? God’s people have already been redeemed through Jesus Christ’s atonement on the cross. Knowing all saints have already been protected from God’s wrath and judgment, why would Jesus bother telling them to *be alert*?



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4. **Living with Eyes Wide Open.** Christ calls His followers to be alert. Read 1st Thessalonians 5:16-18, Mark 6:30-32, 1st Corinthians 5:9-13, and 1st Corinthians 9:24-27. What advice do these other New Testament instructions offer us about what an “alert” Christian looks like? Can you think of any other ways Christians are to live “fully awake and ready” for Jesus?



Connecting To Life

5. **Be Prepared!** Another application of Jesus’ call for Christians to be alert is found in Peter’s letters. How does 1st Peter 3:15 call us to be ready? The Bowl Judgments of Revelation 16 beg an important question: exactly who will be facing those judgments? Who do you know that hasn’t been redeemed by Jesus Christ’s gift of grace yet? Which members of your family and who from among your friends would bear the full wrath of God if the End Times were ushered in today? Share these people with your growth group. Together, pray they would understand and accept the Good News of Jesus Christ!