

Revelation

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath—Revelation 16:1–21

Topics: Angels, Anger, Blasphemy, Consequences, Darkness, Death, Demons, Earth, Heaven, Holiness, Judgment, Justice, Last Days, Pain, Repentance, Sickness

Open It

1. Which do you think is worse—physical or emotional pain?
2. What injustices in the world sometimes cause you to wonder if God is just?

Revelation 16:1–21 (ESV)

¹Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

²So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

³The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

⁴The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.

⁶For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!"

⁷And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

⁸The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.

⁹They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

¹⁰The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish

¹¹and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

¹²The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

¹³And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

¹⁴For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

¹⁵("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!")

¹⁶And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

¹⁷The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

¹⁸And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

¹⁹The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

²⁰And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.

²¹And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

Explore It

3. What did the angel in charge of the waters say about the judgments being poured out? (16:5–7)
4. Why were the judgments that John witnessed called just? (16:5–7)
5. What kinds of judgment did the fourth bowl contain? (16:8–9)
6. Where was the judgment of the sixth angel directed? Why? (16:12)
7. What was the appearance of the three evil spirits after the judgment of bowl number six? (16:13–14)
8. What blessing was pronounced in the middle of this outpouring of judgment? (16:15)
9. What were the results when the seventh angel poured out his bowl of judgment? (16:17–21)

Get It

10. How (if at all) do you think current events fit in with the judgments described in this passage?
11. What makes the judgments described here—horrible as they are—perfectly just?

Apply It

12. In what situations this week can you be fair and just?