

# Revelation 16 - The Wrath of God

---

Rev 16:1-21 ESV Then 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.**"

## The Day of the LORD is a Day of Wrath

Zep 1:14-18 ESV **The great day of the LORD is near**, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. **15 A day of wrath is that day**, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, **16** a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. **17** I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. **18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD.** In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

**It is linked to the enemies of Christ being made a footstool** - Psa 110:1-6 ESV A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "**Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.**" **2** The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! **3** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. **4** The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." **5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.** **6** He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

**It affects all of humanity, all of creation, and the wicked** - Isa 13:6-13 ESV Wail, for **the day of the LORD** is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! **7** Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. **8** They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. **9** Behold, **the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.** **10** For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. **11** I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. **12** I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. **13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.**

**The YEAR of favor, the DAY of vengeance** - Isa 61:1-2 ESV The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are

bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

**The patience and the longsuffering of the LORD will lead some to repent, while others continue to store up wrath for that day** - Rom 2:5 ESV But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are **storing up wrath** for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Isa 2:12 ESV For **the LORD of hosts has a day** against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up--and it shall be brought low;

**As we said in Chapter 14 - the LORD is pushing for decision** - Joe 3:9-16 ESV Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up. 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, "I am a warrior." 11 Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD. 12 Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 **Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full.** The vats overflow, for their evil is great. 14 **Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! *For the day of the LORD is near*** in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. 16 The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.

**It will be a day where you can't hide** - Amo 5:18-20 ESV Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, 19 as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

**It will be sudden and without escape** - 1Th 5:1-4 ESV Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then **sudden destruction** will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and **they will not escape**. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

**It is experienced universally** - Oba 1:15 ESV For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; **your deeds shall return on your own head**.

2Th 2:1-4 ESV Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. **For that day will not come, *unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed***, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against

every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

**Knowing these things are true should inform how we live** - 2Pe 3:10-13 ESV But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, **what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness**, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Rev 6:12-17 ESV When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 **for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"**

Rev 16:12-14 ESV The 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. 13 And 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. 14 For 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**.

### The Wrath of God and the Heart of Man

Heb 3:7-12 ESV Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, 8 **do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. 10 Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, **'They always go astray in their heart;** they have not known my ways.' 11 **As I swore in my wrath**, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" 12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Mar 3:5 ESV And he looked around at them with **anger, grieved at their hardness of heart**, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Rom 2:4-5 ESV Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But **because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath [Gk 2372] for yourself on the day of wrath [Gk 2372]** when **God's righteous judgment** will be revealed.

## Wrath like a winepress

- Rev 14:9-10 ESV And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, **10 he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger**, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.
- Rev 16:19 ESV The 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.**
- Rev 19:15 ESV From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. **He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.**

## The first bowl

2 So 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.**

- A judgement specifically directed at those who bore the mark of the beast

## The second bowl

3 The 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.**

- Every living thing in the sea died

## The third bowl

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into **the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.** 5 And 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. 6 *For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets,* and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!" 7 And I heard the altar saying, **"Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"**

- Judgement upon the waters
- **Moses also turned waters of Egypt into blood** - Exo 7:19-21 ESV And the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" 20 Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood. 21 And the fish in the Nile died, and the

Nile stank, so that the Egyptians could not drink water from the Nile. There was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.

### **It is a vengeance against those who have killed the saints and prophets**

- 2Th 1:3-10 ESV We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith **in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.** 5 This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you are also suffering--** 6 since indeed **God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, 7 and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels** 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

### The fourth bowl

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl **on the sun**, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They 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.**

- The judgement came upon the sun which affected the people
- **Yet the people did not repent and give God glory**
- Rather they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues

### The fifth bowl

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

- This was a judgement against the throne of the beast and his kingdom
- The kingdom was plunged into darkness
- Once again the judgment came and **people did not repent of their deeds**

### The sixth bowl - Preparing for Armageddon

12 The 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. 13 And 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. 14 **For 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!")<sup>16</sup> And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon**.

- This is a judgement to prepare the kings of the earth for the great battle
- Preparing the way by drying the river
- Sending demonic spirits to go to the kings of the whole world and assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty
- Armageddon means - the hill of rendezvous

### **Blessed is the one who stays awake**

- Mat 25:5 ESV As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

### **Who keeps his garments on**

- Rev 3:14-18 ESV "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. 15 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and **naked**. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and **white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen**, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.

### The seventh bowl

17 The 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!"<sup>18</sup> And 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. 19 The 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. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. 21 And 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.