

God's Wrath

Poured Out on the Unrepentant

Part 1 of 2

Thursday, 9/15 at 7 + Sunday, 9/18 at 8:00 & 10:45

14th Sunday after Pentecost / 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, since all have sinned, what is the difference between Christians and non-Christians? By God's grace *Christians are repentant*, thus they are sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus for forgiveness; *non-Christians are unrepentant*, thus not sorry, **or** not trusting in Jesus **or** both. This sermon points to the *great joy* that is coming for *Christians* and the *great wrath* that is coming for *non-Christians*!

1 [And] I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God [was] finished. // Those words summarize chapters 15-16; here we have the final judgment, *the completion of God's wrath upon the unrepentant who dwell on the earth!*

- Christians Fear and Glorify the Lord:** **2** And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name [*Christians – in Christ we win*], standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. // In Revelation chapter 4 we saw the heavenly throne room; ♦God the Father on the throne, ♦God the Holy Spirit near Him, ♦four living creatures surrounding them, and ♦24

elders surrounding them. Now, in chapter 15, *those who are victorious IN CHRIST over the beast are also present!* The “sea of glass” points to the perfect peace of heaven and the “harps” point to the great joy of heaven!

- a. ³ And they [sing] the song of Moses, the [slave] of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, [the] King of the nations!” // What is the “song of Moses”? It was sung by the Israelites – *right after they crossed the Red Sea* – to celebrate GOD’S great victory over Pharaoh’s army. Both then and in connection with our eternal rescue from our sins, *GOD did what seemed impossible!* Therefore, notice that the “Lord God, the Almighty” receives all the credit! In the same way, *regarding us being forgiven in Christ*, let us give the Lord God 100% of the credit and the glory!
- b. ⁴ “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.” // In other words, *the saved ones confess* that everyone will ultimately fear the Lord:
- i. The unrepentant by *being terrified of the Lord*:
^{NAU} **Hebrews 10:31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
 - ii. The repentant by *showing the Lord much respect*:
^{NAU} **1 Samuel 12:24** Only fear the LORD and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

2. **The Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath are Distributed:**

a. ⁵ [And] after these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened [in the OT the priests came to the “*tabernacle of testimony*” set up by Moses to offer sacrifices and prayers; here we are seeing the tabernacle in heaven (Hebrews 8:5)], ⁶ and the seven angels [having] the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. ⁷ [And] one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. // The angels are holy angels, *not evil angels*, because it is holy and right for God to punish all who reject His salvation!

b. ⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power [like the awesome scene in Isaiah 6]; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. // Why? The opportunity to repent, *even for us to pray for the unrepentant*, had ended. Even this command was given to Jeremiah when the people developed *evil hearts*: ^{NAU} **Jeremiah 11:14** ...do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not listen when they call to Me because of their disaster.

3. **Bowls 1 – 3 are Poured Out:** The sad results of false teachings: // ^{16:1} [And] I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God.” // As the Bible says: ^{NAU} **Nahum 1:2** The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and

maintains his wrath against his enemies. ³ ...the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.

- a. Judgment on false worship – ² [And] the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a [bad] and [evil] sore [*wound, ulcer*] on the people [having] the mark of the beast and [worshipping] his image. ³ [And] the second angel poured out his bowl [on] the sea, and it became blood like *that* of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died. // The picture is pain and suffering for all who finally reject God's truth about their sin and His salvation through Jesus; such people become friends of the world (see [James 4:4](#))!
- b. Judgment on the persecutors of God's people – ⁴ [And] the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who [is] and who [was], O Holy One, because You judged these things; ⁶ for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." [Jesus said to His followers: ^{NAU} [John 16:2](#) "...an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God." – *A result of believing what is false! But the Lord said: "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay..."* (Rom. 12:19 NAS)] ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." // The *unrepentant* being *punished* is *fully right*, while the *repentant* being *saved* is *fully merciful*!

Conclusion: And all God's people said: *Amen!*

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