

God's Wrath

Poured Out on the Unrepentant

Part 2 of 2

Thursday, 9/22 at 7 + Sunday, 9/25 at 8:00 & 10:45

15th Sunday after Pentecost / 14th Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, we now return to Revelation chapter 16, which looks ahead to →the end of the world, →the return of Christ, and →God's wrath being poured out on all who are **unrepentant**! That may sound harsh, but I concluded last week's sermon with this statement *which is based on God's Holy Word*:

The **unrepentant** being **punished** is **fully right**,
while the **repentant** being **saved** is **fully merciful**!

In this sermon we come to the pouring out of God's wrath in connection with bowls 4, 5, 6, and 7. Along with bowls 1-3, "the wrath of God [was] finished" (Rev. 15:1). Let us realize that all these punishments will come upon the **unrepentant** because ♦they believed what is false, thus ♦they rejected *God's Word of truth and Jesus Christ who is the truth*:

1. **Bowl 4 is Poured Out:** ⁸ [And] **the fourth angel** poured out his bowl upon **the sun** [even though the sun is about 109 times larger than the earth – God's wrath is far greater], and it was given to **it** [the sun] to **scorch** [unrepentant people] **with fire**. [The sun and God's Word can bless or curse: God uses the sun to bless us with **light and heat**, even as He uses His Word to bless us with **truth and peace**. However, as the sun burns us, so those who reject God's truth will experience God's terror.] ⁹ [And they] were **scorched with fierce heat** [2 Peter 3:10]; and

they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory. // God is almighty, so He CAN do anything, but He also operates on a plain far above our comprehension (Isaiah 55:9). Therefore, *when things are difficult*, the unrepentant tend to NOT REPENT but blaspheme God while Christians GLORIFY GOD by ♦remaining still, ♦remaining at peace, and ♦knowing HE is in control!

2. **Bowl 5 is Poured Out:** ¹⁰ [And] the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast [*beast number 1 – the anti-God ways of secular government*], and his kingdom became darkened; and [unrepentant people] gnawed [*lit. “gnawing” – an ongoing action*] their tongues because of pain, ¹¹ and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds. // When God pours out His wrath on the unrepentant, *they will blame Him*, but the fault will not be God’s but theirs – *because they did not repent (they were not sorry or did not trust in Jesus as Savior or both)*!
3. **Bowl 6 is Poured Out:** This bowl points to *the forces of evil coming together* to defeat the Triune God and all who trust in Him. Even today, *as we sense such things*, let us – by God’s grace – continue to embrace God’s gift of salvation in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:20-22; 6:23)!
 - a. ¹² [And] the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east [*lit. “rising of sun”*]. // It’s as if God will help them gather, **BUT THEN HE WILL DEFEAT THEM!**
 - b. ¹³ And I saw *coming out of the mouth of the dragon* [*the devil*] and out of the mouth of the beast [*beast 1*]

and out of the mouth of the false prophet [*beast 2 – false representatives of God*], three unclean spirits like frogs; ¹⁴ for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. // Again, God allows the unholy trinity to successfully gather “the kings of the whole world...” – not for victory *but for their total defeat!*

- c. ¹⁵ [“Behold, I [*Jesus*] am coming like a thief [*Luke 12:39; 1 Thess. 5:2*]. Blessed is the one who stays awake [*lit. “watching,” Luke 12:36; 1 Thess. 5:6*] and keeps [*lit. “keeping”*] his clothes [*that means to remain repentant – aware of his sin and trusting in Jesus, thus clothed with God’s gift of righteousness*], so that he will not walk about naked and [unrepentant people] will not see his shame [*his sin.*”] // As the world and various false teachings become more and more opposed to the Triune God, we will be tempted to give up on Jesus; so here Jesus is urging us to keep the faith – NO MATTER WHAT! (See Dr. Becker, 249-250)
- d. ¹⁶ And they [*the three unclean spirits*] gathered them [*the kings of the whole world*] together to the place which in Hebrew is called [Armageddon] [or Har-Magedon]. (See Dr. Becker, 250)

4. **Bowl 7 is Poured Out:** “...the conditions preceding the end had been the subject of the six preceding plagues. **This is the end**” (Becker, 251). For the **unrepentant** these words should bring *great terror*, but, for the **repentant** “this vision was a message of *comfort* for the persecuted church of John’s time” and even for us today!

- a. ¹⁷ [And] the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air [*sun and water were mentioned earlier; now our most*

essential physical need is cursed], and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne [the voice of God], saying, "It is done." ¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. [The mother of all earthquakes; also see Hebrews 12:26.] [Do each of these references to "a great earthquake" all refer to the day when Jesus returns: Ezekiel 38:18-20; Luke 21:8-11, 25-28; Revelation 6:12; 11:13?

- b. ¹⁹ [And] the great city [Babylon the Great] was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. [And] Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. // Earlier God threatened (14:6-12); now He acts!
- c. ²⁰ And every island fled away [no more water to isolate one land mass from another; like 6:14], and the mountains were not found [the entire earth became a flat plain, thus no place to hide]. ²¹ And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each [possibly only 60 lbs. but still very heavy; a shot put used by men is only 16 lbs.], came down from heaven upon [unrepentant people]; and [they] blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe. // What is left? Eternal punishment for the **unrepentant!**

Conclusion: So far, we have covered five sevens: ♦letters, ♦seals, ♦trumpets, ♦visions, and ♦bowls. Thru all such things, let us know this blessed truth: **IN CHRIST WE WIN! Amen!**