

Life with the End in Sight

A Series in Revelation



5. God has the last word (Rev 15–16)

Introduction

In this section of Revelation, we come across the seven bowls, which are yet another depiction of God's judgment following the seven seals and the seven trumpets. They are, again, difficult to read.

In this study, we will consider the song of those who have overcome, and then look at a few different aspects of the judgments themselves, so that we can understand what we can from them.

Part 1, The Song of the Saved

Revelation 15:2-8

READ Rev 15:2-8. The passage also mentions the 'song of Moses' which refers to the song after the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus. So you might find it helpful to **READ Exodus 15:1-18** as well.

Q. What links the people singing here in Revelation with those singing on the bank of the Red Sea? What is the purpose of their songs?



Q. In these songs, what aspects of God's nature are celebrated?



Q. Are there parts of God's character, nature or actions celebrated in the songs that you find difficult to celebrate? Why might this be?



Q. If you were to write a song celebrating God's character or actions, what would it include for you?



Q. What do you make of the idea in v8 of full access to worship God in some way not being possible until after judgment has taken place?



Part 2, The Judgment of the Bowls

In chapter 16 the seven bowls of God's wrath are poured out in a scene of judgment. We are going to focus on a few phrases, but to begin with ***READ Rev 16:1-21.***

Q. Before getting into the details of some phrases, how do you react to these words? What do they evoke in your thoughts and feelings?



1. God's Justice

In 16:5 an angel makes a declaration of God's justice. **READ Rev 16:5-7.**

Q. What reasons are given for God being just, and how might these verses help us to understand what God's justice is (and is not)?



2. God's Justice

READ Rev 16:9 & 16:11. They speak of people refusing to repent.

Q. What is repentance, and why do you think these people refuse to even when judgment has come? How do we approach repentance?



3. Like a thief

In 16:15, a reminder to remain ready is given. **READ Rev 16:15.**

Q. Why would this statement be put in the middle of a passage like this, and what does this readiness and urgency mean for us now?

