

*“Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.' ... And I heard another from the alter saying, 'Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.' ... They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” – Revelation 16:1,7,11*

**Overview:**

In Rev 15:8 we read, “The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. Now in Rev 16 we have in rapid succession, 7 angels each pouring out a bowl of judgment on the earth that was given to him by one of the four living creatures, Rev 15:7. It is now time for the wrath of God to be poured out on the earth.

Unlike the plagues of Exodus, these judgments are global in scale and each one is designed by God to dismantle the earth's environment. The 1<sup>st</sup> bowl is poured out upon the earth. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bowl is poured out upon the sea. The 3<sup>rd</sup> bowl is poured out on the rivers and springs of water. The 4<sup>th</sup> is poured out on the sun. The 5<sup>th</sup> is poured out on the throne of the beast. The 6<sup>th</sup> is poured out on the river Euphrates. And the 7<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured out into the air. These are not random judgments of God's rage but the coming of justice upon an earth that has rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son.

In Rev 16:5-6 the angel of the waters proclaims that God is righteous and God is the judged of these things. The innocent blood of the saints and the prophets had been shed and drinking of blood is their just due. In Rev 16:7 a voice from under the alter proclaims these judgments are both true and righteous. While these judgments grow in intensity, God is still giving mercy. Men can still repent and put their trust in Jesus Christ and escape the greater judgment of hell, but in Rev 16:11 we read, “They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.” Man knows who is in control but even in great pain, they refuse to repent.

**References:**

**Rev 16:1** – Answers the question of Rev 6:10, “How long O Lord”

**Rev 16:1** – Heart of God

- Ezekiel 18:23,32 – Takes no pleasure in the destruction of the wicked
- 2 Peter 3:9 – Desires for all to come to repentance

**Rev 16:1** – But know the time has come – The pronouncement of heaven:

- Rev 11:15-19 – Heaven was open
- Rev 12:10 – Satan thrown down
- Rev 14:8 – Babylon's end proclaimed
- Rev 15:8 – The temple closed for anything other than this judgment coming

**Rev 16:7** – The call of heaven: reminiscent of the song of Moses and the Lamb – Rev 15:3

**Rev 16:8** – Poured out his bowl on the sun – predicted by Isaiah the prophet – Isaiah 30:26

**Rev 16:9** – They did not repent and give Him glory – Ezekiel 18:23

**Rev 16:8-11** – Significance of this scorching heat and darkness – A foretaste of eternity to come for all who refuse to repent. - Jesus described hell as:

- Mark 9:44-48 – Fire is not quenched
- Matthew 8:12 – A place of outer darkness

**Questions:**

\* In Rev 16 we see angels proclaiming God's judgment to be righteous and true but on earth men blaspheme God because of these judgments. Why is there such a different reaction?

\* How do you respond to God during times of difficulty and trouble?

**Additional Study:**

**Rev 16:1**

\* Loud (*mega*) – Great used 9 times in Rev 16:1, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, and 21

**Rev 16:2**

- \* A foul (*kakos*) – having an offensive odor
- \* Loathsome (*poneros*) – describing intensity of pain
- \* Sore (*helkos*) – used in the Greek version of the Old Testament, describe the boils, 6th plague–Exodus 9:8-11

**Rev 16:8**

\* Scorch (*kaumatizo*) – to harm by intense heat, like plants wilting

**Rev 16:11**

- \* They blasphemed (*blasphemeo*) – slander, insult, curse the God of heaven
- \* They did not repent (*metaneo*) – a change of mind that results in a change of direction