

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
"The Bowl Judgments – Am I Spiritually Awake?" #18
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
December 6, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

1. Do I Believe Heaven Is Worth Dying For?

"I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the **seven last plagues**--last, because with them God's wrath is completed. And I saw what looked like a **sea of glass** mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been **victorious** over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held **harps** given them by God and sang the **song of Moses** the servant of God and the **song of the Lamb**: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and **worship** before you, for your **righteous acts** have been revealed." **Revelation 15:1-4 (NIV)**

After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, **the tabernacle of the Testimony**, was opened. Out of the temple came the **seven angels** with the **seven plagues**. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. Then one of the **four living creatures** gave to the seven angels **seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God**, who lives for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the **glory of God** and from His power, and no one could enter the temple **until** the seven plagues of the seven angels were **completed**. **Revelation 15:5-8 (NIV)**

2. Do I Believe God's Judgments Are Just?

Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go, pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath on the earth." The **first** angel went and poured out his **bowl on the land**, and ugly and **painful sores** broke out on the people who had the **mark of the beast** and worshiped his image. The **second** angel poured out his **bowl on the sea**, and it turned into blood like that of a dead man, and **every living thing in the sea died**. The **third** angel poured out his bowl on the **rivers and springs of water**, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are **just in these judgments**, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have **shed the blood of your saints and prophets**, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve." And I heard the altar respond: "Yes, Lord God Almighty, **true and just** are your judgments." **Revelation 16:1-7 (NIV)**

"The **fourth** angel poured out his **bowl on the sun**, and the sun was given power to **scorch** people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat and **they cursed the name of God**, who had **control** over these plagues, **but they refused to repent and glorify him**. The **fifth** angel poured out his **bowl on the throne of the beast**, and his kingdom was **plunged into darkness**. Men gnawed their tongues in agony and **cursed the God of heaven** because of their pains and their sores, **but they refused to repent of what they had done**. **Revelation 16:8-11 (NIV)**

Genesis 18:23-32 (NLT2) Abraham pleads for Sodom & Gomorrah

Romans 3:21-26 (NIV) “But now a **righteousness from God**, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through **faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe. There is no difference, for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, and are **justified freely by his grace** through the redemption that came **by Christ Jesus**. God presented him as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

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**. Then I saw **three evil spirits** that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of the **beast** and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**. They are spirits of **demons performing miraculous signs**, and they go out to the **kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle** on the great day of God Almighty. **Revelation 16:12-14 (NIV)**

- **Ezekiel 38** – Armies led by the Antichrist from the East & North will attack Israel
- **Revelation 19** – **Jesus** who is Faithful & True destroys Satan’s armies for He judges fairly and wages a righteous war.

3. Do I Believe Heaven Is Worth Living For?

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who **stays awake** and **keeps his clothes** with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called **Armageddon**. The **seventh** angel poured out his **bowl into the air**, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, "**It is done!**" Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a **severe earthquake**. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The **great city split into three parts**, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered **Babylon the Great** and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. **Every island fled** away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky **huge hailstones** of about **a hundred pounds** each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible." **Revelation 16:15-21 (NIV)**

➤ Am I Spiritually Awake?

My next right step, I will:

- [] Daily prayer: “Give me compassion for those who don’t know you.”
- [] Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- [] Invite someone to church or join a watch party on Sunday
- [] Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group's time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week's message encourage you to live like Jesus?

How has God blessed you so far in this study of God's Word?

Icebreaker: What firsthand experience have you had with a natural disaster?

1. Do I Believe Heaven Is Worth Dying For?

Read Revelation 15:1-8

How does John describe this new sign?

What picture does he paint in verse 2?

What praise is given to God?

How does the angels attire contrast with what they are given to do?

How does this passage make you feel?

What great and mighty deeds has God done in your life for which you will praise Him today?

2. Do I Believe God's Judgments Are Just?

Read Revelation 16:1-14

What would be the worst plague for you to experience?

Sores all over your body? Intense heat without air conditioning? Total darkness? Or great thirst with very little water? Why?

What contents are in each bowl? Why are these plagues worse than those ushered in the trumpets?

What was the function of the trumpet plagues?

What is the function in the bowl judgements?

How will the just purposes of God and the evil purposes of Satan, finally and awfully converge at Armageddon?

What will be the results?

Read Genesis 18:23-32

How does Abraham's pleas for Sodom & Gomorrah, and God's response, show us how God judges with mercy?

Read Romans 3:21-26

How did God demonstrate His forbearance of sin?

What does it mean that Jesus was our sacrifice of atonement?

How does this help you understand our forgiveness better?

3. Do I Believe Heaven Is Worth Living For?

Read Revelation 16:15-21

What has God done in your life to help you repent?

How is the book of Revelation making you feel?

What has surprised you about this book?

Close in Prayer.