

Jesus and Judgment Day

November 1, 2026

Main Passage: Revelation 15–16

Theological Theme

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Introduction

- ❓ What plagues do you remember from Exodus?
- ❓ Why do you think judgment is necessary? Why must God respond to sin?

1. Preparation (Revelation 15:1-8)

This passage describes the preparation for the bowl judgment we will read about next and opens with the third sign in the Apocalypse. The first two signs were in our reading last week (the woman in 12:1 and the dragon in 12:3). In this sign, God is going to make a statement, and when He is done, everyone will know that He is the Lord.

- ❓ What is the tone of the song recorded here, and what is significant about that?
- ❓ What is challenging or confusing about this scene? What additional questions do you have?
- ❓ What challenges you about seeing God's goodness in His judgment and wrath? Why is it important to wrestle with this question?

2. The Bowl Judgments, 1-3 (Revelation 16:1-7)

The bowl judgments begin with a loud voice coming from the temple (likely the voice of the Lord), instructing the judgment to begin (v. 1). Note those who are targeted here: "the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped its image" (v. 2). The mark of the beast may not be a literal mark but is possibly symbolic of how a person chooses to live. It is crucial to consider if we are marked by obedience to Christ or marked by sin and idolatry—a rejection of God, His gift of salvation, and right living. Those with the mark of the beast fall into the latter category.

- ❓ What do the responses of the angels in this passage indicate is the point of the bowls of wrath?

- ❓ What similarities do you see between these events and the plagues of Egypt?
- ❓ At the end of the age, God will be just in pouring out wrath on all who reject Him. How should this give us urgency for sharing the gospel with others now? How much do you feel that urgency?

3. The Bowl Judgments, 4-7 (Revelation 16:8-21)

The fourth bowl was poured on the sun and resulted in the people being scorched with fire and by intense heat (vv. 8-9). Note the heartbreaking response. The people didn't cry out for mercy, repent, or view God rightly and give Him glory. They continued to reject God. They blasphemed. The NIV renders this verse as "they cursed the name of God" (v. 9). God reveals His ultimate power, but still, like the beast before them (Revelation 13:5), they refused to repent. The pouring of the fifth bowl resulted in a painful darkness, recalling the ninth plague from Exodus 10:21-23. The sixth bowl resulted in the drying up of the Euphrates. When the seventh bowl was poured, a loud voice proclaimed, "It is done!" (v. 17). God has completed His judgment.

- ❓ How did the people respond to the bowls of wrath in this passage?
- ❓ What similarities do you see between these events and the plagues of Egypt?
- ❓ It is vital to remember that those who trust in Christ will not face God's wrath but will receive His salvation. How can you keep this truth before you every day?

Conclusion

- ❓ How does today's passage impact your desire to share your faith with the people God has placed in your life?
- ❓ How does today's passage renew your gratitude for Jesus?
- ❓ Who do you need to tell about Jesus today? How will you move in that direction?