

Study Guide: Seven Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 16

Introduction

God is patient, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Yet His patience will not last forever. In Revelation 16, the bowls of wrath are poured out and heaven declares: “It is done.” Even as judgment falls, the human heart remains hard. People curse God, not because they doubt Him, but because they despise Him.

Question: How does knowing both God’s patience and God’s justice shape the way we live right now?

The First Three Bowls (vv. 1–7)

- Painful sores afflict those who worship the beast.
- Seas, rivers, and springs turn to blood.
- All marine life dies.
- The angel declares: “Just are you, O Holy One ... they have shed the blood of saints ... you have given them blood to drink.”

Question: What parallels do you see between these judgments and the plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7–12)?

Question: Why is it important that an angel declares God’s judgments are “just and true”?

The Fourth and Fifth Bowls (vv. 8–11)

- The sun scorches people with fierce heat.
- Darkness covers the kingdom of the beast.
- In anguish, people gnaw their tongues—and curse God instead of repenting.

Question: Why do you think judgment leads to rebellion rather than repentance for so many?

Question: What does this reveal about the power of sin to harden the heart (Romans 2:4–5)?

The Sixth Bowl (vv. 12–16)

- The Euphrates dries up, preparing the way for armies from the east.
- Demonic spirits go out from the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet to deceive the nations.
- The kings of the world are gathered for battle at Armageddon.
- In the middle of this vision, Jesus reminds: “Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake.”

Question: How does Jesus’ warning to “stay awake” apply to us today?

Question: Why do you think John pauses the narrative for Jesus’ words of encouragement to believers?

The Seventh Bowl (vv. 17–21)

- The bowl is poured into the air and a voice from the throne declares: “It is done!”
- Lightning, thunder, and an earthquake unlike any in history devastate the earth.
- Cities collapse; Babylon is remembered for judgment.
- Islands and mountains vanish.
- Hailstones weighing 100 pounds fall from heaven.
- Once again, people curse God instead of repenting.

Question: What is the significance of God’s voice declaring “It is done”? How does this echo Jesus’ words on the cross in John 19:30?

Question: How does this scene give both warning to the lost and hope to believers?

Lessons from Revelation 16

- Evil may appear to triumph, but God’s victory is certain.
- Sin hardens the heart—unrepentant sinners curse God rather than turn to Him.
- God’s wrath is real, deserved, and final.
- Yet mercy is still available: “Seek the Lord while he may be found” (Isaiah 55:6–7).
- Jesus is coming. Be ready.

Question: Which of these lessons most challenges or encourages you personally?

Final Question: Are you ready for His coming, or are you resisting His mercy?