
The Book of Revelation: Session 20

Revelation 15:1-16:11

YouTube: “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 15-16:6 | Gary Hamrick”
(taught on November 18, 2020 | 40:06 minutes)

Notes:

“Those” (15:2): Those believers who have been martyred during the Tribulation period.

The Lamb’s song and Moses’ song (15:3-4) are about three things: (1) the works of God, (2) the ways of God, and (3) the worth of God.

1st Bowl (16:2): Ugly and painful sores break out on all who have the mark of the Beast. → 6th Egyptian plague (Exod 9:8-12)

2nd Bowl (16:3): The sea turns into blood. Every living thing in the sea dies.

3rd Bowl (16:4): The rivers and streams become blood. Drinking water is polluted.
→ 1st Egyptian plague (Exod 7:14-24)

4th Bowl (16:8-9): People are scorched by the intense heat of the sun. → Isa 30:26

5th Bowl (16:10-11): Darkness covers the kingdom of the Beast. → Matt 8:12 → 9th Egyptian plague (Exod 10:21-29)

6th Bowl (16:12-16): The Euphrates River dries up. Demons entice the kings of the East to wage war against Israel in the Valley of Megiddo (Armageddon).

“Great Are Your Works” (Vineyard, 1989)

Your works, Lord, are awesome | Your power is great (2x)

*Great are Your works, Lord | Great are Your deeds
Awesome in power | So awesome to me*

You will reign forever | In power You will reign (2x)

Because of Your greatness | All the earth will sing (2x)

Questions:

1. Read Revelation 15:1-8. Chuck Swindoll explains: “First, the bowls represent seven plagues concentrated near the end of the future seven-year Tribulation period. The word translated “plague” in this verse literally means “a blow” or “a wound.” These judgments are not long, drawn-out epidemics. ... Rather, these plagues come with sudden impact – swift, severe, destructive, and fierce. Second, the seven bowl judgments will be the last expression of God’s wrath toward the inhabitants of the earth.” John writes that these plagues “complete” (v. 1) God’s wrath. This is the Greek word “teleō,” the same final word Jesus proclaims on the cross, “finished” (John 19:30). Just as redemption for humanity was completed on the cross, another redemption for mankind is nearly finished, with these seven bowls. What do we learn or re-learn about God in this song sung in verses 3-4? How do these truths about God impact you?
2. Read Revelation 16:1-7. In the midst of God judging the evil of this world, an angel (16:6 “You have given them blood to drink as they deserve”) and the altar (16:7 “...true and just are Your judgments”) help us to remember that love and justice are two sides of the same coin. Love is not love unless there is also justice. John MacArthur asserts: “Fittingly, those who have spilled so much innocent blood will be given blood to drink” (16:6). Swindoll comments: “It may appear that the wicked get off scot-free, but one day there will be a reckoning. ... One day the tables will be turned, and justice will be served.” How grateful are you for God’s mercy? How grateful are you for His justice?
3. Read Revelation 16:8-11. Unbelievably, those who suffer from these plagues, likely knowing they are sourced in God, refuse to repent and glorify God. William R. Newell, a 19th-20th century pastor and teacher, once said, “If men are not won by grace, they will never be won.” Do you agree or disagree with his statement? Assuming Newell to be correct, what should be one of our priorities, in this age of grace we presently live in?

Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1994:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-54/the-final-wrath-of-god-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-55/the-final-wrath-of-god-part-2>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-56/138>