

Revelation Chapter 16

Theme: **Romans 12:19** “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

V: 1 The command is given for the angels to go forth:

- Vials = bowls.

“... *Wrath of God*...”

Hebrews 10:30-31 ³⁰For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. ³¹It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

Galatians 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

- It is better to fear the wrath of God than to fear the wrath of man or the Devil.

Matthew 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

V: 2 First bowl: “*Noisome sore*” = “running sore”, an oozing sore that doesn’t heal.
Radiation sickness / leprosy?

- God is making a distinction between the rebellious and the faithful, just as He did with the children of Israel in Egypt during the plagues.

2 Peter 2:9 “The Lord knows how to deliver the Godly out of temptations, and to preserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

The plague of boils upon Egypt

Exodus 9:8-12 ⁸And the LORD said unto Moses and unto Aaron, Take to you handfuls of ashes of the furnace, and let Moses sprinkle it toward the heaven in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹And it shall become small dust in all the land of Egypt, and shall be a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast, throughout all the land of Egypt. ¹⁰And they took ashes of the furnace, and stood before Pharaoh; and Moses sprinkled it up toward heaven; and it became a boil breaking forth with blains upon man, and upon beast. ¹¹And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils; for the boil was upon the magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. ¹²And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses.”

Deuteronomy 28:15, 27, 35 There is a price tag attached to rebellion.

- 15: “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:”
- 27: “The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.”
- 35: “The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.”

- Who receives this curse? Those who aligned themselves with Satan.

Psalms 1:1 “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.”

V: 3 2nd Bowl: 1st on the earth, the 2nd on the sea: all encompassing.

- “The” sea: seems to infer a specific sea, as in the Mediterranean.

Revelation 8:8 (1/3) “And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;”

Exodus 7:17-23 “¹⁷Thus saith the LORD, in this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. ¹⁸And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall loathe to drink of the water of the river. ¹⁹And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. ²⁰And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. ²¹And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. ²²And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said. ²³And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart to this also.”

Revelation 21:1 “And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth: for the first Heaven and the first Earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

V: 4 Third bowl of wrath: Fresh water becomes blood. Again, just like with Egypt.

V: 5-7 A side commentary, a doxology praising God. Portraying His qualifications.

V: 5 *“The angel of the waters”*, later there is an angel standing in the sun.

Hebrews 1:14 “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

- “Thou art righteous” – this angelic being is saying “yes / amen” to God’s judgment, just as we all will as we understand Him better whether here or in Heaven. Here the angel says “right on God”.
- Not in any way questioning God’s judgment.

Jeremiah 4:2 “And thou shalt swear, the LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in Him, and in Him shall they glory.”

Psalm 97:2 “Clouds and darkness are round about Him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.”

V: 6 Blood: is very precious to God, it is important to Him.

Solomon wrote

Psalm 72:14 “He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.”

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Genesis 4:3-10 “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, what hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.”

- One of the differences in their respective sacrifices was blood, later God informed Cain that Abel's blood cried out from the ground.

Speaking of sin

Hebrews 9:22 "... without the shedding of blood there is no remission."

Genesis 9:5-6 "And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

Matthew 23:34-35 ³⁴Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: ³⁵That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar."

Matthew 27:25 "Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

- They enjoyed shedding blood so much, consuming so much, now they can drink it!

V: 7 "*I heard another*" – a second witness

Deuteronomy 19:15 "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

Matthew 18:16 "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

- God's judgments are righteous and true, all together good.

James 3:17-18 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

2 Timothy 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

V: 8 Scorching men with fire: A little foretaste of Hell

Deuteronomy 32:24 “They shall be burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust.”

Isaiah 24:6 “Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.”

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”

- There is the idea that if God would just send His judgment, the ungodly would turn to God. That is generally not the case, it does cause the righteous who have turned away from God to turn back to their righteousness. The ungodly simply harden their hearts.

Romans 2:4 “Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

V: 9 Men blaspheme the name of God.

Psalms 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

V: 10 “*Seat of the Beast*”, a direct hit upon the beast. In Revelation 14 it was asked, “who can make war with the Beast?” Here we seem to have an answer to that question.

Revelation 14:4 “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

- Darkness. How will God do that? Supernatural phenomena, super nova? Nuclear fall out?

Exodus 10:21 “And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.”

Mark 13:24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,”

Joel 2:1-2 “Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.”

- Gnawed their tongues for pain:
 1. That's a lot of pain – again a foretaste of Hell.
 2. Pictures in Vatican, murals, men with tongues hanging out. Symbolizing insanity, wild behavior, acting like dogs.

V: 11 Hardened hearts.

Romans 1:18-22 “¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

Romans 2:5-6 “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:”

- Forgiveness is only a prayer away.
- This is a picture of prideful stubbornness.

V: 12 The river Euphrates is the recognized / traditional border that separates East from West.

- Preparing the way of the kings of the East. China's 200m. man army en-route to the valley of Megiddo.
- Dam in Syria that could cut off the Euphrates.

V: 13 3 unclean spirits. 1 voice, 1 mouthpiece, the Dragon: Satan.

- Out of body experience / testimony that their spirit left and re-entered through the mouth.
- As Jesus drove demons out of people, often times there was the screaming, mouth wide open type descriptions of the event.
- Frogs: One of the many pagan gods worshipped by the Egyptians was half man and half frog.

Exodus 8: 1-10 The plague of frogs upon Egypt and Pharaoh.

V: 14 Spiritual warfare, spiritual attacks, a real enemy.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power, and signs, and lying wonders.”

Ephesians 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

- Preparing for a war against God.

Psalms 2:1-2 “Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His anointed...”

- Many of those that are in power in high places are or have been controlled by demonic beings. Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Idi Amin couldn't have done what he did apart from demonic control. History records that he was into “white magic” which is Satanic in its origin.

Speaking of His return, the 2nd coming.

V: 15 “Behold I come as a thief.” – at an un-expected time.

Matthew 24:43 “But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.”

Matthew 25:13 “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

Revelation 3:3 (Sardis) “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

- “Blessed” - There are 7 beatitudes in Revelation, this is one of them.

(Rev. 1:3, (read, hear, keep) 14:13, (martyrs) 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14)

- “Blessed is he that watcheth”

Luke 21:36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Titus 2:13 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

“Keeps his garments” (Sardis & Laodicea)

- Jesus is our covering, He is our righteousness.

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Revelation 3:17-18 (Laodicea) “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.”

V: 16 Armageddon, the Valley of Megiddo – staging point.

V: 17 “Seventh” – last

- Into or upon the “air”, piece by piece removing the kingdoms of this world from the prince of this world, or in this scenario the prince of the air.

Ephesians 2:2 “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

“... a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne...”

- That would be Jesus.

“It is done” **“Tetelestai”**

John 19:30 “When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.”

V: 18 Great earthquake: Not just local, the whole world.

Isaiah 24:17-20 ¹⁷Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. ¹⁸And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. ¹⁹The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. ²⁰The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be

removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

Jeremiah 4:23-27 “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.”

- Just like the refiner’s fire, sometimes God allows our lives to get shaken up so that those things that are not of Christ will fall away.

Hebrews 12:26-27 “Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”

V: 19 *“The great city”* - **Jerusalem**

Revelation 11:8 “And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

Psalms 48:8 “As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever.”

- Babylon – “the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.”

Isaiah 59:18 “According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense.”

Revelation 17-18 Political Babylon & Religious Babylon dealt with.

V: 20 The slate is wiped clean.

Isaiah 40:4-5 “Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”

Revelation 6:14 “And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”

V: 21 Great hail out of Heaven:

Exodus 9:23 “And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.”

Joshua 10:11 “And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.”

- About the weight of a talent.

Greek talent = 56 lbs.

Jewish talent = 114 lbs.

- Men blasphemed God: 3 times in this chapter – consistent with the three unclean spirits in verse 13 (rebellion).

Leviticus 24:16 “And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.”

Psalms 139:19-20 “Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.”

Jeremiah 8:20 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

Psalms 103:10-14 God has not dealt with us the same way He is dealing with the rebellious.