

POUR OUT THE VIALS

REVELATION 16:1-9

Text: Revelation 16:1

And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Introduction:

There is no denying the fact that the book of Revelation is a book of judgment. It was written to people in the first century who were smiting under the angry whip of Roman persecution. It was given to them to let them know that God has a plan for the judgment of all those who have rejected Him.

We have arrived at the final set of judgments. In **Rev. 15:7** shows one of the four beasts giving to seven angels seven bowls "**full**" of the wrath of God. Just as a reminder, the word "**full**" means "**to swell**". It is the image of a dam, under pressure, nearing its bursting point. This is a good description of the wrath of God.

Ever since Adam sinned in Eden, the wrath of God against sin and sinners has been building. The grace and mercy of God have served as a powerful dam, which has held that wrath in check. In the judgments of

the Revelation, the dam of God's wrath bursts and a Christ rejecting world is swept away in the wave of judgment that issues forth.

In **Rev. 14:10**, John writes, "***The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation.***" In these verses, the world is about to experience the undiluted wrath of an offended God.

God now issues the command for the angels to begin pouring out the bowls filled with His wrath upon the earth.

Note:

1. PLAGUES ON THE SINNER

Revelation 16:2

² And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and *upon* them which worshipped his image.

The word "**sore**" literally means "**an ulcer**". It has the idea of an open, running, ulcerated place on the skin. It probably refers to an oozing boil.

These sores are called "**noisome**". This word means "**of a bad nature, troublesome, injurious**". They are also described as "**grievous**". This word refers to something

that is “*annoying, painful, or bad*”. These two words reveal that these sores will be extremely painful, festering and incurable.

2. PLAGUES IN THE SEA

Revelation 16:3

³ And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead *man*: and every living soul died in the sea.

When this plague is poured out, every creature in the sea will die. The seas will become vast cemeteries.

One by one, God is tearing down all the things men take for granted. First, their health is destroyed. Then, the oceans are destroyed. The coastal regions of every nation in the world will become abandoned wastelands as the oceans are transformed into vast seas of death.

3. PLAGUES IN THE STREAMS

Revelation 16:4-7

⁴ And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. ⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. ⁷ And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

When the third bowl is poured out, the fresh water sources of this world are stricken. Again, we saw this in miniature back in **Rev. 8:10-11**, when one-third of the world’s fresh water supplies were poisoned when a comet, a meteor, or some other heavenly body fell in to them.

Here, they are turned to blood. By the time this plague is poured out on the earth, the world has become absolutely blood thirsty. Millions of martyrs have been slain by the Antichrist and his forces. Millions of saints have had their bloodshed by the enemies of God. He honors their desire for blood by giving them blood to drink. When Jesus was here, His first miracle was to turn water into wine. That miracle was designed to draw men to Him. Here He turns the water into blood to remind men of Him. One by one, the Lord is removing every prop, every comfort, everything mankind leans on for support and takes for granted.

4. PLAGUES ON THE SUN

Revelation 16:8-9

⁸ And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. ⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

The fourth plague touches the sun. Its heat is allowed to burn the bodies of men. The word "**scorch**" means "**to be burned with heat; to be tortured with intense heat.**" By some means, God will allow the heat of the sun to be intensified and the bodies of men will be burned.

Close:

We read the Bible and we understand that these plagues are God's judgment on sinners who refuse to come to Him for salvation. These plagues are designed to judge those who have defied a holy God at every turn. We read it and we understand the source and the solution.

What strikes me as amazing is the fact that these people understand what is happening too. They understand that God is behind these plagues. Instead of repenting in the face of His wrath, they stand in continued defiance to Him and His will. The Bible tells us in **verse 9** that they "**blaspheme**" the name of God. That word means "**to revile; to speak evil of**". They shake their puny fists toward God and revile His holy name!

They have the audacity to blame Him for their troubles and suffering. Of course, that has been the human way since the dawn of time. Even in Eden, Adam and Eve sought to blame their problems on others, **Gen. 3:11-13**. That trend continues today.

Grown men and women are running around blaming their parents for the problems they have in life. If they are angry; if they are substance abusers; if they have other problems in their adult lives, they lay the blame at their parent's feet. Homosexuals blame God for their perversion. They claim God made them the way they are. That is foolish! Homosexuals are not born! That lifestyle is a choice! Husbands blame wives; wives blame husbands; and everybody blames everybody else for their problems. Even under judgment men will blame God for what they are suffering.

But the problem is not with God. The problem is clearly stated in **verse 9**, "**and they repented not to give him glory.**" They refused to repent of their sins to the glory of God and they are paying a heavy price for their choice. They have no one to blame but themselves! If you fool around and die and go to Hell, you will have no one to blame but yourself. You could stop anywhere and call on the name of God and trust Him for salvation, if you would. If you do not, you will have nothing but judgment to look forward to!

The time for repentance is now. If you are not saved, you need to come to Jesus today. You need to be saved today! If you carry a burden for those who are headed to this horrible time called the Tribulation, the time to pray for them, the time to tell them is now. If you are saved and want to praise Him for delivering your soul

from death, Hell and judgment, today would be a good time to do just that. Listen to His voice and come as He calls you.