



The Seven Bowls

By Jeff Bedwell on November 15, 2021

READING: Revelation 16

Revelation 16 records for us glimpses of the fulfillment of Jesus words: *“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be”* (Matthew 24:21, ESV).

The words in Revelation 16 are painful to read as judgment falls upon the earth, but the angel reminds us that God is always just: *“And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments”* (Revelation 16:5, ESV).

Even a voice from the altar speaks in agreement: *“And I heard the altar saying, ‘Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!’”* (Revelation 16:7, ESV).

God is never unjust, and He always has reason and purpose in His judgments. He is the holy One, the Creator who sets the standards, calls people to follow Him, and judges them when they choose otherwise—particularly in this chapter, those who murder His followers. Yes, God is love, but He is also the holy and just judge.

In the face of this righteous wrath of a holy God, some still refuse to repent and acknowledge God (see vv. 9, 11, & 21). We see this propensity toward stubborn rebellion in Paul’s writing to the Romans (see Romans 1:18-32).

God desires our genuine repentance and offers us grace and forgiveness through Jesus Christ, but the opportunity will not last forever. Peter reminds us: *“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed”* (2 Peter 3:9–10, ESV).

Allow the holiness, righteousness, justice, grace and mercy of our God call you anew and afresh to a genuine repentance of any known sin. Ask God to move powerfully in the hearts and minds of those you know and love that do not yet know the hope found only in the gospel through genuine repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Father, I praise You that You are holy and just in all that You do. Thank You for extending Your patient, amazing grace to me. Today I take up these words in prayer: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”* (Psalm 139:23–24, ESV).

TOMORROW'S READING: Revelation 17

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