

Q: The 4th bowl allowed the sun to scorch people with fire. (these people were still affected by the previous plagues). How did they respond? How does this show both the mercy of God, yet the hardness and depravity of human hearts, when aligned against God? \_\_\_\_\_

Q; The 5th bowl was specifically against the throne of the beast and his kingdom. It plunged them into darkness. How does this remind us of the 9th plague in Exodus 10, and also a preview of eternal darkness for those who reject Jesus (Matt 25:30)? Again, what was the response of those affected? \_\_\_\_\_

Q: The 6th bowl dries us the Euphrates River, the eastern boundary of both the ancient nation of Israel and Rome. What did this prepare the way for? (see also Ezek 38-39—Gog (leader) and Magog (nation to the far north of Israel) and how these nations play a role in the end, especially as the nations gather against Jesus at Armageddon). \_\_\_\_\_

Q: Jesus again reminds us (v.15) to be ready (spiritually “clothed and awake”) for He will come like a thief. What does that imply? How does this relate to His promises (Sardis in 3:2 & Laodicea in 3:18)? \_\_\_\_\_

Q: How does the last plague also remind us of Jesus’ last words on the cross and the resulting effects that followed his death? With the giant earthquake, imagine every big city, every mountain, flattened! Giant hail fell from the sky (reminding us of the OT punishment for blasphemy of God was stoning to death—Dt 13:10; 17:2-5). Still, how did the people respond? They acknowledge God, yet hate Him! \_\_\_\_\_

Q: How receptive are you when God (through His Word, His Spirit, perhaps through others) convicts you to repent of sin and turn to Him for forgiveness and holy cleansing and healing? \_\_\_\_\_



HARVEST  
E-FREE CHURCH

# Growing Deeper

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church  
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of March 27, 2022

Revelation 15 & 16

*Chapters 15 & 16 remind us that all of God’s actions come out from His Holy Character. From a human-based perspective, the judgments of God may seem harsh and unloving. But from God’s perspective, a Truth-based, Biblically based perspective, these judgments of God didn’t come without warning, didn’t come without God doing everything He could, giving all people ample opportunities to repent of sin, and turn to Him for mercy and forgiveness and find hope and everlasting life with Him. But here the time has come, when all evil and rebellion will be ended. Those in defiance of God had their chance, but now will pay for their sin and evil.*

Q: How does God’s Holiness relate to His wrath? How can God be both loving and demonstrate His Holy wrath? Why might people today have such a hard time understanding the necessity of God’s wrath against sin, evil and rebellion against Him?

Q: How might folks, even those in churches today, have a skewed view of God’s Holy Character? How would this also skew their faith?

Q: (15:1-4) These people have conquered the beast, it’s image, and it’s mark (number). They overcame personal, religious, and economic persecution by standing firm with Jesus. They are singing songs of praise and victory! Currently, how do you see yourself standing firm with Jesus when confronted with values and temptations that are in conflict with Biblical truths and values?

Q: (vv.3-4) the song of Moses was a victory song of God's deliverance from bondage in Egypt (see Exo 15). The song of the Lamb is the ultimate song of victory over sin, death and the forces of evil. Note some key words or phrases that highlight God's work, His character, and perhaps one more plea for rebels to repent. Why is this song appropriate, just as the last plagues are about to fall?

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Q: (v.5) God's wrath reveals His holiness, His righteousness, His justice, and also the depravity of mankind. How has God shown His love and mercy to all humanity since the beginning of time? (see also Lev 26 for the contrast between the promised blessings of God for obedience and the curses of God for disobedience).

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Q: (vv.5-8) The seven angels come out from the heavenly temple (again showing God's wrath flowing out from His Holiness—see Exo 40:34-38; 1 Kings 8:10-11; smoke filling the temple). How are the angels dressed? The bowls they are given are "golden," a term last seen in (5:8) connecting God's wrath with the prayers of the saints. How does the song of the redeemed saints, the prayers of the martyrs in chapter 6, and the prayers of God's people today, all tie into what God is doing here?

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Q: How do these last 7 bowl judgments/plagues reflect the plagues in Egypt (Exo 7-12) and the previous judgments (7 seals, 7 trumpets)?

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Q: (16:1) the first bowl judgement brings harmful and painful sores on those who bore the mark of the best. How ironic is it that God puts His mark of judgment on those who clearly rejected Him?

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Q: The second and third bowl judgments turn the waters to blood and kill every living thing in them. How would this affect the people on earth? (Drinking water? Food? Smell? Disease? Trade? Etc.). Their "god" the beast, can do nothing to stop it!

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Q: (v.5) what does the angel say, and how does this reflect the song of the saints in 15:3-4)?

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Q: The Bible clearly says for us to leave vengeance to the Lord (Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30). Here, the Lord is giving the rebellious people what they deserve. God's ways are always perfect and just, always holy and right. There will be no argument when all the evidence is laid out. All of heaven is in agreement. Knowing this, why is it critical for Christians to demonstrate God's forgiveness toward others who offend us?

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Q: In our world today, it may be tempting to allow our compassion for others (even those who claim to be oppressed), to overcome our conviction to follow God's Truth. It may be tempting to let the world define what love is, or tolerance, or so forth. But knowing God's holy character, why is it critical to Christ-followers to let God's Word and His Spirit to guide us to how God defines what is right and true and just in this broken world? How can this make a major difference in our world today?

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