

2. Understanding the Judgments of God

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Subtitle: God's Judgment of the world during the Great Tribulation

- We are currently studying God's Word concerning God's Judgments, to help us understand what will happen in the future (end-times & beyond)
- Many believers tend to lump all the Judgments of God together into one single event & end up quite confused
- Every believer should know about the future Judgments of God & gain greater boldness, confidence & urgency in reaching spiritually lost people

John 5:22–24 (NKJV) *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that Jesus Christ became sin for us
- Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He has taken God's judgment & penalty on Himself, so that we can receive His righteousness
- All believers in Jesus Christ are now saved from God's judgment

Main points of last week's message:

- a. The truth of God's judgments is a foundational truth
- b. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is only understood as “Good News” if we understand the judgments of God
- c. When Ap. Paul preached the Gospel, he included God's judgment
- d. Jesus Christ spoke about the Day of Judgment
- e. In principle, all judgment due to sin has been laid on Jesus Christ
- f. A list of Future Judgments of God, in a particular sequence

1. God's Judgment of the world during the Great Tribulation

- The Bible speaks about a 7 year period called “The Great Tribulation” (Daniel's 70th “week” of “seven years” - Daniel 9:24-27)
- This seven year Great Tribulation period is wedged between two events:
 - The Rapture of the church
 - The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

- During the Great Tribulation, God will pour out His wrath on the world to judge wicked people who will be alive at that time
- God's judgment during this period will not be a single event, but a series of disastrous individual events (recorded in Rev. chpt. 6 to chapt. 19)
- The key words in the book of Revelation, from chpts. 6 to 19, are:
 - opening of seven seals (Rev. chpt. 6 to chpt. 8)
 - sounding (blowing) of seven trumpets (Rev. chpt. 8 to chpt. 11)
 - pouring out of seven vials (bowls) (Rev. chpt. 15 to chpt. 16)
- Each one of these 21 key moments will trigger another event, as God's wrath is poured out on the earth on unrepentant people

2. The opening of seven Seals by Jesus Christ

Revelation 5:1,5 (NKJV) *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals ... 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.**"*

- God the Father has a scroll in His right hand
- Jesus Christ takes the scroll & begins to open its seven seals (future)

1st Seal: A rider on a white horse goes forth to conquer (Rev. 6:1-2)

This is the rise of the Antichrist (Mr. 666)

2nd Seal: A rider on a fiery red horse takes peace from the earth (Rev. 6:3-4)

This initiates war & a killing spree among earth's inhabitants

3rd Seal: A rider on a black horse (Rev. 6:5-6)

This initiates great famine & food scarcity on the earth

4th Seal: A rider on a pale horse called death, followed by hades (Rev. 6:7-8)

They have authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, hunger and by beasts of the earth

5th Seal: Cry of the first group of Tribulation martyrs (Rev. 6:9-11)

They cried, saying: How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?

6th Seal: A massive worldwide earth quake, & major cosmic disturbances

This includes great shifts of tectonic plates, meteors, etc. (Rev. 6:12-17)

- The 6th seal also initiates the "sealing" of 144,000 Jewish men on their foreheads, to ensure their protection from the future trumpet judgements
- The work of these 144,000 servants of God will result in great multitudes of people getting saved during the first half of the Tribulation (Rev. 7:9,14)

7th Seal: This initiates the next 7 judgments, triggered by 7 trumpets

(Rev. 8:1-6)

3. The sounding of the seven Trumpets by seven angels

Revelation 8:1–6 (NKJV) *When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. 5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. 6 So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.*

1st Trumpet: Hail, fire & blood on earth, 1/3 of trees & all grass destroyed (Rev. 8:7)

2nd Trumpet: A burning mountain thrown into the sea, 1/3 of sea becomes blood, 1/3 of sea creatures die & 1/3 of ships destroyed (Rev. 8:8-9)

3rd Trumpet: A great star falls from heaven, destroying 1/3 of rivers & springs (Rev. 8:10-11)

4th Trumpet: 1/3 of the sun, moon & stars are struck, to dim their light (Rev. 8:12)

5th Trumpet: Locust-like demonic creatures released from the bottomless pit, to sting (like scorpions) & torment people for 5 months (Rev. 9:1-12)

6th Trumpet: Release of 4 angels who were bound from river Euphrates, to kill 1/3 of mankind (200 million horsemen released) (Rev. 9:13-19)

- Two witnesses (prophets) begin to operate in Jerusalem (Rev. 11:3-12)

7th Trumpet: Announcement of Jesus Christ ruling over all the kingdoms (Rev. 11:15)

Revelation 14:6–7 (NKJV) *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—7 saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”*

Revelation 14:9–10 (NKJV) *Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*

4. The pouring out of seven bowls of God's wrath by seven angels

Revelation 15:1,6–16:1 (NKJV) *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for **in them the wrath of God is complete.** ... 6 And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. 7 Then **one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God** who lives forever and ever. ... 16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, **“Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”***

1st Bowl: Foul & loathsome sores on those with the mark of the beast & who worshipped the beast (Rev. 16:2)

2nd Bowl: The sea becomes blood, and kills all living sea creatures (Rev. 16:3)

3rd Bowl: All rivers and springs of water become blood (Rev. 16:4)

4th Bowl: Poured over the sun, scorching men with fire & great heat (Rev. 16:8)

5th Bowl: Poured on the throne of the beast, to cause complete darkness in his kingdom (Rev. 16:10)

6th Bowl: Poured on the river Euphrates to dry up its waters (Rev. 16:12)

- This prepares the way for the armies of the east to come to the battle of Armageddon

7th Bowl: Great earthquake, Jerusalem divided into 3 parts, cities of the world destroyed & great hail from heaven (Rev. 16:17)

5. God has not appointed His children to wrath

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV) *For **God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

- This Scripture is written in the context of the Rapture of the church
- Jesus Christ will remove the church from the earth through the rapture before the wrath of God is poured out

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NKJV) ... *you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.***

Romans 5:8–9 (NKJV) ... *God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.***