

God's Final Wrath

Intro: Three reasons difficult sections of the Bible is preached:

- 1. To present the whole council of God,
- 2. To awaken Christians to their mission, Matt. 28:19-20,
- 3. To awaken sinners of their lost condition.

Judgment was a popular topic in both the OT and New: 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Peter 2:4-6; 3:9-10.

These last series of bowl judgments, the first five of seven were meant to cause people to change.

I. The Releasing of God's Wrath

These "Bowls" are actually saucers or censers.

The symbolism is to assist us in understanding the plagues will occur very rapidly.

The plagues are similar to those of Egypt, (Ex. 7-12) and also to the trumpet judgments, (Rev. ch.8-11).

They were unique in that the plagues of Egypt were "localized", those of the trumpet judgments were "partial" and these in Ch. 16 were "global".

I. The Releasing of God's Wrath

The first plague attacked the physiology of man.

The second, third and fourth plague dealt with man's ability to survive.

The fifth plague gave man what he apparently wanted, darkness.

While God is depicted as light, darkness is seen as a metaphor for evil, Isa. 60:2; Joel 2:2; Mk. 13.

II. The Refusal of Man's Will

In spite of the mercy, grace and wrath, man still did not repent of his sinful deeds.

They knew Who was responsible for their misery, death and destruction, yet they cursed Him and did not repent.

This shows the hardness of man's heart when he prefers misery and pain and darkness over eternal life and joy.

II. The Refusal of Man's Will

Vs. 11 is the last time we will read about the unwillingness of the earth dwellers to repent.

Everything God does from this point forward is to eliminate them, not change them.

Repentance is much more than being sorry for the consequences of our actions. 2 Cor. 7:10.

Don't become accustomed to the darkness; always seek the light.