



2. [about 5 minutes] Read Revelation 16. It would help to have a change of reader corresponding to different angels. So, change readers for 1, 2, 3, 4-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-16, 17-21.

1. [about 5 minutes] 'Wrath' is often viewed in a negative light. But sometimes it is appropriate. Examples? wrath on those who oppose him, whoever, wherever and whenever. Revelation 16 is a very sombre statement of the reality of God's wrath in store for the un-repentant. In Australia today, God's wrath is in store for the Roman Empire. At the time Revelation was written, God's wrath was in store for present and future. God's wrath was in store for the Egyptians in Moses time. We don't have to guess what the seven bowls are. We are told they represent God's wrath. God's wrath is in store for all who oppose him, past and future. At the time Revelation was written, God's wrath was in store for the Roman Empire. In Australia today, God's wrath is in store for the un-repentant. Revelation 16 is a very sombre statement of the reality of God's wrath on those who oppose him, whoever, wherever and whenever.

## Revelation 16

*the seven bowls of God's wrath*

Week 6 • Sunday 11 September 2016

[spend about 5 minutes on each topic]

### 1. First bowl—the land (16:2)

'The beast' represents evil working against God; 'the mark' denotes those belonging to the beast. 'The image', in John's day, may have been a statue of the Roman Emperor. For Old Testament background, see Exodus 9:10, Deuteronomy 28:35.

### 2. Second bowl—the sea (16:3)

Old Testament background: Exodus 7:17-21. Notice similarities and differences with the second trumpet, Revelation 8:8-9.

### 3. Third bowl—the rivers and springs (16:4-7)

Something very important is said, and repeated, about God's judgments. What is said? Who says it?

### 4. Fourth bowl—the sun (16:8-9)

Explain the roles of the angel, the sun, God and the people. Compare with previous references to the sun in Revelation 6:12, 8:12, 9:2.



Looking ahead: Next week is Revelation Chapter 19:11-21.

true and just are your judgments;

## Worth remembering (from Revelation 16:7)

'Yes, Lord God Almighty,

How does this affect you?

3. The passage is mostly about wrath, but mentions blessing (15). this? How might you apply it in your interactions with others?

16:21. How does this temper or clarify the overall very negative tone of Revelation 16? What personal comfort do you take from 16:21. The possibility of repentance is indicated in 16:9, 16:11 and 16:21. How does this temper or clarify the overall very negative tone of Revelation 16? What personal comfort do you take from this? How might you apply it in your interactions with others?

2. The possibility of repentance is indicated in 16:9, 16:11 and 16:21. How does this temper or clarify the overall very negative tone of Revelation 16? What personal comfort do you take from this? How might you apply it in your interactions with others?

1. Revelation 16 is very sombre and sober. How does it touch your view of the world?

From there to here [spend about 10 minutes on this page]

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### 5. Fifth bowl—beast's throne (16:10-11)

Contrast with the throne of God, chapters 4 and 5. Compare with the ninth plague in Egypt, Exodus 10:21-23.

### 6. Sixth bowl—Armageddon (16:12-16)

'Frogs' echoes the plague in Egypt (Exodus 8:3). 'The east' might have suggested to John's readers the war-like Parthians. 20:15 brings to mind 3:3 and also 1 Thessalonians 5:2. 'Armageddon' refers to Megiddo, place of many battles (Judges 5:19, 2 Kings 23:29, 2 Chronicles 35:22). Putting this all together, what is depicted?

### 7. Seventh bowl—It is done! (16:17-21)

How does the description here bring the sequence of seven bowls to a climax?

### 8. Summation (16:1-21)

Taken as a whole, what is the meaning of Revelation 16? In what ways does the 'last battle' relate to Christ's death on the cross?



*fold away here second*