

The Wrath of God



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God judges sin.

God has plans to carry out eternal judgment against unrepentant sinners.

Revelation shows us God's plans to judge the wickedness of the world that one day will reach its fullness: the grapes of wickedness will be completely ripe to be harvested and crushed.

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Rev 14:18-20 gives us that imagery.

Revelation 14:18-20 And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

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Rev 15:1-8 gives us the heavenly scene as 7 angels prepare to pour out the 7 bowls of God's wrath.

Revelation 15:1 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.

Revelation 15:7-8 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.

The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

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Rev 16:1- 21 gives us the 7 types of judgment that God is going to pour out :

- 1. Sores**
- 2. Oceans become blood, every living thing dies**
- 3. Rivers become blood**
- 4. Sun scorches men with heat**
- 5. Darkness on the kingdom of the beast**
- 6. Euphrates river dries up**
- 7. Super seismic worldwide disaster – earthquake, 100lb hailstones**

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The recipients of this judgment are:

- Rev 16:2 – those with mark of the beast, who worship the image
- Rev 16:5 – those who poured out the blood of saints and prophets
- Rev 16:5 – those who deserve it
- Rev 16:9, 21 – those who blaspheme the name of God
- Rev 16:9, 11 – those who do not repent
- Rev 16:10 – those who belong to the kingdom of the antichrist
- Rev 16:12 – kings from the east who will gather at Armageddon
- Rev 16:19 – 5 geographical locations (cover whole world)
 - 1) great city Jerusalem, 2) cities of the nations, 3) Babylon,
 - 4) every island, 5) mountains

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The bowls are action from God because of:

- ❖ Rev 16:1 – God’s wrath
- ❖ Rev 16:5 – God’s righteousness, eternality, holiness, justice
- ❖ Rev 16:7 – God is LORD God, the Almighty, true and righteous are His judgments

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1st NEW TOPIC: ARMAGEDDON

1st and only time in the Bible – **Revelation 16:13-16**

6th bowl - God's military strategy for final judgment on the antichrist and his armies

God will allow Satan and the Antichrist to gather their forces in the place called Har-megadon

- Har-meggido = Mt Megiddo = Armageddon = Valley of Jezreel
- Armageddon is BOTH a specific geographical place AND it is a title for the final campaign of the Tribulation.
- As a place, it is a plain – a flat expanse of land surrounded by some hills and mountains.

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What will the antichrist, and satan, and the false prophet say to summon these forces to Israel? (*We do not know.*)

Revelation 16:13-14 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *coming* out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. ¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

- “Out of the mouth” – **indicates words.**
- “3 unclean spirits” (like frogs) – “spirits of demons” - indicates a deceptive / oppressive / **demonic influence** through the words of the antichrist and false prophet.

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Armies will attack Jerusalem

Zechariah 12:2-3 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Zechariah 14:2-3 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

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The antichrist will command the armies of the world to come to Israel to defeat Israel – once and for all, to destroy the Jewish people, to take over their land.

We KNOW that Satan will wage war against the Jews. Rev 12. We know that the antichrist will put a stop to their sacrifices. We know that the antichrist will kill Jews.

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What is God's purpose is for allowing this gathering of armed forces to take place in HIS HOLY LAND? (We do know!)

God's strategy is to gather the rebels of the world together in the place where He has put His people Israel.

In Israel, God will wage war – the war of the great day of God the Almighty.

Revelation 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, *which* go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

- All the forces of the world, led by satan and the antichrist gather at Armageddon, then strike Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12-14)
- Then the BREAKER will return to rescue His people Israel.

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Zechariah 14:3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.

Micah 2:12-13 "I will surely ^aassemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the ^bremnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men. ¹³ "The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head."

Revelation 14:19-20 ...the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

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Summary of the 6th bowl of wrath of God:

- the antichrist will deceive the world (deception)
- motivate them to fight against Israel (anti-semitism)
- God's purpose – judge and crush the wicked and unrepentant

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2nd NEW TOPIC: BABYLON

1st time (of **296** times): Rev. 14:8

2nd time: Rev 16:19-20 - announcement of **7th bowl**

Revelation 17 and 18 - all about God's judgment on Babylon

The city of Babylon has been a major capital city for many leaders of empires:

- Nimrod – the 1st world leader (Gen 10)
- Amraphel – King of Shinar
- Hammurabi – King of Babylon 1792 – 1750BC
- “It has been estimated that Babylon was the largest city in the world c. 1770 – c. 1670 BC, and again c. 612 – c. 320 BC.” *wikipedia*
- Nebuchadnezzar – King of Babylon
- Cyrus the Great – conquered the city, made it part of the Persian Empire
- Alexander the Great - planned it to be capital city – died there around 323BC, it was left in ruins
- Parthians attacked it and Babylon has never made a comeback.
- For over 2000 years, it has been a place of ruin, and a place of wild animals
- 1899-1917, German archeologists recovered remnants of the Ishtar Gate, relocated and reconstructed its blue-glazed tile murals at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin.

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Does Revelation refer to the real, geographical city of Babylon, or is it a symbol for another city, or just a symbol for wickedness all over the world?

- During John's day - no major city of Babylon existed that could be destroyed the way that the prophecy indicates.
- You don't have to see it to believe it.
- We **believe God's word** because God Himself has said it.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But ^athe word of our God stands forever.

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What does God's word tell us to expect? In the future, there will be a physical city of Babylon

- headquarters for the antichrist
- headquarters for false religion
- headquarters for world government
- financial capital of the world

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Religious Babylon will be destroyed. (Rev 17)

Political and commercial Babylon will be destroyed. (Rev 18)