

## *The Bowl Judgments*

*Revelation 16:1-16*

*"May I suggest to you that God sets the standard for what is right by what He does? God doesn't have to live up to a standard, He sets it, He is the standard and when He acts it becomes the righteous standard. Far be it from Thee, says Genesis 18:25, to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee, shall not the judge of the earth deal justly." MacArthur*

*God's "sovereignty" means that He is absolute in authority and unrestricted in His supremacy. Everything that happens is, at the very least, the result of God's permissive will. This holds true even if certain specific things are not what He would prefer. The right of God to allow mankind's free choices is just as necessary for true sovereignty as His ability to enact His will, wherever and however He chooses. gotquestions.org*

- I. God's wrath is reserved for those who want nothing to do with His offer of salvation through belief in the gospel. In the age of grace, unrepentant man does not generally feel the acute or immediate effect of God's wrath, which is one reason why many are not moved to repent and be saved. But, during the tribulation, unbelievers will feel the acute effects of God's wrath in increasing measure. Some will be saved as a result, but many will still refuse to repent and be saved. It's a mystery as to why, but it speaks of the power of a deceitfully wicked heart that worships self, sin, others, and the demonic forces of evil over God and His righteousness. It is by grace we've been saved, which speaks of the power of God to change a heart to worship Him alone. He drew, we responded, and in that we rejoice knowing that we will never ever experience his wrath against sin.

Rev. 16:1-2

Rev. 21:6

Col. 1:16-17

Rom. 11:33

Ps. 103:19

**προσκυνέω** *proskynéō*, pros-koo-neh'-o; meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, i.e. (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):—worship.

**Exodus 20:3** *You shall have no other gods before Me.*

- II. All 21 judgments in the book of Revelation are meant to show those who dwell on the earth that God exists and is in sovereign control over all things. They are meant to wake man up to his inability to save himself and escape the ravages of the Lord Almighty's wrath. He will be seen as their enemy, a ruthless God who cares little for them, even though they deserve their suffering. Their response, like anyone who shakes a fist at God, will be to refuse to repent and glorify Him. The battle of Armageddon, that occurs at the end of the Great Tribulation, represents the defiant attitude of rebellion, evil, sin, and demonic wickedness that is at war with God. His response will be to annihilate them and laugh as the victor who installs His King, on Zion, His holy hill.

Rev. 16:2-14,15

Ps. 73:16-17

Isa. 24:3,6

Jn. 3:19

Duet. 11:24

Ps. 2:1-6

Zech. 14:12-15

*"The Scriptures plainly refute the notion that wicked men will quickly repent when faced with catastrophic warnings of judgment. When confronted with the righteous judgment of God, their blasphemy is deepened and their evil purpose is accentuated." Walvoord*

- III. The only true hope that will exist during that terrible time of the bowl judgments is the hope that the saints hold onto as they wait for the Lord's return. It is easy to despair and lose hope in negative circumstance. That is why Jesus reminds the tribulation saints that they must stay strong in the faith. Otherwise, they will shamefully expose their fear before those who would gloat over seeing their weakness. They need to be reminded to stand strong as we too need to hear the same thing. After all, *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? (Ps. 118:6)*

Rev 16:15

Matt 24:36-44

**Matthew 24:42** *"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."*

**Eph. 6:10** *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*