“THE BOWLS ARE FILLED”

Revelation 15:1-8
8-21-2022

INTRODUCTION:

***God must and will punish sin!**

I. The Bowls are Filled
With the Wrath of God (v. 1)
(The Finality of God's Wrath)

II. The Bowls are Filled
But Not for the Overcomers (v. 2)
(The Freedom from God's Wrath)

III. The Bowls are Filled
And God is to be Feared and Glorified (v. 3-4)
(The Fairness (justification) of God's Wrath)

A. God is called "Almighty"
--Showing His ability to judge (v. 3b)

B. God is called "King"
--Showing His equity as Judge (v. 3c)

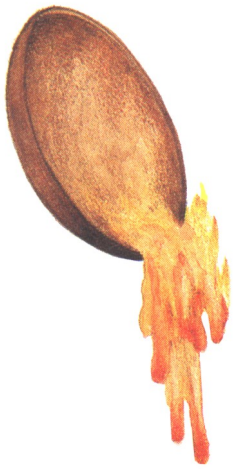
C. God is called "Holy"
--Showing His authority to judge (v. 4)

IV. The Bowls are Filled
And Ready to be Poured Out (v. 5-8)
(The Fulfillment of God's wrath anticipated)

CONCLUSION:

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Sins of the Last Days: This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy; Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

A global rejection of God and worship of the Beast (Rev.13).

Global persecution of Christians and Jews (Rev. 13:15; Rev. 6:10-11; Dan.7:21, 25; Matthew 24:16-f).

Revelation speaks of a book sealed up with 7 seals.

The Seven Seals (global wars, pestilences, persecutions etc.); A time period which marks the "beginning of birth pangs"

The 6th seal marking the sign of the Day of the Lord

The Day of the LORD includes:

The Seven Trumpets

The Seven Seals

Note: the interesting correlation between the Trumpet and Bowl judgments and Joshua's conquest of Jericho

Joshua army for 6 Days would march around the city of Jericho with 7 priests blowing their trumpets (each day) and the ark of the covenant following behind.

On the 7th day they would march around the city 7 times (Joshua 6:15) then shout when the priests blow the trumpets and the walls crumbled down and the city experienced utter destruction and was burned with fire (Josh. 6:20-24)

In the D.O.L. 6 trumpets will sound and on the 7th trumpet the LORD to take the Kingdoms of this world (Rev. 11:15) and on the same day as the 7th trumpet is sounded the 7 vials (bowls) involving the 7 last plagues happen all on ONE DAY (Rev. 18:8) and the city of Babylon falls along with the cities of the nations.

A Practical Key Truth -- ** God must and will punish sin!

I. The Bowls are Filled With the Wrath of God (v. 1)

(The Finality of God's Wrath)

"Seven angels" . . . "Seven last plagues" -
The number ***"seven"*** pointing to completion, marks the finality and completeness of God's judgment.
Having described the seven seals (Rev. 6) and the seven trumpet judgments (Rev. 8-11), God now unveils the seven vial judgments.

"Last Plagues" - The word "last" points to the fact that the previous plagues (EX: trumpets) occurred chronologically before (prior in time to) these plagues.
The seven trumpet judgments were a foretaste or a preparatory warning of the worst which was yet to come

(NOTE: The trumpet judgments involved 1/3 of man and the elements being affected by God's Wrath [8:7, 9, 10, 11, 12; 9:18], now the vials are total destruction.
The most severe of all judgments will be the vial judgments.

"Plagues" - that which causes injury or wounds.

"Wrath" ("thymos") - the hot, fiery, explosive fury of God
NOTE: God's wrath here is not a mere attitude of anger ("orge") but the action of anger ("thymos")

"Filled up" = finished; completed; brought to an end.
The bowl (vial) judgments are the conclusion of the Day of the LORD. They are the culmination of judgment upon a world that has forsaken God. When the last vial is poured out there will come a "great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done" (Rev. 16:17). The plagues will end with the seventh vial.

Mankind may have been able to humanistically rationalize away the former plagues (EX: 7 trumpets) as being mere "freaks of nature" (not from God's hand), because their intensity was not as universal or relentless. But these plagues will not be so easily explained away.

They will recognize fully that God is the source of such judgments (SEE: Rev. 16:9, 11).

II. The Bowls are Filled But Not for the Overcomers (v. 2)

(The Freedom from God's Wrath)

Before God describes His outpouring of His wrath, He informs us about those who will not be around to experience the outpouring (they are "blessed" - Rev. 14:13).

"A sea of glass mingled (mixed) with fire" = Rev. 4:6 describes this crystal clear sea of glass being in front of God's Temple (throne).

The reference to fire could be to the seven lamps of fire (7 spirits of God) which burn in front of the throne (Rev. 4:5), or simply a visual representation of the fiery wrath of God - "Our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29)

"Them that had gotten the victory" - Lit. the overcomers; those who had overcome; the conquerors.
The same word is used in Rev. 2 & 3 of church saints who receive certain promises for being "overcomers" - 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21. These saints of God are described as overcomers who conquered the Beast (Antichrist), his image (idol), his mark and his number (666). No one who succumbs to the Antichrist will go to Heaven (cp. Rev. 14:9-11).

"Beast" = a wild monstrous, ferocious animal-like creature. This word describes the savage, vicious, inhuman nature of the Antichrist. (NOTE: the word "beast" in v. 7 is a different Greek word meaning "living Creature").

III. The Bowls are Filled And God is to be Feared and Glorified (v. 3-4)

(The Fairness (justification) of God's Wrath)

V. 3

"The song of Moses" = a song of deliverance
(The song is one of praise because of God's victory over Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea - Ex. 15:1ff).
NOTE: Just as God delivered Moses and Israel via the Red Sea, He will deliver His Tribulation saints via the Rapture.
Remember: Rapture before wrath! [Note previous chapter - Rapture (14:14-16); then Wrath (14:17-19).
[NOTE: This song may also refer to Moses' song in Deut. 31:30ff (Smith, p. 224)]

"Moses the servant of God" - Servant = bond-slave.
Just as Moses was a bond-slave - totally devoted to God - so will the saints, who gain victory over Antichrist, be devoted to God. Just as Moses "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Heb. 11:24-25), so a faithful remnant will refuse to identify themselves with Antichrist even if it meant pleasure on earth for a season.

"The Song of the Lamb" = a song of redemption (Rev. 5:9-10)

A. God is called "Almighty" --Showing His ability to judge (v. 3b)

God is praised for what He does (***"Great and marvelous are Thy works..."***) The saints praise God for His power in delivering them. Such works (like the deliverance at the Red Sea) cause amazement. What God does is breath-taking. We stand in awe of what God has done.
God is called ***"almighty"*** because this aspect of God corresponds to the greatness of His works.

B. God is called "King" --Showing His equity as Judge (v. 3c)

God is praised for how He works (***"Just and true are Thy ways"***). The saints praise God for His fairness, equity, and righteous retribution on His enemies (EX: Pharaoh and Egypt). What God does is according to righteousness and fidelity (***"just and true"***).
God is called ***"king"*** because this aspect of God corresponds to the justice with which He rules, judges and conquers.

C. God is called "Holy"
--Showing His <u>authority</u> to judge (v. 4)

God is praised for <u>who</u> He is (***"Thou only art holy"***)

"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?"
The rhetorical questions demand an obvious, "No one."
Who will avoid trembling before God? No one. Who will escape glorifying His name? No one. God receives glory from even those who rebel against Him (EX: Pharaoh - Ex. 9:16; Ro. 9:17)

"Thou <u>only</u> art holy" - only God is <u>independently</u> holy.
Only God is intrinsically holy. We depend upon Him for our moral purity (our set-apartness from defilement).

"All nations shall come and worship before Thee" - SEE: Psalm 86:9-13. There is coming a day when everyone will acknowledge and do homage to the true God. For some it will be too late. However, even those will bow before Him. There is coming a day when at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those in heaven, of those on earth, of those under the earth. There is coming a day when every tongue will confess the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Phil. 2:10-11) SEE: Isaiah 45:22-25; 66:23).

"For thy judgments are made manifest" - the reason why all nations will one day bow, is because God will one day demonstrate His sovereign holiness by judging sin.
Sometimes the only way hard-hearted man will humble himself before God is when God sends judgment.
"When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness" (Is. 26:9)

IV. The Bowls are Filled And Ready to be Poured Out (v. 5-8)

(The Fulfillment of God's wrath anticipated)

V. 5

"The temple of the tabernacle (dwelling place) of the testimony" = the unseen Heavenly Holy of Holies is seen by John (NOTE: Rev. 11:18-19 - the Holy of Holies is opened up at the last trump just prior to the great outpouring of God's final wrath)

V. 6

The angels dressed in the garments of the O.T. High Priest come out of the Temple each carrying a plague to be dumped on the earth.

V. 7

One of the four living creatures ("beasts") who were closest in proximity to the throne of God (Rev. 4:6) evidently takes 7 golden bowls (vials) from the hand of God and delivers them to the 7 angels.

"Golden vials" = these vials (bowls) were wide shallow bowls like a deep saucer (Reinecker, p. 847).
The bowls are filled up with God's hot anger. Wrath which is not mixed (diluted) with mercy, but full-strength fury (Rev. 14:10) will be poured on the God-rejecting earth dwellers.

"Who liveth forever and ever" - in contrast to men, who are about to die via the outpouring of God's wrath, God is eternal.

V. 8

A thick cloud of ***"smoke"*** fills the Temple in heaven like that which Isaiah saw when He saw God's (specifically, Christ's) glory (Is. 6:4, Jn. 12:41). God's glory and power emit as it were a thick cloud of smoke.
Such a cloud is reminiscent of the Shekinah glory that filled the O.T. temple, and restricted any priest from entering it (SEE I Kings 8:10-11)

"No man" = no one - no angel could enter the temple in heaven until the bowl judgments were fulfilled (completed).