

Journey Through the Bible: Revelation

Session 28: The Seven Bowles of Wrath (Ch. 16)

Remember Acts 17:11

The Pattern of God's Wrath Against Sin (Rom. 1:18-25):

- Those of Willful Disbelief or Disobedience
 - o Suppress the Truth of God
 - o Deny their Accountability to God (Creator)
 - o Seek After Self-Worship (Gratification)
- The Truth of God and Righteousness
 - o Is Evident Through Created Nature
 - o Is Plainly Available
 - o Is Now Unrestricted in its Completeness (Christ)
- God Answers Unrighteousness
 - o Allows the Unbeliever to Suffer Delusion
 - o Hardens the Already Hard-Hearted
 - o Allows the Sinful to Become Fully Degenerate
 - o Judges the Sinful and Condemns with Wrath

The Plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7-11):

- Were Proclaimed Against the Abusers of God's People
- Were "Poetic" Against the Egyptian Pantheon (Paganism)
- Were Answered with Further Denial Against God's Judgement (Hard-Heartedness)

The Bowles of Wrath:

- Continuing Images from the "Small Scroll"
- Metaphorically Harvested In Rev. 14
- Depicted as the Pouring of Wine
 - o Wine Offerings (Drink Offerings)
 - o Cf. Feast of Tabernacles Water Oblation
- Final "Plagues" Upon the Unbelievers (Rev. 15:1)

The First Bowl (v.1-2):

- Judgement through Sores or Boils
 - o Targeted Against the Beast Worshipers
 - o Tied to Those that Carried the Mark
 - o Poetic Against Self Disfigurement
 - o Boil: Outward Sign of an Inward Corruption

The Second Bowl (v. 3):

- Judgement on the Sea
 - o Became Blood (No “Like” or “As”)
 - o “As” a Dead Man’s (Blue)
 - o End of All Sea Life
 - o Ref. Trumpet Judgement Target at Commercial Interests (Rev. 8:8-9)
- Origins of Judgment
 - o Not Man Made
 - o Not Through Environmental Disaster
 - o Divine (Supernatural) Work

The Third Bowl (v. 4-7):

- Judgement on Freshwater
 - o Targeting Those who Kill the Saints
 - o Rebellion (Quail in the Desert Num. 11:31-33)
 - o Accounting of Blood (Gen. 9:5)
- Angel of the Waters (Euphrates of Rev. 9:14?)
 - o Blesses God for His Righteousness
 - o Judgment Fits the Crime
 - o Note: No “And Shall Be...”
 - o Justice: Getting What You Deserve

The Fourth Bowl (v. 8-9):

- Judgement on the Sun
 - o Object of Pagan Worship
 - o Humanist: Attributed Source of Life
 - o Previously Lost 1/3 Light (Fourth Trumpet 8:12)
- “Burn with Fire”
 - o Solar Flair, Intense Heat, UV Radiation?
 - o Targeted at Unbelievers
 - o Blaspheme God (No Sign of Repentance)
 - o Refuse to Give God Glory (Worth)

The Fifth Bowl (v.10-11):

- Targets the Throne of the Beast
 - o Reminiscent of Ex. 10:21-25
 - o Also Falls on the Followers
 - o Judgement Against the Wisdom of the Creation vs. the Creator (Rom. 1)
 - o The Desire of the Creation without God (John 3:19)

The Fifth Bowl (Cont.):

- Not Merely an Absence of Light
 - o Increases Pain on the Already Afflicted
 - o Hearts Hardened Further
 - o Blaspheme God

The Sixth Bowl (v. 12-14):

- The Euphrates Dries Up
 - o Cradle of Civilization (Mesopotamia)
 - o Border of the Original Promise (Gen. 15:18)
 - o The River on which Babylon is Built
 - o Enabling Forces to Easily Move from Mesopotamia to the Jordan Valley
 - o Is God Accepting a Challenge to Combat?
- Demonic Spirits
 - o 9 Frogs: Ref. Ex. 8:2-5. Symbols of Idolatry in Egypt
 - o Exercised from the Antichrists?
 - o Released by the Enemy?
 - o Influence the Armies of the World to War with God
- Remains Clothed (in Light?)
 - o Exhortation From Christ
 - o Cf. I Thess. 5:4-10

For Session 29:

- Read Rev. 16:12-20; Isaiah 13; Jeremiah 10
- Compare the Woman from Ch. 12 with Babylon
- What Does it Take to be Committed to God?
- Journal and Discuss
