

SBC – April 12, 2026  
Revelation 16:1-9 (NKJV)  
“The First Four Bowl Judgments”

#33

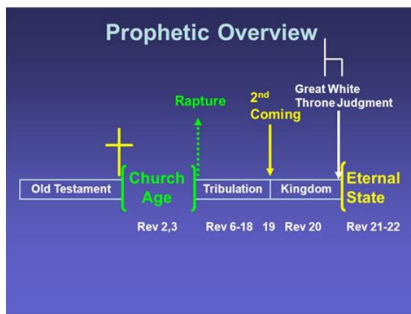
**Prayer:**

The Bible is clear that the world is on a collision course with Judgment Day! God is a HOLY God, and we live in a fallen world that is in rebellion against Him! The whole world is a part of this rebellion, with the exception of those who repent and turn in saving faith to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Right now, God is building a forever family of believers called the Church. One day, when the Church is complete, God will suddenly and unexpectedly remove the Church from out of the world.

Immediately, God’s judgment will fall on the world, which is called “The Tribulation Period.”

**Slide # 1**



The book of Revelation comes with an inspired outline in terms of how the end will unfold.

**Slide # 2**

***Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline***

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**.”

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - **Tribulation – Ch. 6-18**
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - Kingdom – Ch. 20
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

The book of Revelation presents the coming judgment period (the tribulation period) as being a series of three movements, namely the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments.

### **Slide # 3**



These judgments come with increasing frequency and intensity until we come to the final bowl judgments, which are then poured out in rapid-fire fashion right at the end. And that is where we are in our study. We have reached the conclusion of the coming judgment day climax as seen in Revelation 16.

There is a tremendous **build-up** to this climactic scene. **Revelation 10-15** is mostly **background and introductory** to the final bowl judgments (cf. 10:5-7, 15:1). In 11:15-19, we were given a sneak preview – a **panoramic overview** of what was coming, but now we are given a blow-by-blow, detailed account of these final judgments. The whole of chapter **15** is **INTRODUCTORY proper** to the bowl judgments, but now we come to the actual judgments.

In chapter 15, we saw **7 angels given 7 bowls which are FULL of the wrath of God**. In **15:8**, we see the **TEMPLE is filled with smoke from the glory of God**, and **no one can enter** into the temple during this time of climactic judgment. God alone is pouring out this fury through the agency of His angels.

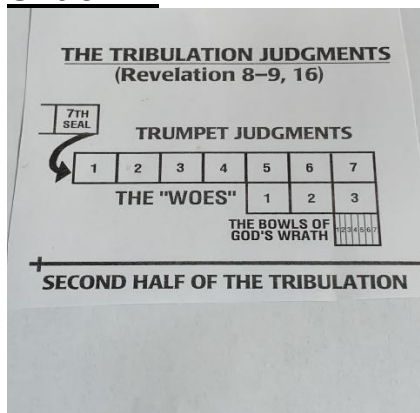
During this time God is **unapproachable – no more intercession, no more mercy, no more delay – only WRATH AND FURY from God alone who is HOLY**. This is the **HOLY WRATH** of which God alone is capable of inflicting because He alone is Holy. Connect in your mind that God alone is Holy (as stated in Revelation 15:4), with the fact that no one is able to enter into the temple during these climactic judgments as seen in 15:8.

The **background buildup is now complete**, and the bowl judgments come fast and furious in chapter 16.

Some have noted some similarities between the trumpet judgments and the bowl judgments, but they are distinct. The seal and trumpet judgments had a break between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> judgment, but not so with the bowl judgments. They come hard and fast without interruption.

The trumpet judgments were only partial in nature, while the bowl judgments affect the whole of the world. The bowls are specifically called, “the seven last plagues.” It all ends here!

#### **Slide # 4**



Revelation 16 records the darkest chapter in the history of mankind. Everything about it, in terms of judgments, is awesomely dreadful! It is sometimes called “The Great Chapter” in the Bible because the word “great” is found here 11 times, which is more than in any other chapter in the New Testament!

#### **Slide # 5**

Revelation 16 – THE “GREAT” CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE

- v. 1 **great** voice
- v. 9 **great** heat
- v. 12 **great** river Euphrates
- v. 14 **great** day of God Almighty
- v. 17 **great** voice
- v. 18 **great** earthquake
- v. 18 so mighty an earthquake and so **great**
- v. 19 the **great** city
- v. 19 **great** Babylon
- v. 21 **great** hail
- v. 21 exceedingly **great** plague

It is instructive to note that the parallels between the plagues God sent on Egypt at the time of the Exodus and these end-time bowl judgments, albeit these at the end are much more severe (cf. Ex. 7:20-12:30).

### **Revelation 16:1–9 (NKJV)**

**1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, “Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.”**

“Loud voice” is more literally “great voice.” This voice is undoubtedly the voice of God since no other heavenly being could enter the heavenly temple until the seven last plagues are completed, as seen in 15:8.

This command from God authorizes these seven angels to pour out His climactic wrath upon the earth.

The seven angels are all addressed at once as if to signify that their actions will be unified and in rapid succession. As noted, there is no gap between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> bowl judgments. There will be no more delay – no more gaps or parentheses – just **rapid-fire** judgments coming at the end of the Tribulation.

**These judgments are like the FINALE of a fireworks display.** You have a regular volley of explosions – some greater than others and little breaks between, but when the **FINALE** comes, there is no doubt – it is one EXPLOSION on top of another with such rapidity that it all meshes together in one climactic BOOM! So it is with these bowl judgments! Prepare for the full impact of God’s WRATH!

These bowls of wrath constitute what is called the third woe mentioned in 11:14. The wrath of God is mentioned 10 times in the book of Revelation (cf. 6:16, 17; 11:18; 14:10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 19:15)

Puny, depraved people often whine about the idea of God being a God of wrath. Of course, they walk in blindness and talk in ignorance.

Yes, God is loving, but He is also HOLY! God’s wrath is not arbitrary but in keeping with His holiness! God is very patient. In fact, it is because of God’s great patience that people come to think that judgment will not fall. Thus, they misjudge the character of God and their deserving of His wrath, because of His GRACE. As noted previously, God gives extensive opportunity to repent, but at this point, the world has, in effect, made its final decision, and all that remains is JUDGMENT!

**2 So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.**

This foul and loathsome sore targets the beast (antichrist) worshipers. Note that to take the mark of the beast (666) is essentially parallel to worshipping the beast. To take the mark signifies worshipful allegiance to the beast. This judgment targets them. The plague here is as universal as the mark of the beast!

The word “foul” (kakos) is a general word for evil or bad. The word “loathsome” (poneros) is also another general word for evil, bad, or painful. The word “sore” (helkos) is the word from which we get the word “ulcer”.

So what you have is a bad, bad, ulcer-like affliction. It describes inflamed, oozing, ulcerous sores that will be exceedingly painful (cf. Ex. 9:9-11). This is apparently incurable because after the 5<sup>th</sup> bowl is poured out, they are still cursing God because of these painful sores (Rev. 16:11).

They can't say they hadn't been warned! Remember the angel flying through the midst of heaven in chapter 14, basically giving a final call to repent and get right with God and warning that if they don't, there will be dire consequences for worshipping the beast.

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Revelation 14:6–7 (NKJV)**

**6** Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—

**7** saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

### **Slide # 7**

#### **Revelation 14:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

**10** he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

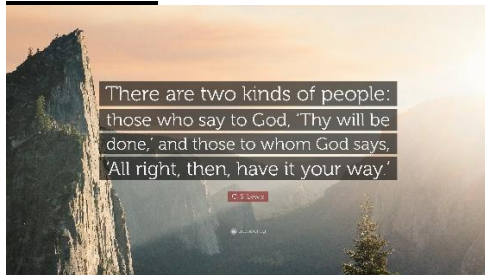
These beast worshipers refused to worship God and instead chose to worship the beast, and now they are suffering for it. The great issue in life is WHO or WHAT one is going to worship! The great issue in life is the issue of WORSHIP!

In John 4, in an evangelistic context, Jesus said that the Father is seeking true worshipers (Jn. 4:23). To be a true believer is to be a true worshiper. And people will worship something. People all over the world worship. We were created to worship, and we will worship; the only question is what will that be?

Romans 1 talks about how when people know the truth of God and then turn from it, they exchange "***the truth of God for the lie***" and worship idolatry (cf. Rom. 1:21-25). God in turn gives these people over to a depraved mind (cf. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

What we have in Revelation 16 is a world given over to its own depraved devices, and the end is the experience of the full wrath of God! Truly, the very worst thing in the world is to get your own way, where God just lets you go in your sin.

### **Slide # 8**



**3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.**

The second trumpet in 8:8-9 caused 1/3 of the sea to become blood, but here we see all of the sea turns to blood, and every living thing in the sea dies (cf. Ex. 7:14-25). This judgment is more extensive. It is total! Coagulated blood makes living in the sea impossible, and we can't even begin to imagine the stench.

Most of the Earth's surface is covered by seawater, that is 71 percent of it. So this is a massive worldwide judgment that is really unfathomable in magnitude.

You might say, “Well, at least they still have drinking water.” Not so fast!

**4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.**

Not only was all the seawater of the world affected, but now all the fresh water of the world is also affected (cf. Ex. 7:19-21). I guess you can drink blood, but that is rough!

You talk about a run on bottled water, pop, beverages of whatever sort. I am sure it will all be sold out in a day.

There will be no water to drink; no clean water to wash the oozing sores caused by the first bowl judgment; no water to bring cooling relief from the scorching heat that the fourth bowl judgment will shortly bring. (MacArthur) Indeed, the WRATH of God is being poured out in full measure!

This is so shocking – so horrifying that people may say how could a LOVING God do such a thing. And so we have an interjection from heaven that clarifies why this is a righteous judgment.

**5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying: “You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.**

The angel of the waters not only has no problem with this, but in fact declares that God is righteous in doing it. This is right in keeping with God’s holiness!

Often people question God’s judgment upon them, but the angels do not. The angels confirm that an eternal God is justified in pouring out His wrath upon the ungodly. – **David Levy**

“The only reason it is difficult for people to conceive of God dealing in this manner is that for thousands of years He has been long-suffering and gracious, not meting out the judgment the world deserved.”

**-Charles Ryrie**

If you want **a BALANCED picture of God, study the cross**. In the cross we see the LOVE of God as Jesus pays the price for our sin. He takes our place as our substitute. But we also see God’s HOLINESS that demands that the awful price of sin (death) be paid.

If people reject God's love as seen in the cross, they will have to deal with His Holy Wrath.

Furthermore, He addresses God as "***The One who is and who was***" emphasizing that He is the eternal, unchanging One (cf. 1:4, 8; 4:8; 11:17).

This is where God-honoring worship begins. God told Moses that His eternal name is I AM – which is the idea of the eternal/unchanging One.

### **Slide # 9**

#### **Exodus 3:14–15 (NKJV)**

**14** And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.' "

**15** Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The **LORD** God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is **My name forever**, and this is My **memorial to all generations.**'

Here in Exodus, the name "I AM" is immediately followed by God identifying Himself as LORD (YHWH) Who is the God of covenant relationship as seen in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

"I AM" is first-person; YHWH is the third-person (He is) of the same basic root word. Both words are derived from the Hebrew meaning "to be."

When you put it all together, I AM emphasizes God as the eternal/unchanging One, while YHWH emphasizes His nature as the ever-faithful One Who is unchanging. For this reason, YHWH is called God's covenant Name, which the Jews considered to be God's most sacred Name.

And note that God says, this reality of Him being the eternal, unchanging God in covenant relationship with the patriarchs is to be His memorial to all generations. This is to be recognized as an enduring truth! This is never to be forgotten or overlooked!

The point here in Revelation 16:5 is that God's eternal nature is being stressed by the angel, and that this reality applies to both His existence as well as His nature. He is the eternal, unchanging One Who is perfectly righteous and holy!

This is really where true faith begins. Hebrews 11:6 says, “***Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is.***” This is more than mere intellectual ascent. It recognizes God for Who He is as the eternal, unchanging One in terms of His character.

The phrase “***and who is to be***” is not in the older manuscripts. Instead, these older manuscripts have “***O Holy One,***” which is in keeping with Him being “***righteous***” in keeping with His eternal character (cf. Rev. 15:3-4).

**6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.”**

In the Bible, what a person thinks of God is revealed in how they treat His people. In truth, the world hates God’s people simply because they are God’s people, but true believers love one another because of our FAITH bond in Christ.

### **Slide # 10**

#### **John 15:19 (NKJV)**

**19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore **the world hates you.**

#### **1 John 3:14 (NKJV)**

**14** We know that we have passed from death to life, **because we love the brethren.** He who does not love his brother abides in death.

God, at this point, is bringing collective judgment on the entire world by turning all the water of the world into blood, both the seawater and the freshwater.

And the stated reason for this is that they have shed the blood of saints and prophets.

**Saints** is a general word referring to God’s people generally. It means “**set apart**” – those set apart and belonging to God. The world killed them at will under antichrist, and now they are being punished for it.

**Prophets** refer to God’s **special spokesman**. Certainly, the **2 witnesses in Revelation 11** are in view, but very possibly this is broader, perhaps having the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of Revelation 7 in view.

Recall that the world hated the two special prophetic witnesses in Revelation 11. When they die the whole world will celebrate with a “Happy Dead Witnesses Day.”

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Revelation 11:9–10 (NKJV)**

**9** Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and **not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.**

**10** And those who dwell on the earth will **rejoice over them, make merry,** and **send gifts** to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

The whole world celebrates their death.

And the world, in league with the Antichrist, will kill untold numbers of saints.

In Revelation 6, John saw under the altar those killed for the “word of God and for the testimony which they held” (Rev. 6:9-11). In Revelation 7, John saw an innumerable multitude standing in heaven who had been killed in the great tribulation (Rev. 7:9-14). In Revelation 12, we find those overcomers who are willing to die for their faith (Rev. 12:11). And in Revelation 13, we find the Antichrist is allowed to make war on the saints and overcome them (Rev. 13:7).

The organized religious rebellion under antichrist was in league to rid the world of these Bible believers – the people committed to Jesus Christ, and they did kill a great many of them.

Consequently, God has now given them **blood to drink.**

A few believers (saints) who have been converted in the Tribulation Period will survive it, but most will not. Most will die for their faith. But God does not appreciate what the world did to these people. They were murdered in cold blood, and so God gives these perpetrators blood to drink. And the angel declares, “***it is their just due.***” They have it coming! They deserve it!

People think they get away with all kinds of atrocities committed against God and His people. But they don't! God is keeping track of wrongs!

And as He says, “**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**” says the Lord (Deut. 32:35; Rom. 12:19).

As the old preacher said, “**Pay Day Some Day!**” Well, pay day has arrived!

There is an abiding principle in Scripture that says as one sows, he will reap.

Pharaoh tried to drown all the Jewish baby boys, and God drowned his army in the Red Sea. Haman plotted to have the Jew Mordecai hanged on gallows and kill all the Jews, but he ended up being hanged on his own gallows. And so it goes!

### **Slide # 12**

**Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)**

**7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

For many, reaping day will be weeping day!

**7 And I heard another from the altar saying, “Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.”**

In chapter 6, we saw that under the altar were those slain for the word of God and their testimony (Rev. 6:9-11). At that time, they were asking the Lord how long before He avenged their blood on those who dwell on the earth. That time has now come, and this would appear to be their response as personified by this voice coming from altar.

The altar in heaven is consistently associated with prayer related to judgment (cf. Rev. 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13-14:18; 16:7).

“**Lord**” means “Master with Sovereign Authority” – **God** means “Supreme Sovereign One”. **Almighty** means the One with All Power. This combination reflects God as the Almighty Who can do as He pleases. God alone is God and He knows no restraints (cf. Rev. 15:3).

### **Slide # 13**

**Psalm 115:3 (NKJV)**

**3 But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.**

The angel of the waters in praise declares God is righteous in bringing this judgment, and in effect the voice from the altar affirms this saying, “**true and righteous are Your judgments.**”

These judgments are true to the righteous standard of God.

**8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.**

If you are looking for “Global Warming” in the Bible – here it is! It comes as a matter of judgment, and mankind can do NOTHING about it! If the climate activists took the Bible seriously, they would realize that as long as the earth remains, the seasons will remain as ordained by God.

### **Slide # 14**

#### **Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)**

**22** “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”

That’s a great promise, isn’t it? We’re not going to kill the planet. This is a divine promise. This planet is here for man to use, and as long as it is here, God will sustain it for our use and our good and our joy and our praise to Him. So don’t worry about it. “Step on the grass. Shoot a deer. Drill for oil.” – **John MacArthur**

Certainly, we should be good stewards, but an awful lot of what people worry about, they have absolutely no control over, and so we should really pay attention to how God says it is all going to end.

Certainly, as a matter of judgment in the Great Tribulation, the world is going to experience radical climate change, but that will be short-lived. As the world enters the Kingdom at Christ’s Second Coming, we will enter the golden age where climate issues will no longer be a problem.

But at this point, God, as a matter of severe judgment, is going to turn up the heat.

Imagine the world being turned into **one big DEATH VALLEY**. No fresh water to drink, and the sun scorching people with fire. The desert is a pretty unforgiving place! If you are not careful, you can easily die out there.

Fire in the Bible is consistently associated with God's judgment!

Isaiah 24-27 is called "Isaiah's Little Apocalypse."

### **Slide # 15**

#### **Isaiah 24:4–6 (NKJV)**

**4** The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish.

**5** The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant.

**6** Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. **Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned,** And few men are left.

This "everlasting covenant" goes way back to the beginning of creation, as indicated by the word "***everlasting***". Adam, as the head of the race, broke the covenant relationship humanity had with God. In effect, this was a LORDSHIP covenant. The great issue throughout history is always the LORDSHIP of God. He demands to be explicitly recognized as God in all things. This was the issue in the Garden of Eden. Mankind was to OBEY God completely, and if he did not, he would die. And this is what happened.

"The everlasting covenant" probably refers...to the covenant people implicitly had with God to obey His Word. Right from the very beginning mankind refused to live according to God's Word (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-6; cf. Hosea 6:7). – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***, p. 1072

### **Slide # 16**

#### **Malachi 4:1 (NKJV)**

**1** "For behold, the day is coming, **Burning** like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall **burn them up,**" Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

God in the Bible is presented as "***consuming fire***" (Deut. 4:24) in His judgment against sin, idolatry, and rebellion. The NT agrees with this saying, in Hebrews 12:29, that "***our God is a consuming fire.***"

**9 And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.**

As rebel humanity is scorched with great heat, they blasphemed the name of God, who has power over these plagues.

This is an amazing statement! They realize full well that God has power over these plagues and that He is behind them. They are not ignorant! They cannot argue against the existence or the power of God, but they refuse to submit to Him. Amazing, they don't deny His reality at this point. They just hate Him and what He is doing to them.

So much for the view that says if God just made Himself real enough, all would believe. Not true. Belief is not just an intellectual thing – it is a matter of the will – the heart – a matter of surrender and allegiance. These people know FULL WELL the reality of God – they just don't want Him. They are **completely hardened** in their rebellion and rejection!

This shows clearly that faith is not merely a matter of intellect, but rather a matter of the will. They refuse to humble themselves before the truth of God.

The “***name of God***” stands for the Person of God – all that He is, all that defines Him.

To blaspheme means to speak irreverently or injuriously. It is to defame God. It is to speak slanderously in an attempt to ruin one's reputation, in this case make God look bad. They speak evil of the good and holy God, and they do so in the most derogatory manner possible. They have absolutely no respect or reverence for God.

Hardened humanity at this point is hardened to the point of no return! That is a terrible place to be! There is no hope! They are beyond repentance.

There is such a place as the writer of Hebrews indicates. In Hebrew 6 he says for those enlightened to the truth and yet turning their back on it is impossible “to renew them again to repentance” (6:4-6) and then in chapter 10 he says about those who have received the knowledge of the truth and yet sin willfully against it by abandoning the truth, they face, “a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” (10:26-27)

The whole world will collectively have been brought to this point in the Great Tribulation with the exception of a small remnant.

In spite of the severe level of suffering, in spite of knowing this is the judgment of God, they still refuse to repent and give God glory.

People who will not be won by love will not be persuaded by wrath either! If people are not won by grace, they will never be won. Paul in Romans 2:4 says it is the goodness of God that leads to repentance. However, if people refuse to respond to this goodness, they come to the point of no return, where they are permanently hardened in rebellion, no matter what.

Many have noted the various parallels between the bowl judgments and plagues God brought on Egypt back in Exodus and the issue in both cases is really the same – namely to show that the God of Israel, the God of the Bible ALONE is the One true Almighty God.

### **Slide # 17**

#### **Exodus 5:2 (NKJV)**

**2** And Pharaoh said, “**Who is the LORD**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.”

#### **Romans 9:17 (NKJV)**

**17** For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, **that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**”

God is greater than all the depraved hardness of collective humanity and in the end His LORDSHIP will prevail over all.

### **Slide # 18**

#### **Isaiah 2:11–12, 17 (NKJV)**

**11** The **lofty looks of man shall be humbled**, The **haughtiness of men shall be bowed down**, And the **LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.**

**12** For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything **proud and lofty**, Upon everything **lifted up**— And **it shall be brought low—**

**17** The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The LORD alone will be exalted in that day,

Up to this point Antichrist in Revelation 13 is the only described as blaspheming God (Rev. 13:1, 5-6), but now the whole world that ascribed allegiance to Antichrist will join with him in totally blaspheming God.

Note that it says, “they did not repent and give Him glory.” This is the essence of repentance – it gives glory to God. To repent means to change your mind about sin and about God. It admits “I’m wrong – God is right.” (cf. Josh. 7:19-25; Ps. 51:4).

Repentance humbles itself under the sovereignty of God and submits to His Lordship! It is broken before the truth of God! Repentance humbles itself before God and yields to His Lordship!

Repentance goes from rebelling against God to giving Him glory. It is a complete change of mind with regard to God.

True repentance gives glory to God – that is the attitude of repentance – and these won’t do it. They won’t bend and they won’t bow – they just burn and blaspheme!

I think this right here gets at the idea of what is involved in true repentance as clearly as anywhere else in the Bible.

True repentance gives God the glory. Earlier, at about the midpoint of the tribulation, we read in 11:13 that there was a great earthquake in Jerusalem resulting in many dying. In that case, some did repent and give glory to God.

### **Slide # 19**

#### **Revelation 11:13 (NKJV)**

**13** In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

They bowed before His sovereignty! But now, at the end, we don’t see any of that!

Three times in this chapter, we have the recurring emphasis of a depraved callousness so hard that it refuses to repent and instead blasphemes God.

### **Slide # 20**

#### **Revelation 16:9 (NKJV)**

**9** And men were scorched with great heat, and they **blasphemed** the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they **did not repent and give Him glory.**

#### **Revelation 16:11 (NKJV)**

**11** They **blasphemed** the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and **did not repent** of their deeds.

#### **Revelation 16:21 (NKJV)**

**21** And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men **blasphemed** God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

These people have come to the place of steeled rebellion where they will curse God and die, but they absolutely refuse to repent!

God in grace gives a window of opportunity for repentance, but the day comes when there is no more opportunity.

#### **Genesis 6:3 (NKJV)**

**3** And the Lord said, "**My Spirit shall not strive with man forever,** for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

This is the pattern. God gives space for repentance, but if people harden themselves there comes a point it is too late.

Right now we live in the Church Age, which is an age of grace. Right now the gospel of grace is going out as God withholds worldwide judgment. Right now the invitation is, "receive not the grace of God in vain... Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." (2 Cor. 6:1-2). We are specifically told WHY God is waiting and withholding judgment.

### **Slide # 21**

#### **2 Peter 3:9 (ESV)**

**9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

However, judgment day is coming. And we are told what this day will do.

### Slide # 22

#### **Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)**

**10** Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

The Tribulation Period is going to be a testing time; it is going to be the crucible that will show who will stand for God and who will refuse to stand against Him in spite of the irrefutable LORDSHIP evidence of the Day of the Lord! That is the great issue in the Day of the Lord. It is a LORDSHIP issue that tests the entire world.

**W.E. Henley wrote a braggart poem titled “Invictus” (Unconquered)**

#### Invictus

Out of the night that covers me, black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul.  
In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not winced or cried aloud,  
Under the bludgeoning of chance – My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears looms but the horror of the  
shade;  
And yet the menace of the years – Finds, and shall find me, unafraid.  
It matters not how strait the gate, how charged with punishment the  
scroll,  
I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul.

**In contrast to that is the poem of Dorothea Day titled “My Captain”**

#### My Captain

Out of the light that dazzles me, Bright as the sun from pole to pole,  
I thank the God I know to be For Christ – the Conqueror of my soul.  
Since His the sway of circumstance I would not wince, nor cry aloud.

Under that rule which men call chance, my head, with joy, is humbly bowed.

Beyond this place of sin and tears, that life with Him! And His the aid  
That, spite the menace of the years, keeps, and will keep, me  
unafraid.

I have no fear though strait the gate; He cleared from punishment the  
scroll.

Christ is the Master of my fate; Christ is the captain of my soul!

Which poem defines you? Are you an “unconquerable soul,” or has Christ  
conquered your soul? Are you the supposed “master of your fate”, or is  
Christ your Master?

**Romans 10:13 (NKJV)**

13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Have you called on Jesus as Lord to save you? That is the ultimate issue in  
life.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!