

# The Apocalypse

## “The 7 Bowls in Heaven”

### Revelation 15-16 – May 22, 2016

#### Our Sermon Series

<b>THE APOCALYPSE</b>		
<i>A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

Video: “Worst Case Scenario” [2:27] found at [sermonspice.com](http://sermonspice.com)

#### Quick Review

- Believers are taken up to heaven (4:1) before the Great Tribulation begins. This is known as the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- Chuck Swindoll: “The tribulation is a period of seven literal years upon the earth following the rapture of the Church and ending with the second advent of Christ. The events of this era are contained in Revelation 6-19. It will be a time of unprecedented evil, anguish, affliction, and trouble upon the earth due to the unrestrained activity of Satan.”
- One possible outline of Revelation 6-19:
  - **First 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 6-9)
  - **Mid-point of tribulation** (Rev. 10-14)
  - **Last 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 15-19)
  - **Second Coming of Christ** (Rev. 19:11-16)
  - **Armageddon** (Rev. 19:17-21)
- The interpretive approach that I am taking during these sermons is called a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial view of Revelation. There are other ways to interpret this book.

#### Surprise Responses to Revelation 15-16

##### 1. My response to the Song of Moses: “Of Course!” (15:1-4)

- C.S. Lewis: “The first words out of our mouths when we get to heaven will be ‘Of course!’”
- Song of Moses and of the Lamb’s version of the same: “Just and true are Your ways” (15:3)
- The refrain of the Song of Moses: “The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.” (Exodus 15:2)
- This is an important song in the hymnal of the Jewish nation that is sung multiple times:
  - At the exodus from Egypt (Exodus 15:2)
  - After their return from Babylonian captivity (Psalm 118:14)
  - In the future, when God will call His people back to their land, Isaiah prophesied that they will sing this song again (Isaiah 11:15-12:6)
- Parallels between Exodus’ and Revelation’s songs:

<i>Exodus’ Song</i>	<i>Revelation’s Song</i>
Exodus 15	Revelation 15
Sung next to the Red Sea	Sung next to the Sea of Glass
Sung by the Israelites after their deliverance from Pharaoh	Sung by the martyred tribulation saints after their deliverance from the Antichrist
Song of Moses	Song of Moses and the Lamb

- Warren Wiersbe: “In their song, the tribulation saints praise God’s works as well as His ways. The earth-dwellers certainly would not praise God for His works, and they would never understand His ways. God’s works are great and marvelous, and His ways are just and true. There is no complaint here about the way God permitted these people to suffer! It would save us a great deal of sorrow if we would acknowledge God’s sovereignty in this same way today!”
- Application #1 – I choose to believe and declare that God is just and true in all of His ways. Although I may not be able to see and understand everything right now, I believe that God is good and just and right.
- Tim Keller: “God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows.”
- Video: “Karen’s Story – Trials” [4:48] found at [SkitGuys.com](http://SkitGuys.com)

## 2. My response to the 7 Bowl Judgments: "Thank You!"

(15:5-16:21)

- These 7 bowl judgments are the pouring out of the last portion of the wrath of God.
- John MacArthur: "The Lord is patient with you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. God is busily working to save sinners from His own wrath. Yet those who refuse God's love, reject His grace, and scorn His mercy will inevitably face His wrath."
- Summary of the 7 bowl judgments:
  - (1) Harmful and painful sores upon all those who took the mark of the Antichrist and worshiped his image (16:2). These sores continue for a long time (16:11).
  - (2) All the oceans will turn to blood and all the sea life will die (16:3).
  - (3) All the fresh water bodies will turn to blood (16:4).
  - (4) The sun will scorch people with fire and fierce heat (16:8-9)(Malachi 4:1).
  - (5) The Antichrist's throne and kingdom will experience darkness [lack of light](16:10).
  - (6) The Euphrates River will dry up allowing for the nations (including China?) to cross over and assemble for the Battle of Armageddon. The unholy trinity spirits of Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet will entice the nations to gather for this battle (16:12-16).
  - (7) The greatest earthquake in all of history and a hail storm with hailstones weighing 100 lbs. each (16:17-21).
- The response of earth-dwellers will not be repentance but rather they will curse God and blaspheme His name (16:9,11,21).
- According to Leviticus 24:16, blasphemers are to be stoned to death.
- David Meece: "Some People Just Never Believe"
- Scott Sauls: "In Jesus, our Judgment Day was moved from the future to the past."
- Jesus is my substitute! On the cross, Jesus endured all of these judgments on my behalf so that I would not have to receive this wrath against my sins. My judgment is past. It fell on Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – *God made (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- **John 5:24** – *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*
- Application #2 – In response to this Good News, I will...
  - Receive this free gift of salvation
  - Thank God for this salvation with all of my heart
  - Share this Good News with everyone I know
- YouTube Video: "Worthy is the Lamb – Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir" [5:37]

## 3. My response to the Thief Parable: "Stay Awake"

(16:15)

- This is the third of 7 beatitudes in the Book of Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7,14).
- In the same way that we do not know when a thief might try to break into our home, we do not know when these end time events will occur. So, be ready as if it were going to happen today. Stay awake! God promises a blessing to those who do.
- Application #3 – I am going to be vigilant spiritually ready for Christ's return at any moment. According to Jesus' 3 end times parables in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 25), I am going to...
  - Maintain the oil of my fellowship with Christ's Spirit (Parable of the Ten Virgins)
  - Invest my time, money, and skills strategically for His Kingdom (Parable of the Talents)
  - Minister to the poor, the overlooked, and the forgotten as though they are Jesus in disguise (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats).