

## Worship in the Midst of Wrath

Revelation 15:1-16:21

**The Big Idea:** Christians worship and the unrepentant wail. God's people rejoice in His glory while those who are not His gnash their teeth in His wrath. How can these two truths be reconciled? How can a loving God command worship and torment simultaneously? The answer is found within God Himself, in His attributes. He is holy and just.

### The Interpretation of the Text

7 angels with 7 \_\_\_\_\_ plagues (15:1)

*The wrath of God is finished!*

Conquerors \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of God (15:2-4)

The sanctuary in heaven opens (15:5)

7 golden bowls of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (15:5-8)

Bowls poured out on the \_\_\_\_\_ (16:1)

1<sup>st</sup> Bowl— Sores on worshipers of the beast (2)

2<sup>nd</sup> Bowl—Sea to blood (3)

3<sup>rd</sup> Bowl—Fresh water to blood (4)

*Interlude: Antiphonal worship (5-7)*

The angel- "Just are you, O Holy One!"

The altar- "True and just are your judgments!"

4<sup>th</sup> Bowl—Sun scorches, people curse God (8-9)

*They did not repent and give Him glory!*

5<sup>th</sup> Bowl—Beast's throne and kingdom destroyed (10-11)

6<sup>th</sup> Bowl—Euphrates dries up and kings gathered (12-14)

Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ and promise (15)

7<sup>th</sup> Bowl—Into the air (17)

*It is done!*

### The Application of the Text

- God's holiness and His justice, His love and His wrath, are perfectly compatible and supremely good.
- While we worship Jesus today, along with millions of believers around the world, there are innumerable millions in hell wailing in eternal torment.
- The reality of the glory of God in heaven that awaits those who repent and believe is beyond our ability to fully comprehend. Yet, we know for certain it is the greatest good possible!
- The reality of the wrath of God in hell that awaits those who do not repent and believe is beyond our ability to fully comprehend. But, we know for certain that it is the most awful torment possible!

*May these truths, O Lord, drive us to our knees in worship and prayer and then raise us to our feet in faithful witness to our neighbors and the nations.*