

I. Introduction

In today's Scripture passage, Revelation 16, we read about the seven bowl judgments. These seven bowl judgments represent the final and ultimate judgments of God.

II. Main Points

Four Characteristics of the Seven Bowl Judgments

1. Although they resemble the seven trumpet judgments, the bowl judgments are more severe and comprehensive because they are the final judgments.

The first trumpet judgment and the first bowl judgment both bring judgment upon the earth.

The second trumpet judgment and the second bowl judgment both affect the sea.

The third trumpet judgment and the third bowl judgment both strike the rivers, springs, and fresh waters.

The fourth trumpet judgment and the fourth bowl judgment both affect the heavenly bodies.

In the trumpet judgments, one-third of creation is destroyed or dies; in the bowl judgments, the destruction is complete.

2. People's hearts become increasingly hardened, causing them to grumble against and blaspheme God (vv. 9, 11, 21).

Pharaoh hardened his heart even after nine plagues and ultimately came under God's judgment.

Those who reject God and harden their hearts are given over by God (Romans 1:24, 26, 28).

God gave Pharaoh over to his hardened heart by continuing to harden it (Exodus 14:8, 17).

Even the Israelites, who experienced God's salvation by crossing the Red Sea, eventually hardened their hearts.

We must not harden our hearts but instead cultivate hearts that are soft and responsive to God (Hebrews 3:15-16).

May our hearts be softened through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God (Ezekiel 36:26).

3. God's judgments are declared to be righteous, just, and true.

The angel in charge of the waters declares that God's judgments are righteous (v. 5).

The same angel declares that God's judgments are just (v. 6).

The altar responds, saying, "Yes, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments" (v. 7).

These declarations answer the questions raised by Asaph in Psalm 73 and by the prophet Habakkuk concerning God's justice.

4. God judges the throne of the beast, and people suffer greatly (Revelation 16:10-11).

The beast represents the political powers of the world in alliance with the false prophet.

The pouring out of the fifth bowl upon the beast's throne signifies God's final judgment upon the beast (Revelation 19:19-20).

The agony of gnawing their tongues symbolizes the intense suffering that comes upon those who followed and worshiped the beast.

III. Conclusion

The seven bowl judgments reveal the certainty, completeness, and righteousness of God's final judgment. They also serve as a solemn warning against hardened hearts and a call for God's people to remain faithful, maintaining hearts that are soft and receptive through the work of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word.

Bible Memorization	A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!” (Revelation 16:7)																				
Bible Reading	Bible Reading Passage <table><tr><td>7/20(Mon)</td><td>7/21(Tue)</td><td>7/22(Wed)</td><td>7/23(Thur)</td><td>7/24(Fri)</td><td>7/25(Sat)</td><td>7/26(Sun)</td></tr><tr><td>Proverbs 6-9</td><td>Proverbs 10-13</td><td>Proverbs 14-16</td><td>Proverbs 17-20</td><td>Proverbs 21-23</td><td>Proverbs 24-27</td><td>Proverbs 28-30</td></tr></table>							7/20(Mon)	7/21(Tue)	7/22(Wed)	7/23(Thur)	7/24(Fri)	7/25(Sat)	7/26(Sun)	Proverbs 6-9	Proverbs 10-13	Proverbs 14-16	Proverbs 17-20	Proverbs 21-23	Proverbs 24-27	Proverbs 28-30
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Sharing Questions																					

1. Based on today's sermon, please share one new insight you gained or one truth through which God especially spoke to your heart.

2. In today's Scripture passage, even as people experience the final judgment through the last of the seven bowl judgments, they continue to harden their hearts. Instead of repenting, they blaspheme God and complain against Him. The reason they come under God's judgment is because of the hardness of their hearts. Please share one practical way in which we can cast off a hardened heart and cultivate a soft and receptive heart before God.

3. In today's Scripture passage, on three separate occasions, God, who pours out the final bowl judgments, is proclaimed to be righteous, just, and true. What are the grounds and reasons for declaring that God, who executes judgment, is righteous, just, and true? Please share your thoughts.

4. The fifth bowl judgment is poured directly upon the throne of the beast. Discuss the significance of this judgment and explain what it represents.