

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Armageddon Revelation 16

"Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Revelation 16:1-21. What were the effects of the seven 'bowl' judgments poured out by the angels? Briefly describe the effect of each upon the earth and its inhabitants. Can you think of any other places in Scripture which describe similar judgments?

What was the response of the people who experienced the plagues? What does that tell us about human nature?

How did the inhabitants of heaven respond to the outpouring of God's wrath on the earth?

According to this passage, why is God going to punish humanity with such severity?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Consider the following statement as you answer these next questions:

"I don't have to be a Christian or even believe in God in order to be good. I can be good without God. I live a decent, upstanding life – probably better than most Christians. I help people, I take care of my family, I work hard, and I let other people live the way they want. What more can I do? Why would God (if there is one) be so petty and vindictive as to punish me and billions of others just for believing the wrong things or being born in the wrong country? That seems arbitrary and capricious if you ask me."

What view of humanity is represented in this statement? How does it contrast with the biblical teaching about the moral state of humanity? In what ways does this view misunderstand basic human nature?

What does this skeptic think about God? In what ways does his view misunderstand and misrepresent the biblical view of God? How does he distort and misconstrue the nature of God's justice?

How would you respond to the above statement if someone said it to you?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

How should we respond to this teaching concerning God's coming judgment against rebellious humanity? What are some wrong ways to respond to it?

How do we heed the warning in verse 15 to "stay awake" and "keep your garments on"? What does this mean for us today? How do we do this?

Why is it good news that God will eventually judge the world? Is it possible to look forward to it without fear? If so, how?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How will you respond to coming judgment of God this week?