

Message: ***"Here Come the Superbowls"***

Scripture: Revelation 16:1-7

(03-02-25 Pastor Tony Hao)

How do you respond to evil and injustice? Some seek vengeance; others in utter despair. Where is justice? It is impossible to achieve. The only place where we can look to true justice is the Lord. Our hope is that come at the end, God will right all of the wrongs and will execute perfect justice. In Revelation 16, we see God pouring out His wrath upon the earth, taking vengeance upon the earth.

The first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and we notice right away the target of the judgment is people, specifically those who had the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. Those who had received the mark of the beast as a sign of allegiance to him will now bear in their bodies the marks of God's judgment.

The second and third angels poured out their bowls on the sea and other bodies of water, on every – not a quarter, not a third – but every living thing in them died. One can only assume that this will bring similar death to every creature upon the earth. You can survive several weeks or months without eating, but you can only survive a few days without water. It shows the nearness of the judgment when the bowls are poured out on the earth.

Like the plagues on Egypt, these plagues will visit God's justice on His enemies. Unlike the plagues on Egypt, these plagues will finish the wrath of God. The wrath of God will be finished one day. He will be satisfied. Sinners will not escape. Will you face that wrath for yourself, or will you flee to Christ, who faced that wrath for all who would trust Him?

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What contents are in each bowl of wrath? Why are these plagues worse than those ushered in by the trumpets?
2. Why does the angel react to the outpouring of God's wrath, not with pain or sorrow, but in acknowledgment of divine justice?
3. How does this passage make you feel? Why? What does it make you want to do? How would you explain the necessity of these plagues especially to someone who is not a Christian?