



3. IT IS FINISHED

Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 15-16

Intro:

Revelation used vivid imagery to illicit and emotional response and re-ignite our imaginations.

1. God's Wrath

God's wrath is his passion for what is good combined with his opposition to what is evil.

God's wrath is seen in two ways: 1) Through direct action against evil. 2) Divine consent for humans to go their own way and reap their own destruction.

2. Three Perspectives on God's judgement

- i. Revelation 6-8 (7 Seals): Judgment from the perspective of the persecuted church.
- ii. Revelation 8-11 (7 Trumpets): Judgment from the perspective of the world being warned and called to repent.
- iii. Revelation 15-16 (7 Bowls): Judgement from the perspective of God's throne. Final judgment.

2 Peter 3:9

3. The Battle of Armageddon

Revelation 16:12-14, 16

Armageddon = Har-Megiddo, the Mountain of Megiddo

Armageddon is a symbol of perpetual war.

4. Blessing hidden in judgment

Revelation 16:15 (see also Rev. 3:3)

John 3:17

There are 7 "beatitudes" in Revelation. The same amount as judgments.

Conclusion:

Revelation 16:17-19

John 19:30 "It is finished"

The one who sends out the seven angels from his presence to pour out the bowls of wrath is the same one who first sent his son.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. How does your family celebrate Thanksgiving? What are you thankful for this year?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Revelation 16:1-21. The purpose of these vivid images is to elicit an emotional response from the reader. What emotions are you feeling as you hear them?
2. When you think of the wrath of God, what do you think about? In the Bible, God's wrath is revealed in 1) Direct action against sin. 2) Divine consent for humans to go their own way and reap their own destruction. Can you think of some Biblical examples of each? Can you see his divine consent at work today? How so?
3. God's blessings are revealed even in the midst of his judgment. There are 7 "beatitudes" (blessings) in the book of Revelation. Look them up and read them: Revelation 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14. What do you notice about these blessings? Are there any practical instructions given on how to experience them?

Application:

1. The declarations of the completion of God's judgment are reminiscent of the declaration of Jesus from the cross in John 19:30 ("Is it finished"). He took God's judgment of you upon himself. Everything required for your salvation has been accomplished. It's done! In light of Thanksgiving, spend some time thanking Jesus for what he has done.

Prayer:

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