



# REVELATION

Revelation 15:1-8 | David Chadwick | July 21, 2024

**Title:** Why God's Wrath?

*"I like the God of the New Testament better than the God of the Old Testament."*

1. Sorry, they are the same God
2. Both Testaments are filled with God's mercy and love, and his anger and judgment
3. Never is this more evident than in the seven seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments of God

**The introduction: Revelation 15:1**

*1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.*

God's wrath has already been poured out in:

1. The seven seal judgments (**chapter 6**)
2. The seven trumpet judgments (**chapters 8-9**)
3. And now the seven bowl judgments which finish God's wrath (outlined in **chapters 15-16**)
  - This vision is "great and amazing"
  - Seven angels with seven plagues (seven equals completion)
  - After this one, God's wrath is "finished"  
**John 19:30** *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*
  - On the cross, God's wrath was poured out on his Son. In the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments, God pours out his wrath on humanity. (You can avoid this by accepting Jesus's work on the cross now in your life).

## Why God's wrath? 3 Reasons:

### 1. To avenge his own people

#### Revelation 15:2

*And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.*

- Like a sea of glass with fire is the picture of heaven
- And the great tribulation saints are present
- These saints resisted worshiping the image of the beast and taking his mark
- They died of martyrdom, starvation, and ????
- They had a front row seat in heaven's worship and praise
- They had harps in their hands: a biblical symbol of joy and worship
- They sang the song of Moses and the Lamb (Jesus) - equals victory!
- Moses's songs in **Exodus 15**, **Deuteronomy 32**, and **Psalms 90**
- A song of law and grace?
- **KEY:** God's wrath avenges his people and honors their faithfulness to him. They are justified before him. Justice is now done! If God doesn't bring this wrath upon the unjust, he is not just.

### 2. To avenge God's character

#### Revelation 15:3-4

**3** *And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,*

*“Great and amazing are your deeds,*

*O Lord God the Almighty!*

*Just and true are your ways,*

*O King of the nations!*

**4** *Who will not fear, O Lord,*

*and glorify your name?*

*For you alone are holy.*

*All nations will come*

*and worship you,  
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

- God’s name equals his character (“Holy is your name”—the Lord’s Prayer)
- His character is called Lord God...Almighty...O King...O Lord...
- He must be Lord over all evil
- His works/ways are called great, amazing, just and true (truth by its definition is exclusive)
- He is righteous in his acts (his wrath is about to be revealed and it’s “righteous”)
- If God doesn’t judge evil and do vengeance, he’s not holy or righteous
- These three judgments are holy and righteous for they prove God’s name/character

### **3. To avenge his plan/story**

#### **Revelation 15:5-8**

***5** After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, **6** and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. **7** And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, **8** and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.*

- Out of heaven’s sanctuary/holy of holies/ark of the covenant in heaven
- From the very presence of God
- Seven angels with the seven plagues (the seven bowl judgments)
- The bowls are large, round, and shallow where a slight tip and the contents are easily poured out
- Dressed in military garb? Uniforms? Ready to go to war?
- Golden sashes around chests equals their holiness
- Angels hate sin and godlessness, as God does
- One of the four living creatures (high-ranking angels)—seen also in **Ezekiel 1, Revelation 4-5**
- Gives each of the seven angels a golden bowl filled with God’s wrath
- The bowl judgments come from God’s hand who lives forever and ever

- Smoke filled the heavenly temple, no one could be in God's presence during this time. (Did God turn his back on the sin of this world? As he did with his Son on the cross?)
- Until the seven plagues/bowl judgments were finished:

In God's plan and history, good must win over evil. If evil has the last word, evil wins. Since God is good in every way, this cannot happen. Therefore, God's wrath is history's final word. God wins. The devil doesn't. Good is victorious. Bad is defeated.

### **Revelation 16:1**

*1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."*

### **Three final thoughts:**

- 1. God poured out his wrath on his Son on the cross. Do you believe this? If so, you will never face this wrath described in Revelation.**

Your answer determines your eternity!

- 2. Romans 12:19**

*19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

For those who have hurt you:

- Forgive
- Don't return evil with evil
- Leave room for God's wrath, let him do justice
- And be free from bitterness

God will eradicate all evil from this world one day! His judgments and justice will occur.

- 3. Therefore, wait faithfully. Be ready. Share the gospel. Give moments of hope to those in need. Be generous. Pray. The day of the Lord is coming.**