



Will Not a Righteous God Visit for These Things?

PART 34

Introductions

Let's get started by sharing our names and answering this question: [*Choose your own question*].

Songs of Praise

Let's begin our time singing to the Lord. [*Sing additional songs if you prefer. Contact the church office for copies of our church songbooks.*]

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and seraphim,
falling down before thee,
Who was and is and evermore shall be.

Holy, Holy, Holy! though the darkness hide thee,

Though the eye of sinful man
thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Reginald Heber, 1823

Church News

- Share any news for your own group at this time.

Study

[*This guide utilizes the Sunday sermon notes, please [click this link](#) to access them.*]

Q: Would someone open us in prayer?

Q: Would someone read aloud Revelation 16:1-11?

Before we begin, let's start with a few questions for general discussion.

Q: When you think of "revenge," what comes to mind? Where do you see people, most wanting to take revenge and how?

Q: Can you share a time you witnessed an egregious lack or breach of justice? What made it so offensive?

This section picks up where we began last week with seven angels with seven plagues clothed in pure, bright linen prepared to deliver the judgment of God (15:5-8). We just read the first five of the seven angels delivering God's wrath on mankind.¹

Q: Who is taking vengeance in this passage?

Q: Why does the world need a God who judges? Why is there a moral necessity for divine judgment?²

Q: Why is God's retaliation different from ours?³

The second and third bowls give us a picture of retributive justice in a similar manner to the plagues God exacted on Egypt in the Old Testament. Retributive justice is a proportionate judgment for the crime committed (e.g. an eye for an eye).

Look over the words of the "angel in charge of the waters" in 16:5b-6.

Q: Where do you see language of retributive justice in the angel's song of doxology?⁴ **

Look again at verses 9-11.

Q: As just and terrible are these judgments, what are the responses of earth-dwellers to the judgments of God? Do you see similar responses today?

Q: In light of the just wrath of God for the unrepentant, what did Christ receive on the cross when he was unjustly crucified by men?

Christianity teaches that God knows the agony of his own judgment because he bore it the Person of Jesus Christ. For every believer, the final judgment has already occurred upon the cross where the Father spared not his own Son but gave him up for us all.

Let's finish by reading aloud Romans 3:21-26.

Prayer

[Take time to pray - men with men, and women with women.]

Notes...

¹ Just like the seals and trumpets we read about in prior chapters, the bowls intensify from the first to the last and conclude at the end of history and the final judgment.

² Consider reading Colossians 3:5-6.

³ Consider reading aloud Psalm 7:8-16.

⁴ Consider reading aloud Galatians 6:7-8.

** In this life, retributive justice does not occur in every situation. Remember this is the judgment of God upon sinners who have ultimately rejected God and his gospel and assaulted his church. We live in a fallen world where a man sins against man who deserved no such treatment. For Christians there is a category for just suffering. This is most clearly seen in the gospel of Christ.