

Revelation: Chapters 15-16

Opening Question: Chapter 15 is a heavenly scene while chapter 16 is an earthly one. What is happening in heaven and on earth in these chapters?

Key Takeaways:

1. By the time the events of chapters 15-16 take place clear battle lines have been drawn between those who align themselves with God and those who follow Satan.
2. Those standing on the sea of glass with harps are those who have overcome Satan, being killed for their faith.
3. Chapters 15 and 16 describe the final “bowl judgments,” seven bowls containing the wrath of God being poured out on those who have rejected God and followed Satan.
4. “They did not repent” is a repeated phrase which is the response of those on whom the bowls of God’s wrath is being poured out.
5. The “Great City” described in chapter 16 was introduced in chapter 11 and refers to Jerusalem.
6. Chapter 16 introduces the gathering of the kings of the whole earth to do battle against the LORD at Har-Megiddo.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read aloud together Revelation 15-16 and Revelation 13:15-17. What did the saints described in Revelation 15: 2-4 endure to become victorious over the beast?
2. Read and compare Jeremiah 10:1-10, Psalm 86: 8-10, Revelation 15:2-4, and Revelation 16:18. What connections do you see in these passages?
3. What do you learn about God’s character and God’s plan through these chapters? How does knowing the things revealed in Revelation inform your faith?

Practical Application:

1. Review Revelation chapters 1-16. Make a list of symbolism that is being used in these chapters and mark them as explained by John in the letter (j), explained in the Old Testament (o), or as yet left unexplained (c).
2. Locate and list or mark which of the scenes in chapters 1-16 are taking place on earth (e) or in heaven (h).
3. Find and list the literary markers used in the first 16 chapters of Revelation. Consider highlighting these in your Bible. Do you find that you have a better understanding of Revelation from doing this study? Why or why not?

Closing Prayer:

Father, Thank You for revealing Yourself to us through Your Word. May we live faithful lives, enduring well in every circumstance, because we know You will be faithful to bring to pass everything that You have promised. Give us conviction and the courage to share with others what we have learned about You through Your Scriptures so that they too may come to know You. Amen.