

Αποκάλυψη
REVELATION
16:10-11

OUTLINE

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- 🕒 The Object of Judgment (v. 10b)
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MAIN POINT

We see the next judgment with is a supernatural darkness

-  Brings pain with it
-  Does not impact those outside the kingdom of the Beast
-  God is judging the kingdom and the power(s) behind that kingdom

Similarities and parallels to the Ninth Plague in Egypt

-  Leaves the world in darkness
-  Some are spared
-  Demonstrates God's power over nature and spiritual powers
-  For whatever power Satan and the Beast have, God makes clear that there are limits to their power and He is above and beyond their power

Light and darkness

-  Why do people love darkness (**John 3:19**)
-  This is a heart problem, not a head problem
-  Unless we address the root of the issue, all our evangelism and apologetics will be fighting (even winning) the wrong battle

THE VISION



THE FIFTH ANGEL (V. 10A)

The angel

-  As with previous angels in the Bowl Judgments, there is no indication of it going out
-  No indication of it returning or doing anything but pouring
-  Rapid-fire portion of the judgments

Already thrown everything into chaos

-  The water
-  The land
-  The people

Unique so far

-  There is a political dimension to this judgment
-  Not a specific physical entity or location, but the throne and kingdom of the Beast

THE OBJECT OF JUDGMENT (V. 10B)

The Throne of the Beast

-  Given by Satan in **Revelation 13:2**
-  Actual rulership and control
-  Throne is used to reference the power that comes from that throne
-  The one on the throne has the power; thus the throne is spoken of in that way

Location of the Throne?

-  Babylon?
-  Jerusalem?
-  Somewhere else?
-  No single place, but relates to the political system in a broader sense?
-  Not directly given so all we can do is speculate

The Beast cannot protect himself from judgment

-  God is making a point here
-  Similar to **Exodus 10:21-23**
 -  Everyone is impacted
 -  Not even the ruler is spared
-  If the Beast cannot protect himself, then how can someone expect the Beast to protect them?

A KINGDOM FULL OF DARKNESS (V. 10C)

The kingdom of the Beast

-  First mention of said kingdom in Revelation
-  Implies both a political and geographic extent
 -  Generally over the whole world, but it appears there are some nuances to this
 -  Kings of the East (**Revelation 16:12**)
 -  Wherever the remnant of Israel fled (**Revelation 12:6**)
 -  Possibly parts of Africa (c.f. **Daniel 11:25-30**)?
 -  While the Beast and his System are in charge, it seems there are some parts of the world that are either outside his geographic control, or that rebel against him in some capacity
-  Regardless, the context implies this is over the whole earth, broadly speaking
 -  Can assume that the believing remnant are spared from this
 -  Similar to **Exodus 10:23**

While there is spiritual darkness, we should not take this judgment in that manner

-  Clear parallel between Egypt and here means that this must be literal
-  The pain that is discussed would not be worth mentioning if it was just spiritual pain, which presumably would already be present
-  The specific reference to the sun would invalidate the idea of a metaphorical or purely spiritual pain
 -  To take this view is to adopt pagan ideas of the sun and its mystical relationship to enlightenment

THE PAIN FROM THE DARKNESS (V. 10D)

🏠 Who?

- 🏠 Not directly stated but can be implied as the Earth Dwellers
- 🏠 They are the ones who are impacted by the judgment
- 🏠 To assume that this is the Remnant would invalidate the previous statement in the text

🏠 The gnawing

- 🏠 Darkness that can be felt
 - 🏠 Again, similar to **Exodus 10:21**
- 🏠 A means of expressing deep pain
- 🏠 Greek implies that the pain is continual and the “kept on chewing” (Thomas v2, p. 259)

🏠 Why is there pain?

- 🏠 This is a real, physical pain, and not purely spiritual, as stated previously
- 🏠 We are not told the mechanism for the pain, only that it exists
- 🏠 Possible that this judgment heightens the pain/terror from the existing judgments
 - 🏠 Pain here is singular not plural; the plural is used in **v. 11** as encompassing, so here there must be a different specific meaning (Thomas v2, p. 260)
- 🏠 Cause of general disruption which itself causes pain?
- 🏠 It just means what it says it means? If you have ever been in extreme darkness, this would likely make more sense
 - 🏠 Probably the closest we can get, or conceive of this is in a very deep cavern, or deep in the ocean

RESPONSE OF THE EARTH DWELLERS (V. 11)

Pains

-  Here the pain is plural and encompasses the previous Bowl judgments

No repentance

-  The pride of men often stands in the way of repentance
-  Explicitly proves that you were wrong

Blasphemy

-  Lack of repentance and directly speaking against God
-  Shows the depths that these people stoop to
-  Again, note that they are aware of who God is and why He is judging them
-  There will be deception at this time (e.g. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**), but it appears people are not confused on this point

What draws us to God; mercy or judgment?

-  **Exodus 3:1-4**

Why bring this judgment?

-  They are already condemned for following the Beast, so why bring more judgment and not “get it over with”?
-  Demonstration of the wrath of God
-  The holiness of God is above our understanding
-  As a demonstration and warning to those that come after in the Millennium?

PARALLELS TO THE NINTH PLAUGE

🏰 An issue of pride

- 🏰 Pride of Pharaoh
- 🏰 Pride of the Earth-Dwellers
- 🏰 Pride leaves us powerless (1 Corinthians 1:27; Hebrews 11:34) and in darkness

🏰 Direct, political element

- 🏰 Attacks the land of Egypt
- 🏰 Directed based on the actions of Pharaoh
- 🏰 Some are spared (Exodus 10:23)

🏰 Clear attacks in the physical and spiritual realm

- 🏰 Attacking the thing, and the power behind that thing
 - 🏰 The Nile, the sun, lice, etc.
- 🏰 Attacked what the people of Egypt worshiped... Including the Israelites
 - 🏰 E.g. Joshua 24:14
 - 🏰 When does the Remnant turn to God (c.f. Hosea 5:15-6:3)?
- 🏰 Demonstration of God' power over nature and the spiritual realm

🏰 Typology of Pharaoh

- 🏰 In rebellion against God
- 🏰 Egypt as a type of the world
- 🏰 Ruler of the world
- 🏰 Analogous to Satan and/or the one who has Satan's power/throne

LESSONS FOR US

The rejection of God is a serious matter

-  While we may not see an issue with it now, it is the most important issue to solve
-  Much of our evangelism or other work touches around the edges or (perhaps) fights the wrong fight

Your eyes adjust to darkness

-  Takes about 15 min to get 80% vision at night
-  Sometimes when you have been in darkness for so long, you do not realize it at all
-  Light can even become painful
 -  You are not used to it
 -  Light shows flaws
 -  Knowledge means there is responsibility
 -  The flight from responsibility and accountability is a very human trait
 -  Even animals do this
 -  A consequence of sin from the start (e.g. **Genesis 3:1-13**)
-  The darkness here is not one that you adjust to
 -  A lesser version than the “outer darkness” spoken of (**Matthew 22:13**)?
 -  A lesser version of separation from God?

God has power over the physical and spiritual realm

-  We cannot win the spiritual battle without him
-  It is foolish to try
-  Any attempt on our own without His power, leading, and direction will end in failure