

PASTOR: Kip McCormick
DATE: November 17, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up
SERMON: Cold Hands, Hard Hearts

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 16:1-21 (NASB)
SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE / FURTHER READING: Exodus 7-11; 10:21-23; John 14:6; Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:43-45; Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:10-18

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: A hardened heart, over time, can destroy more than your life. It affects everyone around you.



SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- This first bowl judgment resembles the plague of sores that everyone who opposed God's people received in the Exodus accounts.
- The second and third bowls parallel the first plague in Egypt – The second bowl centers on the sea, the third turns the inland waters to blood.
- In verses 5-7 we see a reminder for all of us hearing this message – God will demonstrate His perfect righteousness and holiness through these judgments.
- In God's kingdom the punishment fits the crime.
- The fourth angel poured a bowl on the sun, intensifying its heat so that people were scorched with fire.
- Hardened hearts don't happen overnight. They happen when we consistently put our needs over God's desires.
- The fifth bowl: Directed at the controller of those on earth – the Beast and those who worship him.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a darkness which may be felt." (Exodus 10:21)

- Jesus turns off the darkness.
- The sixth Angel sets the stage for the infamous "Battle of Armageddon." (v.16)
- The battle at "Har-Megiddo" begins in Revelation 16, takes a pause in the action in chapters 17-18, then is completed in Revelation 19:11-21.
- Three elements to the battle: A river, a coalition of kings, and demonic forces.
- Since creation, the Euphrates River has been essential in world affairs.
- The Coalition of Kings/leaders gather at Armageddon to fight God.
- Frogs were unclean animals in Jewish Kosher law. Here they are the spirits of demons.
- These demons come out of the mouths of the unholy trinity (Satan, Anti-Christ, and False Prophet) to draw people to their evil cause.
- "Har" is Hebrew for Mountain, and "Megiddo" means "place of slaughter or the place of troops."
- Seventh angel: Pours out his bowl into the air, followed by a shout from God's throne saying, "It is done."

CHALLENGE:

1. Consistently remind yourself that a hard life requires a soft heart.
2. Keep your heart soft through your thoughts, words, and actions.

FINAL THOUGHT: Just as a hardened heart, over time, can destroy more than your life, so it also affects everyone around you. Conversely, just as a soft heart brings about God's blessings – blessings even in the tribulations of life, so its blessings can be felt by those around you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What part of today's teaching intrigued you? What part of it confused you? What part of it motivated you?
- What were the angels commanded to do?
- What historical judgments in the Bible are these judgments like? Why do you think that's important?
- These judgments increase with intensity. What does that show about God's character?
- How do these plagues show us God's sovereignty over nature, life, and humanity?
- How did people respond to these plagues? What does this reveal to us about them?
- What does the phrase "They did not repent and give him glory" show us about God's purposes in allowing these plagues?
- What symbolism is attached to darkness in the Bible?
- How is darkness a taste of hell?
- What can we learn about the importance of repentance?
- Are demonic spirits doing the same thing today as they did in today's teaching? If so, how can we be on guard about being deceived or influenced by them?
- Have you ever faced a "darkness that can be felt"? Describe what happened and the outcome to the group.
- Kip made a comment that Jesus turns off the darkness. Talk through what that means to you and how that applies to upcoming difficulties in life.

Sources: **Tom Constable** (Constable Notes); **Jason Dexter** (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); **Gotquestions.org**; **Gary Hamrick** (Cornerstone Chapel, Revelation Series); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App** (Kris Langham); **Warren Wiersbe** (The Wiersbe Commentary, New Testament)

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