

Revelation 15 and 16:

True and righteous are God's judgments

1. They bring joy for those who follow the Lamb;
2. They bring sorrow for those who follow the beast.

1. a) Symbolism continues in the seven bowls. E.g. the first four bowls and first four trumpets.
Fifth bowl: deep darkness over the empire of the beast.
Sea of glass, song of Moses: see Exodus 15.
- b) Contrast believers – unbelievers
believers drink Christ's blood: salvation. Unbelievers: drinking blood = punishment
Wrath of God is complete: God's patience with the world comes to an end.
- c) Our perspective on God's judgment: now maybe sadness over those we know.
But we will then stand in awe of God's righteousness: that surpasses sorrow.
Many of the psalms and other Bible texts teach us the glory of God in His righteousness.
2. a) Temple opened: ordination ceremony of the seven angels.
Temple filled with smoke: see Exodus 40. God's presence: His holiness.
Response of believers and of unbelievers to God's judgment: contrast.
- b) Followers of the beast: bloodthirsty. Now they have to drink blood.
Sixth bowl: evil spirits: madness over the world
All God's work: drying up the Euphrates: God prepares them for judgment.
- c) The world in which we live: filled with madness, fear.
No need to fear for us: we trust in God.
Continue to worship God, find rest in Him, drink the living water.

Questions:

1. Find the connections between the chapters 15 and 16 and the book of Exodus.
Knowing the history of the exodus: how do these references in ch. 15 and 16 comfort us?
2. The sixth bowl (16:12-15): The sermon mentioned one example of the madness and fear of the unbelievers in this time. Which one? And can you see other examples?
3. While expecting God's judgment to come, are we sad because of the punishment that will come over many people living around us, even people whom we know, or do we look forward to it because then God will receive all glory?