

## Resolve: Week 7

**Takeaway:** Stay holy, prepared, and constantly expectant

**Read:** Revelation 15-16

*What stood out to you from this passage?*

### Things You Need To Know

**Revelation 15** - John begins this section saying “Then I saw another sign...” signaling to the fact that what is about to transpire is also a vision rooted in symbolism.

- When John says “last plagues”, he is implying that these bowls begin John’s final sequence of judgments. They are the last in terms of John’s narrative, not necessarily in the sequence of history.
- The song they sing in verses 3-4 is the song of Moses, which can be found in Exodus 15. Both songs are sung after God’s deliverance of his people.
  - **The song also has foundations found in Psalm 86:8-10**
- That the plagues are introduced as coming out of heaven reminds us that earthly disasters are not merely accidents; they are arranged by God’s sovereignty.
- The “smoke” of verse 8 symbolizes God’s glory filling his house in Old Testament appearances.

**Revelation 16** - Again, with the seven bowls of judgment, there is a sharp similarity to the plagues of Egypt found in Exodus.

- As with the plagues of Egypt, believers will be spared by this round of judgements.
- Also like Exodus, there is a reluctance of those who are receiving the judgments to repent and come back to God.
- While there is a field called Armageddon in the region, the reference in Revelation allows for symbolic flexibility.
- That the islands and mountains move away in 16:20 speaks to the dramatic



and cosmic judgments that the seventh bowl brings.

**Questions:**

1. Have you ever felt like you were being treated unfairly by God? How does this feeling line up with the testimony of Scripture?

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2. How do these chapters give hope and encouragement to God's people?

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3. What does it mean to have a high view of God? How can you cultivate a high view of God? How can we communicate that view to others?

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4. Why do people fail to repent even upon seeing God's judgement? How might this inform our evangelism and disciple making?

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5. What does it mean to stay alert and remain clothed in preparation for Christ's return? What are some marks of being prepared? Unprepared?

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6. Why do people continue to curse God, even to their dying breath? How were you changed from cursing to praising God?

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