

“THE FOURTH AND FIFTH BOWL JUDGMENTS: THEY DID NOT REPENT”

REVELATION 16:8-11

OCTOBER 11, 2026

LAST SUNDAY: The First Three Bowl Judgments

TODAY: The Fourth and Fifth Bowl Judgments: They Did Not Repent

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS:

1. Are the Bowl Judgments literal or symbolic?
2. Are the Bowl Judgments natural or supernatural?
 - a. “God fulfills Scripture as written, not as interpreted.” –S. Lewis Johnson
3. Are the Bowl Judgments the same as the Trumpet Judgments?

OUTLINE:

- 16:8-9, The Fourth Bowl: Scorching
- 16:10-11, The Fifth Bowl: Darkness

16:8-9/ THE FOURTH BOWL: SCORCHING

1. PRETERIST (*past*):
 - a. Dt. 28:22, “The Lord will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew....”
 - b. There is no record of the sun’s heat scorching people during the fall of Jerusalem or Rome, so perhaps this scorching is the oppression of the people by the leaders (Zealots in Jerusalem or Gothic and Vandal kings who later attacked Rome).
2. HISTORICIST (*timeline*): The sun could be symbolic for a powerful ruler like Napoleon Bonaparte who “scorched” Europe from Lisbon, Portugal to Moscow, Russia.
3. IDEALIST (*spiritual*): All cases in history in which people died of exposure to the elements (no water in the desert or skin cancer).
4. FUTURIST (*future*): Supernatural global warming and climate change.
 - a. Is. 24:6, “A curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.”

“They did not **repent** and give Him glory” – Metanoia: a change of mind that results in a change of action.

7 characteristics of repentance:

1. Repentance is not remorse: 2 Cor. 7:10, “Godly sorrow produces a **repentance** that leads to salvation without regret...worldly sorrow brings death.”
 - a. Spurgeon, “Judgment may produce a **carnal repentance** – a repentance that is of the flesh ... Though the man changes, he is not savingly changed: he becomes another man, but not a new man. The same sin rules in him, but it is called by another name...”

2. Repentance bears fruit. Mt. 3:7-8, John the Baptizer tells the Pharisees, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”
3. Repentance is **not** faith, and faith is **not** repentance, yet one can include the other (two different sides of the same coin):
 - a. Eph. 2:8-9, “By grace you have been saved through faith.” (**Repentance?**)
 - b. Lk. 24:47, “Repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations...” (**Faith?**)
 - c. Acts 20:21, “Testifying to both Jews and to Greeks of **repentance** toward God and of **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.” True faith involves repentance; true repentance involves faith.
4. Repentance (like faith) is a gift of God, given when a person is born again (regeneration).
 - a. Jn. 3:7-8, “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be **born again**.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
5. Repentance is not derived from man’s experience of God’s punishment (hell); it is (once again), a gift from God.
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:24-25, “The Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may **perhaps grant them repentance** leading to a knowledge of the truth...”
6. Repentance is **NOT** of this sin or that sin, but dropping the whole ball of wax. Mt. 4:17, “**Repent** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - a. Justification: sin is **NO** longer my master! I turn my back on sin with **the intention** of not going back to it.
 - b. Spurgeon, “Evangelical repentance is a repentance of sin as sin...it’s **not** of this sin nor of that sin, but **of the whole mass of sin**. We repent of the sin of our **nature** as well as the sin of our **practice**. We repent of sin itself as being an insult to God. Anything short of this is mere **surface** repentance. It’s like repentance of an evil act, not of the evil heart. It’s like men pumping water out of a leaky vessel but forgetting to stop the leak.”
7. Although repentance is a one-time fruit of regeneration, like faith, it continues throughout our lives.
 - a. Lk. 17:3, “If your brother sins, rebuke him and if **he repents** forgive him”
 - b. Luther: “When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ‘**Repent**,’ He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.”

16:10-11/ FIFTH BOWL: DARKNESS

1. PRETERIST (**past**): The throne of the beast is Rome. The *symbolic* darkness is the turmoil Rome endured following Nero’s death in AD 68, leading to the Year of the Four Emperors in AD 69. Also, the turmoil could be from the burning of the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus in Rome and the Jerusalem Temple.
2. HISTORICIST (**timeline**): The throne of the beast is Rome. The *symbolic* darkness is the calamity when French troops entered Rome and pillaged the city. The Italians later conquered Rome in 1870 and made it part of the Kingdom of Italy, leaving Vatican City to the pope.
3. IDEALIST (**spiritual**): The throne of the beast is any anti-Christian government, be it the city of Rome or Washington, D.C. The kingdom is full of *symbolic* darkness.
4. FUTURIST (**future**): The throne of the beast is a sort of revived Roman Empire of the future. The darkness could be literal or symbolic, but probably both.