

# **The Earth's Last Trial**

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I. Introduction. Text: Revelation 15:1-16:21.

II. The pouring out of God's wrath.

A. God promises that this is the last in the series of judgments.

B. A series of martyrs stand on a sea of glass picturing their holiness.

1. One can only appear before God with His holiness.

2. Their holiness was formed in persecution.

3. They are pictured victorious over the devil.

4. The songs of the martyrs.

a. The song of Moses. (Exodus 15)

b. The song of the lamb. (Revelation 15)

c. These are the first and last songs of Scripture that are both based upon God's redemption through blood.

d. There is not one word of their own achievement in their songs.

C. The final judgment.

1. The smoke symbolizes the glory of God.

2. It is too late to pray by this time.

3. This is the great and terrible Day of the Lord--a brief intensive period that comes at the end of the Tribulation. (Matthew 24)

4. The judgments are symbolic.

a. The boils picture a terrible inward corruption that occurs in apostate Israel.

b. The bloody sea pictures a plague on the seas of the Gentile nations.

c. The rivers are polluted by the same phenomenon of the red tide and symbolically speak to the pollution of wisdom in society.

d. The sun's heat would increase.

e. Losing God's grace ends up on losing the ability to repent.

f. Unexplained darkness would cover the earth in the judgment of the beast, which foreshadows the eternal darkness those judged will face.

g. The east and the west shall come together at the battle of Armageddon.

1) Dark entities including the beast and the prophet will arise out of the sea and make World War III.

2) The purpose of our Lord's Coming is to strip off the hypocrisy of many people.

h. A great earthquake will appear like none other, and the air will be poisoned. (Zechariah 14, Ezekiel 39)

5. Finally, Jesus lets Himself be seen.

D. Judgment does not produce repentance--His kindness does. (Romans 2:4)

1. Judgment removes evil; it does not change minds.

2. God's grace invites us to receive the Lord Jesus.

**Application questions:**

1. What is the purpose of God's judgment?

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2. How would you characterize the final judgment of God in this scene?

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3. How does one reconcile God's grace with His judgment here?

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