

REVELATION: Lesson 144

Chapter 16:8-11, The Sun Burns Men, Men will Not Repent, the Lights Go Out

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The events of Revelation chapter 16 occur at a time in the Tribulation when Satan and his angels have been cast out of the second heaven down to the earth (**Rev 12:7-12**). The deceived people on earth respond to Satan's presence by worshipping him (the dragon) and the beast (Antichrist) (**Rev 13:4**).

Chapter 16

Vs 8 When the fourth angel pours out his vial upon the sun, people are scorched with fire.

Vs 9 The burning heat of the sun does not bring men to repentance.

- This is evidence that Purgatory and any other temporary place of torment is unbiblical.
 - Punishment does not lead men to repentance; the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance (Rom 2:4).
 - If you reject God's offer of salvation by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9) offered to all men freely by the blood of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ, then judgment awaits you, but judgment won't turn your heart to God.
 - The only thing that will change your heart is to trust Christ as your Savior (2 Cor 5:17).

Vs 10 The fifth angel's vial brought deep darkness and intensified the agony of their scorch wounds.

Vs 11 The people blasphemed God and still would not repent.

- This underscores the great importance of preaching repentance. Without repentance, hearts are not changed toward God.
 - Today's "soul winning" methods produce higher numbers, but not salvation. Repentance is absent from most witnessing dialogue.
 - Your witnessing ought to lead people to "**repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Acts 20:21). Both are required.

SCORCHING SUN

Isaiah 30:26 This is a Tribulation prophecy stating that the sun will be seven times hotter than normal.

- In Daniel 3:19 Nebuchadnezzar tried to burn God's children in a furnace heated "**seven times more than it was wont to be heated.**" The only ones burned were the unbelievers.

Jonah 4:8 Jonah wished he were dead when the ordinary sun beat upon his head.

DARKNESS

Exodus 10:21-23 God sent darkness upon the Egyptians for three days.

- It was a darkness which could be felt.
- The darkness did not enter the dwellings of the Hebrews. They had light.
 - This is a good passage to illustrate the importance of separating from the world. If you join with the world, you'll be in the dark with the world.

Isaiah 60:1-2 At the end of the Tribulation time when all the lights go out, the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ will be seen piercing through that darkness, and every eye shall see Him (Rev 1:7).

Joel 2:1-2 Here is a prophecy promising that the day of the LORD will be a day of thick darkness that spreads across the earth.

Joel 2:30-31 The Bible speaks of this day of darkness as “**the great and the terrible day of the Lord.**”

Nahum 1:3-8 Here is another look at the events occurring before the Second Coming of Christ.

- The Lord is slow to anger, but He will not at all acquit the wicked (vs 3), so we must repent and get born again.
- The seas are dried up, vegetation fails (vs 4).
- Earthquakes, melting hills, the earth and the world are burned, and all the people are burned at His presence (vs 5).
- Yes, the Lord is angry (vs 6), but He is good. He knows and protects those who trust Him (vs 7). But darkness shall pursue His enemies (vs 8).

Mark 13:24 When the sun, moon, and stars are darkened, then shall they see the Son of man coming...

- Practical lesson: when you’re experiencing some dark times in your life, that is when Jesus Christ is manifest and can shine forth in your life.

Isaiah 8:19-22 People turn to spirit-channelers, claiming to be seeking God. They don’t have the word of God in them, so there is no light in them. When difficulties come, they curse God and blame Him instead of blaming themselves for rejecting the word of God. They didn’t want God’s light, so they’ll be driven to darkness.

John 3:16-21 Light (Jesus Christ) came into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

- Coming to the Light of Jesus Christ means repenting of your evil deeds.
- Men choose to remain in temporary darkness because they don’t want to stop their sinful ways. As a result, they will not repent, and they end up in eternal darkness.

Compare Joel 2:31-32 with Acts 2:20-21

Joel is giving instructions to people who have entered the tribulation. If they will call on the name of the Lord in “**the great and terrible day of the LORD,**” God will deliver them (physical salvation) so they can enter the millennial kingdom on earth (Kingdom of heaven).

Peter preaches from the same passage, but his application is for born-again believers who will never enter the tribulation time. To them, that day is the “**great and notable day of the Lord.**” It is not a terror to us because it does not affect us, but we take note of it. God offers eternal salvation to those who call upon the name of the Lord. This is not deliverance from physical harm. It is the Lord saving the believer from their sin so they can have eternal life.
