

## INTRODUCTION

1. 5th bowl - Rv 16:10-11. 1st 4 bowls: cursed creation - earth, sea, rivers, sun
2. 5th bowl - invisible demonic powers & principalities: *heavenly places* [Eph 6:12]. Jdgmnt *on the throne of Beast* that affects people who in *his kingdom*

**1st: The Throne of the Beast - Rv 16:10a**

1. 5th trmpt - smoke from abyss - scorpions *torment* - Rv 9:11. A leader named.
2. *The Beast* - Rv 11:7 *the abyss* [Abaddon & Apollyon]; *overcomes* 2 Witnesses
  - i. An aside: *abyss* = prison for rebel angels; realm of dead - damned; assoc'd w/ Gehenna [hell]; Mt 25:41; Lk 8:31
3. *Beast* in Rv 13 - *Dragon* authorizes & empowers [13:4-5] & 2<sup>nd</sup> Beast.
  - i. Look at *Beast* in context of chpts 9,11,12,13 - *blasphemy* [Rv 16:9,11,21]
  - ii. Statist antiX totalitarianism supported by the False Prophet [2<sup>nd</sup> Beast]
4. *throne of Beast* - authority, rule, gov't. Rv 2:12-13 *Satan's throne* - 1<sup>st</sup> martyr is named: *Antipas My witness*. Pergamum: center of Emperor Cult [Pharaoh]
5. Human authority, demonically energized - 2C 4:4. Darkness.

**2nd: The Darkness - Rv 16:10b**

1. 9<sup>th</sup> plague of Exodus - target Ra [sun-god]: Exo 10:22-23.
2. *Darkness* = symbol of jdgmnt - on throne of Beast - frustrating attempts to institute an orderly, functioning antiX gov't. Civil disorder prevents unified rebellion against the Creator.
3. Satan is frustrated - Rv 12. But in Rv 16, unity achieved [Armageddon 16:16] but internal strife is the norm [17:16]. Dennis Johnson, "a domain of delusion and confusion." It is only when God sovereignly brings evil to its decreed measure that men are able to attack God & be eternally overcome.

**3rd: The Pain - Rv 16:10c-11**

1. Harbinger of hell - Mat 8:12; 22:13; 25:30 - *gnashing teeth* = anger.
2. A7:54 Court scene - kill Stephen: *gnashing teeth*.
3. Why angry? *b/c of pain* [2x] + *sores* [from 1<sup>st</sup> plague, v2]. Jdgmnts overlap, intensify -> intensify - moving to climax & ultimately hell
  - i. Rv 21:4. 1<sup>st</sup> use? Gn 3:16,18. *Pain* = curse of death.

- ii. Rv 22:3 Bowls reveal extent of curse. Cursed creation is painful - child-birth & labor. Creation ordinances attacked by Satan [1T 4:1-5].

4. *gnaw tongues* - frustration - life in chaos of injustice & civil disorder.

**4th: The Impenitent Blasphemy Rv 16:11**

1. Gnawing tongue: why doesn't the gov't [deified] do smthg? Gov't fails & *God of heaven* [Dan 2:19ff] is *blasphemed*. Creator [Gn 1:1] is blasphemed b/c of the curse now manifested in Beast's darkened gov't that -> *pains*.
2. Men invert Les Talionis: they curse God b/c of the curse. They are aware of God as Creator & know that their deeds deserve death [Rm 1:32].
3. They do *not repent of their deeds*. They know things are chaotic & that gov't can't fix things & that God is judging them, but will not repent - Rv 9:20-21

**Applic #1: Warn of Darkness**

1. Jer 13 - visual parable of Judah's pride. How is pride evident? v8-10 idolatry -> impending Babylonian invasion - Jer's appeal: v15-17
2. Jesus equates *world w/ darkness* [Jn 12:46]. Warn others.

**Applic #2: Walk in the Light**

1. Exo 10:22-23 where is light in the midst of darkness? Lampstands [Rv 1].
2. Heb 10:25 - *as you see the day drawing near*; as you see a world in darkness.
3. Jesus - metaphor of light.

**Applic #3: Reach Into the Darkness**

1. Poor Egyptians - isolated in cage of impenetrable darkness. "Plague" of loneliness [medicalXpress.com]; UK's gov't department established in 2018.
2. Reach out to an isolated Egyptian sitting in darkness w/ the light of the gospel.