

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

June 9, 2021

## Updates, News & Notes

### Sad News

Dani Rembleski's father passed away on Tuesday morning. As most of you know, Dani's mother passed away in the not-too-distant past. This is devastating news for the family so please keep them in your prayers. Dani is in Texas now, and Brady and the children will be joining them on Friday.

### The Latest on Reopening

The two-week trend shows US cases of Covid are down 40%, deaths down 19% and today California is down to 1.7 cases per 100,000. That's the lowest in the US. There have been just 994 cases in the entire state this past week. That bodes well for the reopening. Here's the latest (June 7) from the California Department of Public Health:

“On June 15, the state will transition Beyond the Blueprint, where all industry and business sectors listed in the current Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart may return to usual operations with no capacity limits or physical distancing requirements, with limited exceptions for mega events.

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing (outside a workplace setting).
- Spend time with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.”

We will be applying these new guidelines to our assemblies starting on Wednesday, June 16th. However, if the state decides to make changes to this, we will follow the state's mandates per Romans 13:1-7 and I Peter 2:13-17, unless, at any point, state law conflicts with God's law.

### Revelation

A third grader approached me on Sunday after services and very politely asked me, *“are you going to be finished preaching on Revelation pretty soon? I would like to hear sermons from another book.”* I asked him which book he would like me to preach from and he said *“Oh, maybe Jonah...”* Look for a sermon in the near future from the book/story of Jonah. If a third-grader is interested enough to ask, there is no way I'm not going to preach that sermon!

As I've mentioned before, in order to keep the Revelation series from dragging on too long causing us to miss the main message, I'm using the View to include a few extra study notes on the book. In the sermons, I trying to focus on the main themes in Revelation without getting too caught up in the details. These notes are just some summary thoughts but I realize that not everyone is interested in even this level of detail, but I include it for those who are. I'll be covering large

swaths of the book in the next few sermons to avoid getting bogged down. In the next few days leading up to Sunday, I plan to include notes from chapters 15 through 19.

### Notes on Revelation 15-16

The **seven seals** (6:1-17; 8:1-5) revealed God's plan, the **seven trumpets** (8:6 - 9:21; 11:15-19) announced it and, now the **seven bowls** (chapters 15 & 16) will execute it. The time for God's judgment, fully poured out on those who hate Him, has come. “In them, the wrath of God is finished,” 15:1 says. “Finished” does not necessarily mean “final” but what John sees is a total victory of God over His adversaries, and God's people share in this victory.

There is no question that God's justice is being vindicated here. He is angry with the wickedness and is venting His wrath without mercy on the evildoers. In 14:10, His wrath is likened to wine, “poured out unmixed into the cup of His indignation.” “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God,” for “our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 10:31; 12:29).

The golden bowls were introduced in Revelation 5:8 where they held the incense, which was described as the “prayers of the saints.” It appears, at least from the viewpoint of Revelation, that saints have every right to expect, and even desire, that their blood be avenged. But vengeance belongs totally to God, not to the saints (cf. 8:3-5; Romans 12:17-21; the “imprecatory Psalms” cf. 7; 35; 40; 55; 58-59; 69; 79; 109; 137; 139; 144). The answer to the temptation to avenge oneself is to hand that anger off to God and let Him deal out due retribution.

Chapter 16 records the pouring out of the bowls of wrath. The similarity to the plagues in Egypt and to the trumpet judgments is interesting although the bowls represent an intensification of the particular judgments, not a chronological progression.

Again the theme of God's perfect justice is central (cf. vv. 5-7). Men are getting what they deserve (16:6) yet they refuse to repent and continue to “curse” God (vv. 9, 11, 21) — they not only worship the beast they have taken on his character.

The wrath of God is manifested in themes of pain, blood, fire, darkness, natural disasters (hail & earthquakes) and war. The latter plague is pictured not only as a war waged against the beast (v. 12) but also as a “world war” waged by the kings of the earth against God (v. 14-16). This war is described in detail in 19:11-21. *Guess who wins!?*

David Posey