

# Revelation 16:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

## Analysis

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The fourth angel's vial poured on the sun causing scorching heat represents intensified affliction. Unlike the fourth trumpet darkening the sun (8:12), this magnifies its heat. The sun, typically beneficial, becomes an instrument of torment—God can turn any blessing into curse for the impenitent. The scorching recalls the withering sun in Jesus' parable of the sower (Matthew 13:6), representing tribulation exposing false profession. Reformed theology affirms that creation itself, cursed by sin (Romans 8:20-22), participates in executing judgment. The intensity demonstrates escalating wrath, yet men still refuse repentance (v. 9).

## Historical Context

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Mediterranean climate made intense sun dangerous, causing heatstroke and death. Ancient peoples understood the sun's dual nature—life-giving yet potentially deadly. This judgment reversed normal expectations, transforming blessing into curse. The imagery warned that rejecting God meant losing even creation's common grace benefits.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's ability to turn blessings (like the sun) into judgments demonstrate His sovereignty over creation?
2. What does the intensification of affliction reveal about God's progressive judgments for the persistently impenitent?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ὁ τέταρτος ἄγγελος ἐξέχεσεν τὴν φιάλην αὐτῷ  
And G3588 the fourth angel poured out G3588 vial unto him  
G2532 G5067 G32 G1632 G5357 G846

ἐπὶ τὸν ἥλιον καὶ ἐδόθη αὐτῷ καυματίσαι τὸν  
upon G3588 the sun And power was given unto him to scorch G3588  
G1909 G2246 G2532 G1325 G846 G2739

ἀνθρώπους ἐν πυρὶ<sup>1</sup>  
men with fire  
G444 G1722 G4442

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 14:18** (Parallel theme): And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe.

**Acts 2:20** (Parallel theme): The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

**Matthew 13:6** (Parallel theme): And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

**Jonah 4:8** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

**Revelation 6:12** (Parallel theme): And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

**Revelation 7:16** (Parallel theme): They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

**Revelation 9:2** (Parallel theme): And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

**Revelation 8:12** (Parallel theme): And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

**Isaiah 24:23** (Parallel theme): Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.

**Luke 21:25** (Parallel theme): And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;