

# Revelation 15

The Sea of Glass, the Song of the Lamb, and the Justice of God

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Educational teaching notes from Revelation 15. Personal testimony has been removed so the material can be used as a clear study handout, discussion guide, or teaching resource.

**Main challenge:**

Stop rehearsing the lies of the beast.

Start singing the song of the Lamb.

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**Text: Revelation 15**

## Main Theme

Revelation 15 shows the victorious people of God standing before the final judgments, not in fear, but in worship. The chapter teaches that God's justice is holy, the Lamb has already won, and the church is called to overcome by worship, faithfulness, and heavenly perspective.

## Core Question

Are we rehearsing the lies of the beast, or are we singing the song of the Lamb?

### 1. Revelation Should Form Worship, Not Division

**Key idea:**

The book of Revelation is not meant to produce fear, obsession, or division. It is meant to reveal Jesus Christ and form endurance, worship, holiness, confidence, and longing for His return.

**Revelation should lead us to ask:**

- What does this reveal about Jesus?
- What does this expose about the world?
- What does this require of the church?
- What hope does this give to suffering saints?

**The danger:**

If studying Revelation makes believers more divisive, suspicious, or hostile toward other Christians, then the book is exposing something unhealthy in the heart.

**The goal:**

The church must learn to hold fast to Christ, refuse Babylon, overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and remain in love with one another.

### 2. Where Revelation 15 Fits

**Revelation 1 to 3:**

Jesus walks among the churches, encouraging, correcting, warning, and calling them to overcome.

**Revelation 4 to 5:**

John is taken into the throne room. The central question is, "Who is worthy?" The answer is the slain Lamb. Jesus alone is worthy to open the scroll and bring God's purposes to completion.

**Seals and trumpets:**

The church is shown suffering, judgment, witness, conflict, and the deeper spiritual war behind earthly events.

### **Revelation 12 to 14:**

The dragon, the beast, false worship, deception, persecution, and endurance are brought into view.

### **Revelation 15:**

This chapter is a transition between the conflict with the beast and the bowls of judgment. Before the final judgments are poured out, John sees heaven, worship, victory, and God's holiness.

## **3. The Wrath of God Is Holy Justice**

Revelation 15:1

"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished."

### **Key idea:**

God's wrath is not an uncontrolled emotional outburst. It is calm, holy, sovereign justice.

### **Important distinction:**

- Human anger is often reactive, unstable, and sinful.
- God's wrath is righteous, pure, measured, and just.

### **Why this matters:**

A God who never judges evil would not be loving. True love protects, confronts, and brings evil to an end.

For the oppressed, persecuted, martyred, abused, and forgotten, the justice of God is not bad news. It is hope.

### **God's judgment means:**

- Evil will not last forever.
- Injustice will not be ignored.
- The suffering of the saints is seen by God.
- The enemies of God will not have the final word.
- The Lamb will bring all things to completion.

## **4. The Sea of Glass Mixed With Fire**

Revelation 15:2

"And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God."

### **The sea in Scripture and Revelation:**

The sea often represents chaos, danger, evil, and the place from which beastly powers arise.

### **Examples:**

- Pharaoh and the Red Sea
- The beast rising from the sea in Revelation 13
- The sea as a place associated with chaos and threat

**But in Revelation 15:**

The sea is calm. It is like glass. It is mixed with fire, pointing to holiness, judgment, and victory.

**Key idea:**

The very place that looked like destruction becomes the platform of God's victory.

**This echoes the Exodus:**

- Israel stood trapped by the sea.
- Pharaoh thought the sea would become their grave.
- God turned the sea into the place of deliverance.
- The enemy was defeated in the very place he expected to triumph.

**In Revelation 15:**

The beast thinks suffering will destroy the church. Instead, the faithful stand victorious before God.

## 5. Victory Does Not Always Look Like Escape

The victorious are not described as those who avoided all suffering. They are those who overcame the beast.

In Revelation, overcoming is not worldly success. It is faithful endurance in Christ.

**They overcome by:**

- Refusing false worship
- Remaining faithful to Jesus
- Enduring suffering
- Resisting deception
- Holding to the testimony of Christ
- Worshiping the Lamb

The beast may attack, deceive, accuse, and rage, but his time is short.

**Revelation exposes Satan's strategy:**

- He deceives.
- He accuses.
- He intimidates.
- He tempts people to compromise.
- He uses beastly systems and false worship.
- He tries to make the church afraid.

**But the church's confidence is this:**

Christ has already conquered.

## 6. The Harps of God and the Song of the Lamb

Revelation 15:2 to 3

The victorious are standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.

Worship is central to the victory of God's people.

**They do not sing:**

- About their own strength
- About how much they hate the beast
- About their suffering as the main focus
- About fear, panic, or defeat

**They sing:**

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations."

Their song magnifies God.

**Key idea:**

Worship changes the attention of the church. It pulls the eyes of the saints away from the storm and onto the Lamb.

Worship is not a warm-up.

Worship is not emotional padding.

Worship is not escapism.

Worship is participation in heavenly reality.

## 7. The Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb

Why Moses?

The song of Moses points back to the Exodus, when God delivered His people through the sea and defeated Pharaoh.

Why the Lamb?

The song of the Lamb points to Jesus, the greater deliverer, who conquers through His death and resurrection.

**Together, these songs declare:**

- God delivers His people.

- God judges evil.
- God defeats oppressive powers.
- God brings His people through the waters.
- God alone is worthy of worship.
- The Lamb is the fulfillment of the Exodus story.

The Exodus was a shadow.

Christ is the fullness.

## 8. The Content of the Song

Revelation 15:3 to 4

"Great and marvelous are Your works,  
Lord God, the Almighty;  
Righteous and true are Your ways,

King of the nations!

Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your name?  
For You alone are holy;  
For all the nations will come and worship before You,  
For Your righteous acts have been revealed."

**The song declares:**

- God's works are great and marvelous.
- God's ways are righteous and true.
- God is King of the nations.
- God alone is holy.
- The nations will come and worship.
- God's righteous acts have been revealed.

This is the language of heaven.

The church's song is not centered on the beast. It is centered on God.

## 9. The Heavenly Sanctuary Is Opened

Revelation 15:5

"After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened."

The heavenly temple is opened.

**This shows:**

- God's judgments come from His holy presence.
- Heaven is the source of true justice.
- God's covenant faithfulness is being revealed.
- The final judgments are not random events, but holy acts from the throne.

The "tabernacle of testimony" connects to the presence, holiness, and covenant faithfulness of God.

## 10. The Seven Angels and the Bowls of Wrath

Revelation 15:6 to 7

The seven angels come out of the temple clothed in clean, bright linen, with golden sashes. One of the four living creatures gives them seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God.

**Details:**

- Clean, bright linen points to purity.
- Golden sashes point to priestly and royal imagery.
- Golden bowls show that judgment is holy and weighty.
- The wrath of God comes from the God who lives forever and ever.

**Key idea:**

The judgments of God are not dirty, petty, or cruel. They are holy, pure, and righteous.

## 11. The Temple Filled With Smoke

Revelation 15:8

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished."

**Biblical echoes:**

- Sinai
- The tabernacle
- The temple
- The glory cloud
- God's overwhelming holiness

The smoke represents the glory and power of God.

No one enters until the plagues are finished. This shows the seriousness and inevitability of God's final justice.

Once God's holy judgment is set in motion, it will be completed.

## 12. Worship as Resistance

Revelation 15 shows worship in the face of beastly power.

### **Worship is resistance because:**

- It refuses the beast's lies.
- It refuses false worship.
- It refuses fear.
- It refuses compromise.
- It declares that God alone is holy.
- It announces that the Lamb has already won.

### **The beast wants the church to rehearse lies:**

- You are defeated.
- Compromise will keep you safe.
- The world can satisfy you.
- Faithfulness is pointless.
- The Lamb is weak.
- Evil is winning.
- God will not judge.
- You are alone.

### **The song of the Lamb answers:**

- God's works are great and marvelous.
- His ways are righteous and true.
- He is King of the nations.
- He alone is holy.
- The nations will worship Him.
- His righteous acts will be revealed.

## 13. A Christian Life as a Threat to Evil

The church threatens evil not by fear, rage, or striving, but by union with Christ and faithful witness.

### **Christians threaten evil when they:**

- Refuse agreement with darkness
- Walk in truth

- Carry the presence of Christ
- Live free from fear, lust, greed, approval, bitterness, and self-preservation
- Proclaim and embody the gospel
- Forgive
- Show mercy
- Practice purity
- Live generously
- Worship God alone

**Holy love is warfare:**

- Forgiveness threatens revenge.
- Mercy threatens accusation.
- Purity threatens corruption.
- Generosity threatens greed.
- Worship threatens idolatry.

The gospel is not passive or neutral. It announces that sin, death, Satan, and every rival power have been defeated through the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

## 14. Practical Application

When facing pressure, suffering, temptation, or fear, Revelation 15 calls believers to heavenly perspective.

**Ask:**

- Am I rehearsing the lies of the beast?
- Am I singing the song of the Lamb?
- Am I focused on the storm or on the victory of Christ?
- Am I living from fear or from worship?
- Am I compromising with darkness or standing faithful to Jesus?
- Am I allowing Revelation to form worship, endurance, and holiness in me?

**The church is called to:**

- Stand firm
- Worship deeply
- Refuse deception
- Hold fast to Christ
- Trust God's justice
- Live as a witness to the nations

- Carry the presence of Christ into the world

## 15. Summary

Revelation 15 gives the church a vision before the final bowls of judgment.

### **It shows:**

- God's wrath is holy justice.
- The sea of chaos has become calm before the throne.
- The people of God stand victorious.
- The saints worship with harps of God.
- They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb.
- God alone is holy.
- The nations will come and worship.
- Evil will be judged.
- Christ has already won.

## Final Challenge

Stop rehearsing the lies of the beast.

Start singing the song of the Lamb.

The storm does not get the final word.

The beast does not get the final word.

The Lamb gets the final word.

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Prepared as an educational note-form resource.