

Compose Your Redemption Song

Revelation 15:1-8

I. Introduction: A Sure Judgment

1. In moving into the bowl judgments, we are moving into the third woe, each successively worse than the last. *We are also moving into the second half of the tribulation period with the sound of the 7th trumpet reverberating across the heavens and earth.*
2. As we have noted, chapters 11-14 are parenthetical to the largely sequential timeline presented here in the book of Revelation. *These chapters offer glimpses of overarching themes, often times extending to all ages while at other places clearly looking forward prophetically to the end of the tribulation period.* What they share in common is their speaking of our unchanging God.
3. Throughout the tribulation period, as He has since mankind's fall, God has been revealing Himself to mankind. *He has, over and over again, given us the opportunity to repent and come back to Him in faith. Yet, as all of history testifies AND as John relays in his prophetic look at the tribulation period, most will stand in open defiance of our longsuffering heavenly Father.*

What we read of today is that His final judgment will come and it will end.

II. Revelation 15:1: Chapter Summary

1. Here John is witnessing the third of the great signs, with the first two being the woman Israel in **Revelation 12:1** and the second being the "great red dragon" signifying Satan's earthly empire under the beast in **Revelation 12:3**. *The word for marvelous used here, thaumastos, conveys the idea of John being astonished by the sign in view, as we are told of God's victory over Satan.*
2. A little paid-attention to fact we see in this verse is that God's wrath will be complete. *Mankind does not have a forever mulligan – all must*

chose to follow God or not. Billions have died warring against Him and most of the remaining people will reject John's warnings of the even-more terrible wrath to come. Instead, they will choose to reject God's offer of redemption and instead suffer through the wrath of that day and all the days to come. // The cost of pride is high!

III. Revelation 15:2-4: Songs of Victory

1. The imagery of the sea draws us back to **Revelation 4:6** in emphasizing the glory of God. Here however, we have the important distinction of this sea being mingled with fire. In context, this surely combines God's glory with His righteous judgment.
 - A. Whether Jesus as the living water, Moses & Israel at the Red sea (more on this in a moment), baptism, the flood account, or many other Scripture references, we see the ongoing use of water in Scripture to reflect the purifying and life-giving power of God Himself.
2. While we can't be sure which Revelation martyrs are in view, it seems reasonable it's those from **Revelation 13:1-10** that represent the utter failure of enemy and his troops against the Lamb of God. You see, they live and do so in contentment, peace, and joy that comes to God's children in His victory.
3. Verses 3 and 4 indicate either two song's compiled into one or more likely, just two songs. The overarching picture being painted with the song or songs is worshipping Jesus as redeemer. The songs draw back to God's redeeming of Moses and His chosen people out of Egypt AND look forward to the Lamb of God's redeeming of His children from the cross until the end of the tribulation period. Further, given the nature and structure of John's words, it seems likely that he is offering a summary of the songs that we may understand the essence of the many lyrics involved.
4. While it may be that the song of Moses was new, some have suggested that perhaps its roots can be found in **Exodus 15:1-21** or

Deuteronomy 32:1-43 or even Psalm 19. Theologian John Phillips gives us a magnificent account of these verses¹:

- A. The song of Moses was sung at the Red Sea, *the song of the Lamb is sung at the crystal sea;*
 - B. The song of Moses was a song of triumph over Egypt, *the song of the Lamb is a song of triumph over Babylon;*
 - C. The song of Moses told how God brought His people out, *the song of the Lamb tells how God brings His people in;*
 - D. The song of Moses was the first song in Scripture, *the song of the Lamb is the last;*
 - E. The song of Moses commemorated the execution of the foe, the expectation of the saints, and the exaltation of the Lord; *the song of the Lamb deals with the same three themes; and*
 - F. The song of Moses was sung by a redeemed people; *the song of the Lamb is sung by a raptured people.*
5. If you have your Bibles, open them to Isaiah 2, beginning in v1:

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Revelation: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Re 15:1–4.

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

- 2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days
That the mountain of the LORD's house
 Shall be established on the top of the mountains,
 And shall be exalted above the hills;
 And all nations shall flow to it.
- 3 Many people shall come and say,
 "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 To the house of the God of Jacob;
 He will teach us His ways,
 And we shall walk in His paths."
 For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
 And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 4 He shall judge between the nations,
 And rebuke many people;
 They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
 And their spears into pruning hooks;
 Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 Neither shall they learn war anymore.

- Isaiah 2:1–4

It seems that the Lord gave Isaiah a picture of the very things we are reading here in Revelation 15...//God is inviting, faithful, and true!

IV. Revelation 15:5-8: Heaven's Holy of Holies

1. The word used for temple here is "naos", meaning sacred things. *And "naos" makes clear we are looking in the holy of holies where God's presence is with man.* It is here where the ark of the covenant resides along with a golden censor, Aaron's rod, the tablets of the covenant, and the cherubim's of glory that we read of in **Hebrews 9:3-5**.
2. Next, coming from the temple arrayed in clothing of such splendor makes clear that the attending angels are conveying righteous judgments reflecting God's absolute power along with His majesty and holiness.
3. There are a couple of things to note in v7:

- A. First, we see that the plagues the angels carry will be infused with God's wrath. This offers a very clear sense that the plagues will come through the existing natural processes within God's creation. This does not suggest people won't know the source of their judgement. Rather, it suggests that people will not be able to avoid these plagues as they will come through the everyday things of life at that time.
 - B. Next, John makes clear that the God who doles out this wrath is the eternal One! He is sovereign and whether angel, man, or Satan, we are created beings subject to His will and His plan. John makes clear that God will be victorious and that He is both Creator and Judge. John makes clear our choice to follow God to eternal life or our own pride-driven path to eternal death.
4. As we close out this chapter, we are offered a picture of God's Shekinah Glory filling the temple. This glory, referenced in **Exodus 33:9** at the completion of the tabernacle and **1 Kings 8:10** with regard to dedicating Solomon's temple, is not God, but signifies His presence. Even this mere signifying of His presence is so great and powerful that no one can enter, much less work in the temple...until the seven plagues complete His wrath.

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V. Closing: God's Redemptive Power is Personal

1. Has God's redemptive power touched you? Do you know His majesty, power, and holiness? Is your life "a song" of praise, adoration, and your hope in God that both glorifies and draws others to Him? Is your life "a song" speaking of His redemptive offering of citizenship in heaven along with unfathomable cost of the alternative of living eternally in hell? //Consider your song!

Revelation 15:1-8

Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.

1. Discuss the cost of pride and why pride is ALWAYS an existential threat to our lives along with creating a prioritized list of how we may live as overcomers in this regard.
2. List possible reasons why and discuss why God may have given John a prophetic vision of the holy of holies before His final and most intense wrath is poured out on the remaining mankind.
3. Each of you write down one overriding theme your life “song” would have along with at least 5 points of emphasis. Keep in mind that your life “song” should point to who Christ is to you on a personal level. Then share. Have some fun with this.

Revelation 15:1-8

Compose Your Redemption Song

I. Introduction: A Sure Judgment

- The 7th trumpet opens the 3rd woe, which is the bowl judgments.

II. Revelation 15:1: Chapter Summary

- God wins.

Additional Scripture References: Re 12:1, 3

III. Revelation 15:2-4: Songs of Victory

- Fire of judgment, waters of cleansing and healing.

Additional Scripture References: Re 4:6, 13:1-10; Ex 15:1-21; Deut 31:1-43; Ps 19; Is 2:1-4

IV. Revelation 15:5-8: Heaven's Holy of Holies

- God is eternal, Creator, and Judge

Additional Scripture References: He 9:3-5; Ex 33:9; 1 Ki 8:10

V. Closing: A Preemptive Call for Today's Unbeliever

5-Day Devotional
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

Day 1: God's Redemptive Love

Reading: Exodus 15:1-21

Devotional: As we read the Song of Moses, we're reminded of God's powerful redemption of His people from Egypt. This foreshadows the ultimate redemption through Christ. Reflect on how God has redeemed you from your personal "Egypt" - the bondage of sin. How has His love transformed your life?

Today, take time to write your own "song of redemption," listing specific ways God has shown His love and deliverance in your life.

Day 2: Faithful Amidst Tribulation

Reading: Revelation 7:9-17

Devotional: The image of martyrs standing before God's throne reminds us that faith often comes at a cost. Yet even in the face of great tribulation, these believers remained faithful. Consider the challenges to your faith you're facing today. How can you remain steadfast? Remember, just as God wiped away the tears of these martyrs, He sees your struggles and offers comfort.

Pray for strength to stand firm in your faith, no matter the circumstances.

Day 3: The Hope of Salvation

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: Paul reminds us that our present sufferings pale in comparison to the glory that awaits us. This hope of salvation sustains us through life's trials. Reflect on a difficult situation you're facing. How does the promise of eternal life with Christ change your perspective on this challenge? Let this hope be an anchor for your soul today, and share this hope with someone who needs encouragement.

Day 4: God's Presence in Suffering
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Reading: Psalm

Devotional: Even in the "valley of the shadow of death," God is with us. This psalm beautifully illustrates God's constant presence and care, even in our darkest moments. Think about a time when you felt God's presence during a difficult period. How did it comfort you?

Today, practice being aware of God's presence in every moment, both in joy and in sorrow. How might this awareness change your approach to the day?

Day 5: Victory in Christ

Reading: Revelation 15:2-4

Devotional: The victorious saints sing praises to God, acknowledging His justice and holiness. Their song reminds us that no matter how dire things may seem, God's ultimate victory is assured. Reflect on areas in your life where you need victory. How can you begin to praise God for the victory He will bring, even before you see it?

Today, choose to live as one who is already victorious in Christ, facing challenges with confidence in God's power and promises.

Small Group Guide
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

Opening Prayer: Pray for the Lord to open your eyes and your heart to know Him and want all that he has for you.

Key Takeaways: Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. God's judgment is coming, but He continually offers opportunities for repentance.
2. Victory belongs to God and His followers, even in the face of tribulation.
3. Worship and praise are powerful responses to God's redemptive work.
4. God's glory and presence are overwhelming and awe-inspiring.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The sermon mentions that God has been speaking to mankind since the Garden of Eden. How have you experienced God speaking in your life? How do you respond to His voice?
2. Reflect on the contrast between the martyrs' victory songs and the fate of those who reject God. How does this impact your view of redemption and judgment?
3. The sermon draws parallels between the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. How do you see God's consistency throughout Scripture in His redemptive plan?
4. Discuss the significance of the "sea of glass mingled with fire" (Rev. 15:2). How does this imagery speak to God's glory and judgment?
5. The sermon mentions God's wrath coming through "existing natural processes." How does this perspective affect your understanding of God's judgment and sovereignty?
6. Reflect on the description of God's Shekinah Glory filling the temple. How does the concept of God's overwhelming presence impact your approach to worship and daily life?

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. **Compose Your Redemption Song:** Take time this week to write your own "song" of praise, reflecting on God's redemptive work in your life. Share these with the group next week.
2. **Opportunities for Repentance:** Identify areas in your life where you may need to repent. Make a commitment to address these areas and seek God's forgiveness and guidance.
3. **Sharing God's Redemptive Offer:** Brainstorm ways to share the message of God's redemption with others in your community. Choose one action step to implement this week.
4. **Cultivating Awe:** Practice spending time in silent reflection on God's glory and presence. Journal about how this impacts your daily life and relationship with Him.

Closing Prayer: Encourage group members to reflect on the closing question from the sermon throughout the week: "Is your life 'a song' speaking of His redemptive offering of citizenship in heaven along with unfathomable cost of the alternative of living eternally in hell?"

Discussion Questions
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

1. How does the concept of God's sovereignty and human free will interact in this passage? How does the imagery of the sea mingled with fire in Revelation 15:2 reflect both God's glory and His righteous judgment? What might this symbolism mean for believers today?
2. In what ways do the songs of Moses and the Lamb represent continuity in God's redemptive plan throughout history? How might understanding this connection deepen our appreciation for God's faithfulness?
3. How does the description of the martyrs standing victorious by the sea challenge our perspective on suffering and persecution for our faith?
4. What parallels can we draw between the Exodus story and the end-times events described in Revelation? How might these connections inform our understanding of God's character and His plans for redemption?
5. How does the image of God's presence filling the temple, preventing anyone from entering, speak to His holiness and the gravity of His final judgment? What implications does this have for how we approach God in worship and daily life?
6. In what ways does the concept of God's wrath being 'complete' (Revelation 15:1) challenge or comfort you? How does this idea relate to God's love and justice?
7. How might the repeated offers of repentance throughout the tribulation period, as mentioned in the sermon, inform our understanding of evangelism and God's desire for all to come to Him?
8. What does it mean for our lives to be 'a song' that speaks of God's redemptive power? How can we cultivate this kind of testimony in our daily walk with Christ?
9. How does the description of God as the 'eternal One' in this passage impact our view of His sovereignty and our place in His plan? What comfort or challenge does this bring to your faith?
10. In light of the final judgments described in Revelation 15, how might we balance communicating the urgency of salvation with the message of God's love and grace in our witness to others?

Dinner Conversation Starters
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

1. The Role of Redemption

How do you understand the concept of redemption, and in what ways have you experienced redemption in your life or witnessed it in others?

2. Songs of Victory

The sermon highlights songs that celebrate triumph over adversity. Do you have a favorite song that inspires or uplifts you during difficult times? Why does it resonate with you?

3. God's Patience and Judgment

The message speaks of God's patience and ultimate judgment. How do you balance understanding God's love and forgiveness with the idea of divine judgment, especially when considering the choices we make?

4. Imagery and Meaning

The sermon describes various biblical symbols like the sea and fire. What are some symbols in your life or family traditions that hold significant meaning, and what do they represent to you?

5. Living Your Redemption Song

The pastor asks if your life is "a song" that glorifies and draws others to God. How can we as a family create a "song" through our actions and decisions that embodies our faith and values to influence those around us positively?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Application Point:** Understanding Obedience and Consequences

Scenario: When playing with friends, you notice someone being left out of the game.

Discussion Question: What should you do if you see a friend being left out, and how does choosing to include them show love like God asks us to?

2. **Application Point:** Recognizing Good and Bad Choices

Scenario: You have a choice between watching TV or finishing your homework.

Discussion Question: Why do you think it is important to do your homework first, and how can making good choices make your heart happy like God's heart?

3. **Application Point:** Celebrating Others' Success

Scenario: A friend wins a game you were playing together.

Discussion Question: How can we show happiness for our friend who won, and why is it important to celebrate each other's victories?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Application Point:** Making Godly Choices in Friendships

Scenario: A friend suggests doing something you know isn't right, like making fun of someone online.

Discussion Question: How can you stand up for what you know is right, and what are some ways God helps you make good decisions in friendships?

2. **Application Point:** Handling Peer Pressure

Scenario: You're in a group chat where others start to share unkind messages about someone else.

Discussion Question: How can you respond in a way that shows kindness and upholds the values you believe in, even if it's hard?

3. **Application Point:** Digital Space and Respect

Scenario: You see a funny but unkind meme about a classmate shared online.

Discussion Question: Why is it important to think before sharing or liking posts online, and how can we use digital spaces to show respect and kindness?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Application Point:** Building Integrity Online

Scenario: You notice classmates often post exaggerated stories on social media.

Discussion Question: How can you be truthful and authentic online, and why does this align with living a life that reflects God's truth?

2. **Application Point:** Navigating Difficult Relationships

Scenario: You're in a situation where a friend betrays your trust.

Discussion Question: How can you handle betrayal and still strive to show forgiveness, and what role does prayer play in healing a hurt relationship?

3. **Application Point:** Influencing Peer Behavior

Scenario: A friend encourages you to skip a class together.

Discussion Question: What are the consequences of choosing to go along with this plan, and how can you positively influence your friends to make better choices?

Tips for Parents

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

Family Conversation Guide for GenZ
Revelation 15:1-8
Compose Your Redemption Song

1. Standing Firm in Faith in Group Settings

Scenario: In your study group or club, conversations often drift into gossip or promoting values that contradict your beliefs.

Bible Basis: Proverbs 11:13 - "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret."

Application: Remember that God calls us to be trustworthy and refrain from gossip. Offer to steer the conversation towards more positive or productive topics, thereby standing firm in your faith and setting an example of integrity.

2. Maintaining Healthy Relationships

Scenario: You're navigating confusing dynamics in a friend group, such as feeling pressured to fit in or compromise your values.

Bible Basis: 1 Corinthians 15:33 - "Do not be misled: 'Bad company corrupts good character.'"

Application: Be mindful of the influence others have on you and actively seek friendships that uplift and encourage your spiritual and personal growth. Encourage authentic relationships grounded in respect and mutual support.

3. Digital Responsibility and Authenticity

Scenario: You often see peers posting curated images and life stories on social media, creating pressure to maintain a flawless online persona.

Bible Basis: Colossians 3:9-10 - "Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

Application: Strive for transparency and authenticity in your online presence. Share your real experiences and encourage others to do the same, reflecting the image of God in truth and sincerity.

4. Responding to Peer Pressure with Courage

Scenario: In social gatherings, you confront pressure to participate in activities that push your ethical boundaries, such as underage drinking or harmful dares.

Bible Basis: Daniel 3:16-18 - The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously standing up for their beliefs.

Application: Draw strength from biblical role models who stood firm in their beliefs despite peer pressure. Empowered by your faith, confidently set boundaries that align with your values and communicate them clearly to your peers.

5. Engaging with Compassion Online

Scenario: You encounter negativity or bullying in digital spaces, whether directed at you or another person.

Bible Basis: Ephesians 4:29 - "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Application: Use your voice to promote encouragement and compassion online. Challenge negative dialogue by offering supportive messages and standing as an advocate for those who may not be able to defend themselves.

These application points aim to help Gen Z navigate their daily environments while faithfully following Jesus' teachings with Biblical integrity and living out the gospel.