

**Passage:** Revelation 15: 1-8

**Title:** The Holiness of God

**Summary:** Chapter 15 tells us what is going on in heaven, while all that is going on here on earth during the Tribulation Period. This chapter also clearly declares “why” there is a Tribulation Period.

*Revelation 15:1–8 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. <sup>2</sup> And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. <sup>3</sup> They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! <sup>4</sup> Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.” <sup>5</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. <sup>6</sup> And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. <sup>7</sup> Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. <sup>8</sup> The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.*

### **Chp 15 unfolds in Tribulation / Follow Rapture of Church / Divine Outline**

Chapter 15 unfolds in the period of time known as the Tribulation—the seven-year period following the Rapture of the church. We know this because of the Divine outline that is given to us in chapter 1

#### **Book of Revelation Outline**

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

*(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*

#### **Recap Outline**

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

### **Chp 15 – Beginning of Final Pouring Out of Christ Rejecting /**

In chapter 15, we see the culmination of God’s wrath on the world that rejected His payment for their sin. We have already seen the 7 Seals and the 6 Trumpets, and things have not been good on the earth, for at the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet, at that point half of the worlds population has perished.

#### **Recap / Seals & Trumpets**

##### **7 Seals**

- Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)
- Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)
- Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)
- Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)
- Seal 5 –The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

### **Chp 15 - Vital for Understanding – God Unfair**

In chapter 15, we see beginning of God pouring out His final wrath on the world that rejected His payment for their sin—and this chapter gives us an understanding vital to the events that follow, for it is only a clear understanding of Revelation 15 that keeps us from thinking God unfair in chapters 16 through 19.

Jesus traded places, God gave His only Son because of our sin – how fair is that?

*2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NKJV)* <sup>20</sup> Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### **Shortest – Brevity Specific / See a Broken Hearted God / No Pleasure in Death of Wicked**

Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the Book of Revelation, but its brevity is specific. It is the build up to the culmination of God's wrath against a Christ-rejecting world, and we will see a broken-hearted God, for God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked:

*(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV)* "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'"

### **We Struggle with God's Wrath / Struggle Reconcile Love of Cross – to Book of Revelation**

I think even as believers we struggle with this, God's wrath. Sometimes we struggle to reconcile with a God of love, the story of the cross, compared to things we read about here in Revelation. I doubt we will ever truly have this reconciled on this side of glory.

### **Also Struggle with Wicked Prosper / Allow Evil to Continue / Why Love Us – Look in Mirror**

Of course, today we struggle with how could He allow the wicked to prosper, allow evil to hurt, but if we truly look deep in inside ourselves, why He would ever set His love upon us. We can fix the body up on the outside, but when we stand in front of the mirror we know what we wrestle with in our own hearts and minds, yet He would suffer the cross for us.

### **Depth of Holiness – Depth of Love / Offense - Forgiveness**

Listen Christian, without touching the depths of His holiness, you will never touch on the depth of His love for you. Until you can see how holy (perfect and pure) He is, you will never see how offensive your sin was to Him. But when you see the offense of your sin, you'll see the depth of His love as you will be blown away that the Holy God, would leave His throne, to take on your sin those 6 hours that Friday on a hill in Palestine, for the forgiveness and washing away of our sin.

### **Not just End Times – Balance for Believer of His Righteousness / Grace can lead to Abuse**

The book of Revelation isn't just about the End Times. It is a book for the believer to bring them to the balance that He is a God of love, and He also is a righteous and Holy God. As believers (and unbelievers) we dwell on His grace, celebrate His grace, and for many people it leads them to abuse His grace. We forget that He is a Holy God. The Book of Revelation brings that balance to us, possibly more so than any other book in the Bible.

### **Blessing / John on Patmos**

So let's get into chapter 15 and receive our blessing, for this is the only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

*(Revelation 1:3 NKJV)* Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

## Outline: The Holiness of God (Revelation 15:1-8)

- A Sign (15:1)
- A Sea (15:2)
- A Song (15:3-4)
- A Temple (15:5-6)
- A Brooding God (15:7-8)

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Lets go to verse 1 and break this down, verse-by-verse:

### A Sign (15:1)

**(Revelation 15:1 NKJV) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.**

Signs say something, and are meant to be read, and send a message.....and in this case the sign says that the wrath of God is complete

### **Completion of Wrath / Some use for Mid-Trib Theology / Read Chronologically / Not Appointed**

These 7 bowls are the completion of God's wrath against a Christ rejecting, sinful world. Some use this verse for their mid-tribulation theology (which is God rapturing His Church in the middle of the 7 year Tribulation), but the wrath of God has been going on since the beginning of the tribulation as we have seen the 7 Seals and the 7 Trumpets in chapters 6-9, it is as simple as just reading this book in chronological order that these things are the wrath of God against a Christ rejecting world; and we know that God has not appointed His children to wrath:

*(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*

*(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

### A Sea (15:2)

**(Revelation 15:2 NKJV) And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.**

### **They Overcame / Blood – Testimony – Lives – the Mark – or Bow Down**

Are there more than these people here (say like us)? Don't know and can't tell in the original language. This crowd is at least those who overcame the beast (Satan) during the Tribulation. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, their testimony, and did not love their lives to death. These are they who did not worship the Beast or take the mark of the Beast:

*(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

*(Revelation 14:9 NKJV) Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,*

*(Revelation 14:10 NKJV) "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*

*(Revelation 14:11 NKJV) "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

*(Revelation 14:12 NKJV) Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*

*(Revelation 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

### **The Victory over Beast – is Victory at Martyrdom / Same Victory Today – John 12:25**

The victory over the Anti-Christ in this area is a victory at martyrdom, those who will not bow their knee to the Anti-Christ and his system. Jesus speaks the same word to us today:

*(John 12:25 NKJV) "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

*(Revelation 12:11 NKJV) "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.*

### **The Victors walk on Water / Seen as Losers on Earth – Walk on Water in Heaven**

It is intriguing to me that those who lose their lives in the Tribulation because they choose to listen to the message of the Everlasting Gospel and believe God rather than take the mark of the Beast or bow before the image are seen not around, but on the sea of glass. In our text, these guys are walking on water. On earth they didn't. Having been persecuted and destroyed by Antichrist, on earth they would have been seen as losers. Not so in heaven. In heaven, they're water-walkers.

### **Must Factor in Heaven / Every Single Equation / If Not – Wrong Path**

How so in our world today Christians are looked upon as losers, weak, a brunt of many jokes; but someday we will all walk on water. If you don't factor in heaven, none of biblical Christianity works.

Without heaven, folks, you're going to go down the wrong path in your experience of spiritual life. You've got to factor heaven into every single equation.

- Your Work
- Your School
- Your Relationships
- Your Marriage
- Your Family
- Your Hobbies
- Your Ministry

### **Prayer in Book of Rev – Jesus in Control – It is all About Heaven**

If you get nothing else out of the Book of Revelation, my prayer would be that you would first of all see Jesus Christ on the throne in control, and, secondly, that you'd understand it's all about heaven.

### **When Life is a Drag – Relations a Burden – Factor Heaven / Live life Backwards / World loses Grip**

So when life seems to be a drag, relationships and work maybe a burden, wishing that you had more joy in your life; you have to factor heaven into all your equations of life. A key to life, is to live life backwards. When you put your life in perspective of heaven, the things of this world will pale in comparison, and they will lose their grip upon you, and you will see the power of the promise, WE ARE GOING TO HEAVEN, we have that hope to look forward to. People living for the world, this is all they have, no wonder so many people are depressed. We as believers look forward to the day we will walk on water.

*(Isaiah 26:3 NKJV) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.*

**Psalm 40:1-3 (NKJV)**<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. <sup>3</sup> He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.

### **A Song (15:3-4)**

**(Revelation 15:3 NKJV) They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!**

**(Revelation 15:4 NKJV) Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."**

The Harp is a sweet sound

*Psalm 81:1–2 (NKJV)<sup>1</sup> Sing aloud to God our strength; Make a joyful shout to the God of Jacob. <sup>2</sup> Raise a song and strike the timbrel, The pleasant harp with the lute.*

### **First Song Ex 15 – Last Song Rev 15 / Both Victory Songs**

This is the last song in the Bible, first song is in Exodus 15 after they had crossed the Red Sea, and God swallowed up the Egyptian Army. Both are songs of victories, as here in Revelation 15 they are celebrating God deliverance through the world, into the Kingdom.

*Exodus 15:1–18 (NKJV)<sup>1</sup> Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! <sup>2</sup> The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. <sup>3</sup> The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. <sup>4</sup> Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. <sup>5</sup> The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone. <sup>6</sup> "Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. <sup>7</sup> And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble. <sup>8</sup> And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea. <sup>9</sup> The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.' <sup>10</sup> You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters. <sup>11</sup> "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? <sup>12</sup> You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them. <sup>13</sup> You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation. <sup>14</sup> "The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. <sup>15</sup> Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away. <sup>16</sup> Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased. <sup>17</sup> You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O LORD, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established. <sup>18</sup> "The LORD shall reign forever and ever."*

### **No Questioning of Why Allowed This / Book Unveiled Satan – Darkness of Human Heart**

Notice there is no cry in this song of why are you doing this, why have you allowed this in my life, the things of the world (hurricane, disease, wars, holocaust); there is not one complaint or question. This book has unveiled how Satan is a destroyer, how he attacks Israel, goes after the church. This book brings to light the darkness of the human heart, who would love sin rather than repent.

### **Evidence Presented – No Questions Left – Time to Judge / People Standing are Witnesses - Jury**

All the evidence has been presented. There are no questions left. It is time for God to send judgment. The people who are standing here singing this song are both eyewitnesses to the wickedness of the world, and they are the jury who say yes-just and true are Your ways O Lord.

### **Same at White Throne / We will Stand with Him – Just and True / God gave every Chance**

As it is at this judgment, it will be the same at the white throne (final judgment-Ch 20). We will stand with Him and say, "Just and true. Yes, Lord, Your judgment is correct." Even if the person being judged is our spouse, our parent, our child, our friend, our favorite actor or sports star. When final judgment is passed we will say-Just and true, God you gave them every chance to repent, recognize and receive, but they refused. We as a church take missions serious, not just across the sea, but across the street, in the neighborhood, at school and at work. We pray many will receive Him as Lord and Savior, but for those that reject Him, throw the tract, bible, in the trash, we will stand with the Lord that day and say "just and true are your ways O Lord", you tried to reach out to them. Every man and woman in this world will only have themselves to blame, for God has done all that He can to give them the opportunity to receive Him, to take this "wedding ring" and become His bride and to come dwell and live with Him in heaven.

### **Compare to Revelation 4 / Both Proclaim His Holiness**

Compare this song to the song in Chapter 4 of Revelation. Both are songs that dwell and proclaim His holiness. There is that which is God and that which is not God, that is why it says here that “you alone are Holy”. This whole book is about a Holy and Pure God:

*(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”*

### **All Nations shall Come / Fulfill Zech 14**

Verse 4 - For all nations shall come and worship before You - “All nations shall come and worship before thee,” sing the overcomers in Revelation 15, fulfilling Zechariah’s prophecy concerning the Millennial Kingdom:

*(Zechariah 14:16 NKJV) And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

### **Feast Celebrates God brought through Wilderness / Brought through the World**

When the Lord comes back, the Feast of Tabernacles—the week-long celebration, wherein throughout history the Jews commemorated how God brought them through the 40 years of wilderness wandering—will be reinstated. Instead of commemorating how the Lord brought His people through the wilderness, however, it will celebrate how He brought His people through the world.

### **Everyone Invited – Not Everyone will Come**

Everyone will be invited, but not everyone will come . . .

*(Zechariah 14:17 NKJV) And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.*

### **Don’t Come – No rain / Experience Drought – Limited Fruit – Restricted harvest / Same Today**

Those who don’t come will experience drought, limited fruit, restricted harvest. The Lord says the same thing to you and me today, “Come and dine. Worship Me.” And we say, “Well, I’m kind of busy.”

### **Don’t have to Come / But it gets Real Dry / God Into Corporate Worship / Heard it All**

We don’t have to come, gang. But I’ll tell you this: When I don’t come, I get real dry because God is into corporate worship. Those of you who say, “But I’ve heard Revelation already,” or, “Why should I hear the Book of Acts being taught again? I studied it a year ago,” consider this....

### **Many Marriages have Love – Many Lack Passion / Passion comes with Continual dwelling Upon**

There are many marriages that have love, and though they have love, many of them lack passion. Awake in the morning to there you are just as I expected you to be, come home from work and there you are just as I expected you to be. Love is there. But then there are those marriages that have passion. Passion means, compelling emotion, strong amorous feeling, strong desire. Passion comes into a marriage when a person is thinking on the object of their love, a continual dwelling on them which then in turns leads their emotions to be aroused. Marriage with passion are the marriages that keep dating long after they are married. We can look to the Lord and say there you are, just as I expected you to be, I love you for that, but when we bring ourselves to a place of dwelling on Him, a continual thinking about the object of our love, our emotions are aroused, and a passion for Him begins to burn.

### **Saying Heard It Foolish / Never Know what Around Bend**

Also, saying, “We don’t need to go to Bible study or prayer meetings because we’ve heard that before and have been there already,” is really foolish because we don’t know what lies right around the bend....

### **King Asa / 2 Chron 14 / 10 Years Peace / Walls – 300k men of Judah – 200K Benjamin / Ethiopians**

King Asa was wise. During the ten years of peace and prosperity under his reign, he built up the walls of his kingdom. He put bars on the gates. He raised up 300,000 men from Judah and gave them shields and spears. He raised up another 280,000 men of Benjamin and armed them as well. Why? Because knowing there would be a battle ahead, he used the time of peace and prosperity not to kick back, but to build up *(2 Chronicles 14:1 NKJV) So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:2 NKJV) Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God,*

*(2 Chronicles 14:3 NKJV) for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:4 NKJV) He commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:5 NKJV) He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:6 NKJV) And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the LORD had given him rest.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:7 NKJV) Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the LORD our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:8 NKJV) And Asa had an army of three hundred thousand from Judah who carried shields and spears, and from Benjamin two hundred and eighty thousand men who carried shields and drew bows; all these were mighty men of valor.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:9 NKJV) Then Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and three hundred chariots, and he came to Mareshah.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:10 NKJV) So Asa went out against him, and they set the troops in battle array in the Valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:11 NKJV) And Asa cried out to the LORD his God, and said, "LORD, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O LORD our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!"*

*(2 Chronicles 14:12 NKJV) So the LORD struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:13 NKJV) And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the LORD and His army. And they carried away very much spoil.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:14 NKJV) Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the LORD came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them.*

*(2 Chronicles 14:15 NKJV) They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.*

### **World Battlefield / Wise One Prepares / Prepared to be Preserved**

This world isn't a playground, dear saints. It's a battlefield. And wise is the one who, over the weeks and months and decades, says, "I'm going to build the walls of my faith. I'm going to fortify the city. I'm going to get the shields and weapons ready because I know sooner or later there will come trials and difficulties through which the Enemy desires to make my faith collapse. I need to be forewarned that I might be forearmed, prepared that I may be preserved."

### **Army Training Manual / Train in Peace Time**

I like what it says in the training manual at the Army Academy there at West Point,

***"the way you train in peace time, is the way you will fight in war time"***

Beloved take full of advantage of peace time. For whatever you have when war comes is what you will have to fight with, if your sword is dull you will fight with a dull sword. If your armor has rust on it, it will be open for the piercing of the enemy. If you are overweight and out of shape, that is what you will take into the battle with you. The way you train in peace time is the way you will fight in war time.

### **A Temple (15:5-6)**

**(Revelation 15:5 NKJV) After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.**

**(Revelation 15:6 NKJV) And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.**

### **Moses made a Copy of Temple**

Moses only made a copy of this temple. That is why God said make it according to my direction.

*(Hebrews 8:4 NKJV) For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;*

*(Hebrews 8:5 NKJV) who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."*

### **The Ark of Testimony**

Within the ark, of course, had been placed the tables of the Decalogue, and the whole was established within the most holy place of the tabernacle. These were called the "two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18). Consequently the ark was commonly called "the ark of the testimony" (as in Exodus 25:22) and even the entire tabernacle was often called "the tabernacle of the testimony" (Numbers 10:11), stressing that the most important aspect of the tabernacle was as a

dwelling place for God's Ten Commandments, the great "Testimony" which He "established in Jacob" (Psalm 78:5). These Ten Commandments constitute the great "witness" of God to man, revealing both God's own nature of perfect holiness to man, and also His standard of perfect holiness for man, created in the image of God. All the Scriptures are divinely inspired, but the Decalogue is divinely inscribed, written by the very finger of God on tables of stone, placed temporarily in an earthly tabernacle as the peculiar treasure of His chosen people, but then enshrined eternally in the heavenly tabernacle, as a continuing "testimony" of God through the ages to come.

The basic meaning of "tabernacle," whether in the Hebrew or Greek words so translated, is that of "dwelling place." In Israel, it was also the tent of meeting, where God would meet with His people (actually only with the high priest, properly prepared and cleansed to represent the people), but it was primarily a dwelling place for the ark of the testimony.

Morris, H. M. (1983). *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (p. 288). Tyndale.

### **By the Law**

By the Law every mouth will be stopped:

*Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV)*<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

*Psalms 19:7 (NKJV)*<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

### **6 Plagues Mixed in 7 Bowls**

The 7 plagues (as we will see in chapter 16) are mixed into each of the 7 bowls, so all we read previously will continue on with what is to come

### **God sends Surgical Team**

God dispatches His surgical team to deal with the disease of sin. God hates sin for what it does to His creation. Sin must be dealt with. These vials-medicine to deal with this sin. This is strong medicine for a strong disease. Sin stinks, sin stings, God hates it, and doesn't take it lightly. He will send a surgical team to deal with it in the tribulation, and I pray that He need not send a surgical team to deal with our sin personally, but rather we be a people that flee from it.

### **A Brooding God (15:7-8)**

**(Revelation 15:7 NKJV)** Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.

**(Revelation 15:8 NKJV)** The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

### **God enters Temple Alone / Revelation 16:17 – It is Done**

God entered the temple, and no one can enter it until the judgment is complete, which we will see in chapter 16. When it is over, the voice of God comes out of the temple. "It is done!" Which in the original language, means in its "sense"..... paid in full!

*(Revelation 16:17 NKJV)* Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

### **How Interesting**

When Jesus hung on the cross, He said.... It is Done!

*John 19:30 (NKJV)*<sup>30</sup> So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Wrath of sin must and will be "paid in full", either by Lamb unto eternal life in heaven, or by man unto eternal damnation.

### **When Bowls Poured – God Secludes Himself / No Pleasure in Death / Grieves it Came to This**

When the bowls are being poured out, God secluded Himself in the temple. God takes no pleasure in destroying the wicked. I imagine He is there with a grieving heart that it has come to this. Man rejected His offer of love, peace, forgiveness. Man would rather war with Him, than make peace with Him. I doubt



we will ever know what all happened in the temple at this time. So great was this pain to watch people refuse as the wrath that was poured out upon His Son as He would cry out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Jesus wept over Jerusalem as He knew Titus would come and destroy it and that the blood would flow 3 feet high. So too does the Father weep here, as he wishes that none should perish but that all should seek repentance. This is the heart of God, a broken heart of God, this is the context we must remember when we read chapter 16 next study.

*(Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV) "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

*(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

### **Now Consider This**

And consider this...we will see Him go into the Temple of Heaven, and brood; we will know the end has come. What do I think we will do? Sing..... Just and True are Your ways of Lord

But today, my heart and prayer is that I did all that I could, for just one more, that I would know I did what I could that they should not perish but have everlasting life.

### **The Balance**

This is the balance of God's love, and God's Holiness. That is why chapter 15 is so vital to our understanding of the things we have read up to this point, and the things we will read in our next study.

### **Do You Know Him**

If you don't know Him personally, and I'm not talking religion, but a relationship, not because you go to church, but you know deep in your heart that if you died today you would be received by Him, because of what His Son did for you on the cross; if you do not know Him, today is the day!

### Outline: The Holiness of God (Revelation 15:1-8)

- A Sign (15:1)
- A Sea (15:2)
- A Song (15:3-4)
- A Temple (15:5-6)
- A Brooding God (15:7-8)

### Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*