

Revelation 15

Introduction

This chapter is an introduction to Chapter 16 Here God is planning his last action against the anti Christ and his followers. They have polluted the earth, and harmed his people, now is the time for judgment. This chapter sets the stage for the actual bowl or vial judgments to follow in the next chapter

1. The Sign in heaven, v1

This book has had two previous sets of judgments. The first was the seven seals followed by the seven trumpets This verse tells us that the last set of seven is coming. The word seven is used eight times in this short chapter. It is John's way of showing that God's cup of wrath has been completely filled, and that the end is near

Notice also the words "great" and "marvelous." The only other time they are found together in the same verse is in v3. This tells us that something is coming unlike anything else we have seen. The justice of God will be fulfilled, and He will be seen as being "great and mighty."

There is a great sign given here. The angels are going to the temple to prepare for the last seven judgments. These are the final ones of the Tribulation. The Greek reads "having the seven plagues, the last ones." This construction puts the emphasis on the idea of the last ones. After these are finished, the wrath of God will be fulfilled. God has given these people every chance to repent and accept His mercy, yet they reject and harden their hearts

II. The Sea of Glass, v2

Notice here that John does not say that he sees a sea of glass, but something that looks like a sea of glass. He is seeing a vision of heaven, similar to what he saw in Rev. 4:6. This is a human attempt to describe the environment around the throne of God.

Those who are at this place are those who are victorious over the Beast. They have overcome his mark, and the number of his name. Also there are those Christians who were martyred for their faith

III. The Song of Moses, v3-4

There are two songs of Moses recorded in Scripture. One is found in Exodus 15, the other is in Deuteronomy 32. The song that is recorded here is a song of worship that covers three areas. These are great areas of worship for us today.

A. God's works- All Biblical worship focuses on God. In the Old Testament it always includes a review of the works of God The songs of Moses review the miraculous works of God God's works are great and marvelous and need to be remembered in worship.

B. God's ways- All worship must remember who God is. He is holy, righteous, just, pure, loving. God's ways are right and far above our comprehension. Our duty is to serve and worship, not to ask why. This is especially true here. God has a plan that will work out to His glory.

C. God's worth- This aspect of worship is concerned with who God is. He is Almighty, holy, the great King. Worship today that brings God down to the level of man is blasphemous. Our God is not the God of the modern worship of today. Those groups may have good intentions, but they drag God down to their level. God is not a "good ole boy" or any other lame title, He is the Lord God Almighty.

The clear point here is that God expects purity in worship. Not man's idea of purity or entertainment, but true Biblical purity. Many people today battle with this idea. They need to realize that worship is for God, not for man's entertainment, or for man to "feel good." Worship is done in thankfulness and respect for who God is.

IV. The Seven Vials. v5-8

In these verses we see the preparation for the final seven judgments. These seven plagues come out of the temple of God in heaven. The angels are pictured as being completely pure. This is important for us to understand. All of God's judgments are pure, holy, and completely deserved by those who receive them. God has paid the ultimate price for the redemption of man, therefore no judgment is too severe for those who reject Christ.

Notice the angels have vials. A vial is a shallow pan. These were used in the tabernacle to remove coals from the altar. These vials contain the wrath of God.

The temple is also filled with smoke. Smoke is often associated with judgment in the Bible. It pictures God's righteous anger. Notice the temple is closed until the seven vials are emptied.

Conclusion

This chapter is saying that those who refuse to drink of the cup of God's salvation will drink the cup of His wrath. The lesson here is simple, man needs to repent and trust Christ before it is too late.