Date: 10-18-2026

When Heaven Sings and Earth Shakes

Text: Revelation 15 & 16

1. Worship the Lamb

Revelation 15:1–4 NLT

1 Then I saw in heaven another marvelous event of great significance. Seven angels were holding the seven last plagues, which would bring God's wrath to completion. 2 I saw before me what seemed to be a glass sea mixed with fire. And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast and his statue and the number representing his name. They were all holding harps that God had given them. 3 And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations. 4 Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed."

Notes:

The beast may _____ your allegiance, but only the Lamb _____ your worship.

2. Trust the Judge

Revelation 15:5–16:11 NLT

5 Then I looked and saw that the Temple in heaven, God's Tabernacle, was thrown wide open. 6 The seven angels who were holding the seven plagues came out of the Temple. They were clothed in spotless white linen with gold sashes across their chests. 7 Then one of the four living beings handed each of the seven angels a gold bowl filled with the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever. 8 The Temple was filled with smoke from God's glory and power. No one could enter the Temple until the seven angels had completed pouring out the seven plagues.

Revelation 16:1-11 NLT

1 Then I heard a mighty voice from the Temple say to the seven angels, "Go your ways and pour out on the earth the seven bowls containing God's wrath." 2 So the first angel left the Temple and poured out his bowl on the earth, and horrible, malignant sores broke out on everyone who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. 3 Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse. And everything in the sea died. 4 Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the angel who had authority over all water saying, "You are just, O Holy One, who is

and who always was, because you have sent these judgments. 6 Since they shed the blood of your holy people and your prophets, you have given them blood to drink. It is their just reward." 7 And I heard a voice from the altar, saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, your judgments are true and just." 8 Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, causing it to scorch everyone with its fire. 9 Everyone was burned by this blast of heat, and they cursed the name of God, who had control over all these plagues. They did not repent of their sins and turn to God and give him glory. 10 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom was plunged into darkness. His subjects ground their teeth in anguish, 11 and they cursed the God of heaven for their pains and sores. But they did not repent of their evil deeds and turn to God.

Notes:

God's _____ never means that evil has His _____.

3. Stay Awake

Revelation 16:12–21 NLT

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great Euphrates River, and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies

toward the west without hindrance. 13 And I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs leap from the mouths of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet. 14 They are demonic spirits who work miracles and go out to all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great judgment day of God the Almighty. 15 "Look, I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are watching for me, who keep their clothing ready so they will not have to walk around naked and ashamed." 16 And the demonic spirits gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place with the Hebrew name [Armageddon]. 17 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air. And a mighty shout came from the throne in the Temple, saying, "It is finished!" 18 Then the thunder crashed and rolled, and lightning flashed. And a great earthquake struck--the worst since people were placed on the earth. 19 The great city of Babylon split into three sections, and the cities of many nations fell into heaps of rubble. So God remembered all of Babylon's sins, and he made her drink the cup that was filled with the wine of his fierce wrath. 20 And every island disappeared, and all the mountains were leveled. 21 There was a terrible hailstorm, and hailstones weighing as much as seventy-five pounds fell from the sky onto the people below. They cursed God because of the terrible plague of the hailstorm.

Notes:

_____ for Christ's return is practiced in today's _____.

Application: Worship, Repent, Watch

1. Give Christ your allegiance.

2. Respond to conviction with repentance.

3. Entrust justice to God. Bring your wounds to Him.

4. Practice daily readiness.

Life Group Questions — Revelation 15-16

1. Get to Know You
What is something you once felt completely prepared for—until it actually happened?

2. Digging Deeper
Read Revelation 15:1–4; 16:5–11, 15–21. What does the song of Moses and the Lamb reveal about God's character, and how does that help us understand His judgments in chapter 16? What stands out about the contrast between heaven's worship and the refusal of those under judgment to repent? How does Jesus' call to stay awake in verse 15 help us understand what faithfulness looks like amid judgment and deception?

3. Application
Which of these three actions do you most need to practice right now: Worship the Lamb, Trust the Judge, or Stay Awake? Why? What is one specific step you can take this week to give Jesus your allegiance, entrust an injustice to God, or address an area of spiritual complacency?

Expanded Notes on Revelation 15–16 — A Dispensational Perspective

These notes follow the traditional dispensational, pretribulational view: the church is raptured before the seven-year Tribulation, and Christ returns afterward to establish His thousand-year kingdom. The bowls describe future judgments near the Tribulation's conclusion. Tony Garland, Revelation 16 commentary.

1. Worship the Lamb — Revelation 15:1–4

Before describing judgment on earth, John shows victorious believers in heaven. These Tribulation saints have refused to worship the beast or accept his mark. Their victory does not necessarily mean escaping death; even martyrdom cannot separate them from Christ.

They sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, connecting God's deliverance in the Exodus with redemption through Jesus. Their song centers on God's marvelous works, righteous ways, and holiness. Heaven's worship affirms the justice of the judgments about to fall.

The anticipation of all nations worshiping God points toward His worldwide rule, fulfilled in Christ's coming kingdom. Their praise reaches beyond personal deliverance to God's ultimate glory. David Guzik, Revelation 15 commentary.

2. Trust the Judge — Revelation 15:5–16:11

The angels emerge from the heavenly sanctuary. Their clean garments and the smoke of God's glory emphasize that judgment proceeds from His holiness. These plagues express His righteous response to persistent rebellion.

The first five bowls bring painful sores, blood in the seas and fresh waters, scorching heat, and darkness over the beast's kingdom. In this dispensational reading, these are actual future judgments, echoing the plagues of Egypt.

The judgment of the waters specifically answers the murder of saints and prophets. Heaven declares God's judgments righteous because He holds persecutors accountable for the blood they have shed (16:5–7).

Nevertheless, people curse God and refuse to repent. Their response reveals that suffering alone cannot soften a heart determined to resist Him.

3. Stay Awake — Revelation 16:12–21

The sixth bowl dries the Euphrates, preparing the way for kings from the east. Demonic spirits use signs to gather rulers for the battle of God's great day. Armageddon anticipates the confrontation culminating in Christ's return.

Jesus interrupts the scene with a warning and blessing (16:15). His coming will surprise the unprepared. Watching and keeping one's garments picture spiritual readiness and faithful conduct. Within this framework, the warning addresses Tribulation believers awaiting His return; its call to vigilance also instructs Christians today.

The seventh bowl announces the completion of the bowl judgments. Earthquake, hail, and Babylon's judgment expose the weakness of everything humanity builds against God. The declaration does not mean every prophetic event has concluded; Christ's return and subsequent events still follow. Garland, Revelation 16 commentary.