

A SERIES THROUGH THE REVELATION

Revelation 15 —THE SAINTS VICTORY AND THE PRELUDE TO THE FINAL JUDGEMENTS | 9.22.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Revelation 15:1-8)

- A. Here in **Revelation 15**, we are back into a chronological section of the Revelation, meaning we are back into God's storyline as it unfolds. Here's another brief overview of the structure of the Revelation with Angelic Explanation chapters, and Chronological chapters:
1. **Revelation 6**—Chronological Section #1
 2. **Revelation 7**—Angelic Explanation Section #1
 3. **Revelation 8-9**—Chronological Section #2
 4. **Revelation 10-11**—Angelic Explanation Section #2
 5. **Revelation 11:15-19**—Chronological Section #3
 6. **Revelation 12-14**—Angelic Explanation #3
 7. **Revelation 15-16**—Chronological Section #4
 8. **Revelation 17-18**—Angelic Explanation #4
 9. **Revelation 19-20**—Chronological Section #5
 10. **Revelation 21-22**—Angelic Explanation #5
- B. In **Revelation 15** there are two primary visions that John sees. The first one is that of the victors of Christ, who have given up their lives in martyrdom, standing with Christ, having harps in their hands, singing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb.
- C. And in the second part of this vision, John sees 7, white and gold dressed angels, being prepared to pour out the final seven plagues/judgments of human history.

II. THE VICTORS OF CHRIST AND THE SONGS OF HEAVEN (Revelation 15:1-4)

1. **Revelation 15:1-2** *“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. 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.”*
- B. Well, this is the third sign that John has seen in the Revelation after he first saw the women, and then dragon (**Rev. 12:1; 12:2**). John also used this same word **GREAT** for the dragon in **Revelation 12**, but here John says that this sign is *“...GREAT and MARVELOUS...”*
1. This phrase **GREAT** and **MARVELOUS** is typically reserved for God alone, but here John uses it to send the message that what he is seeing is both SHOCKING (great) and DIVINE (Marvelous), it's great and it's Godly (*These angels strike fear into the ungodly trinity*).
- C. Although the previous judgments of the seal's and trumpets were also referred to as plagues, these plagues have something different, that the previous judgments didn't; *they are the last*. In these plagues the fullness of God's wrath is complete.
1. The previous plagues were temporal, as God was working to get humanity to repent, and turn, but these ones are the end, they are complete and final. This is another prophetic statement, it's not that “it will be complete”, but that, “IT IS COMPLETED.” *The jury isn't out for recess on this decision.*
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2. The Wrath Of God—What is the wrath of God? “*God’s wrath is a burning zeal for righteousness coupled with a perfect hatred for everything that is evil.*” When we investigate the wrath of God, we see God’s zeal for right and wrong, for truth and error, and for sin and righteousness.
3. A Sea Of Glass Mingled With Fire—This is the second time that this sea of glass has appeared. Earlier in **Revelation 4:6** it was clam, like crystal, but here it’s burning red, like fire. John is looking at the judgements of God that are about to be loosed upon humanity.
4. Standing On The Sea Of Glass Are Those Who Have The Victory Over The Beast, Over His Image, Over His Mark and Over The Number Of His Name—John sees this group of overcomers who are standing victorious, having overcome the antichrist and his regime.
 - a. But, they aren’t victorious because they fought a war and won, or because they became cultural warriors fighting for their parties political interests, they are pictured as victorious because they’ve given up their lives in martyrdom, just like their Leader, Jesus.
 - b. **Revelation 5:5-6; 12:11** *“But one of the elders said to me, do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll, and to loose it’s seven seals. And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”*
 - c. Although Christ has brought about our victory through Calvary, the Church still has much overcoming to do. John says they had victory over, *“...the beast...his image...his mark...and the number of his name...”* And all seven Churches were told by Jesus, *“...To him (you, male or female) who overcomes...”*
5. They Sing The Song of Moses, The Servant Of God, And The Song Of The Lamb—Do you find it interesting that the saints of God are standing back on a sea, red with judgment, having overcome an end-time pharaoh (antichrist), and are now singing the **Exodus 15:1-18** song of deliverance, where God had thrown horse and rider into the sea?
 - a. These victorious saints are standing on a “new red sea”, foaming with judgment that will soon engulf their enemies, singing the songs of God, with harps in their hands.
 - b. Some people see this as two songs, the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb, but it’s only one song. It’s better said, *“The song of Moses, is the song of the Lamb, the song of the Lamb’s victory on behalf of God’s people.”* Moses didn’t deliver Israel, God did, the Passover Lamb did!
 - c. The **Exodus 15** song is a song about personal deliverance. The **Revelation 15** song is a song of the Lamb’s deliverance. These overcomers are so absorbed in Christ, and His larger, global activity among the nations that they aren’t singing about themselves, but about Him, about His work, about His grand story.
 1. This song isn’t one of many deliverances to come, this is the deliverance of all deliverances, this is the end, this is the culmination of all things, God’s final, and complete deliverance.
6. They Sing, Saying, Great and Marvelous Are Your Works—What are His wonderful works? When He threw horse and rider into the sea (**Ex. 51:1**), and now when He’s delivered God’s family from the beast.
7. The Lord God Almighty—This is a title for God that was used previously in **Revelation 4:8**, and the 24 elders in **11:7**, and later again in **16:7**. It speaks of God’s omnipotence (**Amos 4:13; Rev. 1:8**). It speaks of His sovereign control over all things.

8. Righteous And True Are Your Ways—He’s true because He’s kept His promises, both of redemption and rescue, and justice and judgment. This refers to His wrath, His ways, His way in wrath and judgment (**Deut. 32:4; Rev. 16:7; 19:2**). His ways are true, even perfect in wrath.
9. O King Of The Saints—This is keeping with His title as God’s anointed Messiah, set up on His holy hill. He’s the king of the NATIONS. He’s the global God of glory (**Ps. 22:28; 47:2, 7-8; 82:8**).
10. Who Shall Not Fear Your Name—This is a rhetorical question, because the answer is no one will not fear Him. He’s the Lord. They will fear Him by choice, or by force, but everyone will fear Him.
 - a. Look, it’s not just a particular title, or name for God, but the fullness of who He is, God in His entirety is who they are fearing and worshipping.
 - b. This is another proleptic statement, a prophecy, a prophetic shout at the end of God’s judgments that the fear of God will replace the general lack of the fear of the Lord throughout the nations.
11. For You Alone Are Holy, For All Nations Shall Come And Worship Before You, For Your Judgements Have Been Manifested—The reason they are fearing Him, His name, the totality of who He is, is because HE ALONE IS HOLY, and because HIS JUDGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MANIFESTED IN THE LAND.
 - a. The Church at large tends to shy away from the judgments of God, but **Isaiah 26:9** says, “...For when Your judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.”

III. THE CLOSED TEMPLE AND ACTIVE ANGELS (Revelation 15:5-8)

1. **Revelation 15:5-8** *“After These things I looked and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 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. 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. 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.”*
 - B. Once again, the scene has shifted. It’s not totally shifted because it started back in **Revelation 15:1**, but was interrupted by the vision of the saints, but now John is returning to a grim, dark final look at the last plagues that will befall humanity.
 - C. This temple is the original, of which the one on earthy one was a copy (**Heb. 8:5**). This tabernacle of the testimony included the stones that God wrote the ten commandments on. And the fact that it’s opened, and visible tells us the moral law of God is still binding upon the earth.
 1. God’s acting out of what He’s already put in place. It’s not a new set of laws, it’s not a new way of faith, it’s not a new Jesus. It’s the Jesus who came, not to destroy the law, but to fulfil it (**Matt. 5:17-19**).
 2. To a human race that has blatantly disregarded His laws, God is acting on behalf of them.
 - D. Well, the temple is open so that these angels can come out from the presence of God, dispatched with a specific task. They are clothed in bright white, signifying their mission to cleanse the earth. These angels are emissaries of Christ, they are divine representatives of Christ.
 1. 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—These bowls are filled to the brim, with the hot displeasure of God towards sinful humanity. It’s come to a head.
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- a. It's important that we catch this phrase about God's eternity. Though sin and wickedness seem to have no end, as it's seemingly going on unchecked often, and filling the earth, it's stint in the overall picture of eternity is but for a moment. *This is the day of reckoning.*
2. 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 Were Completed—It's common in the Old Testament that when God appeared to men, that they could not stand in His presence (**Ex. 40:36**). The smoke speaks of the glory of God, the person of God, the nature of God, as the origin on the judgments that are about to break forth on the earth.
 - a. **Habakkuk 2:20** *“But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*
 - b. The unapproachableness of God is only during these final plagues. It doesn't last forever. His anger will subside, but when it does, there will be nobody left.
 - c. Some have suggested that maybe the temple was closed because there was no more mediation, no more intercession, no more pleading for mercy, no more patience, just action upon His promises!