

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Fifteen

The Preparation For The Last Plagues

Focus Verse: **Revelation 15:1**

1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

I. Introduction to Chapter Fifteen

- A. Here come some more signs in heaven (15:1). Again, notice the emphasis upon visible, verifiable signs being made to validate God's involvement in all the judgment of this world. Many people will always *explain away* these events as part of evolution, part of nature, and so on. But God "signs" these events with His "signature" so that you know without a shadow of a doubt Who is behind all the trouble! See 1:1; 12:1,3; Exod 7:3; Deut 4:34.
- B. Here in Chapter 15, begins the introduction to the "seven LAST plagues." These plagues are described as "*for in them is filled up the wrath of God.*" This is the LAST trip through the Tribulation.

II. Lesson

1. And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

A. The Seven Angels (15:1)

1. Another sign - wonder in heaven (see 12:1)
2. The Seven LAST Plagues are introduced. They actually will commence in the next chapter.
3. The full wrath of God

2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

B. The _____ of Glass (15:2)

1. Its type - The Brazen laver in the O.T. temples
2. Its placement - The floor of heaven, separating the third heaven from the rest of the universe.
3. Its use - For "**them** that had gotten the victory over the beast"³

3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.
4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

C. The Songs of Heaven (15:3,4)

1. The Sound of music is made by harps
2. The Songs are:
 - a. The Song of Moses (Ex 15:1-21; Dt 31:30 - Dt 32:43))
 - b. The Song of the Lamb, also called a New Song (Rev 5:9-13)
3. The Statements of the Songs - The same for both!
 - a. Great are thy works

³This chapter here makes some things very difficult to understand in relation to timing - Just before the vials are poured upon the earth, there are those standing upon the "sea of glass" that have overcome the beast, AND his image (which is placed in the middle of the Tribulation), and yet they are "supposed" to be up there sometime around the 4th or 5th year of the Tribulation if you go by the parallel view of Revelation. It could be that these are others beside Tribulation saints, but I haven't got a clue otherwise!

- b. Just and true are thy ways
- c. All nations shall worship You from now on
- d. Because You manifested your judgments - There was NO OTHER WAY to bring about God's desired end than through this terrible time of Tribulation!

5. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:
 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.
 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.
 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

D. The Sanctuary/Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony (15:5-8)

1. Located in heaven - The Ark (the Testimony) is now in heaven! Last time it was seen was 2 Chron 35:3 in Josiah's reign. Jeremiah mentions it being taken out of mind in Jer 3:16!
2. The seven angels come out of the temple in heaven
 - a. Having golden girdles - possibly the anti-types of Aaron's priesthood clothing!
 - b. The seven VIALS, FULL of the WRATH of God. The vials were flasks/containers that actually held or contained the following judgments of God.
 - c. God's glory and power always produce smoke (Ex 19:18)
 - d. Note that "no MAN was able to enter into the temple" until the wrath was completely poured out! Its access had been shut off for this time.

III. Conclusion

- A. For the forth and final time, the reader is going through the Tribulation period with these last plagues. By now, the student of the word of God should be familiar with the events that are about to occur, and the reasons for them. Remember that the Lord has His life, death, burial, and resurrection told FOUR different times through four different eye writers (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John).
- B. We had better the the message - this world is headed for judgment, and it is NOT ready! The only escape is found in Jesus Christ (Heb 2:3)! We then should get that message out to those for whom it is intended (Acts 17:30,31)!!!

IV. Some Questions

- A. How many sets of plagues or judgments are listed in Revelation? _____
- B. Define the Sea of Glass? _____
- C. The last plagues are contained in what kind of a container? _____