

Revelation Chapter 15

- Now we are back to a sequential perspective verses a parallel account.
- A prelude to the final seven plagues fully described in Chapter 16.

V: 1 *“And I saw another sign”* – (miracle or wonder) this phrase was last used in Revelation Ch. 12 describing the war in Heaven between Satan and the Heavenly host, also describing Satan’s persecution of the Jews.

- Plagues:

Luke 12:47 *“And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.”*

- “Filled up” = completed.

Revelation 14:10 *“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.”*

- 7 vials or bowls speak of “complete” judgment, or the completeness of His wrath, in full.

V: 2 *“Sea of glass”* – the sea was like glass, a glassy sea, calm, undisturbed.

Revelation 4:6 *“And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four creatures full of eyes before and behind.”*

- Mingled with fire: Fire represents judgment, but it also represents purity, the refiner’s fire.

Malachi 3:2-3 *“²But who may abide the day of his coming? And who shall stand when he appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: ³And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.”*

- Explain what the refiner’s fire is: speaking of a gold smith, the Master turning up the heat, impurities coming to the surface, dross / scum, being scraped away continually until the Master can see his own image in the molten gold.

Speaking of trials:

1 Peter 1:7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

John the Baptist testified

Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

“Victory over the beast”

- This victory is complete, total, victory in every way: over the beast, over his image, over his mark, over his number, and over his name.
- This summary of God’s final judgment and wrath begins with a vision of the Saints in glory as a way of comforting those who are under intense persecution and spiritual warfare. A reminder of why they are even involved in this battle.

Revelation 14:14 “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.”

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 ⁵⁵“Oh death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Harps at the ready, like an orchestra warming up for the big concert.

V: 3 Song of Moses:

Exodus 15:1-19 A song of victory commemorating God’s victories over the enemies of Israel after passing through the Red Sea.

Deuteronomy 32 Witness & testimony when they turn away from God.

Psalms 90 Portrays the contrast between God and man.

- The Church has their own song.

Revelation 5:9 “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

- The Tribulation saints have their own song:

Revelation 7:9-14 “⁹After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; ¹⁰And cried with a loud voice saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. ¹¹And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, ¹²Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. ¹³And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? ¹⁴And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

- The 144,000 Jewish evangelists have their own special song.

Revelation 14:3 “And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.”

- The New Testament song of the church, the song of the redeemed, distinct from the song of Moses, both are the song of the Lamb, both are the song of the redeemed church, ecclesia.
- “**Lord God Almighty**” = “omnipotent”, only used 5 times, all in the book of Revelation. [Webster’s, omnipotent: unlimited power or authority, all powerful.](#) (Rev. 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 21:22)
- Just - true

Hosea 14:9 “Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? Prudent, and he shall know them? For the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.”

V: 4 “*Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name?*”

- This is a rhetorical question at best.

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Romans 1:21 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

V: 4 (cont.)

- Our culture is marked by an extreme, not just lack of reverence, but irreverence of God. No fear at all.

Psalm 19:9 “The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

“*Thou only are Holy:*” – this is more than a doxology, it show’s standing & qualification to judge.

Matthew 19:16-17 “¹⁶And, behold, one came and said unto Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? ¹⁷And He said unto him, why callest thou Me good? There is none good but One, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”

Romans 3:10, 23 “As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one:” & “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

- Why do we call Jesus Lord?

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to ever man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

- All nations shall worship Jesus:

Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Psalm 86:9 “All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.”

V: 5 The Tabernacle of testimony:

Hebrews 8:5 “Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.”

- Opened, obstacles removed, access gained:

Jesus removed all the obstacles to God

V: 5 (cont.)

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Matthew 27:51 “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;”

Hebrews 10:19 “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”

- This door was open to us long before this event; here this door is opening to allow the angels with the bowls of God's wrath to come out upon the earth.

V: 6 The seven angels exit with the 7 last plagues.

- Clothes in linen pure and white, chest's girded with golden belts or sashes.
- As these angels administer God's judgment, it is in a sense with God's covering over their hearts, not out of anger or malice, but in obedience to God's perfect will.

V: 7 “Four beasts” or “creatures”.

- 7 golden “vials” – or “bowls”

“Full of the wrath of God”

- The world has not seen this yet except as God's wrath was poured out upon Jesus.

Isaiah 53:4 “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”

- Oh what a terrible thing that will be.
- Literally for “aeon” and “aeon”, describing our eternal God, who has no beginning, and no ending.

V: 8 This suggests the cloud or “shechinah” glory, the symbol of God's presence. Just as when God's presence was manifested upon Mount Sinai no one was allowed to approach His presence, the same is true as He is manifested in judgment.

Exodus 40:34-35

Exodus 40:34-35 “³⁴Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.”

Isaiah 6:4 “And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.”

Psalms 103:8-9 “The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever.”

Revelation 6:15-17 “¹⁵And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bond man, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

- The reason for God’s wrath upon mankind is pretty much the same as the last time God judged the world:

Exodus 20:5 “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”

Luke 21:36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Luke 21:28 “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

The day of the Lord is at hand!