

Worship Before Wrath

Revelation 15

ANNOUNCE

2nd sunday

Oct 29 - new visitor luncheon

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 15:1-8 NKJV] 1 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. 2 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. 3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested." 5 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. 6 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. 7 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. 8 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.

RECAP OF TIMELINE

We find ourselves halfway through the tribulation period.

- In the final half of these seven years, the antichrist's wrath is in full force against all who follow God. Satan knows his time is short and is doing all within his power to deceive and destroy.
- The judgment and wrath of God have so far been progressively displayed through natural and supernatural phenomena.
 - The seven seals brought forth the destruction of 1/4 of the human population, the decimation of the food supply, unprecedented cosmic disturbances, and the arrival of the antichrist.
 - The seventh seal ushers in the seven trumpets that continue to bring forth divine judgment. 1/3 of the vegetation and waters are destroyed or contaminated. the heavens are darkened, and day and night do not function properly. Demonic armies are unleashed upon mankind, causing unparalleled suffering and the death of another 1/3 of humanity.
 - We took a short aside to get the backstory of the woman, Israel, and her Messiah, the unsuccessful battle waged by the dragon against Him, the casting out of Satan from access to God's throne, and the political and religious power of the beast (antichrist) dominating the entire world.
- In the final scene of God's wrath, seven bowls will now be poured out to bring the fullness of God's judgment to completion.

INTRO

In chapter 15, we are exiting from our parenthetical chapter back into the flow of God's final judgment. We find a short chapter with a prelude, or literally, a song of worship that comes before the final wrath of God upon the earth.

I saw another sign in heaven - like the sign he saw before of the pregnant woman and the dragon. Seven angels are given the dreadful responsibility of ushering the finality of God's wrath upon the earth.

Great and marvelous - the words don't imply a joyful expectation but rather an awe and fearful dread. There were no words to describe the jaw-dropping scene.

1 The Worshipers**BIBLE PASSAGE**

2 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.

APPLICATION*The setting:*

- Sea of glass - reminds us of the scene from God's Throne Room in chapter 4 where we hear the constant chant of. "Holy, Holy, Holy."
- **[Rev 4:6 NKJV] 6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.**
- **[Eze 1:22, 25 NKJV] 22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. ... 25 A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings.**

This "sea of glass and crystal" must represent the dimensional barrier between heaven and earth; the throne room of God, and the physical universe. It's clear, giving us a sense of complete transparency. God sees and knows all between where He is and where we are. The uniqueness of chapter 15 is that now this clear sea is mingled with fire. Fire represents judgment in the Bible. We get the sense that as the first of God's judgment is poured out on the sea of humanity, the praise of God is going forth as God demonstrates judgment.

- The saints who gladly and quietly went to their death on earth and the hand of the antichrist will sing as God's vengeance for their deaths is poured out on His enemies.

1:24



- **those who have resisted the beast and his system. They have been martyred.**

Really is an incredible sight:

- These are the ones who suffered, but now they're singing.
- These are those tormented by the beast and are now comforted by the lamb.
- These are the ones who mourned on earth but are now rejoicing in heaven.
- These are those who had no future in life, but now sing of the future that God will bring.

When I look at this scene, to me, it's a good reminder for every believer that our short life here on earth only tells half the story.

QUOTE

“We must choose to let our eternal, heavenly reality inform our temporary, earthly experience.”

Pastor Josh

BIBLE PASSAGE

- When suffering takes place on the earth, let's remind ourselves that one day, He will wipe every tear from our eyes.
- When the temporary pleasures of the world disappoint, let's remind ourselves that in His presence is fullness of joy, and at His right hand are pleasures forevermore that we will experience eternally with Him.
- You might be disappointed today, but you will be forever satisfied when you stand on the other side of the crystal sea!

King David prayed twice in Psalm 42:

[Psa 42:11 NKJV] 11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.

[Rom 8:16-18 NKJV] 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be *glorified together*. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this *present time* are not worthy to be compared with the glory which *shall be revealed* in us.

2 The Worship

BIBLE PASSAGE

3 They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

SONG OF MOSES & THE SONG OF THE LAMB

The Song of Moses:

Exodus 15 Deuteronomy 32.

- Apparently, Moses was a songwriter and worship leader.

Song of Moses is not the exact words but represents God's deliverance, salvation, and judgment.

- **Exodus 15 - a song of deliverance** from the Egyptians. God's mighty strength warred against Pharaoh on the night of Egypt. The Lord is a man of war. The nations will hear and be afraid. The horse and the rider fell into the sea. The LORD will bring them into His promised land and reign forever and ever.
- **Deuteronomy 32 - a song of warning** to God's people about God's wrath toward idolatry and spiritual adultery.

The song of the Lamb:

- This song is a mixture of the justice of God's perfect law (Moses) and the results of God's grace (Jesus).

- God's law through Moses and God's grace through Jesus are not pivoted against each other or in contradiction to one another. They join together as a perfect song to God's redemptive plan.

[Gal 3:13-14 NKJV] 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

QUOTE

“*The song of Moses was sung at the Red Sea, the song of the Lamb is sung at the crystal sea; the song of Moses was a song of triumph over Egypt, the song of the Lamb is a song of triumph over Babylon; the song of Moses told how God brought His people out, the song of the Lamb tells how God brings His people in; the song of Moses was the first song in Scripture, the song of the Lamb is the last. The song of Moses commemorated the execution of the foe, the expectation of the saints, and the exaltation of the Lord; the song of the Lamb deals with the same three themes.*”

John Phillips, Commentary

THE SONG

The song is about:

1. God's works - What God has done

1. Everything God has done is wonderful and marvelous (passing human comprehension)
2. **It is the height of human ignorance and pride to think that we have outsmarted God or figured him out by our own scientific or rational means.**
3. **Video - we are smarter than God. Yuval Noah Harari, an Israeli author and historian, speaks about the idea of what humanity is achieving.**
4. People today are worried about AI outsmarting and replacing humans. I assure you God does not share the same concerns about us.
5. **[Psa 14:1 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. [A Psalm] of David. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.**

2. God's ways - How God does it

1. **Just and true are your ways** - No one is more criticized by humanity than God. He is blamed for every blight that wicked people are actually responsible for.
2. God is blamed for "bad things happening." God gets mocked for "sending people to hell." People jeer at God for things they don't understand. What ignorant fools we are.
3. **[Rom 9:20 NKJV] 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"**

3. God's Worth - Why God is worthy - every nation shall worship before you.

1. The ultimate result of the manifestation of God's judgments will be the willing submission of every person and nation to Christ and His authority.
2. **[Isa 45:22-24 NKJV] 22 "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. 23 I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath (confess). 24 He shall say, 'Surely in the LORD I have righteousness and strength. To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him. (Rom. 14, Phil. 2)**

3 The Wrath

BIBLE PASSAGE

5 After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. **6** 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. **7** 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. **8** 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.

4 ELEMENTS OF DIVINE WRATH

1. It will one day be complete (1 - seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.)-

There is coming a time when God will no longer have any wrath to pour out, for perfect justice will have been completed.

1. Number 7 used 8 times - there is a completion within these last judgments.
2. **Complete** - John 19:30 - it is finished. Totalisti - the sacrifice for sin, once and for all, is finished; there will never be another sacrifice for sin required for those who come through Christ's sacrifice. For those who reject Christ's sacrifice in the seven bowls, God's wrath toward sinners is finished.
3. **A POWERFUL AND SOBERING THOUGHT**- If you are in Jesus, God's wrath and anger toward you is forever eradicated. God will never be angry with you again.
 1. But he is still angry with the wicked and with sin.
 2. One day, God's anger toward sin and sinners will be gone forever.
 3. This is not so to a change in God's nature. He is still Holy, He is still just. The difference is there's nothing left for him to judge. There is no sin defying and insulting His holiness.

2. It belongs to God alone- Twice in this passage, the wrath is attributed to God's ownership: "The wrath of God." In verse 4, the judgments are called "Your judgments."

1. Directly, we see:

- *Wrath "Of God"*
- *Harps "Of God"*
- *Moses, the servant "of God"*
- *Glory "of God"*
- *The saints of God*
- *The worship of God*
- *The temple of God*
- *The judgments of God*
- *The angels of God*
- *The works of God*
- *The authority of God*

2. It's not our wrath, so it's not our judgment. We can be righteously angry. We can declare what God says about sin, righteousness, and judgment, but we may not exert wrath on enemies of God and his truth. **[Rom 12:19 NKJV] 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.**

3. It comes with plagues (1, 6)

1. Perhaps another reason for the reference to the song of Moses is the fact that God delivered Israel from Egypt through plagues of wrath. With Egypt, there were 10 localized plagues, and now there are seven to complete God's wrath against the world.

2. The plagues are outlined clearly in chapter 16.

3. **Plague - A blow, a stripe, a wound.** God is wounding the world, striking it in righteous and just anger. At the cross, Jesus, in a certain sense, took the beating for us. He became the curse, he received the plagues destined for us.

4. It's delivered by angels.

1. It's not the wrath of the angels, but the angels are messengers who do God's bidding. The wrath comes from the hand of God through the obedience of the angels.

1. [Heb 1:14 NKJV] 14 (angels) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

2. They are dressed in white and gold and come out of the Tabernacle of Testimony, that place where God's perfect law was kept in the tabernacle.

3. The seven bowls given to them may represent the bowls of oil on the golden menorah that constantly burned. The fire before god's presence is not poured out by the angels to the earth.

5. It comes from God's temple.

1. In Exodus 40, when the cloud of God's glory filled the tabernacle, Moses could not enter. In 1 Kings 8, when the cloud of God's glory filled the temple, the priests could no longer stand and minister in it.

2. We get the idea that when the fullness of God's glory fills the temple, it's as if God shuts down access to His presence.

3. The angels come out of the temple, sent by God, and as the final judgments are poured out, access to God's presence is closed. It is God and God alone who oversees the final judgment. And perhaps we see a frightening image here of the fact that once the bowls of wrath are issued, there is no more opportunity for repentance from humanity. Their fate has been sealed, and no one under that judgment will have the opportunity to enter into God's holy place.

1. [Heb 10:19-22 NKJV] 19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

CONCLUSION

This is a short chapter, but remember, in the original manuscripts, there are no chapter breaks. This song, sung by the tribulation saints, ushers in the preparation of seven angels who are prepared to pour out seven bowls full of the completion of God's wrath.

- Chapter 16 will give us a rapid-fire picture of each judgment, which is appropriate because they happen quickly and in fast succession.
- When we see how fast things happen in the tribulation period, we should be grateful for the patience of God today.
- IMPORTANT: Don't mistake God's patience for indifference or forgetfulness. Just because it doesn't seem like things will ever shift gears, I promise you that when it does, there will be no breathing room for the world.

[2Pe 3:7-9 NKJV] 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.