

“A Bowl of Judgments”

Revelation 15:1-8

Revelation 15: 1

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

The book of the Revelation is a book of contrasts

*** We move through the book, we are taken back and forth between Heaven and the Earth.**

In this powerful book of the Bible we are allowed to witness scenes of joy in the heavens and we are confronted with scenes of judgment on the earth.

*** In the heavens you see scenes of worship.**

*** On the earth, you see scenes of wrath.**

In this chapter we are once again taken into Heaven

*** In these eight verses of Revelation 15 – they comprise *the shortest chapter in the Book of Revelation***

*** We see a vision of Heaven as God prepares for His final judgment of the tribulation earth.**

*** There has already been great suffering as the judgment of God has been unleashed on the earth.**

*** When these judgments are poured out on the earth, they serve to increase the agony of the wicked.**

We are given a glimpse of Heaven as it prepares for final judgment

*** Up to this point, *God has mingled mercy and judgment.***

*** Up to this point *God has been leaving the door to repentance ajar.***

*** Now humanity has made its final choice.**

*** The world has chosen Satan over God and judgment is coming.**

*** There will be no mercy.**

*** There will only be judgment and the wrath of God for all those who have rejected Jesus Christ**

Revelation 15: 1

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

- * John tells us that he saw “*another sign*”
- * The word “*sign*” is the same word translated “*wonder*” in:

Revelation 12:1 (KJV)

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars”

- * **Wonder / Sign** – John saw a “*woman*” representing the nation of Israel.

Revelation 12:3 (KJV)

“And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads”

- * **Wonder / Sign** - John saw a “*great red dragon*” representing Satan.

Revelation 15: 1

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

- * Now is **Revelation 15:1** - John sees “*seven angels*” who will be God’s instruments of final judgment upon the earth.

John tells us that this vision is both “*great and marvelous*”

- * The word “*great*” speaks of something that is “*important and astonishing*”
- * The word “marvelous” has the idea of “*something to be wondered at*”

John is calling our attention to this vision because what is happening here is something important and amazing
Here, we are allowed to see the judgment from Heaven’s perspective as it prepares for judgment.

Revelation 15: 1

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

A Scene Of Final Judgment

* John sees seven angels and these angels have “the seven last plagues”

The word “plague” means “a hitting, or a wound”

What we see here is God’s hitting the earth and wounding it in judgment

* God’s judgment begins to fall on this world system and there is nothing that can stop the damage that is about to be inflicted on those who have rejected the Gospel of grace.

When these seven judgments are poured out on the earth, they will complete the judgments of the Tribulation Period

* Revelation 15:1 says that through these judgments the wrath of God is “filled up” – “for in them is filled up the wrath of God”

This phrase translates the Greek verb “telos”

* This is the same word used by Jesus when He was dying on the cross

* Just before He died He cried - “*It is finished*” - John 19:30

The word is very expressive and it was used in many ways in that society

* Servants used it when they had completed an assignment.

* Priests used it when they had located a worthy animal to be used as a sacrifice.

* Farmers used this word when a perfect specimen had been born into their flock.

* Artists used it when they had put the finishing touches on a work of art.

* Merchants used it when a deal had been struck. Often your receipt would contain this word. It meant that the debt had been paid in full.

* Soldiers used it when they placed their foot on the neck of a vanquished foe.

* Homeowners used it when they had paid the last payment on their mortgage. They would often inscribe the word of a plaque and nail it to the front of the house, revealing to all that the final payment had been paid.

Jesus used this word on Calvary to let everyone know that He had finished the Father's work and that redemption's price has been fully and finally paid. Praise God, salvation is finished!

It is used here to signify completion as well

* When these *seven last plagues* are poured out - God's judgment on this world will be finished

It Is A Scene Of Full Judgment

- * The seven angels are given seven "*vials*" or "*bowls*"
- * These bowls are said to be "*full of the wrath of God*"

The word "full" means "to be swelled"

- * It was used in that day of a ship that was filled with cargo.
- * Here, it refers to the wrath of God that reached the busting point.
- * Up until now the wrath of God has been like water flowing over a dam.
- * The damage has been severe, but the dam has held back the worst part.

In these verses, God's wrath is about to break and the waters of judgment are going to drown both sin and sinner

- * As [Revelation 14:10](#) says, "*The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation...*"
- * Judgment is coming and there will be no escape.

Revelation 15: 2-4 (KJV)

" 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.

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.

Even as Heaven prepares to unleash judgment upon the earth, there is rejoicing in Heaven

* I praise the Lord that there is a land that is free from the cares, sins and sufferings of this world.

* Every time we are privileged to look into Heaven, we see the same thing.

* We see the saints of God rejoicing in the presence of their Redeemer.

This vision is no different

The Setting Of This Jubilation

* These saints are standing on a *“sea of glass” “mingled with fire”*

* This *glassy sea speaks of God’s judgment as being firm and fixed*

* On this earth, there is nothing more constantly changing than the ocean.

* The sea is never still and it is never the same.

This sea is solid and unmoving!

* Judgment is fixed and it cannot be altered!

* It is *“mingled with fire”* to remind us that God is a God of wrath - Who is in the process of judging this world.

If you will remember, there was a *“sea of brass”* called *“the laver”* outside the tent of the Tabernacle

* Before the priests entered the tent they were required to wash in the laver.

It symbolized cleansing and forgiveness of sin

1 John 1:9 (KJV)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- * Thank the Lord that we can stop at the laver of 1 John 1:9 and washed our sins and our stains away?**
- * I thank God that there is a place of forgiveness and restoration today.**

In Heaven, that sea of brass has become a sea of glass

*** There will be no more need for the saints to come to God for cleansing. We will never fail Him again! That will be a blessing.**

Revelation 15: 2 (KJV)

“ 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.

The Source Of This Jubilation

- * These Heaven dwellers are rejoicing, and with good reason!**
- * These are the Tribulation saints that we met way back in Revelation 7: 9-17**

These are people who heard the Gospel when it was preached during the Tribulation

- * They heard the call of God and they repented of their sins and they were saved.**
- * Just a reminder: Heaven will be a place of praise and glory to the Lord!**
- * I look forward to being in a place where praise is welcomed and encouraged. I look forward to having a body that can offer unhindered praise to our worthy Savior!**

Revelation 15: 3-4 [KJ]

“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”

The Song Of This Jubilation

* These Tribulation saints lift their voices in song to praise the God Who redeemed their souls.

We are told that they sing two songs.

They sing the “*song of Moses*” and they sing “*song of the Lamb*”

The *Song of Moses* is found in [Exodus 15 : 1-2](#) [KJ] “1Then sang Moses and the children of Israel *this song unto the LORD*, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him”

It is the first song in the Bible

- * Pillar and Fire song of [Exodus](#)
- * A song giving glory to the Lord
- * The Lord is my strength and my song – He is become my salvation!
- * HE is MY GOD
- * Key here is in verse 2 – I WILL PREPARE HIM AN HABITAION
- * I will exalt HIM!!
- * This is a powerful song my friends and they sing is in Heaven!

[Revelation 15: 3](#) [KJ]

“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”

- * The *Song of the Lamb* is the last song recorded in the Bible
- * The *Song of Moses* was sung by the children of Israel when they had been delivered from Egypt and Pharaoh

The Song of the Lamb is sung by the saints of God when they are delivered from Antichrist

- * The Song of Moses was sung by the Red Sea
- * The Song of the Lamb is sung on the glassy sea
- * The Song of Moses was to praise God for bringing His people out
- * The Song of the Lamb is sung to praise God for bring His people in

Both songs are songs of redemption and praise for the God Who excels in delivering His people from sin and sinners.

Revelation 15: 3-4 [KJ]

“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.
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[Note: For you prayer warriors this is a great prayer model]

1. v. 3 - Great and Marvellous are thy works!

* **They Sing Of His Works – They sing of the God Who works in power and moves in glory – Hey why do you or do you sing?**

2. v. 3 - Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways!

* **They Sing Of His Ways –They sing of the God Who’s ways are always right and just – Hey why do you or do you sing?**

3. v. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name!

* **The Sing Of His Wonder - They exalt His greatness and magnify the God Who alone is worthy to be praised! Hey why do you or do you sing?**

Revelation 15: 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”

4. v. 4 *For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee*

* **They Sing Of His Worship – They sing of the God Who is worthy to receive and will receive the worship of all mankind!**

Hey why do you or do you sing?

5. v. 4 *For thy judgments are made manifest*

* **They Sing Of His Wrath – They sing of the God Who alone is worthy to judge sin and sinners because He alone is holy and just!**

Hey why do you or do you sing?

Folks we see a picture of saints of God who have been through a terrible time, but they found God to be a faithful God

* He saved them

* He kept them

* He carried them home to glory

* They *stand in His presence* and *lift their voices in song* to the God of their salvation.

Just as surely as Heaven will be a place of praise, it will be a place filled with singing.

* Praise and Worship sets the very atmosphere the very I mood for the service.

* This is the very breath of God into the assembly of the saints

* Together one the other side of a Red Sea bank – Together on the other side of Heavenly Threshold!

* In Heaven, our songs of praise will be lifted to a new level.

* We will sing in perfect pitch and harmony and we will sing songs of praise to the God Who saved us from our sins and from His wrath!

Revelation 15: 5-8 [KJ]

“ 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”

Notice that the scene changes and our attention is focused on the Tabernacle in Heaven

- * What John sees here is the original Tabernacle
- * The one Moses built in the wilderness was patterned after this heavenly place of worship.
- * It is from this Tabernacle that God's judgment issues forth onto the earth

Revelation 15: 5

“And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened”

Justice Is Decreed

- * This place John sees is called “the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony”
- * The word “testimony” refers to the Law that was handed down to Moses on Mount Sinai
- * The ancient Law set God's standard for living.
- * Through the Law God manifested His glory and His holiness.
- * The Law also showcased the sinfulness of man.
- * The Law was given so that men might understand the holiness of God and what He expected from people.

11.

The tablets of the Law were placed in the Ark of the Covenant as a permanent witness to Israel of the holy demands of a righteous God

- * Here in Heaven John sees that the Law is still in force!
 - * The Law of God has always served as God's standard of righteousness. *
- And it always will! Man has tried to alter the standards of God, but they are carved in stone and they are unchanging.

Men have broken the Law of God and the Law demands that men be judged

- * God will defend His righteousness and judge all those who violate His Law.

By the way, Jesus came to fulfill the Law for all those who will put their faith in Him

- * He has not abolished the Law, but He has fulfilled it for those who are saved - [Col. 2:13-14](#)
- * When a person's faith rests in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, they are not required to keep the Law to please the Lord.
- * They are, however, expected to live holy lives for the glory of God!
- * The Law no longer stands in judgment over the redeemed saints of God, for in Jesus, we are seen as righteous!
- * Thank you Lord for you Holy Word and You Principles that never change!

Revelation 15: 6-7 [KJ]

“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”

Justice Is Delivered

- * Seven angels appear out of the Temple in Heaven
- * They are clothed in *“pure and white linen”*

This signifies their holiness and it reflects the holiness of the One they serve.

- * They wear *“golden girdles”* around their chests
- * This speaks of the majesty and glory of the God they serve

These angels have in their hands the seven last plagues that will be poured out on the earth

- * These are the four beasts we met in [Revelation 4: 4-8](#)
- * They exist to glorify the God of all creation
- * These beasts give the angels seven bowls filled with God’s wrath

This signifies the fact that the plagues of the Tribulation will be carried out because of God’s wrath and anger against sin and sinners

- * God’s wrath had been building against sin ever since Adam and Eve sinned in Eden
- * One day the wrath of God will boil over and absolute judgment will be the end result
- * The only refuge a sinner has, whether it is now or in that future day, is the blood of Jesus Christ

[Revelation 15: 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”

Justice Is Dispensed

- * The Temple that was standing open has been closed
- * The Temple is filled with the glory and presence of Almighty God

We so need the Presence of The Lord!

This image indicates that the day of mercy is passed

- * The door will be opened again during the Millennium, but it has been closed for the duration of the Tribulation and will not be opened!
- * Man's access into grace and salvation has been forever cut off.
- * The door has been closed and God is going to judge sinners and there is nothing they can do to stop Him. It is too late to pray. It is too late to repent. It is too late to change. It is too late! There is no more hope, no more grace and no more opportunity. The door is shut and it will not be opened again!

In Matthew 25:1-10 - Jesus tells a parable about 10 virgins

- * Five are wise and five are foolish
- * The five wise virgins were ready when the Bridegroom came and they entered in with Him and His Bride
- * The five foolish virgins were not ready
- * They had no oil in their lamps and while they were gone to get their oil, the door was closed and they were shut out of the wedding chamber.

That parable will be a reality in many people's lives one day

- * Do not let it be true in your life!
- * You need to be sure that you know Him!
- * You need to be sure that you are saved.
- * Today, God is offering salvation to whosoever will come to Jesus.
- * In that day, He will offer salvation to no one.
- * All He will give then is judgment, wrath and damnation.
- * Get in while the door is still open!