

Revelation Chapter 15

In previous chapters we have witnessed the Seven (7) Seal and Seven (7) Trumpet Judgments. Each one seemingly more severe than preceding one's but as we come to Chapter 15 we see the last series of judgments leading up to Armageddon. Chapters 15 and 16 flow together.

John's Vision (1-2)

¹And 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. ²And 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.

What did John see?

- An awesome sight in heaven
- Seven (7) angels
- Seven (7) plagues
- Filled with the wrath of God
- A sea of glass mixed with fire.
- Saints who had overcome the Beast

“This is the third heavenly sign that John had seen in Revelation.” (MacArthur, Rev. 12-22, p. 123).

“a sea of glass mingled with fire.” John does not say that he saw a sea of glass mixed with fire but it looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire. It would appear that John is seeing into the throne room of God due to the brilliance of the floor. Fire frequently represents judgment.

“Them that had gotten the victory over the beast...”

Who are these? It would appear to be those believers who died during the Tribulation period, as noted by the phrase: “over the beast.” But one might ask: How were they victorious since they were killed? Because of their unwavering faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their refusal to compromise.

“The Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb” (vv. 3-4)

³And 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. ⁴Who 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.

What is the song of Moses? See [Exodus 15:1-18](#)

What is the song of the Lamb. [Read Rev. 5:8-14.](#)

“for all nations shall come and worship before thee...” This is in reference to the Millennial reign of Christ. So, MacArthur, p. 131.

God’s Purposes Vv. 5-8

⁵And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

“And after that I looked, and, behold” This introduces a new vision as always. Note John’s attention is drawn away from the saints to a new vision.

“The temple...in heaven was opened.” This speaks of God’s presence.

⁶And 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.

The Angels Function: Having the seven plagues (judgments)

The Angels Apparel: Pure and White linen. (Purity and holiness)

Breasts girded with golden girdles. (golden sashes representing their majestic appearance).

⁷And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth forever and ever.

“one of the four beasts” Most likely cherubim. One of the highest ranking orders of angels.

“seven golden vials” = *Phialas* (Grk.) = shallow bowls or saucers.

One can easily go to the Old Testament and find that saucers or bowls were used as part of the temple furnishings. See I Kings 7:50; 2 Kings 12:13; 25:15; I Chronicles 28:17.

MacArthur makes a good point when he states: “Those who refuse to drink the cup of salvation will be drowned in the judgments poured from the bowls of wrath.” (ibid)

⁸And **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. ¹

“**the temple was filled with smoke...**” Cf. Exod. 19:16-18 where God’s majesty is represented by the smoke. Cf. Exod. 40:34-35; I Kings 8:10-11; Isa. 6:1-4, where God’s presence is symbolized. But here it the smoke would appear to represent God’s judgment.

God’s purposes is to bring final and swift judgment upon all sin. Those who refuse to drink at the fountain of forgiveness will drink from the fountain of God’s wrath.

¹*The King James Version*, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.