

Book of Revelation

Chapter 15:1-8 –Beginning of the End

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Revelation 15 - Overview

- Before unleashing the final seven of twenty-one total judgments (Revelation 16), during the coming Tribulation period, John the apostle sees numerous things happening in heaven in preparation.
 - John sees the temple in heaven
 - The sea of glass (see also Revelation 4:6), and
 - The seven angels with seven bowl plagues appearing with them
 - The 24 elders fall down
 - Sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, and
 - Give praise to God
 - Following the singing and praise, there is a loud voice speaking from the temple, telling the angels to go, and declaring the judgments of God to be righteous
- All of this represents the beginning of the end in God's program

2

Revelation 15:2-3

- **Verse 2** – “...those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name...”
- These are martyrs who died for their faith in Christ during the Tribulation
- They sing the song of Moses
 - This song was sung by the Israelites after they had successfully crossed the Red Sea (Exodus 15:1-27)
- **Verse 3** – “*Great and mighty are your ways...*”
 - God’s will is accomplished and He is glorified

3

Revelation 15:4

- **Verse 4** – “...*Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy Name?*”
 - Answer: ALL will fear God, willingly or unwillingly
- He himself is in his nature holy
- His sway extends over all nations
- The righteousness of His acts is now visible to all (referring to the action of Revelation 15/16)
- **Meaning** – both the Gospel and destruction of His enemies throughout all nations will occur

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Revelation 15:5

- **Verse 5** – “...*And after that I looked, and, behold...*”
- John is pointing out what he sees NEXT
- This is his way of stating a transition to the next scene
- The “...*sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened...*”
 - This references the heavenly temple of which the earthly tabernacle was perfectly patterned
 - John is seeing the Old Testament type Tabernacle in heaven
 - The “opening” of this tent of witness points to the coming judgments

5

Revelation 15:6

- **Verse 6** – “...*out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues...*”
- Seven angels come forward out of the inner chamber
- clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests – all of this points to their *purity, righteousness* and *holiness*
- Their job is to purify the earth for God with their plagues

6

Revelation 15:7

- **Verse 7** – “...one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God..”
- This goes back to Revelation 5:8 where we read God’s reference to the prayers of the saints to Him in bowls
- The previous prayers connect with the judgment to be poured out in Revelation 16 – (cause and effect)
- “...God *who lives forever and ever...*”
 - A reminder to us of God’s power and greatness, who has NO end

7

Revelation 15:8

- **Verse 8** – “...and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power...”
- Numerous places in the OT show us when God’s glory filled the Temple, no one could enter it
- Here, even in heaven, no one can enter because of His glory
- His Presence/glory remains until the pouring out of all 7 bowl judgments

8

Revelation 15 Recap

- Revelation 15 is like Revelation 8
 - When the Lamb broke the original seal there was silence in preparation for what was coming
- The action of the Tribulation is about to begin again (Rev 16)
- Revelation 15 presents the pageantry leading up to the final judgments of the Tribulation
- God will conclude His judgment on the earth with these
 - Then our Lord will return
 - He will judge the sheep and the goats (Mt 25:31-46), and
 - Establish His Kingdom

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Revelation 16

- Next time: Revelation 16
 - The 7 Bowl Judgments
 - Does repentance occur or not?

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