



THE BOOK OF
REVELATION

Chapter 15

Overview

Seven angels prepare to pour out seven more judgments upon the earth. John hears the victors over the Antichrist singing a song of praise to God.

I. WHAT JOHN SEES (15:1-2a, 5-8)

- **A. He sees seven angels** (15:1-2a, 6-7)
 - 1. Their assignment (15:1, 7): They are to pour out God's final judgment, consisting of seven wrath-filled bowls. These judgements are not long, drawn out epidemics like influenza, HIV, or even COVID-19. Rather, these plagues come with sudden impact—swift, severe, destructive, and fierce.
 - 2. Their appearance (15:6): They are dressed in clean, shining linen and wear golden sashes around their chests.
 - pure and white linen symbolizes the holiness of heaven. God's holiness.
 - Gold sashes/belts symbolizes royalty and authority and power. God has the right and power as the Sovereign ruler of the universe to execute justice.
- **B. He sees a sea of fire and glass, upon which stand those who have been victorious over the Antichrist** (15:2a)
- **C. He sees a smoke-filled Temple** (15:5, 8)
 - 1. The entrance to the Holy of Holies is opened (15:5).
 - 2. The Temple itself is closed to all until the bowl judgments are completed (15:8).

The Entrance

- In Exploring Revelation, John Phillips writes:
 - Since Calvary, the way into the holiest in heaven has been opened to all, because the blood of Christ has blazed a highway to the heart of God. But now, for a brief spell, that royal road is barred. God's wrath, once poured out upon His Son on man's behalf, is to be out poured again. The world which crucified the Lamb and which now has crowned its rebellions with the worship of the beast, is to be judged to the full. So bright glory burns within the temple, filling it with smoke and standing guard at the door. The way into the holiest is barred again for a while.
- Along with God's wrath we also see God's grace. This is an unyielding principle of God's character. God brings victory.

The Contrast of John's vision of the heavenly temple of doom

Heavenly/Spiritual

- As the temple fills with God's glory...
- In the past the wrath of God was poured out on Christ to save sinners...
- While the righteous in heaven rejoice over the triumph of good...

Earthly/Physical

- ...the earth is filled with His wrath.
- ...in the future the wrath of God will be poured out on sinners to judge them.
- ...the rebellious on earth will suffer with the destruction of evil.

II. WHAT JOHN HEARS (15:2b-4): He hears singing.

- **A. The singers (15:2b):** Those who have been victorious over the Antichrist.
 - Reminder: The Antichrist has created pressures to them to reject the CHRIST during the Tribulation.
 - They survived:
 - Political pressures through the first beast's compelling charismatic military prowess;
 - Religious pressure through the second beast's deceptively miraculous image;
 - Economic pressure through the requirement of the number of the Beast in order to buy and sell.
- They survived and have a song to sing: (The last verse of Amazing grace)

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

II. WHAT JOHN HEARS (15:2b-4): He hears singing.

- **B. The song (15:3-4):** It is the song of Moses, The song of Moses was sung beside the Red Sea (Exodus 15); the song of the Lamb will be sung beside the crystal sea.
 - The song of Moses was sung over Egypt; the song of the Lamb will be sung over Babylon.
 - The song of Moses described how God brought his people out; the Song of the Lamb will describe how God brings his people in.
 - The Song of Moses was Scripture's first song; the Song of the Lamb will be Scripture's last song.
 - The Song of Moses commemorated the execution of a foe, the expectation of the saints, and the exaltation of the Lord; the Song of the Lamb deals with the same three themes.
- Why do they sing? praising God for his justice, eternality, holiness, and righteousness.

Why do we sing?

- But I will sing of your might, I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been a fortress for me and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my strength, I will sing praises to you for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love. Psalm 59:16-17 (NRSV)
- Perhaps, as our ancestors sang “steal away, steal away to Jesus”, they were singing about the fortress that allowed them to deal with oppression.
- Perhaps when the blues players depicted their trying lives, they were speaking to God about their realities. The connection is often made between gospel music and the blues. Our young rappers continue to remind us of the trial and tribulations of life. Some of the greatest poetry of our time is being written and expressed in their music.
- Yes God speaks through our Song.
- Music is a vivid part of our worship. God is the reason we sing. Praise him!

The Reason Why I Sing? Kirk Franklin

- Someone asked a question
Why do we sing?
When we lift our hands to Jesus
What do we really mean?
Someone may be wondering
When we sing our song
At times we may be crying
And nothing's even wrong
- I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
His eye's on the sparrow
That's the reason why I sing
- Glory, hallelujah
I give the praises to you
Glory, hallelujah
You're the reason why I sing

So What is Your Song?

- What do you see in our world?
 - What do you hear in our world?
 - How is this affecting you?
 - Where do you see God?
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- Music is a cultural expression of art that allows for a reflection of society and serves to remind us who we are, what we are experiencing, and how the journey called life is impacting us. Let your song be a testimony of a transformed life, and don't forget to talk about God's saving grace.