

Revelation Chapter 15

1) Seven Angels with Seven Plagues (15:1-8)

a) **1** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. **2** And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. **3** And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! **4** Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.” **5** After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, **6** and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. **7** And 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** and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

b) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, (15:1)

i) This is the last “sign” of the book of Revelation.

(1) Rev. 12:1 - And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

(a) Divine purpose

(2) Rev. 12:3 - And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

(a) Satanic opposition

(3) Rev. 15:1 - Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

(a) Ultimate victory

(4) John saw wonders, miracles, the throne in heaven, the Lamb, etc., but only three times is the word “sign” used.

- (5) It was out of the ordinary
- c) seven angels with seven plagues, (15:1)
 - i) Thus begins the last of the cycle of three great judgments
 - (1) Rev. 5-7 – Seals are broken --- revelation
 - (2) Rev. 8-11 – Trumpets are blown --- warning
 - (3) Rev. 15-16 – Bowls of wrath poured out --- punishment
 - d) which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. (15:1)
 - i) Rev. 10:5-7 - **5** And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven **6** and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, **7** but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.
 - ii) The seventh trumpet sounded in 11:15. Introductions to the main characters and comfort for Christians followed through 14:20. Now the wrath of God is set to be poured out in punishment.
 - e) Sea of glass mingled with fire (15:2)
 - i) Rev. 4:6 – a sea of glass, like crystal
 - ii) The fire added here has been construed two ways
 - (1) The fire of God’s judgment – fire is associated with judgment
 - (2) The trials by which God purifies his people
 - (a) 1 Cor. 3:13 - each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.
 - (b) 1 Peter 1:7 - so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - (c) 1 Peter 4:12-19 - Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ...
 - (3) The sea has been a separation between God and man.
 - (a) At the end, there will be no more sea (Rev. 21:3)

- f) and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. (15:2)
- i) Those who had conquered are those who had already died, perhaps martyred, without succumbing to the beast and its image.
 - ii) Standing beside the sea of glass is sometimes translated as “on” the sea. (KJV, NAS)
 - (1) The possible implication is that those who have conquered are drawn closer to the throne.
 - iii) With harps of God in their hands.
 - (1) Harps are symbolic of praise, as in Rev. 5:8, where the harps are no more literal than the golden bowls of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- g) and they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, (15:3-4)
- i) Great and amazing are your deeds, - praise for the power of God
 - ii) For you alone are holy. – praise for the righteous character of God which prompts the deliverance.
 - iii) your righteous acts have been revealed – praise for deliverance.
- h) the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened (15:5)
- i) The wilderness tabernacle was called a tent of testimony (witness)
 - (1) Numbers 9:15 - On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony.
 - (2) Numbers 17:7 - And Moses deposited the staffs before the Lord in the tent of the testimony.
 - (3) Numbers 18:2 - And with you bring your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may join you and minister to you while you and your sons with you are before the tent of the testimony.
 - ii) The repository of God’s covenant
 - iii) It is not opened here to reveal the ark of the covenant as it was in Rev. 11:19.
 - iv) It is opened to allow the seven angels to come out from the presence of God.
- i) and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. (15:6)

- i) The angels were dressed somewhat like the priests of the old covenant, and acted as God's agents to pour out these seven plagues.



- (1) The seven angels were clad in pure, bright linen with golden sashes around their chests.
- j) And 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, (15:7)
- i) Seven bowls of wrath symbolize completeness.
- (1) Rev. 15:1 - seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.
- k) and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. (15:8)
- i) no one could enter until the seven plagues were finished
- (1) The seals revealed what was to come.
- (2) The trumpets warned of what was to come – to bring earth-dwellers to repentance.
- (3) The seven bowls bring punishment, for which there would be no intercession until it was done – none was able to enter the sanctuary.