

The book of Revelation

Chapter 15

1. *Seven angels with seven plagues: introduced (15:1)*

-While some place these angels and their seven plagues right at the end of human history, William Hendriksen sees these judgments running _____ with the other judgements of Revelation (seals and trumpets).

-“We notice that the vision of the bowls of wrath runs parallel with all the others and like them covers the _____ dispensation.” (175)

-These seven angels with their seven plagues are meant to be a sign showing the perfection and _____ of God’s wrath.

-“Seven angels pour out these seven plagues in which God’s burning wrath is brought to its _____. The goal is final judgement. These seven plagues-seven symbolizes divine perfection and completeness-lead to this goal...So by means of these seven plagues that cover this entire dispensation God’s anger is brought to its telos or goal.” (176)

2. *The song of the Redeemed (15:2-4)*

-After introducing the seven angels and the seven plagues the focus of the next portion of this chapter is on the church triumphant (the multitude of the redeemed in Heaven). God will judge the wicked with devastating judgments but before these are seen the saints are seen _____ in glory and standing as the victors over all their adversaries.

-Before the saints is what appears to be a sea made of glass and fire. This sea that is as clear as glass with fire in it is said to picture “God’s transparent righteousness” (177) that will be revealed as His wrath is poured out on the wicked. In God’s judgment of the wicked there are no _____, or confusion-it is clear, clean, and right.

-The saints are mentioned as “those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name.” The saints are the _____-those who win in the end.

-“Now their description as victors shows that appearances on earth are a _____ image of reality as it is rightly perceived from heaven. From an earthly perspective, the beast overcame God’s witnesses, the saints (11:7; 13:7). But the reality is that they overcame their enemies by the blood of the Lamb, holding fast to their testimony (12:11).” (Johnson, 215)

-The saints are seen with harps (from God) singing the “song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb.” The victory of the saints over their adversaries, by the power of the Lord, was long ago _____ in the destruction of the Egyptians in the Red Sea as they pursued (with the intention to destroy) the Israelites. After that great victory the nation of Israel, led by Moses, sang a song of victory (Exodus 15). This song is called “the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb” because it too is about the victory of the people of God over their adversaries who sought to destroy them.

-“The victory over the Egyptians was a foreshadowing of the victory of all God’s redeemed over the beast, his image, his number...In _____ cases it was the Lamb who gave the victory. Moses was simply doing God’s will, and is therefore called God’s servant.” (177)

-“It is Moses’ song because God’s victory in liberating His people and destroying their enemies stand in _____ with the ancient exodus, which Moses and the Israelites celebrated in song as they watched the Red Sea close over Pharaoh’s pursuing forces.” (Johnson, 216)

-This song celebrates God’s _____ (particularly of judgement on the wicked-which start and finish this song), His holiness, and His worthiness of being worshipped. This is a song primarily praising God for His judgment on the wicked. The people of God rejoice and praise God as Christ’s enemies (and theirs) are punished for their evil.

3. *Seven angels with seven plagues (15:5-8)*

-These seven angels are seen to come out of the “sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven” which is a reference to where the _____ of God resides. These angels come from the very presence of God-they have been commissioned by God for the task of pouring out His wrath upon the wicked.

-These angels are given golden bowls “full of the wrath of God” by one of the four living creatures. These bowls are made of gold and are full indicating their _____ and completeness.

-The sanctuary (where these seven angels had come from) is now filled with smoke “from the glory of God and from His power” and this made it so “no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.” No one can approach the presence of God until these judgments are _____ on the wicked.

-“No one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels should be finished; that is, _____ was no longer possible. God had shut up His tender mercies (Ps. 77:9).” (178)