## Revelation 15:1-8

## Review...

- OUTLINE...
  - o THREE times PAST PRESENT FUTURE Revelation 1:19
  - o THREE events RAPTURE WRATH RETURN of Jesus
  - o THREE judgements SEAL TRUMPET and BOWL judgments
- Reaping the Harvest...
  - o The War...
    - We saw the WAR in heaven as the DRAGON [satan] is cast out **Revelation 12:9**
    - The BEAST will then go to WAR with the SAINTS and be VICTORIOUS Revelation 13:7
    - False Prophet will make the world WORSHIP the BEAST take the MARK– **Revelation 13:16**
  - o God responds by doing THREE things:
    - He will send 144 thousand to proclaim the Gospel [all SEVEN years of the Tribulation]
    - He will send THREE angels:
      - FIRST to proclaim the Gospel to the WHOLE world in EVERY language...
      - SECOND to declare the fall of BABYLON Revelation 17-18
      - THIRD to warn the world NOT to take the MARK everlasting judgment [lake of fire]
    - He will begin the Harvest:
      - FIRST Jesus will harvest the SAINTS those who are weary....
      - SECOND the ANGEL will harvest the WICKED in the WINEPRESS of the wrath of God...
      - Armageddon the blood will flow TWO meters high for THREE hundred kilometers!

## THE BOWL JUDGEMENTS...

- $1^{ST}$  END OF WRATH... VS. 1
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Sign in Heaven... vs. 1
    - Then I saw another sign in heaven great and marvelous!
    - John saw ANOTHER [ἄλλος] sign in Heaven [the last of THREE sings in heaven]
    - FIRST was the SIGN of the WOMAN [Israel] given birth to the SON [Jesus] **Revelation 12:1**
    - SECOND was the SIGN of the DRAGON [satan] who went to WAR in heaven Revelation 12:3
    - But this THIRD and FINAL sign is different it is GREAT [μέγας] and MARVELOUS [θαυμαστός]
    - It is GREAT because it will mark the END of the TRIBULATION!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Last plagues... vs. 1
    - Seven angels having the seven last plagues for in them the wrath of God is complete!
    - John saw SEVEN angels holding the SEVEN last [final] PLAGUES...
    - These represent the FINAL effort by God to get the attention of a SINFUL world...
    - Once they are DONE the WRATH [θυμός] of God will be COMPLETE [τελέω]
    - WRATH [θυμός] 18x in NT 10x in the book of Revelation!
    - We tend to look at HARDSHIPS in a negative light why would God allow BAD things to happen..
    - But it is the HARDSHIPS of life that bring us to the end of ourselves II Corinthians 12:10
    - God desiring to get our attention will allow life to FALL apart...
    - But God will NOT strive with men forever there is a LIMIT Genesis 6:3
    - And when God is DONE [τελέω] the opportunity to call out for salvation will CLOSE...
    - Jesus will ride out of heaven to JUDGE all who have rejected Him Revelation 19:15
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Song of the Saints... vs. 2-4
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Sea of Glass... vs. 2

- I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire!
- John saw a SEA of glass presumably around the THRONE of God Revelation 4:6
- The first time we saw this SEA it was CLEAR [crystal] but now it is mixed with FIRE...
- FIRST this could speak of the JUDGMENT of God His FIERY wrath...
- SECOND it could also be a reference to COLOR it was the RED sea!
- This seems to better fit the context as we will see the reference to MOSES Revelation 15:3
- The idea being God had done the impossible AGAIN...
- He parted the SEA to allow His PEOPLE to escape the wrath of the KING [beast]!
- God does NOT change the same God who saved Israel from Egypt...
- Is the same God who can give us Victory in our lives today...
- And He is the same LORD who saves the Tribulation saints from the Beast!
- Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and to day and forever."
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> The Victory... vs. 2
  - Those who have the victory over the beast over his image and over his mark...
  - And over the number of his name standing on the sea of glass having harps of God!
  - Standing on the SEA are those who are VICTORIOUS [νικάω]
  - VICTORIOUS because they did NOT worship the IMAGE of the Beast or take his MARK [666]
  - Therefore they were MARTYRED for their FAITH in Jesus Revelation 20:4
  - DEATH might not seem like much of a VICTORY but everyone DIES…
  - The question is where do we stand AFTER death!
  - When Esther was urged my Mordecai to go and plead for her people before the KING...
  - She hesitated because to stand before the king uninvited meant death Esther 4:11
  - To try and STAND in the presence of the LORD on our own merit would mean DEATH…
  - But those who come through Jesus forgiven by His Grace...
  - Will be able to not just STAND before His THRONE they will WORSHIP [harps]
  - Because through Jesus we have been given VICTORY over SIN and DEATH!
  - **I Corinthians 15:55-57** "Death where is your sting? Hell where is your victory... Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> First and Last songs... vs. 3
  - They sing the song of Moses the servant of God!
    - FIRST song that the Tribulation Saints sing is the SONG of MOSES **Exodus 15:1-18**
    - It is worth noting this is the FIRST song in the ENTIRE Bible...
    - Written by MOSES after they crossed the RED sea...
    - It is a SONG about how God delivered His people from a WICKED King!
  - The song of the Lamb!
    - SECOND song that the Tribulation Saints sing is the SONG of the LAMB **Revelation 5:9-10**
    - A song about how God saves us by the BLOOD of the LAMB [Jesus]
    - The combined SONG Moses and the Lamb is the LAST song in the ENTIRE Bible!
    - When we put these two SONGS together they are the BOOKENDS of a great truth...
    - God DELIVERS His people through the BLOOD [sacrifice] of Jesus!
- o  $4^{th}$  What they Sing... vs. 3-4
  - Works of God... vs. 3
    - Great and marvelous are Your works Lord God Almighty!
    - FIRST they sing about the WORKS of God NOT in GENERAL...
    - This is a SPECIFIC reference to the final SEVEN plagues...
    - We know this because of the description GREAT [μέγας] and MARVELOUS [θαυμαστός]
    - The same description given of the final PLAGUES **Revelation 15:1**
    - PLAGUES given by the LORD [κύριος] He is the one who is CONTROL…

- Who is the ONLY God [ὁ θεός] the ALMIGHTY all [παζ] powerful [κράτος]!
- Ways of God... vs. 3
  - Just and true are Your ways 0 King of the saints!
  - SECOND they sing about the WAYS of God TWO things:
  - JUST [δίκαιος] the WAYS of God are RIGHT He does nothing WRONG...
  - TRUE [ἀληθινός] the WAYS of God are TRUE **John 14:6**
  - And to those who are willing to follow His WAYS make Him their KING...
  - They will become SAINTS  $[\alpha\gamma \log]$  called out of the world to live for God!
  - We live in a WORLD that is upside down a WORLD that does not know God...
  - When it is a crime in some countries to pray in public places or bring a Bible into school...
  - But where homosexuality and abortion are protected by the Law!
  - The WORLD would love for us to question the TRUTH...
  - What is right for you may not be what is right for me everything is RELATIVE...
  - Event Pontius Pilate famously said to Jesus what is TRUTH John 18:38
  - But it does not matter what MEN say they are all LIARS Romans 3:4
  - The Bible is our GUIDE to show us the WAY in a backwards world it is the TRUTH!
  - John 17:17 "Your word is truth." also Psalm 119:160
- Character of God... vs. 4
  - Who shall not fear You O Lord and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.
  - THIRD they SING about the Character of God...
  - He alone is HOLY [ὅσιος] meaning He has NO sin…
  - Which is in direct CONTRAST to everyone else we are ALL sinners **Psalm 14:3**
  - Which is why ALL will [οὐ μὴ subjunctive] FEAR the Lord [κύριος] GLORIFY His name!
  - There are NOT going to be any debates on about RIGHT and WRONG in heaven...
  - God is RIGHT and we are WRONG case closed...
  - The WISDOM is to recognize that NOW and FEAR [passive] the LORD **Psalm 111:10**
  - Because today is the day of SALVATION God does NOT guarantee tomorrow!
- Who will worship God... vs. 4
  - All nations shall come and worship before You for Your judgments have been manifested!
  - FOURTH they will SING about WHO will come to WORSHIP...
  - The answer is ALL nations [ $\xi\theta vo\varsigma$ ] will come before the Lord...
  - That does NOT mean that EVERYONE will be saved but they will ALL bow!
  - Romans 14:11 "Every knee shall bow to Me and every tongue shall confess to God."
  - There is a common teaching today that says that HELL does not exist...
  - The TERROR of being eternally separated with NO hope of escape is too much to accept...
  - The common view is either that BAD people just cease to exist annihilationism...
  - Or that there is some sort of penance purgatory that gives them a SECOND chance!
  - But HELL is very real the New Testament references it FORTY times...
  - It is called Hades [ἄδης] ELEVEN times Gehenna [γέεννα] TWELVE times
  - Outer darkness THREE times [Matthew] the furnace of fire TWO times [Matthew]
  - Lake of Fire FIVE times [Revelation] Weeping gnashing of teeth SEVEN times [Matthew]
  - We do NOT get to choose whether or not to WORSHIP God...
  - We only Get to choose WHEN either now in SALVATION or later in CONDEMNATION...
  - When the LAST thing a person will ever see is the WHITE throne **Revelation 20:11**
  - Before they are cast into outer DARKNESS forever Revelation 14:11

- 3<sup>RD</sup> Bowls of Wrath... vs. 5-8
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Holy of Holies... vs. 5
    - The Tabernacle...
      - After these things I looked and behold.
      - The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened!
      - After the SONG [μετὰ ταῦτα] John saw the TEMPLE open behold [imperative]
      - Note the TEMPLE  $[\nu\alpha\dot{o}\varsigma]$  here is mentioned as part of the TABERNACLE of Testimony...
      - It would seem this is a reference to a room inside the TABERNACLE the HOLY of holies!
      - God told Moses to build the TABERNACLE it was patterned after heaven **Hebrews 8:5**
      - The COURTYARD was where the Altar of Sacrifice was Exodus 40:6
      - It was where men were allowed to come and offer sacrifices for their sin...
      - The HOLY place- where the Menorah and Altar of Incense was **Exodus 40:4-5**
      - Only the priests were allowed to enter II Chronicles 23:6
      - The HOLY of holies was where the Ark of the Covenant was [First temple] **Exodus 26:34**
      - Was SEALED off from men by a CURTAIN only the High Priest could enter Leviticus 16
    - From the Holy Place...
      - The HOLY of holies was already open [aorist] the SEVENTH trumpet Revelation 11:19
      - When the ARK of the covenant was revealed [solving the mystery of what happened to it]
      - What John sees here is what comes OUT of the HOLY of holies!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Seven Angles... vs. 6
    - Seven plagues...
      - Out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues...
      - Clothed in pure bright linen and having their chests girded with golden bands!
      - SEVEN angels came out of the HOLY of holies...
      - Each of them was carrying on of the SEVEN final PLAGUES...
      - The ANGLES were clothed in LINEN [cloth] that was CLEAN and BRIGHT...
      - With a GOLDEN band around their chests!
    - Wedding attire...
      - There is some speculation as to whom these ANGELS are...
      - Some say they are the same ANGELS who blew the SEVEN trumpets **Revelation 8:2**
      - But the description of their clothes matches the BRIDE of Christ [church] Revelation 19:8
      - And the golden band is the same as what JESUS wears **Revelation 1:13**
      - If you have ever gone to a wedding the wedding party has special outfits...
      - The color coordinate to match the BRIDE and the GROOM...
      - It almost seems like these ANGELS are in the WEDDING party...
      - They match their outfits to the CHURCH and JESUS...
      - The GIFTS they bring to the WEDDING the final JUDGMENTS of God!
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> Bowls of Wrath... vs. 7
    - Then 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!
    - One of the four CHERUBIM gave each of the SEVEN angels a golden BOWL...
    - BOWL [ $\phi$ ιάλη] a wide pan that can easily empty all its contents...
    - And the BOWLS were filled with the WRATH  $[\theta \nu \mu \delta \varsigma]$  of God who lives FOREVER and EVER!
    - We have already seen the SEVEN seal judgments Revelation 6-8
    - We also seen the SEVEN trumpet judgments Revelation 8-11
    - Thought to unfold over the last THREE and a HALF years of Tribulation!
  - o 4<sup>th</sup> Glory of the Lord... vs. 8
    - The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power...

- No one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed!
- The HOLY of holies  $[\nu\alpha\delta\varsigma]$  filled with SMOKE from the GLORY  $[\delta\delta\xi\alpha]$  of God...
- Making it so no one had the POWER [δύναμαι] to enter...
- Until the SEVEN final BOWLS of wrath had been COMPLETED [τελέω]!
- When the GLORY of LORD filled the TABERNACLE in the wilderness...
- Even MOSES was not able to go inside!
- **Exodus 40:35** "Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting because the cloud rested above it and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."
- The imagery is intentional it tells us WHO will bring the final JUDGEMENT...
- The ANGELS who came out of the TEMPLE and the BOWLS they will pour out...
- Are being sent by the LORD whose GLORY will fill the TEMPLE...
- And once it begins NO one can come in and STOP it…
- The FINAL judgement has begun and it will conclude with the RETURN of Jesus Christ!