

Revelation 15:1-8

REVIEW...

- **OUTLINE...**

- THREE times – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE – **Revelation 1:19**
- THREE events – RAPTURE – WRATH – RETURN of Jesus
- THREE judgements – SEAL – TRUMPET – and BOWL judgments

- **Reaping the Harvest...**

- 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**
- 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...

- **1ST – END OF WRATH... vs. 1**

- 1st – 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 signs 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!

- 2nd – 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**

- **2ND – SONG OF THE SAINTS... vs. 2-4**

- 1st – 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 2nd – 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 3rd – 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 4th – 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 [πᾶς] powerful [κράτος]!
- Ways of God... vs. 3
 - Just and true are Your ways - O 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 [ἅγιος] – 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 **Psalms 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 [ἅγιος] – meaning He has NO sin...
 - Which is in direct CONTRAST to everyone else – we are ALL sinners – **Psalms 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 – **Psalms 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 [ἔθνος] 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 [ᾗδης] – 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**

● 3RD – BOWLS OF WRATH... vs. 5-8

o 1st – 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 [ναός] 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 2nd – 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 3rd – 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 [φιάλη] – a wide pan that can easily empty all its contents...
- And the BOWLS were filled with the WRATH [θυμός] 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 4th – 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 [ναὸς] filled with SMOKE from the GLORY [δόξα] of God...
- Making it so no one had the POWER [δύναμις] 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!