

THE VISION OF THE BOWL JUDGEMENTS

Revelation 15:1-8

THE END OF THE TRIBULATION IS IN SIGHT. Revelation 15:1

The chronology of the Tribulation begins again with Chapter 15. Chapters 12 through 14 have been a parenthetical section giving us information about the events of the Tribulation, but not moving ahead in the sequence of time. Now the events in the timing of the narrative begin again. Chapters 15 and 16 describe the last seven judgments of the Tribulation called the Bowl or Vial judgments. John sees another sign in the sky (heaven) he describes as great and marvelous. He sees seven angels who will begin a last and final series of judgments (plagues) upon the earth. The word "filled up" is the same word Christ used on the Cross when He said it is finished. (John 19:30) This is the completion of God's preparing the earth for the coming millennial reign of Christ. (See Zephaniah 3:8)

THE SEA OF GLASS. Revelation 15:2-4

John then sees the Tribulation saints that have been murdered because they refused to worship to the Antichrist. They are said to have "overcame by the blood of the Lamb" meaning because they believed and were saved their deaths ushered them into heaven. (Rev. 12:11) These saints are said to be standing on what appears to be a sea of glass mingled with fire. In Revelation 4:6, four beasts are present also which would seem to suggest that this is the same sea John had seen earlier. John first described it as like a crystal in Revelation 4, but now as "mingled with fire."

Those saints present had lost their very lives for the sake of Christ and now the victory they had won was apparent. Death for the saints even at the hand of the Antichrist was but a door to enter into the presence of the Lord. Those on earth who had killed them thought they had defeated them, yet in truth it was they that were the victors.

They image of the beast had seemed all powerful, yet they being in Christ, had defeated even this fearful and powerful enemy. They had gotten victory over the image of the beast, the mark of the beast and the number of his name. Almost all on earth at this time had received the mark and were thus condemned. They received the mark to save their lives and lost their souls. Only a small number of saved believers are left on earth.

These saints are singing, the "song of Moses, the servant of God" and "the song of the Lamb." Many believe the song of Moses refers to Deuteronomy 31-32. This song was one of praise unto God because of his greatness and majesty. We should note that this is not a Christian song, but a song sung by Israel and further notes that this scene is not of Christians of the Church Age, but of Tribulation saints looking for the coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

It is interesting to note that when songs are sung in the Bible they always praise God. The writer of these notes has always taken exception to the many modern "gospel" songs because of this example of Scripture. You do not honor God by singing the praises of man. If man is anything, it is only because God made him so. Many of our songs praise men, but this is not the example of singing in the Bible. Biblical songs honor God. What beautiful words: "Great and marvelous are **THY** works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are **THY** ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou **ONLY** art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for **THY** judgments are made manifest" (Rev. 15:3-4)

It should also be noted that in the Bible angels are never presented as singing. Here in Revelation 15:2-3 there it is men, the redeemed of God, who are playing harps and singing unto the Lord.

THE JUDGING ANGELS COME FORTH FROM THE "TEMPLE OF THE TABERNACLE." Revelation 15:5-8

The "temple of the tabernacle" is the "Holy of Holies" where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. The Holy of Holies in the tabernacle was not seen by the people and was only entered once each year on the Day of Atonement, when the blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat, which was in the center of the Ark. Now the Holy of Holies is opened so that all can see God's truth. The testimony refers to the faithfulness of God in honoring His promises. Here it refers to God's promise to destroy those who reject Him and persecute His saints. Now from the very presence of God come seven angels who are clothed in white linen, wearing golden girdles. (Rev. 15:6)

One of the four beasts of Revelation 4:6 give the each of the seven angels a "vial" or bowl in which is a portion (part) of the wrath of God. (Rev. 15:7) The temple is then filled with smoke, this closing verse of Chapter 15, states no man could enter into the temple while the judgments were being poured out. Clearly God is limiting access to himself. He is saying nothing can stop the proceeding judgments. It is as if God closes His senses to hearing any plea for mercy. This shows the finality of this judgment and the conclusion of the longsuffering of the Lord. God has repeatedly that warned judgment would come on the ungodly. Yet, every chance God could give the unsaved for salvation is rejected. There can now be no final plea. Those who worshipped the beast are doomed. They have chosen their fate and now there no hope.