

Revelation 15:1-8 (NIV)

¹ I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God ³ and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

⁴ Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

⁵ After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.

⁶ Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.

⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

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3-3-24

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One thing Revelation describes is what Jesus called Great Tribulation, with 3 series of judgments—seals, trumpets, bowls! When the seventh trumpet blasted, there was no immediate judgment, instead an over-all picture of the end time was shown forth:

- ⇒ **In Rev. 12:1-5** there was a picture of Israel being chosen as the nation through which God would send His Son Jesus Christ coming to the earth as the Savior of the world.
- ⇒ **In Rev. 12:6-17** there was the picture of the dragon, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, working to get men to be ungodly and evil—all because he wants to cut and hurt the heart of God.
- ⇒ **In Rev. 13:1-18** there was the picture of the antichrist and of his right hand man (false prophet) coming upon the earth, the picture of how they will gain and consolidate power over the whole earth and launch the worst holocaust the world has ever seen.
- ⇒ **In Rev. 14:1-20** there was the glorious picture of the very end of the world when Jesus Christ triumphs over all the ungodly and evil of this world, the picture of Jesus Christ harvesting the earth, of His taking believers to heaven with Him and judging unbelievers.

In Rev. 15, what follows is God's version of fast and furious.

God has decided to stop all the ungodliness and evil of the earth. He will no longer take the rebellion, injustice, denial, cursing, immorality, stealing, drunkenness, sorcery, and murder of man. Therefore, it's time for justice to be served. Jesus **Christ will** destroy all the ungodly and evil of this world and do it quickly. **Remember:** the whole tribulation period will last seven years, yet will be divided into two periods: the first three and one half years and is called *the beginning of sorrows*. The last three-and one-half years is called *the great tribulation*.

Chapter 15 speaks of the 7 angels with the 7 last plagues – God's judgment!

"I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues--last, because with them God's wrath is completed.

John sees a great & marvelous sign (sign at which to marvel).

7 angels...7 last plagues. 7 is God's number of perfection or completion.

His justice is ready to be executed upon earth, which means His wrath against all the ungodly and evil upon this earth is ready to fall. **Not only** has there been gross immorality, but believers will be raped, slaughtered at the hands of the antichrist, his regime, and those who follow him. **At this** point of the Great Tribulation, God will be ready to clean up the earth and bring the reign of godliness and righteousness, love and joy, peace and glory. **Today is** the day of salvation! We must repent and be ready before it is too late.

² **And I saw** what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.

The martyred believers will be on the sea of glass that stretches out before the throne of God itself (**Rev. 4:6** "Before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal..."). **Note that** the glass is mingled with fire. This symbolizes...

- the *fire of persecution* these dear believers went through.
- the *fire of judgment* that is about to fall upon the ungodly and evil of the earth.

2. The martyred believers will be victorious over the antichrist. They...

- will not worship his image (**Rev. 13:15**).
- will not receive his mark (**Rev. 13:16-17**), or the number of his name, the number of 666 (**Rev. 13:18**).

It is said that they were victorious over the beast! Victorious is not that they made it out or through unscathed, but that they didn't give in! They may have been tortured/martyred, but they remained faithful!



^{2b} **They held** harps given them by God...

These martyred believers will possess harps—symbols of being soothed, given rest, worship.

³ and sang the song of Moses the servant of God... (Exodus 15:1-19). After God brought the Israelites through the Red Sea and destroyed the pursuing Egyptian army, Moses led them in a great song of praise. Moses' sister



Miriam led the women as they danced for joy, playing their tambourines and singing a response to each of the verses of the song. The song's keynote is the Lord's triumph and the fact He had become their salvation. Singing Moses' song here anticipates victory over the beast as God's people celebrate God's faithfulness!

and [they sang] the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. ⁴ Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Great & marvelous [full of wonder] are Your deeds... Lord (supreme in authority) God Almighty All-ruling/all-powerful divine One Just and true are your ways (means/methods).

Who will not fear You (revere/be in awe) and bring glory (to honor/magnify) You alone are holy... (song?)

WE ARE A BRIDE, GETTING READY TO MEET UP WITH OUR GROOM...FOR ETERNITY!

Philippians 2:7-11 (NLT2) [Jesus] "...gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



⁵ After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened. ⁶ Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests.

A glorious, yet terrifying scene. The 7 angels with the last 7 plagues came out of the "tabernacle of the testimony" (refers to the inner sanctuary of the OT Tabernacle---the Holy of Holies—the very presence of God Himself.

SHINING LINEN... GOLD SASHES—a symbol of royalty/authority/power.

In OT, Moses came out of God's presence with a shining glow, here angels – shining linen/golden sashes. All of this represents the purity, the holiness, the righteousness of God. You can't be in God's presence and not be affected.

JUST SAYING THOSE WORDS—I FEEL LIKE HUMANITY (myself included) DOESN'T KNOW OR KEEP IN MIND WHAT THIS REALLY MEANS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF IT...! In v4 "...who will not fear you...bring glory to your Name...for You alone are holy!"

What have we missed in order to understand the holiness of God?

Isaiah 6 – The prophet Isaiah, encounters the presence of God. Isaiah 6:1-7 (NLT2) It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ² Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³ They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" ⁴ Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven." Seraphim covered their faces...cried out holy (3x)...the Temple shook to its foundations...the bldg. filled w/ smoke. The prophet knew he was doomed – his sinfulness stood out next to God's holiness! When has your sinfulness caused you to feel doomed! When have you wept over your sin?

FRANCIS CHAN SHOWED A VIDEO CLIP OF THOUSANDS OF UGANDAN TEENS ENTHUSIASTICALLY PRAISING GOD. HE ASKED, 'Who wants to live for Jesus and make Him famous?' There was thunderous shouting, hands up, jumping up and down, etc. Later, he mentioned sin and saw a blank look on their faces. A local ministry leader told him that in the next week, ½ or more would probably go out and get drunk or sleep around. There's a human disconnect in loving/worshipping Jesus and living holy before Jesus. Yet, a holy God says they are connected!

We don't make up for sin by coming to church or throwing some money in the plate. When these angels go out from the presence of God, reflecting the glory of God, they are commissioned to exercise judgment.

God's righteousness and His justice are now to be exercised throughout the world.

⁷ **Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.**

Again, whatever the 7 bowls of judgment will be, 7 is the number of perfection/completion.

John 3:36 (NKJV) He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

MAY THE WORSHIP TEAM COME

⁸ **And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.**

No one could enter the temple... no approaching God...no intercession. Mercy is over—now comes judgment!

Remember when Isaiah saw the Lord "in His temple," **Isaiah 6:3-4 (NKJV)** the angels "cried to [one] another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" ⁴ **And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.**

Just prior to Moses receiving the 10 Commandments from God, God told Moses to tell the people to consecrate themselves... **Exodus 19:16-17 (NLT2)** On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram's horn, and all the people trembled. ¹⁷ **Moses** led them out from the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

They trembled in the presence of God! In the NT, it says...

Hebrews 12:18-29 (NLT2) "You have not come to a physical mountain, to a place of flaming fire, darkness, gloom, and whirlwind, as the Israelites did at Mount Sinai. ¹⁹ **For they** heard an awesome trumpet blast and a voice so terrible that they begged God to stop speaking. ²⁰ **They staggered** back under God's command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." ²¹ **Moses** himself was so frightened at the sight that he said, "I am terrified and trembling."

²² **No, ...** ²⁴ You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

²⁵ **Be careful** that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven!

²⁶ **When** God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also."

²⁷ **This means** that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain.

²⁸ **Since we** are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a devouring fire.