

The Church of the Servant King

www.cotsk.org

PROPHECY SERIES

(Proph21Q_Revelation_chp15_Prelude to the Bowl Judgments)

A brief recap of the themes of the previous chapters will re-orient us to the context for our study of Chapter 15.

- Chapter 12 – Satan’s expulsion from heaven followed by Satan’s intensified efforts to eliminate the Jews and Israel
- Chapter 13 – Description of Satan’s two human agents (i.e. the two beasts) through whom he executes his strategy
- Chapter 14 – A proleptic view of the Lord’s victory over the forces of Satan – a victory not detailed until chapter 19 – designed to assure readers of the triumph of believers and the ultimate judgment of unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation.

Chapter 15 will introduce us to the most terrible of all of the visions which affect the earth – the seven bowl or vial judgments (corresponding to the seventh Trumpet judgment and the third woe). These are described in chapter 16.

Revelation 15

And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished. 2 And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had come off victorious from the beast and from his image and from the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying,

GREAT AND MARVELOUS ARE THY WORKS,
O LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY;
RIGHTEOUS AND TRUE ARE THY WAYS,
THOU KING OF THE NATIONS.

4 WHO WILL NOT FEAR, O LORD, AND GLORIFY THY NAME?
FOR THOU ALONE ART HOLY;
FOR ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE THEE,
FOR THY RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED.

5 After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, 6 and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen clean and bright, and girded around their breasts with golden girdles. 7 And 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. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

Verse	Phrase	Notes
1	“...seven angels who had seven plagues...”	These seven angels should not be confused with the two groups of three angels in the preceding chapter (14:6-20) or with any other previous groups of angels. These seven angels will be the angels who are given the responsibility for executing or administering the seven bowl or vial judgments of chapter 16.

The Church of the Servant King

www.cotsk.org

1	“...in them the wrath of God is finished...”	These last seven plagues finalize God’s administration of justice (His “wrath”) toward Satan and those who have aligned with Satan in Satan’s attempt to prevent God from fulfilling His express purpose – i.e. the redemption of Israel, the fulfillment of His covenants with Israel and the redemption or restoration of dominion over the earth to man.
2	“...a sea of glass mixed with fire...”	<p>This is probably the same sea that is mentioned in Rev 4:6 and it corresponds to the multitude of redeemed humans described in 7:9-17. Their numbers are not given, so they appear to be distinct from, if not include the 144,000 who are mentioned in chapters 7 and 14. They contain the remnant of the woman’s seed (i.e. believing Jews) that Satan seeks to destroy after he is cast from heaven (Rev 12:17).</p> <p>Accordingly, the “sea of glass mixed with fire” is a metaphor for the location or presence of believers of the Tribulation who are now seen to be in heaven.</p> <p>They are combined with the fire of judgment that God will pour out in answer to the prayers of the redeemed (see the 5th Seal – the cry of the martyrs in 6:9-11).</p> <p>The book of Revelation contains several allusions to or comparisons between God’s deliverance of the Jews from Egypt and the future deliverance of Jews from Satan’s snare during the Tribulation.</p>
3	“...they sang the song of Moses the bond-servant of God and the song of the Lamb...”	<p>The description seems to be of two songs – 1) the “song of Moses the bond-servant of God” and 2) the “song of the Lamb.” The former seems to be a reference to Exodus 15 where Moses and all of Israel sang a song of praise to God for their deliverance through the Red Sea.</p> <p>The latter seems to be a reference to Deuteronomy 32 – a song that Moses compiled that recounted the history of the nation and its relationship to Yahweh. God commanded Moses to compile this song in Deuteronomy 31:19-22, 28-29. (Note Moses’ specific mention of the evil that will befall Israel and the apostasy that will occur during the “latter days.” The result would be judgment at the hand of God. Certainly, during the Tribulation, God will execute judgment (justice) against Jew and Gentile who align with Satan and his minions in opposition to God’s plan.</p> <p>So, these two songs commemorate God’s deliverance of His own and His judgment upon those opposed to His plan.</p>
3-4	The song	This song that predicts universal praise and worship is in keeping with many other Scripture and relates to the 2 nd Coming and the worship of Christ that will attend the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom (Psa 2:8-9; 24:1-10; 66:1-4; 72:8-11; 86:9-12; Isa 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 66:18-23; Jer 10:7; Dan 7:14; Zeph 2:11; Zech 14:9).
5	“...the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven...”	We have previously noted at length the fact that the tabernacle and temple on earth was designed to be a mirror of the reality in heaven.
7	“...one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God...”	The four living creatures were first introduced in Revelation 4. We have observed that these four living creatures represent the present groaning creation and serve as a surety that its groaning will one day be removed followed by a restoration to its redeemed and original state. The hope for the future redemption of the earth was given when they were first placed in the garden of Eden.

		We first see them in connection with the Fall and serving in a guardian capacity relative the Garden of Eden which contains the tree of Life. All of creation was affected by the Fall of man and is described to be eagerly awaiting its redemption and restoration (Rom 8:19-21).
--	--	---