

Revelation 15

Prelude to the Bowl Judgments

The _____ of this book are drawing to a close. Those immediately before us are meant to indicate the _____ judgments which must fall on the world, out of the ruin and from it there shall emerge the new heavens and the new earth.

John casts his eyes, not downward, but _____. He beholds two groups of beings in the upper realm. The first is composed of seven _____ who have seven plagues, which are the last. The second is composed of great _____—of those who, while the struggle was going on below, soared out of it, and were victorious.

It seemed as if all was ended with the _____ and the _____, of which we are told in the close of the previous chapter.

But what is here given in the chapters that follow is the more detailed setting forth of the Divine _____ upon the Church's three great _____—the dragon and the two beasts; or, in other words, the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

In reply, we may say that what is right anywhere is right _____; and if it were right for Israel to exult over the dead Egyptians and the utter destruction of Pharaoh and his hosts—as surely it was—then like exultation over far worse foes cannot be wrong.

A. Those victorious over the beast.

1. (1) Seven angels with seven plagues.

(1) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

But now John will go back and describe God's judgment in more _____. This idea of stating and re-stating in more detail is _____ with prophecy, and with Hebrew literature in general.

Once more we have a new departure, John, as it were, returning to the _____ in order to trace the course of the punishments inflicted on men for their worship of the devil.

The _____ is what is described in the following account.

John describes what he sees subsequently, as if all the actors were present at _____ moment. In reality, he sees the actions of the "seven angels" in _____.

They are the _____ plagues, because they lead on to the description of the final fall of the power of the devil in its various forms, and to the account of the _____ judgment of God and the eternal bliss of the saints in glory.

These seven last plagues are God's judgment on a disobedient and contrary world. Here, the hot wrath of God will fulfill an _____ purpose.

2. (2) A multitude on the sea of glass.

(2) And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and 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.

"And I saw" indicates a _____ phase of the vision.

The sea was like _____, either because of its pure transparent appearance, or on account of its consistency; the saints being subsequently described as standing on it.

The fire is an emblem of _____; the same idea is also conveyed by the "crystal." Fire is also a symbol of _____, which is the theme of the song of the saints (Rev 4).

These victorious ones stand *on* the _____. These are those who were victorious over the beast through their _____ unto death.

They are not those who _____ the tribulation.

The early church consistently described the day of martyrdom as "a day of _____."

The sea is designed to reflect the _____ of God.

Here the sea mingled with fire speaks of _____ judgment proceeding from God's holiness.

Perhaps they might say that these saints are *standing on the* _____.

The "harps" are characteristic of the heavenly _____.

The only people seen with harps before were the twenty-four _____ (Rev_5:8). These tribulation martyrs are given the blessing of worshiping God with _____ in heaven.

3. (3-4) Their song of praise.

(3) They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! (4) Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

Only one song is sung, but this song goes by two _____ (the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb). The two titles refer to a _____ song.

Most probably the song of deliverance after the passage of the _____ (Exodus 15:1-27), to which this bears a general resemblance.

The song of Moses is also the song of the _____.

The three clauses supply the reason for fearing and glorifying God, as mentioned in the first part of the verse.

(1) He himself is in his nature _____;

(2) his sway extends over _____ nations;

(3) the righteousness of his acts is now _____ to all.

If we ask and answer four questions, we shall know as much about the song and the singers as it is possible to do in this state. The four queries are:

(1) _____ are singing the song?

(2) At what _____?

(3) What are the _____ of it?

(4) _____ is it being sung?

WHO ARE SINGING THE SONG? They "that come _____ from the beast" They it is who now are _____ the song.

WHEN? TO WHAT TIME DOES THE APOSTLE POINT US? we must remember that we are already more than two thousand years onward, and therefore that the struggles of this present time are _____ from the Patmos standpoint.

A further indication of time is given in Rev 15:4, "*All nations shall come and worship*"—_____.

WHAT OF THE SONG ITSELF?

1. *It has a remarkable _____.* "

2. *It has _____ accompaniments.*

3. *Its contents are _____.*

(1) It celebrates Divine _____. "*Thou only art holy.*"

(2) It magnifies the rectitude of the Divine _____. "*Righteous and true are thy ways.*"

(3) In it the Divine _____ is extolled. "*King of the ages; 'The Almighty.'*"

(4) It finds _____ in the manifestation of the righteous acts of God.

(5) The certainty of the coming _____ gladdens their hearts.

WHERE IS THE SONG BEING SUNG? "*I saw ... them ... standing by the glassy sea*" And the underlying thought which that imagery conveys is this—they stand now in the realm of _____, like as Israel of old when they saw their enemies dead upon the seashore.

In view of all this, let us note:

1. It is not for nothing that we are asked to maintain the _____ with evil, in the Name and on behalf of our Lord.

2. However much perplexity and distress the mystery of the Divine ways may occasion us now, we may rest assured that when God's judgments are made manifest, they will be the theme of adoring _____.

3. Meanwhile it is an infinite comfort and stay to our _____ amid this troubled scene, to have had sketched beforehand for us the tribulations through which we must enter the kingdom, and the glories of the kingdom in which we shall _____ when the tribulation is over.

B. Seven angels are given seven bowls of judgment.

1. (5-6) Seven angels, distinctively clothed.

(5) After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. (6) And 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.

This is the characteristic commencement of a _____ vision or portion of a vision. The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was _____.

Hebrews 8:5 reminds us that the tabernacle God told Moses to build was based on a heavenly _____.

The "temple" is the inner shrine, the holy of Holies which contained the _____ of the testimony, which in Rev 11 is seen in connection with the judgments of God.

These angels are distinguished from the other angels only by the fact that they bore the seven _____. These they have not yet, but they receive them (the plagues) directly _____.

Clothed in pure and _____ linen, and having their breasts girded with _____ girdles.

These angels bring God's _____. It is significant that they came directly from heavenly temple, from the presence and _____ of God. They do not act on their own authority, but God's.

Their clothing is a reminder that God's judgment is always completely _____ and righteous.

2. (7-8) The bowls are given; the cloud of God's glory fills the temple.

(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. (8) The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

These living creatures, as representing life on the _____, are appropriately chosen as the medium for conveying to the _____ the plagues about to be inflicted on men.

These bowls are broad, flat bowls or saucers used ritually for _____ or for pouring libations in _____.

They are really shallow, pan-like, golden bowls, or censers, such as were used in the temple to hold the _____ when incense was burned.

The temple was filled with _____ from the glory of God and from His power.

This is a reminder of God's special presence and _____, even in the midst of devastating judgment.

No one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were _____: This declares that judgment was now _____.

Just as when God manifested his presence on Sinai the people were not allowed to approach, so here no one is allowed to approach the _____ place of God, while He is manifesting his judgments. The description is intended to convey an impression of the awful _____ of God's presence.

"The wrath of God."

WHAT IS IT? "The wrath of God" is simply that _____ of God which forever has linked together sin and suffering; that will by which woe follows _____ everywhere and always. It is calm, not passionate; unrelenting, not impulsive; ever just, as man's wrath too often is not; and never selfish, is ours too often is.

IS TERRIBLE TO EVIL DOERS. And, separate from all symbol, see how everywhere and always and evermore, suffering, like a _____, tracks the steps of sin, and sooner or later fastens its fangs in the sinful man or sinful people.

WILL HAVE AN END. The purpose of His will being accomplished by the ablation of sin, there shall no longer be occasion for _____.

The day will dawn when there will no longer be need for any more _____, and when the last of them, they all having done their work, shall pass away forevermore.

IS CONSENTED TO BY ALL THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN. The saints, they celebrate its manifestation by their _____.

Even He who is the _____ of God, the Friend and Savior of sinners, consents; yes, more than this, for it is His song that his saints sing in celebration of these judgments of God.

EVIDENCES THE HOLINESS OF GOD. The _____ constrains the confession, "*Thou only art holy; Righteous and true are thy ways*"—so sing they who sing the song of Moses and of the Lamb.

WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE COMING "OF ALL NATIONS TO WORSHIP BEFORE" GOD. This most precious truth _____ the song that the saints sing. How could they sing if sin and suffering were to go on _____; if evil were to be eternal, or if the woes of the world meant the destruction of the world?

WARNS US TO FLEE FROM THE WICKEDNESS THAT AROUSES IT TO THE LOUD JESUS CHRIST. For He it is in whom we are sheltered _____ the wrath due to sin of the past, and from the power of sin present and future.