

Seven Angels with Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

Study 15. Part 1 – Introduction to the Bowls of Wrath. Revelation 15

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A. The Identification of a Great Sign in Heaven. 15:1

1. The magnitude of the sign. How did John characterize the sign he saw in heaven? _____ and _____
2. The identity of the sign. What did John see? _____

3. What was significant about this sign? _____
_____ ¹

B. The Great Choir. 15:2-4

1. What did John see next? 15:2a _____
_____ ²
2. Who was standing on this sea of glass? 15:2b _____
_____ ³
3. What were they holding? 15:2c _____

¹ 15:1 - because in them the wrath of God is finished: Better, "the **anger** of God is finished." Unfortunately, the translators of NASB did not distinguish sufficiently between *thumos* (2372), "anger," the word used in 15:1, 7, and the word *orge* (3709), "wrath," the word found elsewhere. Here is a listing of *thumos* (anger, 2372) in Revelation: Rev. 12:12; 14:8, 10, 19; 15:1, 7; 16:1, 19; 18:3; 19:15.

Next follows a listing of *orge* (wrath, 3709) in Revelation: Rev. 6:16, 17; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 19:15. Notice that both words are used in Rev. 14:10, 16:19, and 19:15. A distinction can be made in the book of Revelation in that *thumos* (2372), seems to be the outburst of anger that God feels against sin, while *orge* (3709) is the settled wrath which eventuates in action against unrepentant sinners. Both words in Revelation 15 (v. 1 and v. 7) are the word *thumos* (2372), anger.

² 15:2 - something like a sea of glass mixed with fire: Earlier, John described a sea of glass (Rev. 4:6). While the details are different, the two are probably the same.

³ 15:2 - those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name: These appear to be individuals who entered the Tribulation as unbelievers, the Church having been raptured prior to its beginning. As the Tribulation unfolded, their eyes were opened. Rather than submitting to the False Messiah and his blasphemous Identification / Surveillance program ("mark of the beast" – Rev. 13:13-18), these individuals trusted rather in Jesus, the true Messiah. The fact that they are now in heaven reveals that they were martyred for their faith in Jesus and their non-compliance with the totalitarian government of Man's "best and brightest." In the opinion of those who worshiped the Antichrist, these martyrs were losers. But in John's (and God's) view, they were "victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name" (Rev. 15:2, cf. 13:1-18).

4. They sang two songs. How were these songs identified? 15:3a
 - a. The song of _____⁴
 - b. The song of _____⁵
5. What did they sing about God's works? 15:3b _____

6. What did they sing about God's ways? 15:3c _____
_____⁶
7. What did they sing about the wisdom of worshipping God? 15:4a _____

8. What did they sing about the inevitability of worshipping God? 15:4c _____
_____⁷
9. What did they sing about appropriate causes for worshipping God?
 - a. God alone is _____ 15:4b
 - b. God's _____ have been revealed 15:4d

C. The Preparation of the Angels. 15:5-8

1. What was opened up in heaven? 15:5 _____
_____⁸

⁴ 15:3 - the song of Moses: Exodus 15:1-18 records a song associated with Moses. If this is the song sung by the heavenly choir, it is a fitting song, for it celebrated God's victory over the Egyptian army, the enemies of God's people, Israel. Deuteronomy 31:30 - 32:44 also records a song of Moses.

⁵ 15:3 - the song of the Lamb: Revelation 5:9-14 records two songs about the Lamb.

⁶ 15:3 - Psalm 145:17 and Hosea 14:9 speak of the LORD's ways as being righteous and right.

⁷ 15:4 - all the nations will come and worship before You: Other predictions include Psalm 86:9; Isa. 2:1-4; 66:23; Zech. 14:9, 16-19. This will be fulfilled initially during Christ's Millennial reign upon earth and ultimately, in New Jerusalem, New Earth (Rev. 22:3).

⁸ 15:5 - temple of the tabernacle of testimony: The word "temple" is *naos* (3485), and probably refers to the Holy of Holies of the original temple, the one in heaven. The earthly tabernacle (Exodus 25-31; 35-39) and temple (1 Kings 5-8) were models based on this heavenly temple. It is called the tabernacle of *testimony* because it contains the Word of God which the Earth-dwellers were trampling underfoot. God's Word is settled forever in heaven (Ps. 119:89), and it is the basis for the judgments

2. Who came out of the temple that is up in heaven? 15:6a _____

3. What were they wearing? 15:6b _____
_____ ⁹
4. Who gave seven golden bowls to the seven angels? 15:7a _____
_____ ¹⁰
5. What did the bowls contain? 15:7b _____
6. How did John describe God? 15:7c _____
7. With what was the temple filled? 15:8a _____
8. What was the source of this substance? 15:8b _____
9. What was the effect of the smoke? 15:8c _____
10. How long did the smoke last? 15:8d _____

D. Follow-Up Questions

1. The choir singing on the sea of glass were said to be “victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name” (15:2). How could they have been victorious if they had been put to death?
2. The choir sings, “All nations will come and worship before You” (15:4). This quotation is found in Ps. 86:9 and alluded to in Isa. 2:1-4 and 66:23. When will this take place?

meted out upon a rebellious earth below. See also Thomas Constable, Notes on Revelation, <http://www.soniclight.org/constable/notes/pdf/revelation.pdf>.

⁹ 15:6 - fine linen, clean and bright; golden sash: Rev. 1:13 depicts the glorified Messiah as wearing a golden sash across his chest; Rev. 19:7-8 depicts the bride of the Lamb as wearing fine linen, bright and clean, which is there said to refer to the righteous acts of the saints. Furthermore, the heavenly armies of the returning, conquering King Jesus are said to be clothed in fine linen, white and clean (Rev. 19:14).

¹⁰ 15:7 - one of the four living creatures: These are first described in Rev. 4:6-8. Which particular six-winged being John saw here, he did not reveal.

¹¹ 15:8 - the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple ...: Similar occurrences of the glory of God filling the tabernacle and temple, preventing anyone from entering, include Exod. 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chron. 5:13-14.

3. If you had to worship a global dictator or else lose the right to buy or sell anything, (Rev. 13:13-18; cf. 15:1-4) what would you do?
4. Rev. 15:7 speaks of seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God. Do you think people on earth have any idea of what it will be like when God pours out His wrath upon the earth? (See Revelation 16.)

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