

REVELATION Chapter 15

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, November 2014

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT: COMPLETE, EVERLASTING, AND WITHOUT MERCY! *When the trumpets were blown (Revelation 8-11) mercy was mixed with God's wrath, affecting only a third part and given that man might repent (Revelation 9:20-21). Now the narrow line separating God's mercy and wrath (Exodus 10:27; Matthew 12:32; Romans 1:24, 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12; 1 John 5:16) has been crossed and His wrath will not be mixed with mercy (Revelation 14:10) - we see **God as a consuming fire** (Hebrews 12:29).*

I. A SIGN IN HEAVEN, 15:1-4

A. John sees seven angels having seven plagues (representing the complete wrath of God).

B. Those who have victory over the beast.

1. Sea of glass = *God's holiness, transcendence*
2. Victory: over the beast, his image, his mark, his name.
3. They sing the song of Moses (Old Testament) and the Lamb (New Testament).

DELIVERANCE & PRAISE! LOOK WHAT GOD HAS DONE!

II. ANGELS COMING OUT OF THE TEMPLE IN HEAVEN, 15:5-8

A. The Temple of the tabernacle of the testimony = holy of holies = **HEAVEN!**

1. Before, we saw judgment come from the altar (Revelation 8:3-5).
2. Now we see judgment coming from the very dwelling place of God.

B. Seven angels, seven plagues, seven bowls = complete destruction awaiting the impenitent!

1. Dress of the angels: similar to Old Testament priests (Exodus 28:4).
2. Work of the angels = pour out the seven bowls of God's wrath.
3. Four beasts = cherubim (or, chariot) of God (1 Chronicles 28:18; Psalm 104:3) – **Protecting God's holiness of God and seeking transgressors punishment** (Ezek. 1).

C. Seven golden bowls: used in service to God (see Daniel 5:3).

1. Forever and ever = how long God visits wrath upon the wicked (as long as He exists).
2. Temple filled with smoke = notes the solemnity of the occasion (Exodus 19:18; 1 Kings 8:10-11).
3. None able to enter: *in the Old Testament, priests entered the Temple to make sacrifices, thus mediate between God and man – but regarding God's wrath against the wicked, no man is able to mediate* (that is, it is coming and will not be stopped!).

*We can see the conclusion to the entire 15th chapter: **judgment is set against Rome and even if she repented, destruction is still determined** (compare Manasseh and Judah in 2 Chronicles 33:10-20 and Jeremiah 15:4). In Chapter 15 the announcement is made that judgment is on the way. In chapter 16 we shall see the seven bowls of wrath poured out.*