

Revelation Step by Step, 10

Revelation 15

After the key overview provided by Revelation 14, we come to the Great day of His Wrath, the Day of The Lord, or the Great Tribulation, ie. The 7th Seal!

This one Seal lasts the whole of the last 3½ years of the 7, because it is made up of 7 Trumpet Plagues, the ‘last trump’ of which consists of 7 vials of the wrath of God, so a chronology is indicated, although a similarity between the trumpet plagues and the vials or bowls has led some to think otherwise, possibly of some kind of blending.

Let us go back to Revelation 8:1-2, which occurs following Revelation 6:17, at the end of the 6th Seal. ‘When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.’ Here it tells us that the 7th Seal consists of 7 Trumpets, and these trumpets are blown over chapters 8&9, with the 7th Angel’s trumpet sounding in Revelation 11:15, where Christ returns from Heaven, (with His Bride) **to begin** His reign here on the earth in verse 17.

In fact, Revelation 15, our subject today, helps us to see there is a chronology in these last plagues because this vision John saw of Heaven provides extra information, verse 1, ‘Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.’ The 7 last plagues complete the wrath of God and chapter 16:16 shows us they conclude at the battle of Armageddon, after which Jesus Christ is able to establish His Kingdom here on the Earth.

So, now we know that the 7 last plagues, which are detailed for us in chapter 16, are poured out towards the end of the Great Tribulation, just before and during the return of Christ, concluding with His victory at Armageddon.

Before we go further in 15, let’s just cover a few points. The Earth has a remarkable inbuilt ability to recover from fire and flood, earthquake and drought. Grass and trees grow again. Seeds, long buried in the ground, germinate. Rain falls, the sun comes back out, land can sink below or be raised up from below the sea, and be colonised by plants and trees, and the climate is at God’s command, always. By the end of 1,000 years the whole Earth will be like Eden, fully prepared for the second Resurrection.

Nevertheless, as we absorb these terrible verses in chapter 16, we begin to appreciate what our sins have brought about, and how serious God considers them. It is quite obvious that the suffering of all who are alive on the Earth during this period of God’s

wrath will be beyond words, and were it not for the preaching of the Two Witnesses, (Revelation 11:5-11) which, despite their condemnation, hold out hope for the repentant, those who survive this cataclysm which almost consumes the planet, would be driven totally insane through despair.

So, as we read of these worldwide earthquakes, tsunamis and wars which will restructure the entire surface of the world, it is well to think about the sins of our societies, which brought this about, which today are casually accepted with the liberal 'love' of the churches of this world, as they are paraded before us with the ubiquitous rainbow and blatant perverse pride, and recognise what terrible penalties we are warned of in the Bible, which the whole world will undoubtedly pay! God's commandments and laws, like gravity, can never be broken without automatic penalty, and even if we do not participate in *gross* evil ourselves, if we just do or say nothing, we will suffer the consequences of our tolerance along with the activists. As we read through these terrible plagues, we realise just how truly destructive are the worldwide results, and that it will take *many* generations for the earth and its population to recover!

Chapter 15 follows scenes which take place on Earth, so it alternates to scenes in Heaven. Verse 1 sets the scene: 'Then I saw in heaven another marvellous event of great significance. Seven angels were holding the seven last plagues, which would bring God's wrath to completion.' NLT.

The stage is set in verse 2. It is the Sea of Glass we saw in Chapter 4, and 14, and on it now stand those who triumphed over the Beast, having avoided worshipping his image or taking his mark, partly because he does not come to full power until *after* the 6th Seal, when they were rescued by Christ, though a number of them were martyred by him previously for warning the world against his worship. Rev. 15:2, 'And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.'

The *unprepared* End-Time Saints left behind *after* the 1st Resurrection actually had to overcome the same 'image of the beast' faced by those of the Inquisition during the Middle Ages; the power-hungry hierarchical religious system which did not allow the oppressed laity to grow in 'grace and knowledge' through free study and expression of God's word. Their ministers were told, as they still are today, that they are allowed to teach, "only that which you are taught" so the laity were subjected to the idolatrous worship of men, by participating in the dominion Christ condemned (Matt.20:25-27), until they had to choose between worship of the Beast, or martyrdom.

If only they had recognised this before the Tribulation started, they could have left dominion freely, followed God's instructions and prepared to participate in the broadcast from Jerusalem if it falls in their lifetime, Jeremiah 31:6-7, 'For there shall be a day, that the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim [Britain and her ex-colonies]

shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God. For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, **save thy people, the remnant of Israel,**' as the following verses show.

Then, they may have lived to see the arrival and rescue of Jesus Christ at His return for His Bride, Matthew 24:31, 'And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather **his elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' They would be among those on the Sea of Glass, with Jesus Christ and His Father!

Back in Revelation 15, verses 3-4 celebrate their joy in praising God for their deliverance, as did Moses after the Red Sea closed upon the Egyptians, and their glory in His Justice to all men.

'They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."' "

Next, in verse 5, John saw the Temple in Heaven opened, this time to reveal the Tables of the Law, depicting judgement to come, whereas in Revelation 11:19, when it is opened again *after* the establishment of Christ's Kingdom, it is the Ark to which attention is drawn, the symbol of Divine grace. 'After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened.' NIV.

Finally, the ministers of God's wrath, the seven angels, emerge from the Temple, dressed in pure white linen, to be given 7 golden bowls, shallow temple vessels which could be poured out quickly, full of the wine of the wrath of God, by the four Living creatures or Cherubim, (4:6-11) which they will pour out to sacrifice to the offended holiness and justice of God, as the 7 Last Plagues. Rev 15:7, '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.'

Now, in verse 8, the Temple is filled with smoke from the fire of God's wrath, as his grace is obscured because mankind's sin is fully ripe. The sins of humanity deserve to be finally judged without mercy, until the "wine of the wrath of God" is fully expunged. 'And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.'

What a nightmare for the whole of mankind, far exceeding anything seen in the last world-war, but tragically, even the Church of God is blind to the common acceptance of the image of the Beast, the dominion and thereby worship of men. When you have

seen, as I have, faithful deacons with their children forced out of church by police wearing guns, on the instruction of the minister, families split apart by disfellowship, groups of people crying in church, non-stop oppression and dominion from the pulpit in the name of “the government of God”, you come to understand why Jesus Christ so condemned dominion in Matthew 20:25-27, ‘But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave.”’

Such as I witnessed is not the “government of God”, wrongly introduced into the church by the man who rightly described it as ‘Religious Babylon’ in his early ministry, about which we are told, Revelation 18:4, ‘And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.”’ And Jude 3, ‘Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.’

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