

Revelation 15

Table Revelation 15:1-8

- 1 *And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.*
- 2 *And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.*
- 3 *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*
- 4 *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.*
- 5 *And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:*
- 6 *And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.*
- 7 *And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.*
- 8 *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.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 439-443 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 334-338, 634, 774, 993, 1330, 1660-1661.

1. **Revelation 15:1.** Revelation 15:1 is "*the heavenly vision*" Acts 26:19 of the fearful End Times judgement that Jeremiah foresaw that thankfully has a limit in Jeremiah 4:23-27 "**I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.**"

Jeremiah therefore cries out in a manner just as applicable today "**O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD**" Jeremiah 22:29.

The expression "...**for in them is filled up the wrath of God**" is a merciful reminder of the Lord's declaration as follows.

Matthew 24:21-22, 31 "**For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened...And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other**"

Mark 13:19-20 "**For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days...And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven**"

“...**his elect**” Matthew 24:31, Mark 13:27 in the context are *not* Church Age saints. They are the End Times saints of Revelation 14:12 “...**here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**”

Devotionally, practically, spiritually it is as well that “...**for the elect’s sake...**” Matthew 24:22, Mark 13:20 that the Lord’s wrath has a limit as Jeremiah testifies “**O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing**” Jeremiah 10:24.

2. Revelation 15:2-4. John “...**saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire**” Revelation 15:2 as he testified in Revelation 4:6 “**And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal...**” and as it appears that Ezekiel perceived from earth “**And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire...And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above**” Ezekiel 1:4, 22.

John saw further “...**them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God**” Revelation 15:2. They are the victors revealed as “...**the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth...redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb**” Revelation 14:3-4 who are firstfruits by association with Revelation 7:9-10 “**After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**”

All are in the context now “...**caught up to the third heaven**” 2 Corinthians 12:2 where “...**they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints**” Revelation 15:3.

“...**the song of Moses the servant of God...**” is Deuteronomy 32:1-43 after which Moses makes this declaration with respect to the necessity of *works for life* in Deuteronomy 32:44-47 “**And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun. And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel: And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life...**”

A timely exhortation and prophetic Second Advent revelation applicable to today’s believer follows “...**the song of Moses the servant of God...**” in Deuteronomy 33:2-3 “...**The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them. Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand: and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.**”

“...**the song of the Lamb...**” will be centred on John 1:29 “**The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world**” as the Lord Himself declared in John 8:24 “**I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**”

Revelation 15:3 therefore emphasises that *both* the element of *works* and that of *belief* are essential for End Times salvation after the manner of Revelation 14:12 “**Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.**”

The lyrics of praise to the Lord “**Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints**” Revelation 15:3 match those of “...**the song of Moses the servant of God...**” Revelation 15:3 that are for all heaven and earth in Deuteronomy

32:1, 3-4 ***“Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth...Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”***

Today’s believer should seek to be part of a publishing company to publicise the Lord according to Psalm 68:11 ***“The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.”***

The title ***“thou King of saints”*** refers to the Lord Jesus Christ ***“...he that is born King of the Jews...”*** Matthew 2:2 whereby at the Second Advent ***“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end...Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”*** Luke 1:32-33, 1 Timothy 6:15.

Today’s believer should always keep in mind his distinct and separate standing in the Lord Jesus Christ according to 1 Corinthians 12:27 ***“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”***

Revelation 15:4 ***“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”*** will be both *manifest and mandatory* at the Second Advent with respect again then to *both works and belief* according to Psalm 2:10-12 ***“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”***

Each of today’s believers should therefore really seek to apply consistently ***“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you”*** 1 Samuel 12:24.

3. **Revelation 15:5-8.** Revelation 15:5 ***“And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened”*** and what follows in the context and in Revelation 16 are summarised in Revelation 11:19 ***“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”*** Revelation 15:5 which John has prophesied signifies the onset of God’s *global judgement on evil by means of inflicting evil* according to Ezekiel 33:29, 33 ***“Then shall they know that I am the LORD, when I have laid the land most desolate because of all their abominations which they have committed...And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.”***

Revelation 15:6 ***“And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles”*** emphasise that God’s *global judgement on evil by means of inflicting evil* is orchestrated by *the Lord Jesus Christ Himself* in that ***“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son...And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man”*** John 5:22, 27 and as the angels exiting the temple are attired ***“...his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them”*** Mark 9:3 of Whom John testifies of ***“...one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire”*** Revelation 1:13-14.

Today’s believer needs to remember the *balanced* nature of the Lord Who states in Isaiah 45:7 ***“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.”***

Revelation 15:7 **“And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever”** indicates that **“the wrath of God”** emanates directly from **“the throne of God”** Revelation 7:15, 14:5, 22:1, 3 because **“...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind”** Revelation 4:6 and **“...the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment...A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes”** Psalm 9:7, Proverbs 20:8.

It is likely in this writer’s view that the **“one of the four beasts”** Revelation 15:7 is the third beast because **“the third beast had a face as a man”** Revelation 4:7 **“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man”** Luke 17:26 when **“...GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”** Genesis 6:5 so that in the End Times the Lord declares that **“...I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible”** Isaiah 13:11.

“the...seven golden vials full of the wrath of God” would in this writer’s view as Revelation 16 will substantiate be ancient vials as shown in the graphic. These have a bulbous base for volume expended globally after the manner of Ezekiel 22:31 **“Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD”** and with a long slim neck for precision of pouring out globally after the manner of Acts 12:23 **“And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.”**



See www.ancientresource.com/lots/holyland_artifacts/holyland_glass.html.

Today’s believer should therefore be comforted by Job 5:17, Hebrews 12:5-6, 10 **“Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty...My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth...he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.”**

Revelation 15:8 corresponds in **“the third heaven”** 2 Corinthians 12:2 to what happened on earth in 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, 7:2 **“And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD...It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God...And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD’S house.”**

Insofar as **“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”** Colossians 2:9 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, 7:2, Revelation 15:8 are therefore witnesses to **“the divine nature”** 2 Peter 1:4 as it really is of **“...our Lord Jesus Christ...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen”** 1 Timothy 6:14-16.

By inspection though 1 Kings 8:10-11, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, 7:2, Revelation 15:8 are precursors to that which today's believer can look forward to in the fulfilment following the Second Advent of Numbers 14:21, Habakkuk 2:14, Revelation 21:3 **"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD...For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea...And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."**

Concerning the conditional statement **"...no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled"** Revelation 15:8 note King Solomon's unconditional pledge **"I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever...I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever"** 1 Kings 8:13, 2 Chronicles 6:2 as it applies devotionally, practically, spiritually to today's believer in whom God, not man, should minister, with respect to John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 **"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you...your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own...For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."**

Today's believer therefore even without the visual effects should aim to be like the apostles of old in answer to prayer according to Acts 4:31 **"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."**

Conclusion



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Revelation 15 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. What does Revelation 15:1 reveal about **“the wrath of God”**?
2. How would you describe the victors of Revelation 15:2?
3. How do the victors express their victory in Revelation 15:3-4?
4. What do Revelation 15:5-8 reveal about **“the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever”**?
5. What should be today’s believer’s response to the disclosures of Revelation 15?

Sample Answers

1. **“the wrath of God”** will be inflicted to the full as in an End Times fulfilment of Jeremiah 46:10 **“For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood...”**
2. **“...These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them”** Revelation 7:14-15.
3. **“And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD...I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being”** Psalm 27:6, 102:33.
4. **“Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments”** Psalm 119:137 even though inflicted to the uttermost as shown in Revelation 11:18-19 **“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst...destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”**
5. **“Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness”** Isaiah 26:8-9.