

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE VISION OF THE SEVEN LAST PLAGUES
THE VIAL JUDGMENTS
REVELATION 15**

Introduction

Chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the book of The Revelation. Chapters 15 and 16 actually go together for they both speak of the Vial Judgments or Bowl Judgments.

These judgments are the most horrific that this world will ever know. They are similar, yet different than the Trumpet Judgments.

The Vial Judgments will not be partial, but complete and they will directly inflict pain upon the people of the earth.

I. A SIGN IN HEAVEN. (15:1)

John sees another sign in Heaven. The word “*another*” means “*another of the same kind as before.*”

This is the third sign of three great signs in Heaven:

- 1) The sun-clothed woman (Israel); (12:1)
- 2) The great red dragon (Satan); (12:3) and now;
- 3) Seven angels with the seven last plagues.

This sign will be ***marvelous***, which means ***it will surpass human comprehension.***

This sign will be ***great.*** We will see next week how that Chapter 16 of Revelation is a chapter of great things:

- great voice (16:1)
- great heat (16:9)
- great River Euphrates (16:12)
- great day of the Lord (16:14)
- great earthquake (16:18)
- great city, Babylon (16:19)
- great hail (16:21)

Just think for a moment, these angels are some of the same beings who now care for and minister to God’s people. **(Hebrews 1:14)**

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Also, these are some of the same beings that the world loves and talks about so affectionately.

These will be the beings that God will use to bring His wrath on this sinful, wicked world with.

The judgments in this series will be greater in intensity and severity than any that have come before.

In fact, the word “***plague***” literally means “***a blow or wound.***” These are not just epidemics, but **powerful, deadly blows that will smite the earth with a fatal impact.**

In these plagues, **the wrath of God is *filled up.*** The words “***filled up***” mean “***completed.***” God’s wrath will be completed. He is a God of love, and also of judgment.

Those who drowned during the worldwide Flood in Noah’s day, if they could, would tell us that **God is a God of judgment.**

Those who died by the fire and brimstone that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah would also tell us, if they could, that **God is a God of judgment.**

Yes, **God is a God of love.** He proved that love when He sent His own precious, sinless Son to die as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

Nevertheless, **God is also a God of wrath.** A wicked, Christ rejecting world will face the full force of His wrath during the judgments we see poured out here in these chapters.

And then for all eternity, those who die in their unbelief, will occupy the lake of fire.

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II. THE SEA OF GLASS. (15:2)

The next thing that John sees is something that is *like* or *as* a sea of glass that is mingled with fire.

Some say that the sea symbolizes the masses of humanity, and the fire represents judgment.

Note that the victorious Tribulation saints are seen standing on the sea of glass because they stood for Christ during the Tribulation. Death was victory for them.

Missionary Jim Elliot said before his death at the hands of the Auca Indians, *“He is no fool who gives that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”*

We can’t keep this life or the things that we have in this life—
Possessions
Prominence
Popularity

But, believers cannot lose the things that they gain in Christ—
Salvation.
Saviour.
Souls brought to the Lord.

Moth and rust **cannot** and **will not** corrupt those things!

These Tribulation saints went through some fiery trials, but they have come forth as gold!

These were people of courage, character, and conviction.

**III. THE SONG OF MOSES AND THE SONG OF THE LAMB.
(15:3, 4)**

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A. The Song Of Moses Could Be The Song Of Victory Found In Exodus 15:1-21.

It was a song that gloried in the LORD! (Vs 1-2)

B. The Song Of Moses Could Be the Song Found In Deuteronomy 32.

This was a song personally written and spoken to the children of Israel by Moses himself at the close of his career.

It is a comprehensive picture of God’s faithfulness to Israel and His ultimate purpose to defeat their enemies.

This song more nearly corresponds to the situation found here in Revelation 15.

However, both passages ascribe praise to God and are similar in many ways to the *“Song of the Lamb”* recorded in Revelation 15. **Notice 4 phrases:**

1. **“Great and marvelous are thy works.” (Vs 3)**
Great in extent. Arousing wonder or astonishments.
2. **“Just and true are thy ways.” (Vs 3)**
The Lord is **just** in that He is perfectly righteous.
The Lord is **true** in that He keeps His promises.
3. **“Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?” (Vs 4)**
Though the nations neither fear God nor glorify Him in their mad unbelief during the great tribulation, the day is to come soon when they will both fear Him and be forced to acknowledge Him!
4. **“Thy judgments are made manifest.” (Vs 4)**
The righteous judgment from God proceeds from what He is as described in this song:

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*The God who is almighty, righteous, true, holy, just,
and worthy of worship!*

C. The Song Of The Lamb.

(Go back and look at **Revelation 5:9**)

IV. THE SCENE IN HEAVEN. (15:5)

The next thing that John sees is the Temple of the Tabernacle, which is the Holy of Holies, in Heaven.

The Ark of the covenant was located in the Holy of Holies.

*Exodus 25:40—“And look that thou make them after their pattern,
which was showed thee in the mount.”*

*Hebrews 9:23—“It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things
in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things
themselves with better sacrifices than these.”*

When Christ died on the Cross, the Holy of Holies was opened and now we have access to the presence of God through the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ.

V. THE SEVEN VIALS ARE GIVEN. (15:6-7)

The throne of mercy is now a throne of judgment. Man has refused salvation and killed the followers of Jesus Christ. The result is judgment!

The final steps of preparation are taken. The seven angels are given the vials of God that are full His wrath. The vials or bowls will empty rapidly.

The events of the Vial Judgments will happen quickly as judgment is poured like water upon the earth.

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VI. THE SMOKE IN THE TEMPLE. (15:8)

As the angels emerge from the sanctuary, it is filled with smoke proceeding from the glory of God and His power! This is a pointed reminder of the holiness of God!

The scene can be compared to that when the cloud filled the Tabernacle in *Exodus 40:34-35*—“*Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*”

Heaven’s temple is barricaded until justice and judgment are satisfied and complete.

Access into the sanctuary is made impossible by the smoke until the judgments in the seven plagues are fulfilled.

It is an ominous sign of impending doom for those who persist in their blasphemous disregard of the sovereignty and holiness of God.

Conclusion

Judgment can no longer be delayed. It will be poured out and be more intense than any or all of the judgments that have come before.

What an awful, awful time it will be. We will look at the details in our message on Chapter 16.