

REVELATION 15

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 15 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

In our study of the book of Revelation we have seen the wrath of God being poured out upon a Christ rejecting world.

First, we saw the seven seal judgments with their cataclysmic effects.

Then came the seven trumpet judgments, again, with cataclysmic effects upon the inhabitants of this earth.

In Revelation chapter 7 we see the salvation of the 144,000 Jews who become witnesses for Christ and out of their ministry we see a multitude of Gentiles that are saved, as well as Jews.

As we moved into Revelation chapters 10 through 14 John gives us a little break from these judgments of God as he fills in some of the other details of what will take place during the Tribulation Period.

In chapter 10 of Revelation John is given this little book to eat, which he does. And as he takes it in initially it is sweet in his mouth but as he begins to digest what was in this book, it became bitter!

We said that God's Word is sweet to our lives, it has many precious promises from God for us.

But then there is the reality of God's judgment coming upon those who have rejected Jesus.

And John was told to warn the people of God's righteous judgment that is coming and folks, we are to do the same!

As we moved into chapter 11 or Revelation, we saw the re-built Temple in Jerusalem where the blood and grain sacrifices will start up again during the Tribulation Period.

There were the two witnesses, who I believe the Scriptures tell us are Moses and Elijah.

As these two come on the scene, I believe in the first 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period, they will lead the 144,000 Jewish witnesses to Christ!

As we moved into Revelation chapter 12, we see Israel, Jesus, Michael the Archangel, Satan, the persecution of the remnant of Israel. A very important chapter that if you don't understand the characters here, you will have a skewed eschatological outlook!

From chapter 12 we moved into chapter 13 of Revelation, which reveals to us the beast out of the sea or the Antichrist who arises out of the sea of humanity or the Gentile nations.

And then we saw the beast out of the earth or the false prophet who leads the world in the worship of the Antichrist or that first beast!

By the time we got to Revelation chapter 14 we saw the 144,000 Jewish witnesses who were sealed by God for protection from the trumpet judgments and their identification with the Lord back in Revelation chapter 7, and they are standing on Mount Zion now, in heaven with Jesus!

We also saw in this chapter the judgment of God, that final judgment upon a Christ rejecting world, the consummation of the bowl judgments!

And John illustrated this by a harvest judgment where the Lord came with His sickle and harvested the overripe or rotten wheat, the spoiled wheat and cast them into the fire to burn them.

He also used the illustration of a wine press, where the grapes that are fully ripe and full of juice and the Lord steps upon them crushing them and their juice splatters.

We covered this in much more detail over the past several weeks and I just wanted to give you a quick overview of these chapters because they are setting the stage for what we will be looking at tonight in Revelation chapter 15.

You see, Revelation chapter 14 brings us to the consummation of all things, all the way to the battle of Armageddon.

Now John is going to go back and fill in some of the details that will take place during this last 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period and specifically the last seven judgments or the bowl judgments!

I do realize for some, they find it hard to believe that God will pour out His wrath, that He will judge sinners. Folks, the Bible is very clear on this.

We are told in Isaiah 13:6-11, **“Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man’s heart will melt, And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.”**

And the Bible is full of verses that deal with the judgment of God! You see, God was warning us through the prophet Isaiah, and the other prophets, that His judgment is coming against the wicked!

Also, listen to what the prophet Zephaniah had to say regarding the coming Day of the Lord in Zephaniah 1:14-18 where we are told, **“The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse. Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD’s wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the fire of His jealousy, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.”**

What we see here is God’s righteous judgment upon a Christ rejecting world and that judgment seems to be just over the horizon, it is getting close.

Make no mistake about it, there is the danger for those who reject the true and living God, who close their ears to the truth and turn their backs on Jesus.

It is as Paul warned in Hebrews 12:25-29, **“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”**

Today, we have people making all kinds of wild and bizarre claims, warning people of this and that, and in the end, it is just a way to increase your ratings in the news or promote false information to scare people.

Please understand that what God tells us in His Word, the Bible is to warn us of His coming judgment! And if it does scare people, that is good because maybe they will then see the light and come to saving faith.

But understand that what God has said in His Word will come to pass, not might! But again, there is so much false information out there and it can be confusing, and it can be alarming to some!

Ray Stedman shares this about what can happen when false information is put out on the air and how it affects people. This is a true story. We are told,

On Tuesday, January 29, 1991, radio listeners in St. Louis, Missouri, were startled to hear that the end of the world was just moments away. Regular radio programming was interrupted by the jarring attention signal of the Emergency Broadcast System, followed by the voice of an announcer who said, “Your attention, please! This is not a test! The United States is under nuclear attack! I repeat, this is not a test!”

Scores of people who heard the news on their car radios raced home to be with family members when the missiles begin to fall.

Some made frantic phone calls to loved ones: “Get to a basement or a shelter now! . . . Yes, of course it is true! The radio said it was not a test!”

Others flipped the radio dial or turned on their televisions to get confirmation of the horrible news.

Soon they discovered that only one radio station, KSHE, was carrying the alert. Everywhere else across the radio and TV dials, life went on as usual.

And hour after the initial panic, radio station personnel went on the air with an announcement that the “alert” was a fake broadcast, completely unauthorized by the station management.

The station apologized for the actions of disc jockey John Ulett who was attempting, in his words, “to jolt people and make people think about the horrors of nuclear war.”

It jolted people, all right. But it was a stupid and irresponsible stunt, and the ensuing panic could have resulted in property damage, injury, or death for Ulett’s listeners. Fortunately no one was hurt.

But for a few very long minutes, a lot of people in St. Louis got just a faint foretaste of what the earth's last trial will be like – a trial of fear, horror, death, and destruction unlike anything the world has ever known before.

- Ray Stedman, God's Final Word – Understanding Revelation, pp. 287-288

Please understand that this is no joke, this is not fake, it is a warning to get right with God before His judgment falls!

And here is where we, as Christians, need to be careful.

We have had those who have set dates for the Lord's return for His Bride, the Church, what we call the Rapture. And they have been wrong. We don't set dates, we are told of the things that must happen before the Lord comes back for His Bride, the seasons but not the date!

But so much speculation that it just confuses people in what to believe!

There are those today who have been saying that COVID is the sign that the Rapture is close, it will usher in the Rapture! In fact, they believed and spoke this forth, that the Rapture was going to happen in the spring of last year and when that didn't happen, then it was the fall! They could not believe it could go on much longer than that. It didn't happen.

We hear pastor's saying that the COVID vaccination is the mark of the beast and to get around the fact that the mark of the beast doesn't take place until the church is long gone, home with the Lord, they tell us that it is just not activated yet!

And there are all kinds of wild claims saying that the Lord's return is going to happen any moment.

Why am I bringing this up?

Because, like the boy who cried wolf, if we keep making unscriptural claims, people will not want to hear what we have to say.

Yes, when I look at the events that are transpiring in our country and in the world, it does seem like the Lord's return is getting close, and it is, but to put a timeframe on it, not a good idea.

We could still be years from the Rapture of the church and the start of the Tribulation Period. Or it can happen within the next few minutes. We don't know and let's be careful that we are not making wild claims about things that the Lord has not shared with us!

Also, let's not try to jolt people with fake information about the Lord's return and the judgment of God.

We have the truth, and we should share the truth.

Now, as we move into Revelation chapter 15 tonight, we will see that this is a prelude or an introduction to the bowl judgments spoken of in Revelation chapter 16.

You see, the time has run its course, the iniquity of man has reached its peak and God's wrath is going to be poured out in these final judgments! This will be the conclusion to the wrath of God!

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Revelation chapter 15, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we study His Word.

REVELATION 15**VERSE 1**

John opens up this chapter by speaking of another sign he saw in heaven and as we have seen before, a sign points us to something.

Here John tells us this sign is pointing us to the end of God's wrath and seven angels holding the seven last plagues that they are about to pour out upon a Christ rejecting world.

These are the bowl judgments and if you thought the seal judgments were bad, if you thought the trumpet judgments were bad, you ain't seen nothing yet. These judgments are so severe that at the end of them, man could not continue on. In other words, these judgments are complete!

And I think that is the idea here with the number "7", what it speaks of. If you remember from our studies here in Revelation, we have seen that the number "7" speaks of completeness and that is exactly what John tells us will be taking place, that the wrath of God will be complete!

In fact, the Greek word that John uses for "**complete**" is TELEO and it means to make an end of or bring to a determined goal.

If this is the completion of God's wrath, then the seal judgments and the trumpet judgments were just a warmup or prelude for what is about to come forth and it is not good!

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

When they think about the future, people worry about many things. The destruction of the environment, global warming, political unrest and instability, terrorism, crime, economic and financial collapse, and the continual decline in moral values that destroy all relationships are all causes for concern.

A further cause for anxiety is the sense of forlorn emptiness fostered by the anti-God philosophy of humanism. For those who believe there is no personal God, there is no one home in the universe, so they have nowhere to turn for ultimate answers, help, or meaning.

But what is truly frightening about the future is not any of those things; what should stop the heart of sinners is what God will do. God's judgmental anger and fury is a terrifying reality that looms just over the horizon of human history (cf. Ps 96:13; 98:9; 110:6; Joel 3:2,12; Acts 17:31; 2 Tim 4:1).

Because they willfully ignore that reality, people do not fear what they should fear. Jesus exhorted people to "fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt 10:28), because "God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day" (Ps 7:11 NKJV). The writer of Hebrews adds, "It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb 10:31).

Throughout human history God has poured out His wrath in judgment on sinners. Adam's sin in Eden brought the entire human race under judgment (Rom 5:12).

By Noah's day, people had become so wicked that God sent the cataclysmic judgment of the Flood to destroy the world (cf. Gen 6:5-8). Only Noah and those with him on the ark were spared.

Centuries of disobedience by the Jewish people ultimately led to their judgment, as first the northern kingdom of Israel and then the southern kingdom of Judah went into captivity.

God's wrath and judgment were the constant themes of the Old Testament prophets. They frequently warned of the coming Day of the Lord, whether an imminent historical judgment, or the final eschatological Day of the Lord. All the historical Day of the Lord judgments were previews of the last and most terrible Day of the Lord.

- John MacArthur, Revelation 15-1-8

Please understand that, in Biblical Greek, there are two different words that are used for **wrath.**

One of the Greek words is **ORGE** and it is the more common word that is used for God's anger in the New Testament.

It means anger from a settled disposition or temperament. But that is not the Greek word that John used here.

He used the Greek word **THUMOS**, which is only found 11 times in the New Testament and 10 of those are found in the book of Revelation.

THUMOS means a volatile or passionate anger but don't get the idea that God has lost control. God's anger and His judgment are not only righteous, but it is also under control, He does not lose His cool you might say.

But God will deal with sin, He will judge it and it will be complete, it will be fair, it will be righteous. No one will be able to say they are receiving more than they deserve! All will be judged fairly and get their just due.

Now let's look at how patient God is.

It has almost been 2,000 years since Jesus came as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world and He is coming again as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to deal with sinners who have rejected Him and to set up His Kingdom on this earth.

It is as the Psalmist said in Psalm 103:8-12, **“The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”**

Now at this point in time, we see the cup of God’s anger filled and His day of wrath has come, and it is about to be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world. And after it is completed, He will establish His Kingdom and we long for that day!

VERSE 2

Regarding this sea of glass, Walvoord tells us, *“The sea is designed to reflect the glory of God. In chapter 4 its description ‘like unto crystal’ speaks of the holiness of God. Here the sea mingled with fire speaks of divine judgment proceeding from God’s holiness.”*

I also see this as the Word of God and back in Revelation 4:6 we saw the sea of glass and it is possible that the sea of glass represented the laver in the Tabernacle and the Temple where the priest would wash themselves or cleanse themselves before serving the Lord.

Because of that it would seem that this sea of glass is a picture of the Word of God.

Paul speaks of this washing with the Word of God in Ephesians 5:26 as he tells us **“that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word.”**

But here in Revelation chapter 15 we see the sea of glass mingled with fire, why is that?

The Scriptures seem to indicate that fire speaks of God's judgment and this judgment is about to be poured out according to the Word of God!

What I find interesting here is that the Tribulation Saints, those who have been martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ are standing upon what?

They are standing upon the sea of glass or the Word of God!

These are believers who have been redeemed during the Tribulation Period.

We saw these Tribulation Saints mentioned back in Revelation 7:9-17, where we are told, **“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.’ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, ‘Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?’ And I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ So he said to me, ‘These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd**

them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Now, as the world looks at these believers in Christ, they see them as losers. They amount to nothing, and their lives are worthless. Thus, to martyr them means nothing to the world.

But I want you to see that these Tribulation Saints are not losers, but they are victorious in Christ.

And in Revelation 12:11 we are told that they had this victory because “**... they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**”

Now let me ask you this question. How did they know the truth?

Keep in mind where they are standing!

They stood upon the Word of God!

How did they not succumb to the lies of the Devil?

They stood upon the Word of God!

You see folks, read and believe and apply the Word of God to your life and you will have that victory.

It is by the blood of the Lamb applied to your life.

It is the word of your testimony as you live out your faith showing that it is real.

And it is by not loving your life to the death, which we see in the life of these Tribulation Saints who are now in heaven and worshiping the Lord as they are seen with harps in their hands!

And keep in mind that in heaven, we will not have to wash in the water of the Word of God anymore because in heaven we will be without sin, we will be pure!

We also are told that they have these harps in their hands, something we saw back in Revelation 5:8 as the twenty-four elders had harps in their hands as well, and it is going to lead into the worship of God as we will see as we read on in a few minutes.

Something that grieves my heart is that we are seeing more and more churches moving away from the Word of God and that has opened the door for the church to accept all kinds of immoral lifestyles, immoral activity!

I want you to listen carefully to what the Westminster Confession of Faith said back in 1647, and as you listen to these words, see how far away we have moved from what they have said. We are told,

“The whole counsel of God, concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men.”

- Westminster Confession of Faith, 1647

If more would truly believe that and apply that to their lives!

Go into any Christian bookstore today and see how Biblical doctrine has been mingled with man’s philosophies to help us to live better lives.

When I first became a Christian these Christian bookstores had all kinds of commentaries, all kinds of books on the Bible to learn from, biography’s about Godly men and women that you can learn from, but not today.

What you end up finding in these Christian bookstores, are Christian self-help books, Christian mysticism, all kinds of occultic things, Catholic books as well as seeing books by Osteen, Warren, Jakes, Meyers, Bell, Driscoll, and Schuller and many more apostate teachers. You see books like *Jesus Calling* and *The Shack*, and others that are abominations, not from God, not at all!

Why are they there?

Because they sell and thus, to make a profit these Christian bookstores will sell whatever they can. Some have called the trinkets that are sold at these stores “*Jesus Junk!*” How sad.

The damage these books have done to Christian lives.

God has given to us all that we need to grow by, and it is called – *THE WORD OF GOD* – *THE BIBLE!*

Paul said in II Timothy 3:16-17, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”

Why do we look to worldly advice, be it called Christian, and many times it is not, and avoid the Word of God?

Because we don't always like what the Bible has to say so we find books that will make our flesh happy, but our spirit starves! And yet, the Bible will make us complete, able to do any work that God has for us!

Paul's warning is given to us in Colossians 2:8-10, where he tells us, "**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**"

You see, the worlds ideas, the worlds philosophies are not going to help us but hurt us. We are complete in Christ and thus, may we look to Him, may we take His Word into our lives so that we can stand against the wiles of the Devil, like these Tribulation Saints are going to do!

And let's think about this for a minute. If God's Word is truth, and it is. If God's Word is perfect, and it is. Then why in the world do we think by adding to it or taking away from it that we are going to make it better! We won't and the reality is, we will only cheapen it and pollute it!

Jesus said in Mark 12:24, "**Jesus answered and said to them, 'Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?'**"

I think that applies today – people don't want just the Word of God; they need some updated ideas to fit into their lifestyle! That is dangerous!

Jesus said in John 17:17, "**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**"

I truly believe these Tribulation Saints were able to stand strong in the storms of life that came crashing down upon them, that took their life, because they stood upon the Word of God.

Folks, I don't know what you are going through this evening, the storms you are facing, the baggage you dragged in here this evening, but I can tell you this. God's Word is sufficient for all you are going through if you would only believe it and apply it to your life!

That is where faith comes in.

If you are not at peace, then I would encourage you to keep your eyes upon Jesus. The world has tribulation for us, Jesus has peace. Who are you resting in?

Also, if you remember back in Revelation 6:9-11, we are told, **“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”**

Now we are going to see God pour out His wrath upon those who have come against Him and His people – the wait is over! God is going to avenge what the world has done to His people!

And as they prepare for their prayers to be answered, they are going to break out into a song, and we will see that as we read on.

VERSES 3-4

Now as you read this you may be thinking, ***“Wait a minute, there is only one song here, not two!”***

That is true, one song that they are singing but it has two titles to it, and I will explain that more in a few minutes. But the idea here is that we see the union between the Law and love or grace, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant!

The first song of Moses is found in Exodus chapter 15 as Moses and the children of Israel sing praises unto God for His deliverance for them from their Egyptian bondage and their preservation from the Egyptian army as they came after the children of Israel.

To give you a glimpse of what they sang, listen to a few verses from Exodus chapter 15 and this song.

We are told, **“Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: ‘I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father’s God, and I will exalt Him. The LORD is a man of war; The LORD is His name. Pharaoh’s chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble.’”** Exodus 15:1-7.

There is another song of Moses found in Deuteronomy chapter 32 that speaks of the faithfulness of God to bring His people out of bondage and avenge the blood of His servants.

Just to give you one verse of this song, we are told in Deuteronomy 32:43, **“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people.”**

We also see John speak of the song of the Lamb. As you can see, the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb both express the themes of God’s faithfulness, His deliverance of His people and the judgment of His enemies.

Commentator John Phillips compares and contrasts these two songs. Listen to what he had to say,

The song of Moses was sung at the Red Sea, the song of the Lamb is sung at the crystal sea; the song of Moses was a song of triumph over Egypt, the song of the Lamb is a song of triumph over Babylon; the song of Moses told how God brought His people out, the song of the Lamb tells how God brings His people in; the song of Moses was the first song in Scripture, the song of the Lamb is the last. The song of Moses commemorated the execution of the foe, the expectation of the saints, and the exaltation of the Lord; the song of the Lamb deals with the same three themes.

- John Phillips, Exploring Revelation, p. 187

One song looking at two different pictures. The Song of Moses looking forward to the coming Messiah. The Song of the Lamb looking back at the finished work of the Messiah. And in the end – **VICTORY!**

Now let's look at this song these Tribulation Saints sing, a song of praise unto God for what He has done.

Today, many have lost sight of that fact, it is what God has done and not about us. That should always be the focus of our songs and our lives!

And also notice that in these two verses the words "**Your**" and "**You**" are spoken of seven times. In other words, their focus is on the Lord and notice also that there is no focus upon themselves!

That is the heart of worship – it is all about God – it is not about us!

These martyrs are only focused on God. They did not even focus on their own costly and glorious victory. They have the heart of true worship, understanding that it's all about God, not about us.

Look at how this song is broken down:

We start out with the idea that they will – ***PRAISE THE WORKS OF GOD - (Great and marvelous are Your works)***

The song opens up with praise for the works that God has done. In other words, God is Omnipotent, or He is all-powerful. May we not forget that. And all that He does is perfect!

It is as the Psalmist said, **“All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power, To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.”** Psalm 145:10-13.

Do we praise the works of God or complain how bad this world is or how this group or that group is? God is in control, and we need to praise Him!

Next, we see that they will - ***PRAISE THE WAYS OR PLAN OF GOD - (Just and true are Your ways)***

Here we see praise for the ways or the plan of God. Yes, even in His judgments He is righteous. His plans, His ways are perfect even though we may not always understand them.

In Psalm 145:17 we are told, **“The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.”**

When you see the mess that this world is in. When we see how this world is moving towards a one world government, a one world religion, controlling the masses of people, and all the other garbage that is born out of those who have rejected God, do you ever think that God has lost control?

Now we might not put it that way, but if we are restless, upset, we miss the point. Things are not out of control, they are according to the plan of God, and we need to rest in Him, just as these Tribulation Saints will do.

We see next, in this song that they will - ***PRAISE THE PERFECTION OF GOD*** -
(Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy)

Here we see the worship or praise of God for His perfection, that He is holy.

You see, because He is holy, He alone is worthy of our praise!

In Psalm 96:8-9 we are told, **“Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.”**

And lastly, we see that they will - ***PRAISE THE PURPOSE OF GOD*** - (For all nations shall come and worship before You)

Finally, the song closes with praise for the purpose of God.

You see, we were created to praise God and in Revelation 4:10-11 we see that played out.

This is from the KJV of the Bible and we are told, **“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”**

Also, in Psalm 66:4-5 we are told, **“All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name. Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men.”**

One day this will happen as the nations of the world, during the Kingdom Age, will bow before the Lord and worship Him. The very thing in which we were created for!

Now as we look at church history, when the church was started the enemy tried to squash it like a bug, the persecution was intense.

Millions were put to death for their faith in Christ. And because of this the early church often called a person’s martyrdom the day of his victory!

Barclay put it this way. He said, ***“The real victory is not to live in safety, to evade trouble, cautiously and prudently to preserve life; the real victory is to face the worst that evil can do, and if need be faithful to death.”***

That is what the early church did, and that is what we need to do, and that is what the Tribulation Saints will do, as the persecution against them by the Antichrist reaches its climax and millions are once again put to death for their faith in Christ.

VERSES 5-6

What is this Temple of the Tabernacle or the Testimony of Witness that John is speaking of here?

The Greek word he uses for **“temple”** is *NAOS* and it speaks of the Temple proper, and I believe here it is speaking of the inner sanctuary or the Holy of Holies where the presence of God dwelt in the Tabernacle and in the Temple.

Now, what was also in the Holy of Holies?

The Ark of the Covenant, which contained the commandments of God or the Law of God.

The Law condemns sinful man but upon the Ark, covering the Law was the Mercy Seat where God dwelt between the Cherubim. This is the place where the High Priest would come on the Day of Atonement and pour out the blood of the sacrifice on the Mercy Seat, covering the Law.

Interestingly enough, John picks up on this in I John 2:2, where he wrote, “**And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of] the whole world.**”

The word “**propitiation**” is the Greek word – **HILASMOS!**

What is interesting to me is when they were translating the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, back around 250 B. C., the Greek word they used for Mercy Seat is the same Greek word that John uses for propitiation, HILASMOS!

In other words, on the Day of Atonement, when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and poured out the blood upon the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the nation, and his own sins, John is telling us that Jesus has become our Mercy Seat and it is His blood that was shed to atone completely for our sins!

The Mercy Seat covered the Law, the Ten Commandments that were in the Ark of the Covenant. And the Law condemned, but we see the mercy of God applied to our lives, not because we are so good, but because of His shed blood which pays for the Laws we have broken, the sin that we have done, in full!

You see, by the shed blood of Christ our sins are covered, and we can obtain the grace and mercy of God!

Then why do we see these angels come forth from the Holy of Holies in heaven to pour out God's judgment?

Because man has rejected Jesus and thus, they will not receive the mercy of God but His judgment as their sins are naked and open before the Lord.

You see, they will be judged by the Law outside of Christ!

In Psalm 116:13 we are told, "**I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD.**"

In other words, if you reject the cup of salvation the Lord has for you, then you will receive the bowls of judgment that will be poured out upon you.

And notice the purity of these angels that are serving the Lord, they are clothed in white, and their chest is girded with gold bands!

As Christians, the more time we spend with Jesus, the more time we obey His Word, the more of His love and character will flow from our lives.

Paul put it this way in II Corinthians 2:14-16 as he said, "**Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?**"

You see, whatever you come in contact with, whatever you are touching, whatever you are spending time with, that is what you will smell like! That is what will flow from your life!

Are you spending time with the things of this world?

If you are, if that is where your treasure is at, then that is what you will smell like, and it won't be pretty! That is what will flow from your life, and it will not be good!

Spend time with Jesus and allow His fragrance to emanate or radiate from your life so others may partake of it, and allow the nature of Jesus to flow from your life to touch the lives of others!

VERSES 7-8

These are not vials, like the KJV says, but bowls or shallow saucers that are being poured out.

Here we see God's anger reach its fullness and these angles are about to unleash these bowl judgments that are filled with the wrath of God.

And remember that in this, His judgment is complete. As we come to the end of the seventh bowl judgment it is over! That is what is coming!

Now, as we look at the Temple here in Heaven, we see it filled with smoke, which represents the presence of God, the glory of God and His power.

In Exodus 40:34-38 we see this as we are told, **“Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”**

Also, as the Temple was being dedicated by Solomon, we are told in I Kings 8:10-11, **“And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.”**

You see, it is the Shekinah glory or the presence of God that filled the Temple!

Now, here in Revelation 15:8 we see a sad pronouncement, that man’s access to God has been closed and now it is time for God’s judgment to be poured out!

I believe it is at this point that the destiny of man is settled – they will no longer have access to God!

Those who have refused Jesus are lost.

It is as the Lord said in Genesis 6:3, **“... ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever .**
.’”

You see, at one time the wrath of God was poured out on Jesus Christ as He took on our sins and paid in full the penalty for them. He died for sinners.

But there is coming a day when God's wrath will be poured out on sinners because of their rejection of Jesus. They will pay for their own sins, its penalty, and they will be eternally separated from God.

It is as Paul said in Romans 6:23, "**For the wages of sin is death . . .**" That is what every person who has rejected Jesus will find, death or eternal separation from God.

But Paul went on to say in Romans 6:23, "**. . . but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" Praise God for the wonderful gift of life that He has given to us, and that gift of life is found in Jesus!

Listen to what Poet, Friedrich Von Logau said, "*Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small.*"

Then, William Wadsworth Longfellow elaborated on this and said, "*Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small. Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness He grinds all.*"

All that reject Him that is!

And truly that is what we will see next time in our study, God's judgment poured out, it is complete!

We read in Revelation 16:1, "**Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.'**"

In The Amplified Bible it reads, "**THEN I heard a mighty voice from the temple sanctuary saying to the seven angels, Go and empty out on the earth the seven bowls of God's wrath and indignation. [Ps 69:24; Isa 66:6.]**"

THAT IS WHAT IS COMING!