

“The Prelude to the Bowl Judgments: Three Visions in Heaven”
Revelation 15:1-8

Last Sunday: The Harvesting of the Earth

Today: The Prelude to the Bowl Judgments: Three Visions in Heaven

OUTLINE

- 15:1, Vision One: The Sign of the Seven Angels with the Seven Plagues (Bowls)
- 15:2-4, Vision Two: The Conquerors of the Beast Sing the Song of Moses and (the Lamb)
- 15:5-8, Vision Three: The Introduction of the Seven Bowls (Plagues) of the Wrath of God

15:1 “Seven Angels with Seven Plagues”

What are these “last plagues” of wrath?

1. Preterist (**past**): The last of God’s judgments upon Jerusalem in AD 70.
2. Historicist (**timeline**): The last of God’s judgments upon the Beast (RCC, the papacy).
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): The last of God’s judgments upon unbelievers at the end of time.
4. Futurist (**future**): The last of God’s judgments upon unbelievers in the Tribulation.

15:2 “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass...”

What could this symbol refer to?

1. The exodus of Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:30)
2. The reflection of the basin of bronze in Solomon’s temple (1 Kgs. 7:38)
3. The heavenly splendor of God’s holy separateness (Rev. 4:6)

15:2 “Those who had conquered the beast...”

Conquered? How did these people “conquer” the beast?

1. Preterist (**past**): True believers; faithful first-century Jews martyred for following Christ
2. Historicist (**timeline**): True believers who stood for the Bible and against the pope
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): Every generation of true believers who remain loyal to Christ
4. Futurist (**future**): True believers who die by martyrdom. Historic OR Dispensational?
 - a. Historic (Post-tribulation). This refers to the church at the end of the Tribulation.
 - b. Dispensational (Pre-tribulation). This cannot refer to the church (which has already been raptured), but rather to “Tribulation Saints” at the end of the Tribulation.

15:2 “Standing beside the sea of glass” – ἐπί – on, upon, above, against, beside, etc.

1. Beside? A picture reminiscent of the children of Israel, ***beside*** the Red Sea staring at the dead Egyptians the Lord just killed (Ex. 14:30). “*Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.*”
2. On? If the sea is indicative of chaos or trouble, the saints are standing ***on*** the sea in victory! Though the Beast might kill them, they win because of Christ’s victory.

15:3/ “The Song of Moses...”

- Ex. 15, A song of **victory**, as the Egyptians were destroyed in the Red Sea.
- Dt. 32, Moses tells Israel they will prove to be faithless (19-21); already turning away from the Lord! Yet if they turn back, the Lord will “**avenge** the blood of His servants.”
- Dr. Jim Allman, “What God has done in the past is a model and a promise of what He will do in the future, though He is too creative to do the same thing the same way twice.”

15:5-6/ “The sanctuary...”

The sanctuary (The Holy Place and Holy of Holies) was **not** just a place; it’s a person and a people:

1. Christ. Jn. 2:19, “Destroy this **temple** (sanctuary) and I will raise it up in 3 days.”
2. Christ’s people. 1 Cor. 3:16-17, “Do you not know that you are a **temple** (sanctuary) of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”