

1 ☐ The Revelation

Study of John's Revelation
Chapter 15

2 ☐ Tribulation Overview

3 ☐ Chapter 15 - Bowl Preparation

- ▶ John saw another sign in **heaven** that was "great and marvellous." (v.1)
 - ▶ "Another sign in heaven" probably refers to chapter 12:1,3 where the word sign is translated "wonder."
 - ▶ This particular sign or wonder is called "great and marvellous" (i.e., passing human comprehension). The plagues about to take place are incomprehensible.
 - ▶ Seven angels had seven last plagues (the vials or bowls). The word "plague" speaks of a blow, a calamity, a heavy affliction, or a scourging in response to one's deeds.
 - ▶ In these is filled up (i.e., completed, finished, fulfilled) the wrath of God.

4 ☐ Chapter 15 - Bowl Preparation

- ▶ John saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire (v.2). Remember, this is **in heaven**.
 - ▶ The sea of glass is probably the one before God's throne (Rev 4:6). Obviously, this sea is not liquid as the victors are standing on it.
 - ▶ This time the sea of glass is mingled with fire. This fire likely speaks of God's judgment. (Walvoord, *Revelation* 226)
 - ▶ Note the description of the victors in this verse.
 - ▶ They had victory over the Antichrist beast, his image, his mark, and his number. The martyrs lived on. Satan cannot kill the soul (Mat 10:28).
 - ▶ They stood on the sea of glass
 - ▶ They had the harps of God.

5 ☐ Chapter 15 - Bowl Preparation

- ▶ John saw the victors play harps and sing (v.3-4).
 - ▶ The martyrs sang two songs (v.3).
 - ▶ They will sing the song of Moses (Exodus 15).
 - ▶ They will sing the song of the Lamb (v.3-4). Note the worshipful words of their song.
 - ▶ Which words in this song exalt God's Person? ____
 - ▶ Great, marvellous, Almighty, just, true King, holy
 - ▶ What characteristics of God do they exalt? ____
 - ▶ His works, His power, His ways, His sovereignty, His fearfulness, His name, His worthiness of worship

6 ☐ Chapter 15 - Bowl Preparation

- ▶ John saw the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony **in heaven** (Re 15:5-8)
 - ▶ The "temple" is the holy of holies. The "tabernacle" is the tent structure. The "testimony" speaks of God's witness or covenants to ancient Israel.
 - ▶ The angels will come out of the temple (v.6).
 - ▶ The seven angels are described (v.6)
 - ▶ They have the seven plagues.
 - ▶ They are clothed in pure white linen.
 - ▶ They are wearing golden belts.
 - ▶ They were not sinning in their horrific mission, but were fulfilling the pure will of God.

7 ☐ Chapter 15 - Bowl Preparation

- ▶ One of the four beasts (i.e., living creatures) will give them golden vials full of God's wrath (v.7).
 - ▶ A vial is a broad shallow bowl.
 - ▶ The wrath of God in those bowls is the seven last plagues (v.1,6).
 - ▶ This is the wrath of God who lives for ever and ever.
 - ▶ Being the one and only eternal Being, He has full sovereign right to judge those who rebel against Him.
- ▶ The temple was filled with smoke (v.8).
 - ▶ It is as if God Himself is grieved that He must so justly punish those who rebel against Him.
 - ▶ Yet, God's glory and power must prevail.

8 ☐ Personal Application

- ▶ We must never forget that God will be the final victor.
- ▶ One day the martyrs will sing praise to God as He pours out judgment on their murders.
- ▶ The seven last plagues will come directly from the testimony of God in the holy of holies. They will

- be just and right.
- We would be benefited by meditating on the Song of the Lamb (v.3-4).