

Chapter 15

- An introduction to chapter 16- sets the stage for the final outpouring of the judgment of God on the earth. After he has harvested them, the saved will praise him with “The Song of the Lamb.” Then the seven last plagues of God’s wrath will be unleashed.
- This is the shortest chapter in the book (8 verses) and introduces chap. 16
- We must understand God as He reveals Himself in His Word.
- Series of seven judgments (Seven seals, Seven trumpets, Seven bowls)
There are three signs in the book:

12:1 - *A great sign (1) appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was pregnant and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth.*

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*12:3 - Then **another sign (2)** appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven crowns.*

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- We must understand God as He reveals Himself in His Word.
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*15:1 - Then I saw **another sign (3)** in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.*

Chapter 15

Verse 1- *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, **seven** angels who had **seven** plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.*

seven angels- “seven” is mentioned 8 times in eight verses. This is the final and most amazing sign of all three- the seven angels who pour out the final wrath of God.

last plagues- (eschatas)- the root word of *eschatology*- a study of the end/last times. This is it- the end, the *eschaton* “last.”

finished- (etelesthē) same word used for the work of Jesus on the cross. Here, God’s patience is finished (come to an end).

Chapter 15

Verse 2- *And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who were victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.*

sea of glass mixed with fire- Revelation 4:6- “and before the throne there was something like **a sea of glass, like crystal**”

Here, though, he adds that the sea is mixed with fire which shows this is a time of judgment. These are most likely martyred Tribulation saints.

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beast and his image- The Antichrist will think he has the victory over those who refuse to worship him or take his mark, but they are the ones who are victorious.

Often, Christians who die look like they have been conquered (by disease, martyrdom, etc.), but every believer will be victorious. Even as the beast “conquers” the saints by killing them (11:7; 13:7), he is being “conquered by” the saints (12:11) and the Lamb (17:14).

Chapter 15

Verse 3- *And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!”*

the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb- The song of Moses is one of the first songs in the Bible and the song of the Lamb is the last.

The song of Moses was sung on the banks of the Red Sea after God had miraculously led His people through the Red Sea and then drowned Egypt’s cavalry (Exodus 15).

The 10 Jewish Shirot (Songs)

1 st Song	Song of Adam- completion of creation	Ps. 92
2 nd Song	Song of the Sea (Moses)	Exod. 15
3 rd Song	Song of the Well (Crossing into Canaan)	Num. 21
4 th Song	Ha"zinu (to hear) (Sung by Moses to Hebrews)	Deut. 32
5 th Song	The Song of Givon (Joshua/Sun stands still)	Josh. 10
6 th Song	The Song of Deborah (Victory over Sisera)	Judg. 4
7 th Song	Song of Hannah (Blessed with Samuel)	1 Sam. 2
8 th Song	Song of David (Saved from Saul)	2 Sam. 22
9 th Song	Song of Solomon (God's love for Israel)	Song of Sol.
10 th Song	Song of the Messiah (Yet to be sung)	Isa. 9:2-7

The Song of the Lamb (Jews don't sing...yet!) Rev.15:2

The 10 Jewish Shirot (Songs)

Song of the Sea (Moses) Exodus 15 (First 6 Lines)

"I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a warrior; The Lord is His name. Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has thrown into the sea; And the choicest of his officers are drowned in the Red Sea. The waters cover them; They went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, Lord, is majestic in power; Your right hand, Lord, destroys the enemy

The 10 Jewish Shirot (Songs)

Song of the Lamb Revelation 5:9-10

“Worthy are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slaughtered, and You purchased people for God with Your blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. You have made them into a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

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“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! - There are many stanzas to the song of the Lamb. This is the newest one.

The first line celebrates God’s works, the second His ways.

Chapter 15

Verse 4- *Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”*

Lines three and four introduce rhetorical questions that dominate the rest of the hymn. The first, “Who will not fear you?”

Jeremiah 10:7- *Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For it is Your due! For among all the wise men of the nations And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.*

Chapter 15

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Lines three and four introduce rhetorical questions that dominate the rest of the hymn. The second, “Who will glorify Your name?”

Psalms 86:9- *All nations whom You have made will come and worship before You, Lord, And they will glorify Your name.*

Chapter 15

Verse 5- *After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened,*

*the temple... was opened- we have seen this before in Revelation 11:19- “And the temple of God which is in heaven **was opened**; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple....”*

Chapter 15

Verse 6- *and the **seven** angels who had the **seven** plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and their chests wrapped with golden sashes.*

clothed in linen, clean and bright, and their chests wrapped with golden sashes- normally worn by priests. The “golden sashes” remind us of the image of Jesus in 1:13:

*“...and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a **golden sash**.”*

Are these angels emissaries of Christ, pouring out His justice?

Chapter 15

Verse 7- *And one of the four living creatures gave the **seven** angels **seven** golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.*

one of the four living creatures- The “four living creatures” formed the innermost circle (with the 24 elders and angelic host forming the outer circles) surrounding the throne of God in 4:6–7.

They have (1) guided heavenly worship in 5:6–7, (2) sent out the four horsemen of the Apocalypse in 6:1–8, and (3) participated in worship in 7:11 and 14:3. Their final appearance in the book will be to (5) fall before God and cry out “amen, hallelujah” in 19:4.

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Verse 7- *And one of the four living creatures gave the **seven** angels **seven** golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.*

bowls- (phialas) liturgical utensils used in the temple (Exod. 27:3; Num. 7; 1 Kings 8:4). Specifically, they remind us of the golden bowls of incense that are the prayers of the saints (Rev.5:8). These are now used for final plagues to be poured out on the earth.

Chapter 15

Verse 8- *And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the **seven** plagues of the **seven** angels were finished.*

temple was filled with smoke- The temple is filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power. Smoke is a usual symbol for the dwelling place of God (Exod. 19:18; Isa. 4:5; 6:1-4). No one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were ended. As in the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, the glory prohibits anyone from coming close. No one can intercede to stop God's inevitable judgment.

The Seven Bowl Judgments

The First Bowl: Painful Sores (16:1-2)

The Second Bowl: Seas Smitten (16:3)

The Third Bowl: Rivers Smitten (16:4-7)

The Fourth Bowl: Scorching Heat (16:8-9)

The Fifth Bowl: Darkness (16:10-11)

The Sixth Bowl: The Euphrates Dried (16:12-16)

The Seventh Bowl: Widespread Destruction (16:17-21)

Where are we headed?

Chapter 16- The Bowl Judgments

Chapter 17- The Doom of Babylon

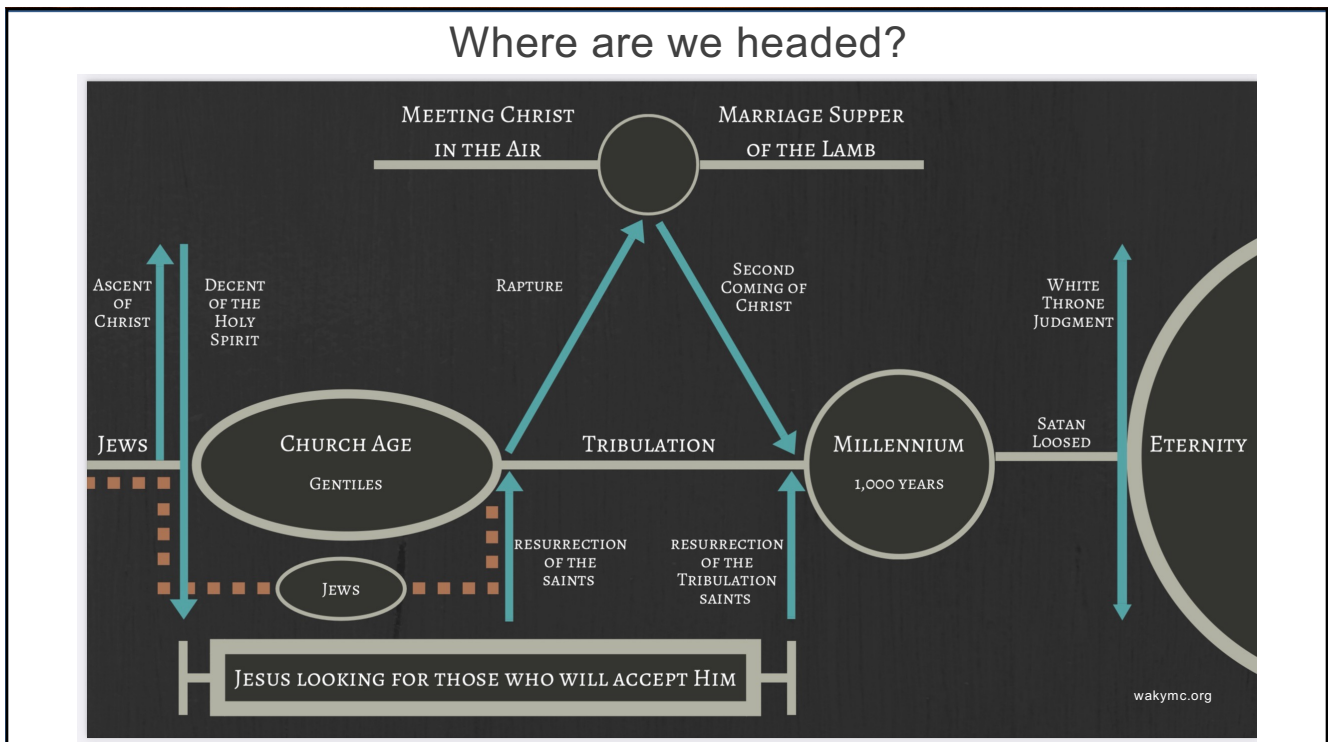
Chapter 18- The Fall of Babylon

Chapter 19- The Marriage of the Lamb/Coming of Christ

Chapter 20- The Millennial Kingdom/Great White Throne Judgment

Chapter 21- The New Heaven/Earth and Jerusalem

Chapter 22- The River and Tree of Life/Final Message



Next week...

Chapter 16-
"The Bowl Judgments"

