

REVELATION CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Verse 1: *“And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”*

In the sixteenth chapter we cover the seven plagues. Before one of the plagues is ever poured out, before God starts pouring out His judgment, the mercy is cut off. When God starts pouring out His judgment, one vial after the other hits the earth. The temple is smoky and no one can enter in. There are thunderings and lightnings going on in the temple, and there is judgment on the earth, but on the sea of glass stands those that gave their lives during the great tribulation period for the cause of God.

Verse 2: *“And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.”*

This sea of glass is mingled with fire. What is this fire? It is the fires of tribulation. This is a heavenly scene. John saw the souls of those that were slain by the beast and the false prophet in the great tribulation period and they are standing before the throne of God. John saw them standing on the sea of glass. **Notice that those who are standing on the sea of glass have gotten the victory over the beast, the image of the beast, and the number are showing that these are tribulation saints, because that’s when the beast and his image speaks; so these have to be tribulation saints.**

This may seem like a little contradiction to the carnal mind as we refer to the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, where it says that it was given to the beast to make war with the saints and to overcome them. If the saints were overcome, then how did they get the victory? The beast overcame them *physically*. Revelation 14:13 says, *“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth.”* So, they won the victory by standing faithful and being put to death for the Word of God and *spiritually* overcoming the beast. The beast overcame them physically, but they won the victory. It would look like they were losing, but they were winning the victory because they gave their lives for their stand on that Word in the tribulation period. This is a picture of the souls that were slain for the Word of God and for the testimony of Christ.

Verse 3: *“And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”*

They sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb. They said, *“Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty.”* Who is Lord God Almighty? The Jews believe in Lord God Almighty. God had John to write this to distinctly make it clear the separation between the Jews and the Gentiles. The rest of this verse says, *“Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”* To the Gentiles, Jesus Christ is the King of saints.

All those that stand on the sea of glass, both Jews and Gentiles will know that Jesus is the Christ. Even though there were many of the Jews that did not know it when they died for the Word of God, they will know it when they stand on the sea of glass. God let John see it this way so we could interpret the Word in this last day and know that it is both Jew and Gentile. These are praising God and singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb.

Verse 4: *"Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest."*

I want to ask you a question, and the question itself is going to interpret the answer to you. Where would they get a phrase like, *"Who shall fear Thee?"* Think about the fourteenth chapter and it will show you. What was the message of the 144,000? *"Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His Judgment is come."* These that are standing on the sea of glass were affected by the message of the 144,000. **The 144,000 were instrumental in giving them courage to die for the faith that they had in God.** Do you see how the Word of God is written? Isn't it wonderful? If the 144,000 didn't go forth and preach that type of Gospel, almost the whole world would bow down to the beast.

Verse 5: *"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened."*

This shows the ending up of the redemption under the present stage. Another translation of this verse reads, *"After that I looked and the temple was opened all the way back to the holy of holies."* What does it mean? There is no more redemption of that form on the earth at all.

By this time, the Gospel that the 144,000 preached has come to a close. It has had its effect on earth and the earth has been bathed in blood; and John saw the souls on the sea of glass.

Verse 6: *"And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles."*

Verse 7: *"And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever."*

The fact that these seven angels are given seven vials, means that they have already finished with the seven trumpets. The angels with the trumpets and the angels that are given the vials are the same seven angels.

Verse 8: *"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."*

Notice the glory of God comes into the temple. This glory of God is not glory in mercy, but it is God's glory in judgment. God is glorious in His mercy. God is glorious in His judgment. God is just in His mercy, and God is just in His judgment. It says in verse 4 that, *"Thy judgments are made manifest."* God begins to judge and pour out His wrath. No man was able to enter into the temple any longer, meaning that there was nothing else to be done to help humanity. It was

over with. It was God's judgment. There was no blood (in type) on the mercyseat, so there's no more mercy.

I want to read one scripture and show you what it is to come before God with no mercy and no intercession at the Ark of the Covenant. I Samuel 6:19— *“And He smote the men of Bethshemesh because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, even He smote the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the Lord had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.”* What was it? The people were brought in contact with the law of God without any blood between them and God. When they raised the lid on the ark (the lid was the mercyseat) that took the mercyseat from between God's law and the people. Do you see it now? What happened? The wrath of God came out on them and it slew 50,070 men, showing what the wrath of God is. This is dealing with the same thing in heaven where the Ark of the Covenant was. It shows God's judgment.

Do you see the God of wrath of the Old Testament come on the scene again? The God of wrath, the God of the Old Testament, the God that we haven't seen move in wrath, comes on the scene again.

Not even one vial can be poured out until the temple in heaven is opened, until the Ark of the Covenant is brought into plain view, because it signifies that there's some type of mercy. The type of mercy that they receive is not like we've got now, but under the 144,000 God made a way for their ministry; and God made a way for a people to hear them. God gave grace to those that would fear Him, give glory to His name, and stand for the Word in that hour, but here the temple is open and all the mercy is over with. God is getting ready to close out an age and to judge. Amen.