

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER 15

“Great and Marvelous are Your Works ”

Let's Recap where we have been so far in our study:

- ☞ **The 7 year Tribulation** is triggered by the disappearance of perhaps a Billion people all over the face of the earth, called the “*Rapture*”, as described by Paul in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4. **This event can literally happen at any moment now...**

Before this event happens though, Jesus begins in chapters 1-3 of the Book of Revelation to give us some background:

- ☞ **Chapter 1:** The revealing of what Jesus looks like now, today, since His Crucifixion, Resurrection and ascension back to heaven.
- ☞ **Chapters 2 and 3:** Jesus message to His Church, specifically; one important promise by Jesus...

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

This is Jesus specific promise to keep all those who belong to Him and are living for Him, from the 7 year period of Tribulation which shall come upon the entire world.

- ☞ **Chapter 4:** John hears a voice “*Come up Here*”, and he is Raptured into heaven, where he is shown the events of the 7 year tribulation and records them for us in this Book. **We see us, already in heaven, singing the song of the redeemed.**
- ☞ **Chapter 5:** We see Jesus taking from the hand of the Father, “*The Title Deed*” to the earth, as Only Jesus is found worthy to take the scroll and open it.
- ☞ **Chapter 6:** The beginning of the 7 year tribulation period, is by a peace plan from the new world leader the Bible calls “*The Beast*”, in the middle of the 3 ½ years, he breaks the peace, war, famine and death break out world wide.
- ☞ **Chapter 7:** 144,000 Jewish male virgins are “*Sealed*” by God with His protection, to go out into the earth and witness of Jesus being the only Savior of the world.
- ☞ **Chapter 8:** Silence in heaven for ½ an hour as the first of the 7 angles prepare to blow their trumpets in the beginning of the Trumpet judgments.
- ☞ **Chapter 9:** Demon locusts out of hell are released to torment men for 5 months in which no one will be able to die, despite the torments of the demon locusts.
- ☞ **Chapter 10:** Jesus standing on the earth, with the title deed to the earth, ready to execute its judgments.
- ☞ **Chapter 11:** John is told to measure the newly built temple in Jerusalem, but strangely the outer court has a building that belongs to the gentiles. This is the present Dome of the Rock that exists today on the temple mount. The introduction of Moses and Elijah as the two witnesses seen standing in Jerusalem, where they witness to the Jewish people for 3 ½ years.
- ☞ **Chapter 12:** a picture of Israel in the past, as she is the woman with the garland of 12 stars on her head, that gives birth to Jesus the Messiah, who satan immediately

tried to kill through Herod. Satan is to be cast out of heaven where he no longer will have access, because of this, in the last 3 1/2 years of the Great Tribulation, he comes down to the earth with great wrath.

- ☞ **Chapter 13:** The description of the antichrist, or the Beast, and his false prophet.
- ☞ **Chapter 14:** The 144,000 that were sealed in chapter 7, are now seen back in heaven, not one of them was lost, and the vast number of those who were saved out of the tribulation period as a result of their witness to them of who Jesus is.

In the last part of chapter 14, John saw what the Battle of Armageddon was going to be like.

- ☞ **Next Sunday morning**, in chapter 16, we will spend a good deal of time looking at what the **Battle of Armageddon** is all about.

Which brings us to chapter 15 this morning, the preparation for the Great Battle of Armageddon:

In Hebrew literature, as the story is unfolding, they often take a “**Pause**” to fill in some of the blank spaces of the story and give to you information that is not otherwise mentioned in the series of events in the story.

- ☞ **For instance** in The Book of Genesis, chapter 1, you have God’s account of the seven days of creation.
- ☞ **Then, in chapter 2**, it goes back and it fills all of the details of how this creation took place, before chapter 3 moves on with the story.

As we have been going through our study in the book of Revelation, it is important to understand that This book is in Chronological in the order events happen, with one event happening after another, with one exception:

- ☞ **There are “Parenthesis”** in this Chronological order, that explain or give additional information to help us understand the chronological events of Revelation.

A “**Parenthesis**” is a bracketed place in a sentence that gives light to what is being said:

For example:

“Then Jesus (The son of Joseph and Mary), went to Bethany...”

So, here is the point of what I am saying:

- ☞ **We are reading through the Book of revelation, the events in this Book are going to happen in the order that they are written.**
- ☞ **Except that there are these 8 little Parenthesis** or *pauses in the order*, that give us *other or additional information* about what we are reading.
- ☞ **They are not a change** in the order of events, just more information...

For example:

In Revelation chapter 19, the scene opens in heaven where John is shown a great multitude in heaven singing to Jesus praises, then we are told that this is you and I, Jesus Bride...

- ☞ **As we are reading through Revelation chapter 19**, Suddenly there is a **PARENTHESIS**, and the scene moves a little ahead and we see Jesus on a white horse with us, ready to return to the earth

Revelation 19:1-14

After these things I heard a loud voice of **a great multitude** in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. PARENTHESIS...**

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, **a white horse**. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses

Do you get the idea of what I am saying here?

There are several of these Parenthesis interwoven in the 22 chapter of the Book of Revelation, so, you might say: **I wanted to take a Parenthesis from our study in Revelation, this morning and show these to you:**

1st Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 7, verses 1-17 An Explanation of 2 groups seen in heaven:

- ☞ **The 2 Types** of those Redeemed:

1. **The 144,000**, who appear in heaven in chapter 14, Raptured without dying.
2. **Those killed during the Tribulation**, who are seen as the saints under the altar in Revelation 6:9-11, and the rest who are not yet killed in Revelation 14:13

2nd Parenthesis: Revelation Chapter 8, verses 2-6 An explanation of what is happening in heaven between the 7th seal and the 1st Trumpet:

- ☞ **"Silence in Heaven** for about 1/2 an hour"
- ☞ **The Lord is Pausing** for the sake of Mercy, before He begins the next set of judgments.

3rd Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 8, The **announcement** that there will be 3 woes that will begin at the last 3 trumpets.

- ☞ **1st Woe: Revelation 9**, at the **5th Trumpet**, Loosing of demons on earth to torment men for 5 months, men will not be able to die.
- ☞ **2nd Woe Revelation 9**, at the **6th Trumpet**, releasing of 200,000,000 demons out of hell to kill 1/3rd of mankind.
- ☞ **3rd. Woe, Revelation 11**, The **7th Trumpet**, satan is cast out of heaven, loses access to heaven, so he comes to earth with great wrath.

4th Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 9, Announcement of the 2nd and 3rd woe.

5th Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 10, Jesus seen on the earth with the title deed to the earth.

6th Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 14: The 144,000 seen back in heaven with those they led to Jesus.

7th Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 16: Explanation of how Satan draws the kings of the earth to the Battle of Armageddon, by 3 demonic spirits that come out of the mouth of frogs.

8th Parenthesis: Revelation chapter 19. We see us, Jesus church, in heaven with Jesus as preparations are made for Jesus along with us, to return to the earth.

It is important to understand that these **little breaks** in the story, called "**Parenthesis**", are interwoven into the story, as you go through the Book of Revelation, **so you do not get the false impression that the story is not following one event after another.**

Because of these little "**Parenthesis**" some have said that the Book of Revelation is not written in the order the events happened, so we don't know for certain when the Rapture happens...**WRONG!**

- ☞ **The reason** the Rapture cannot happen in the middle or end of the 7 year Tribulation, is that in the Chronological order of events, **the Rapture happened before the Tribulation even begins.**
- ☞ **Revelation chapters 4 and 5** We already see the church in heaven.
- ☞ **Revelation Chapter 6,** the 7 year tribulation begins.

Just based on this one piece of evidence, there is no way that the Rapture can happen any other time than BEFORE the 7 year Tribulation begins...MAKE SENSE?

So, let's return to our study this morning in Revelation chapter 15:

Revelation 15

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having **the seven last plagues**, NOTICE: for in them **the wrath of God is complete.**

In our last study in Revelation 14, we were on the earth, as we begin chapter 15, we are in Heaven

- ☞ There were: **7 Seal judgments**, as the title deed to the earth is opened.
- ☞ There were: **7 Trumpet judgments.**
- ☞ Now there is: **7 Vial or Bowl judgments** to complete the "*Wrath of the Lamb*".

When the 7 Bowl judgments are finished, the 7 year tribulation will be over,,,

And so John "*saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous sign, there were seven angels who had the seven last plagues and in them the completion of God's wrath that is to be poured out.*"

Revelation 15

2 And I saw something like **a sea of glass mingled with fire**, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

This is the same “Sea of glass” that we saw in Revelation chapter 4:

Revelation 4:6

6 **Before the throne there was a sea of glass**, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

Revelation 4 describes “A single Throne”, but 3 sitting on the throne:

Revelation 4:2-8

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, **a throne** set in heaven, and **One sat on the throne**.

3 And **He who sat there** was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy, (Three times, for the 3 in one)
Lord God Almighty,

Though Revelation 4 describes ONE on the throne, notice what happen here in chapter 5

Revelation 5:1, 7

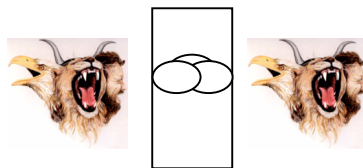
1 And I saw **in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne** a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

7 Then (Jesus) came and took the scroll **out of the right hand** of Him who sat on the throne.

Next to the Throne are the Creatures that have 4 different faces:

Throne of God

- The Ox:** Servant (Mark)
- The Man:** Man (Luke)
- The Eagle:** God (John)
- The Lion:** King (Matthew)



It appears from the Bible, that at the instant you leave your body, this is the scene that you will see.

When Stephen gave his long account of how God has brought Jesus to be the savior of all, the Jews took up stones and killed Him, listen to Stephens account of what he saw as he was dying:

Acts 7:54-56

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, **gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,**

56 and said, “Look! **I see the heavens opened** and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

Paul spoke of the many times that he was beaten and stoned:

2 Corinthians 11:24-25

24 From the Jews **five times** I received **forty stripes** minus one.

25 **Three times** I **was beaten** with rods; **once I was stoned**;

On one of those occasions when Paul was stoned, they actually killed him...

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter

Revelation 15:2

...and **those who have the victory over the beast**, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

John sees in heaven, all those who became believers in Jesus Christ during the 7 year tribulation.

- ☞ **They accepted** Jesus sacrifice for their sins.
- ☞ **They gave** their lives to Jesus.
- ☞ **They did not take** the Mark of the Beast.
- ☞ **They were beheaded** by the Beast because of their allegiance to Jesus

Notice that this scene at the throne of God is slightly different from the scene at chapter 4:

- ☞ **Here in chapter 15**, the sea of glass is ***“Mingled with fire”***
- ☞ **Fire in the old testament** signifies the presence of God.

1. Moses spoke to the Lord in a bush that burns with fire.
2. As the children of Israel moved through the wilderness the Lord led them by “*A pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night*”.
3. Elijah in 1 kings 18:24 say’s to the prophets of baal “*you call on the name of your Gods, I will call on the name of the Lord, the God who answers by fire*”.
4. In Deuteronomy 4:21 mosses says “**The Lord your God is a consuming fire**”.

Revelation 15:2:

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and **those who have the victory over the beast**, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, **standing on the sea of glass**, having harps of God.

- ☞ **We see** those who have come out of the great tribulation and did not take the mark of the beast.
- ☞ **They have “Harps of God”**
- ☞ **Harps are** an expression of praise and worship.
- ☞ **As these** who have gained victory of the antichrist by giving their lives for Jesus, the sing a song of praise with instruments.

I haves had people ask me as a musician if they would be able to play an instrument or sing, when they get to heaven:

- ☞ **Here we see** that the ones that are saved during the Tribulation can play a stringed instrument.
- ☞ **I think it is safe to say** that we who were saved BEFORE the Tribulation begins, will also be able to play many instruments and sing even better than the angels.

I personally that these harps are the most awesome sounding stringed instrument anyone of us have ever heard.

- ☞ **I have a 6 string guitar**, a 12 string guitar and the church has a 5 string Bass, but these instruments could have **hundreds of strings**, and **you will be able to play a song to the Lord like no one on earth ever played any guitar**.
- ☞ **Better than** Carlos Santana, better than Jimmy Hendrix, better than Eddie Van Halen, better than anyone...
- ☞ **There is no electric guitar in the world** that would sound as awesome as these “**Harps**”
- ☞ **And notice** it appears that most or all of them know how to play them!!!
- ☞ **Notice now in verse 3**, the song that they are singing:

Revelation 15

- 3 **They sing the song of Moses**, the servant of God, and **the song of the Lamb**, saying: **“Great and marvelous are Your works, lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!**
- 4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, **for Your judgments have been manifested.**”

- ☞ **“The song of Moses”** was sung by the **children of Israel by the red sea** after God had delivered them through it. Exodus 15:1
- ☞ **This song** is sung by **the children of God beside the crystal sea** before Gods throne.
- ☞ **The song of Moses** is about how God brought his people **out** of Egypt.
- ☞ **This song** is about how God brought his people **into** his presence in heaven.
- ☞ **The song of Moses** was the **first song** in the scriptures.
- ☞ **This song** is the **last song** we see in the scriptures.

The reason they sing is because Jesus is so worthy.

- ☞ **Hey, will you permit me to say** that the reason we should give Jesus the very best we have in our lives, is because HE IS SO WORTHY
- ☞ **When we worship**, lets worship Jesus like we really mean it. HE IS WORTHY.
- ☞ **When we Study Jesus Word**, lets give Him our full attention , HE IS WORTHY
- ☞ **When we live our lives**, lets live them for Jesus FULL TILT, BECAUSE HE IS WORTHY

You know, some of us this morning are going through some tough times, but don't loose heart yet...JESUS IS WORTHY...He will not fail you...

- ☞ **Jesus is Righteous**, and He always does in your life, what is Righteous.
- ☞ **Jesus might not do it the way you want it done**, but he will do it Righteous.

Notice what all those in heaven cry out as they see these judgments of the Lord:

Revelation 15

Great and marvelous are Your works, lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways...

The righteousness of God: this was satans question to eve in the garden: *“God is not fair, he is holding out on you.”*

- ☞ **We know** that the scriptures say that the angels watch this plan of salvation intensely.
- ☞ **Why:** to see if God is righteous and fair.
- ☞ **Remember satan persuaded** 1/3 of the angels to go with him, perhaps some of the remaining still wonder if God is really righteous and fair.
- ☞ **Now, here in the book of Revelation** as the plan of salvation is finalized, the angels, and all of us see that God is righteous and fair.

You might not be able to see Gods plan for your life right now, does this mean He is not Righteous and Fair?

- ☞ **You may not understand** why things have happened to you the way they have in your life...
- ☞ **You might be suffering**, or perhaps you have suffered and wondered if the Lord really does love you...

But wait just a little while longer, and when you an see the purposes of all of the things of your life, this will also be your same song:

“Great and marvelous are Your works, lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways...”

There is a story of a man who was so crippled in his body that the children in the neighborhood called him “Old Rattle Bones”.

One of the ringleaders of the tormentors was called Freddie.

One day, the severely handicapped man was headed in the direction of Freddie home.

Freddie yelled out to the man: *“Go ahead and tell my mother, see if I care...”*

Arriving at Freddie home, the man began to tell Freddie and his mother an amazing story:

“Years ago, when you were just a baby, your nurse took you out for a walk in your baby carriage down near the river.”

“When she let go of the handle for just a moment, the carriage began to careen down the hill and into the rushing river...”

“I was standing nearby and jumped into the river and brought you up out of the water to the shore...I left before your nurse arrived...”

The cold water caused the condition that you see I have in my body today, I can scarcely hobble along now...”

Freddie hung his head and began to cry: *“Thank you for saving me, forgive me for not knowing how wonderful you really are...”*

Some of us are in the frigid waters right now.

We might wonder why we are there, how we got there, why the Lord lets us be in this condition.

But remember, when you didn't even know Him yet, Jesus jumped into the rushing frigid waters, and pulled you out.

That act cost him the most brutal and vicious death that any man has ever suffered in all of human history...

But He did it for you because He loves you, Because Jesus is Righteous, and **you can trust Him, even when you don't understand...**even when you are suffering and going through life's most difficult times...

Thank You Lord for saving us, for jumping into the frigid water and sacrificing your life for ours...

We had forgotten Jesus, just how wonderful you really are!