

# GREAT AND MARVELOUS ARE THY WORKS REVELATION 15

Text: Revelation 15:3

Introduction:

As we move through the book of Revelation, we are taken back and forth between Heaven and the earth.

We are allowed to witness scenes of joy in Heaven and we are confronted with scenes of judgment on the earth.

In Heaven you see scenes of worship. On the earth, you see scenes of wrath.

In this chapter we are once again taken into Heaven.

In these eight verses, which comprise the shortest chapter in the Revelation, we are allowed to see a vision of Heaven as God prepares for His final judgment of the tribulation earth.

There has already been great suffering as the judgment of God has been unleashed on the earth. When these

judgments are poured out on the earth, they serve to increase the agony of the wicked.

We are given a glimpse of Heaven as it prepares for final judgment. Up to this point, God has mingled mercy and judgment. Up to this point God has been leaving the door to repentance ajar. Now humanity has made its final choice. The world has chosen Satan over God and judgment is coming. There will be no mercy. There will be no more opportunity. There will be no longsuffering or grace. There will only be judgment and the wrath of God for all those who have rejected Jesus Christ.

## 1. A VISION OF JUDGMENT (VSS.1, 7)

### **Revelation 15:1**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

### **Revelation 15:7**

<sup>7</sup> 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.

#### A. It's a scene of final judgment

When these seven judgments are poured out on the earth, they will complete the judgments of the Tribulation Period. **Verse 1** says that through these judgments the wrath of God is "**filled up**". This phrase

translates the Greek verb “**telos**”. This is the same word used by Jesus when He was dying on the cross. Just before He died He cried, “**It is finished**”, **John 19:30**.

- The word is very expressive and it was used in many ways in that society.
- Servants used it when they had completed an assignment.
- Priests used it when they had located a worthy animal to be used as a sacrifice.
- Farmers used this word when a perfect specimen had been born into their flock.
- Artists used it when they had put the finishing touches on a work or art.
- Merchants used it when a deal had been struck. Often your receipt would contain this word. It meant that the debt had been paid in full.
- Soldiers used it when they placed their foot on the neck of a vanquished foe.
- Homeowners used it when they had paid the last payment on their mortgage. They would often inscribe the word on a plaque and nail it to the

front of the house, revealing to all that the final payment had been paid.

- Jesus used this word on Calvary to let everyone know that He had finished the Father's work and that redemption's price has been fully and finally paid. Praise God, salvation is finished!

## B. It's a scene of full judgment

The seven angels are given seven "**vials**" or "**bowls**". These bowls are said to be "**full of the wrath of God**". The word "**full**" means "**to be swelled**". It was used in that day of a ship that was filled with cargo. Here, it refers to the wrath of God that reached the busting point. Up until now the wrath of God has been like water flowing over a dam. The damage has been severe, but the dam has held back the worst part. In these verses, the dam of God's wrath is about to break and the waters of judgment are going to drown both sin and sinner.

Judgment is coming and there will be no escape.

Illustration:

In 1899, Johnstown, PA was a growing steel town located on the Little Conemaugh and Stony Creek Rivers. It had a population of some 30,000 people. On May 31, 1899, at 4:07 PM, after a night of heavy rains, the South Fork Dam burst. When it did, 20 million tons

of water came crashing down the narrow valley. Boiling with huge chunks of debris, the wall of flood water grew at times to 60 feet high, tearing downhill at 40 miles per hour, leveling everything in its path.

When the dam broke and the water came hurtling toward Johnstown, the people heard the roar and understood what had happened. Thousands tried to escape, but were soon overtaken by the waters. When the next day dawned, over 2,200 people were dead. Some of the bodies were not uncovered until years after the flood. There was no time to escape and there was no means of escape. Johnstown was destroyed without mercy in a matter of minutes.

That is but glimpse of the horror that is coming on this world when God's wrath is poured out. The dam will break and judgment will fall.

## 2. A VISION OF JUBILATION (VSS. 2-4)

### **Revelation 15:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints. <sup>4</sup> 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.

## A. The setting of jubilation

These saints are standing on a “**sea of glass**” “**mingled with fire**”. This glassy sea speaks of God’s judgment as being firm and fixed. On this earth, there is nothing more constantly changing than the ocean. The sea is never still and it is never the same. This sea is solid and unmoving! Judgment is fixed and it cannot be altered! It is “**mingled with fire**” to remind us that God is a God of wrath Who is in the process of judging this world.

If you will remember, there was a “**sea of brass**” called “**the laver**” outside the tent of the Tabernacle. Before the priests entered the tent they were required to wash in the laver. It symbolized cleansing and forgiveness of sin.

In Heaven, that sea of brass has become a sea of glass. There will be no more need for the saints to come to God for cleansing. We will never fail Him again!

For the lost sinner, this sea reminds us that it has become too late for repentance. Judgment is set and fixed. Man has reached his limit and God is about to pour out His wrath on a lost and sinful world.

## B. The source of jubilation

These in Heaven are rejoicing, and with good reason! These are the Tribulation saints that we met way back in **Rev. 7:9-17**.

These are people who heard the Gospel when it was preached during the Tribulation.

They heard the call of God and they repented of their sins and they were saved.

Most of them were called upon to give their lives for Jesus. This they did, dying horrible deaths at the hand of the Antichrist.

Now, they are home in Heaven, safe, secure and saved. And they rejoice in the victory they have been given.

### C. The song of jubilation

These Tribulation saints lift their voices in song to praise the God Who redeemed their souls.

We are told that they sing two songs. They sing the ***“song of Moses”*** and they sing ***“song of the Lamb.”***

The Song of Moses is found in **Ex. 15**. It is the first song in the Bible.

The Song of the Lamb is the last song recorded in the Bible. The Song of Moses was sung by the children of

Israel when they had been delivered from Egypt and Pharaoh.

The Song of the Lamb is sung by the saints of God when they are delivered from Antichrist.

The Song of Moses was sung by the Red Sea. The Song of the Lamb is sung on the glassy sea.

The Song of Moses was to praise God for bringing His people out.

The Song of the Lamb is sung to praise God for bring His people in.

Both songs are songs of redemption and praise for the God.

Let's take a moment to examine this song.

- **They sing of His works** (vss. 3) – They sing of the God Who works in power and moves in glory.
- **They Sing Of His Ways** (vss. 3) – They sing of the God Who's ways are always right and just.
- **The Sing Of His Wonder** (vss. 4) – They exalt His greatness and magnify God.

- **They Sing Of His Worship** (vss. 4) – They sing of the God Who is worthy to receive and will receive the worship of all mankind.
- **They Sing Of His Wrath** (vss. 4) – They sing of the God Who alone is worthy to judge sin and sinners because He alone is holy and just.

These saints have been through a terrible time, but they found God to be a faithful God. He saved them. He kept them. He carried them home to glory. And, they stand in His presence and lift their voices in song to the God of their salvation.

### **3. A VISION OF JUSTICE (VSS. 5-8)**

#### **Revelation 15:5-8**

<sup>5</sup> And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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.

A. Justice decreed (vss. 5)

B. Justice delivered (vss. 6-7)

### C. Justice dispersed (vss. 8)

Close:

In **Matt. 25:1-10**, Jesus tells a parable about 10 virgins. Five are wise and five are foolish. The five wise virgins were ready when the Bridegroom came and they entered in with Him and His Bride. The five foolish virgins were not ready. They had no oil in their lamps and while they were gone to get their oil, the door was closed and they were shut out of the wedding chamber.

That parable will be a reality in many people's lives one day.