

Book of Revelation

22. The Seven Bowls Introduced



Revelation 15

Introduction

The book of Revelation is not just a record of what will happen in the last days – it is a revelation of Jesus as the King of the ages, the One who will judge His enemies and rule for all eternity. In Chapter 14 an announcement has been made that the hour of judgment has come, and now in Chapters 15 and 16 we read of that judgment.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 15:1-8



In v1 it says 'with them God's wrath is completed'. When then did God's wrath begin?
Revelation 6:12, 16-17; 11:15, 18

During the 6th seal there are catastrophic events taking place and the people on the earth realize the day of God's wrath has come. When the 7th seal is opened the seven trumpets are released, followed by the seven bowls. This is what God had said would happen in Leviticus 26:18, 21. The trumpet judgments primarily affect 1/3 of the world and are less intense than the bowls, which later affect the entire world.

However before this final judgment starts John has another glimpse of what is happening in heaven.



Describe what John saw in this vision. Revelation 15:1-4
Why do you think this song is called 'The song of Moses and the Lamb'?

(Just as God delivered His people out of slavery in Egypt by the blood of a lamb and they entered the Promised Land; so now God's people are delivered, and they enter their Promised Land, which is Heaven.)



Read through this song. What does it teach you about true worship?

(True worship is totally God centered. Notice this song speaks about God – His deeds, ways, glory, holiness, and His acts. The words 'I, me, my' don't even appear!)



In Revelation 11:1 John is instructed to count the worshippers at the altar. Jesus told us that His Father is seeking true worshippers. What obstacles do you face that hinder you from bringing true worship?

Following this John sees the temple or tabernacle in heaven opened. We may be surprised to read that there is a tabernacle, but remember the one Moses built was only a copy of the one in heaven. See Exodus 25:8, Hebrew 8:1-2. To help us understand the significance of what happens in this heavenly scene in Revelation let's look back at the tabernacle of Moses.



What can we learn from the tabernacle of Moses that sheds light on this scene in Revelation 15:5-8? Also see Leviticus 16:12-13, Exodus 40:26-27, 34-35

We see that the golden bowls, censers and incense were part of the Old Testament worship, but they were all pictures of heavenly realities.



What are these 'heavenly realities' that we now see in the book of Revelation? Rev. 5:8

(The bowls full of incense are the prayers of the saints.)



What link is there between the prayer of the saints (incense) and the judgment or the wrath of God? 8:3-5, 15:7-8 How do these truths encourage you to take prayer seriously?

Conclusion

Just as the smoke filled the tabernacle when the High Priest burnt the incense, we now see smoke filling the tabernacle in heaven. This smoke was from the glory and power of God. God is a holy God. He hears the cries of His children and we can totally trust His justice.



Ask cell members to re-read Revelation 15:1-8 and meditate on this passage.

What does this passage reveal to you about God?

What has the Holy Spirit been saying to you?

Ask each one to share briefly.