

Revelation 15 - The Seven Plagues

The seven plagues

Rev 15:1-8 ESV Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, **seven angels with seven plagues**, which are the last, for **with them the wrath of God is finished**.

Seven Plagues - Plague - a stroke; by implication a wound; figuratively a calamity: - plague, stripe, wound (-ed)

Plagues are similar to a beating, or a stripe, or a wound

- Act 16:23 & 33 ESV And when they had inflicted many **blows** upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely... ...16:33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their **wounds**; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.
- Luk 10:30 ESV Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and **beat** him and departed, leaving him half dead.
- 2Co 6:5 ESV **beatings**, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;

One of God's purposes in bringing these plagues is to move man to repent

- Rev 9:20 ESV The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these **plagues**, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,

2 And I saw what appeared to be a **sea of glass mingled with fire**--and also those who had **conquered the beast** and its **image** and the **number of its name**, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

The sea of glass mingled with fire

- **Assuming this is the same sea of glass mentioned here** -- Rev 4:6 ESV and before the throne there was as it were a **sea of glass**, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:
- **Fire could represent God's judgement**
 - They will soon proclaim (in vs 3&4) "just and true are you ways" and "your righteous acts have been revealed"
 - While it is difficult to understand God's judgment now, one day we will
- **Fire could also represent the fiery trials these people have endured**
 - 1Pe 4:12-13 ESV Beloved, do not be surprised at **the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you**, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Standing there were those who had conquered the beast

- Rev 12:11 ESV And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for **they loved not their lives even unto death.**
- Note they didn't just endure - they conquered

They sang the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb

3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "**Great and amazing are your deeds**, O Lord God the Almighty! **Just and true are your ways**, O King of the nations! 4 Who will not **fear**, O Lord, and **glorify your name**? For **you alone are holy**. All nations will come and **worship you**, for **your righteous acts have been revealed.**"

- They sang the song of Moses on the edge of the Red Sea
- They sang it again, here standing on the edge of the glass sea
- They are both songs of deliverance (one a deliverance from Pharaoh, the other a deliverance from the beast)

Here is an excerpt from the Song of Moses:

- Exo 15:1-4 ESV Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has **thrown into the sea**. 2 The LORD is my strength and my 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. 3 The LORD is a man of war; **the LORD is his name**. 4 "Pharaoh's chariots and his host he **cast into the sea**, and his chosen officers **were sunk in the Red Sea**."

Just and true are your ways... ..your righteous acts have been revealed

- Eventually they began to grasp the judgements of the LORD
- They sang of the fear of the LORD, the glory of His name, His holiness and that all nations would worship Him

5 After this I looked, and the **sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened**, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the **seven angels with the seven plagues**, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests.

Once again this points to Moses Tabernacle....here called the tent of witness.

- The angels come out of the holy place with the seven plagues
- This is the place where Moses and the people met with God
 - Exo 29:42-43 ESV It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. 43 **There I will meet with the people of Israel**, and it shall be sanctified by my glory.
 - Exo 25:22 ESV **There I will meet with you**, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

- Perhaps confirming or indicating the idea that these last 7 plagues are originated from God Himself

7 And one of the four living creatures **gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God** who lives forever and ever, 8 **and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God** and from his power, and **no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.**