

NOW PLAYING

***THE GREAT & AMAZING
WRATH OF GOD***



OUTLINE: Revelation 15:1-8 ESV

1. A GREAT AND AMAZING SIGN INTRODUCES THE FINAL SEQUENCE OF THE GREAT AND AMAZING WORK OF THE WRATH OF OUR HOLY GOD, 15:1.

- (Revelation 15:1 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.

A. A very great and amazing, marvelous sign announces the finishing work of the wrath of God.

15:1 ... **great** ... μέγας-megas and ... **amazing**, marvelous ... θαυμαστός-thaumastos.

B. The great and amazing blessing of God comes to its ultimate realization through the finished work of the wrath of God.

C. This final, finishing stage of the wrath of God is essential as God prepares the redeemed of the Lord for glory.

15:1 ... **finished** ... ἐτελέσθη ... from τελέω teleō ... to end, complete, execute, conclude, accomplish, make an end, finish; to bring to a close.

- i. Christ finished his work of salvation and satisfied God's wrath for all who believe.
 - (John 19:30 ESV) When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished** [*Τετέλεσται*]," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
 - (Philippians 1:6 ESV) And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to **completion** [*ἐπιτελέσει*] at the day of Jesus Christ.
- ii. Those who do not receive Christ's substitutionary act of wrath-taking must drink the full measure of God's wrath.

God will finish the outpouring of his wrath on all unconfessed, unrepentant sin and sinners—aka those who have refused to believe God and receive his provision through Christ.

- (Romans 3:24-25 ESV) And are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 **whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith**. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

- See also Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2 and 1 John 4:10.

D. The wrath of God is his intense, passionate, furious hatred of sin.

GOD REALLY HATES SIN.

The word for **wrath** ... θυμός thymos ... describes the fierce passion God possesses in his hatred of sin. This word describes God's fury in response to sin and the effects of sin in the world he created.

Patterson ... Indeed the word for wrath in the text is once again thymos or "fury" where one might have expected to find orgē, the settled disposition of God against evil. [Patterson, P. (2012). *Revelation*. (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, p. 299). Nashville, TN: B&H.]

MacArthur ... Thymos (wrath) is a strong word, describing rage, or a passionate outburst of anger. [MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2000). *Revelation 12-22* (p. 123). Chicago: Moody Press.]

E. The wrath of God satisfies the righteous, holy justice of God and frees him to pour out his blessing and to share himself and his glory with us forever.

- (Ephesians 1:3-10 ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight** 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- (Ephesians 2:7 ESV) **So that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**
- (Romans 8:1 NASB 2020) Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those

who are in Christ Jesus.

- (Romans 8:31–34 NASB 2020) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, **how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?** 33 Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**

2. THOSE WHO CONQUERED THE BEAST SING OF THE BLESSING OF THE OUTWORKING OF THE WRATH OF GOD AS A GREAT AND AMAZING WORK OF GOD, 15:2-4.

- (Revelation 15:2–4 ESV) 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. 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.”

A. Those who conquer the beast know that they are standing beside the sea of glass because of the great and amazing works of God.

“Great and amazing” ... same words as 15:1.

- (Revelation 12:9–11 ESV) **And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth,** and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,** who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 **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.**
- (Romans 8:37–39 ESV) **No, in all these things**

we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

B. Those who conquer sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb—a song of deliverance and judgment.

Morris ... Gathered by the glassy sea, the redeemed saints in the sign are seen and heard by John to be singing two great anthems of victory and praise, the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. It is this fact that gives us the necessary clue to the symbolic import of the sea itself, **for the song of Moses had first been sung long before by the shores of a sea of deliverance and judgment.** [Morris, H. M. (1983). *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (p. 285). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale.]

C. Those who conquer sing of the great and amazing works of the Lord God the Almighty.

D. Those who conquer sing of their King who is just and true in all his ways and rules the nations.

E. Those who conquer sing of reverence and glory to the Lord.

F. Those who conquer sing of God's holiness.

G. Those who conquer sing of the nations coming to worship the LORD as his righteous acts will ultimately be revealed.

- (1 Chronicles 16:28–29 ESV) Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! 29 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

3. **THINK ON THIS ...** THE GREAT AND AMAZING WORK OF THE WRATH OF GOD IS CARRIED OUT BY SEVEN ANGELS DRESSED IN HOLY CLOTHES WHO COME OUT OF THE HOLY TEMPLE OF GOD IN HEAVEN, 15:5-8.

- (Revelation 15:5–8 ESV) 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. 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.**

- (Revelation 15:5 NASB 2020) ... the temple of the tabernacle of testimony.

A. Seven angels come out of the temple in heaven clothed in the righteousness and holiness of God.

B. One of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of eternal God—"God who lives forever and ever."

C. The glory and power of God are so intense that no one could enter the sanctuary until this work of the wrath of God was finished.

HOW HOLY IS THIS MOMENT?

And to think of the people who prefer the God of their imagination to the God of the Bible because of their severe distaste for ... and rejection of ... God's revelation of himself as a God of wrath. Fools indeed!

- (Psalm 14:1 ESV) **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."** They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.
- (Romans 1:21–22 ESV) For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, **and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools.**

Morris ... The unique terminology, "temple of the tabernacle of the testimony," deserves close attention. John had already been shown this "true tabernacle" (Hebrews 8:2), even recording the amazing fact that the long-lost ark of the covenant had apparently been translated there (Revelation 11:19), presumably at the time of the plundering of the earthly temple by Nebuchadnezzar (Jeremiah 52:12–23). [*Ibid.* (p. 288).]

- (Hebrews 8:1–2 ESV) Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, **2 a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.**
- (Revelation 11:19 ESV) Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

Walvoord ... As John observes, the Holy of Holies in the heavenly Tabernacle is opened. The expression "the temple" (Gr., naos) **refers to the inner holy place of the Tabernacle**, the design of which God gave to Israel during the wilderness wandering. The expression "the tabernacle of the testimony" is a reference to the whole tent-like structure, **a portion of which contained the Holy of Holies**. It is described as "the tabernacle of the testimony" because of the presence of the tables of stone containing the ten commandments which were placed in the ark of the testimony in the Holy of Holies ... [*Walvoord, J. F. (2008). The Revelation of Jesus Christ (p. 229). Galaxie Software.*]

Mounce ... John sees the heavenly temple open and the seven angels of devastation emerge. The temple is more closely defined as "the tabernacle of the Testimony," a reference to the period of Israel's sojourn in the wilderness. **In this context it emphasizes that the final plagues come from the presence of God and are the expression of his unalterable opposition to sin.** [*Mounce, R. H. (1997). The Book of Revelation (p. 288). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.*]

- (Exodus 40:35 ESV) **And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting** because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
- (1 Kings 8:10–11 ESV) And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, 11 so that **the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.**
- (2 Chronicles 7:1 ESV) **And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house.**