

The Song of Moses & the Lamb

Revelation 15:1-18:24

REVELATION 15:1-8

Rev. 15:1 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.

REVELATION 15:1-8

Rev. 15:2 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. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

REVELATION 15:1-8

“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.”

REVELATION 15:1-8

Rev. 15:5 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. 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.

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Revelation 15:1-18:24

1. Seven seals. Seven trumpets. Seven bowls.
2. With the last set of seven the wrath of God is completely poured out on Rome.
3. There are no more delays . . . no more interludes . . . the DAY OF THE LORD has come.
4. Chapter 15 explains the PREPARATION for the day.
5. Chapter 16 describes the PLAGUES.
6. Chapter 17 indicts the PROSTITUTE.
7. And chapter 18 provides a couple of PERSPECTIVES on the event.

The Song of Moses & the Lamb

The PREPARATION (15).

A holy war begins with worship.

8. Let's look at the PREPARATION.

9. God is waging HOLY WAR against his enemies, and so it's understandable that WORSHIP is priority number one.

10. Holy war always begins with worship.

11. The setting is heaven.

12. Beyond a crystal sea stands a victorious army singing a victor's song.

13. It's a familiar scene.

14. Just like the Israelites sang the song of Moses on the other side of the Red Sea, so now the martyrs sing the song of the Lamb from the safety of Mount Zion.

15. Now, the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb are one song . . . the song of DELIVERANCE.

16. Just like God delivered Israel from the murderous hand of the Pharaoh of Egypt, so now he has delivered these faithful from the demonic tyrants of their day.

17. And they praise him.

18. They praise him for his AMAZING DEEDS and his JUST WAYS.

19. They praise him because he is awesome in HOLINESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS.

20. And . . . listen, you can't miss this . . . it is his holiness and righteousness that demand this coming holy war . . . this outpouring of wrath.

21. Because the Lord God Almighty is the Creator of the heavens and the earth . . .

- and because he created the people of the earth to be a righteous and holy kingdom of priests . . . and because the people of the earth have, by and large, rebelled against his kingdom in favor of their own wicked and profane kingdoms . . . the Lord God Almighty is perfectly within his character to punish their rebellion.
22. The JUST-ness of this holy war is repeatedly acknowledged in these chapters . . .
 - a. ***“Just and true are [his] ways,”*** the heavenly choir sings here in chapter 15.
 - b. And the angel of the third bowl declares in chapter 16 (CLICK THIS IN), ***“Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!”***
 23. We asked the question two weeks ago, “How could a loving and forgiving God pour out such wrath on the people of the earth?”
 24. An equally appropriate question is, “How could a just God not?”
 25. Furthermore, these earth-dwellers have received stay after stay of execution, but have refused to repent.
 26. Even as the end draws nigh, they are brazen in their rebellion.
 27. Rather than plead for mercy, chapter 16 tells us, they curse God and refuse to repent (16:9, 11).
 28. So God’s justice demands judgment, and the PREPARATIONS for judgment begin with worship.

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The PREPARATION (15).

A holy war begins with worship.

The PLAGUES (16).

Another decisive battle in the region of Megiddo.

- 29. Then from the heavenly sanctuary emerge seven angels bearing the seven bowls of the wrath of God.**
30. These are the PLAGUES of God . . . some of them very similar to the plagues directed at Egypt in the Old Testament . . . I think we're supposed to make the connection.
31. The first angel pours out sores on those who wear the mark of the beast.
32. The second and third angels pour out blood into the sea, the rivers, and the springs of water . . . "They wanted blood," the angel says, "they'll get blood."
33. The fourth angel pours out his bowl on the sun, and brings a scorching fire upon the earth-dwellers.
34. The fifth angel pours out his bowl directly upon the beast's throne, and plunges his kingdom into darkness and chaos.
35. The sixth angel's bowl dries up the waters of the great Euphrates, causing the beast's kingdom to be exposed to invaders.
36. And notice what else happens when this sixth bowl is emptied:
- The dragon, the sea beast, and the land beast (here he's called "the false prophet," because the land beast's whole shtick is propaganda), summon their allies into battle at a place called Armageddon.
 - In the Old Testament, Megiddo was the site of several significant battles.
 - Well, the GEOGRAPHY IS SYMBOLIC . . . there's no more appropriate location for the most significant battle of all time.
 - At Megiddo the unholy trinity and their allies attempt to make a stand against the Lord God Almighty on the day of his wrath, but . . .
 - The whole thing is relatively anti-climatic, because . . .
37. The seventh angel pours out his bowl into the air, and . . .
- 38. "IT IS DONE."**
39. Flashes of lightening . . . peals of thunder . . . a great earthquake.
40. The great city falls . . . the cities of the nations fall . . . and God drains the cup of the wine of his wrath upon the head of the GREAT PROSTITUTE.

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The PREPARATION (15).

A holy war begins with worship.

The PLAGUES (16).

Another decisive battle in the region of Megiddo.

The PROSTITUTE (17).

An indictment against the earth's seductress.

41. Look at the PROSTITUTE.

42. In chapter 17 one of the seven angels takes John aside to explain just why all this is happening.
43. He likens the empire to a PROSTITUTE turning tricks for a DEMONIC PIMP.
44. Now, there are a lot of historical markers in this chapter, and we can go through them in detail at a later time, but I don't want you to lose sight of the big picture . . . the main message.
45. The prostitute SEDUCES the earth-dwellers with her glamorous outward appearance and her glittering cup of wine.
46. She promises pleasure and wealth, but she delivers ABOMINATIONS and IMPURITY.
47. In fact, the angel says that she is the MOTHER OF ALL THE EARTH'S ABOMINATIONS.
48. She CORRUPTS the earth-dwellers with IDOLATRY and IMMORALITY . . . use wisdom to discern her identity.
49. She thinks she is a formidable opponent for King YHWH and his people, and she wages war against the Lamb . . .
50. But the Lamb conquers, ***"for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful"*** (Revelation 17:14).

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The PERSPECTIVES (18).

The earth-dwellers mourn, but heaven rejoices.

51. So then chapter 18 offers two PERSPECTIVES on the PROSTITUTE'S demise.

52. THE EARTH-DWELLERS MOURN.

53. All of the PROSTITUTE'S customers – the TYRANTS and the TRADERS – weep and wail because their power and protection is gone, and their pocketbooks are emptied.

54. But **HEAVEN REJOICES**, because JUSTICE has finally been served for all the apostles, and prophets, and saints, and everyone else who was violated, and oppressed, and martyred by Babylon's evil empire.

55. Now listen, there are some clear calls for us in these chapters.

56. And the first is this . . .

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GET OUT.

*Then I heard another voice from
heaven saying,
“Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
for her sins are heaped high as
heaven,
and God has remembered her
iniquities (18:4-5).*

57. GET OUT . . . READ 18:4-5.

58. This is heaven’s perspective on the Day of the Lord.
59. Get out of Babylon . . . get out of Rome . . . get out of bed with the PROSTITUTE.
60. If God is your King, this is not your kingdom.
61. Stop living like it is.
62. Sober up.
63. Don’t be so easily seduced.
64. Learn to see things clearly.
65. But to do so, you’re going to need to . . .

The Song of Moses & the Lamb

GET IN.

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

for his judgments are true and just;

for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality,

and has avenged on her the blood of his servants” (19:1-2).

66. GET IN.

67. And by this I mean, GET IN TO WORSHIP.

68. This whole scene begins and ends in worship.

69. Just look for a moment into chapter 19 . . . and on and on it goes.

70. It may not seem right to connect such carnage as the Day of the Lord will bring with worship.

71. But consider . . . WORSHIP IS THE TIME WHEN WE TELL THE TRUTH . . . about God . . . about his kingdom . . . about the rebels and the rivals . . . and about the future and end of all things.

72. We come here to be re-centered . . . re-oriented . . . and to see things as they really are.

73. We come here to be reminded of who we are and whose we are.

74. We come here to be prepared for battle by telling about our King’s AMAZING DEEDS and JUST WAYS . . . about his awesome HOLINESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS.

75. And about our King’s expectation that we, his subjects, will live according to his character and not according to the character of the PROSTITUTE.

76. We come here to hear the truth about the PROSTITUTE’S end, and to be warned that we will go to the same end should we be seduced by her lies.

77. It’s no wonder that so many of us are so easily seduced, and so readily put down roots in the evil empire.

78. We don’t spend enough time in worship to be able to discern . . .

79. And so we come here to . . .

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GET READY.

*("Behold, I am coming like a thief!
Blessed is the one who stays awake,
keeping his garments on, that he may
not go about naked and be seen
exposed!") (16:15).*

80. GET READY.

81. One of Revelation's seven beatitudes is tucked away in a parenthetical aside in the middle of chapter 16's PLAGUES . . .
82. Get ready.
83. In one sense the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON has already taken place.
84. Rome is on the trash heap of history.
85. But when will the Day of the Lord be for our Babylon?
86. Do you know?
87. It will come.
88. Evil empires may last for a time, times, and half a time, but they will not last forever.
89. They will overstep their bounds, and when they do . . .
90. God's justice demands judgment.
91. And when that day of judgment comes, you don't want to be found in bed with the PROSTITUTE . . . you don't want to be found running naked out of her house, begging to be hidden.
92. GET READY.
93. Give yourself to the HOLY and RIGHTEOUS KING and to his ETERNAL KINGDOM.
94. If you've never done that, you can renounce the PROSTITUTE'S EVIL EMPIRE this morning, and be wed to Lamb of God.
95. Or if you need to repent of ways that are incompatible with God's JUST, HOLY, and RIGHTEOUS kingdom . . .
96. Won't you come as we stand and sing?