

I. Picking up where we left off - Summary Review (Rev. 12-15)

- A. John had previously witnessed the return of Jesus at the seventh trumpet and watched as He began to establish His rulership of every country and people on the earth.
1. Many people, including John, are surprised when they find out that the return of Jesus happens in a progression that recognizes and responds to the current governmental and military systems of that day. He does not wave a magical wand of utopia and we all live happily ever after.
- B. John sees a great resistance to the return of Jesus and is dumbfounded by how the nations could be so deceived and organized to stand against Jesus upon His return. The deception of the nations is explained to him in chapters 12-13.
1. In chapters 12-13 God shows John that Satan has set himself to destroy the descendants of Jacob, the people in whom the Lord promised to bring forth the promised one who would restore all things and rule the earth forever in righteousness and justice. Satan has been attempting to do this from the moment God made these promises to them.
 2. Satan will raise up two primary leaders over the earth. The Antichrist and the False Prophet will lead a one world governmental system in order to seduce the earth into worshiping Satan and joining him in his purpose to destroy Israel and stop the plans of God in the earth.
- C. In chapter 15 it is revealed to John that God will preemptively pour out His Spirit upon the church and stir up prophetic intercession and worship in a measure that is unparalleled in history. He will raise up a faithful, holy, and zealous remnant of Israel (144,000) who will resist plans of Satan and his leaders. In the midst of great persecution the gospel will go forth to the nations with such power that the number of faithful converts to Jesus in that hour will be innumerable.

1. The chapter ends with the maturity of the church and the rejecters of Jesus reaching maturity at the same moment in humanities' history and both the rejecters and the believers will be ripe for harvest. Jesus will return to reap the earth's faithful as He returns to the city of Jerusalem to set up His kingdom and at the same time execute justice upon the wicked in order to establish a righteous government on the earth that will increasingly extend into eternity.

II. Understanding the Wrath of God (Rev. 15:1-8)

A. When the saints understand that the wrath of God is about to be poured out upon the earth with a strength and a severity that has never been witnessed before they break out in adoring worship. This picture should cause us to question everything we believe about the truth of God's wrath. Why do these saints in heaven love it, and the church in large part reject the truth of God's wrath and gravitates towards offense when the topic comes up? (Ps. 97)

1. The wrath of God is complete - The wrath of God is perfected to fulfill a point and purpose. He is not just blowing off steam or lashing out because He is overcome by the emotion of anger, He never does that. Biblically the wrath of God are *chastisements* (with the purpose of bringing repentance) and also *punishments* (with the purpose of dispensing justice). The completeness of His wrath speaks of how appropriate and final these judgments are. (Ps. 48:11, 58:10-11)
2. The worship of the Martyrs – The last time we saw this scene the Martyrs were asking for Judgment upon the Antichrist and those who persecute and murder God's people. The Lord's wisdom He asked them to wait a little while longer so that the persecution could refine and purify the church on the earth. Now their wait is over and justice is coming for the wicked. (Dan. 11:35; Rev. 6:9-11, 7:13, 12:11)

3. They Sing the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb - From the repetition of the words "the song" in the verse, it seems that these martyrs are singing two separate songs. Moses recorded two songs in praise of God's faithfulness and deliverance of the Israelites (Ex. 15; Deut. 32). There is much debate on which one is referenced but they both contain similar emphases. The "song of the Lamb" is not the title of any songs recorded in Scripture, though some commentators have suggested several different Psalms as its basis. I believe these songs are both summed up in the one that follows in (Rev. 15:3-4). In the case of both songs, the word "of" is probably subjective, in other words Moses and the Lamb were responsible for these songs, not the subjects of them.

4. All nations shall worship for your judgements have been manifested – The activity of God's judgments being manifested will result in the church coming to fullness of worship. The worship of humanity will not be complete until they can sing of God's ultimate justice being manifested upon Satan's kingdom. (Ps. 97:8, 105:7; Is. 26:9)

"The angels' white clothing is a reminder that God's judgment is always completely pure and righteous. He is not like the modern anti-hero or vigilante, who sink down to the level of the criminals they fight." – Guzick

5. No one was able to enter the temple - I believe he declares that judgment was now irreversible. Nothing could hinder it any longer, because access to this temple in heaven would be allowed. This is an encouraging passage to consider when thinking of our role as intercessors and how powerful the prayer of repentance is. This verse also reflects the holy fear of the supremacy of our sovereign God. (Jer. 7:12-16; Mic. 3:4; Jon. 3:9; Joel 2:14)