

The seven last plagues poured out upon those who worship the beast

And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. Rev 15:7-8

This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton November 6, 2005

Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and Strong's definition's are taken from the excellent source the e-Sword Bible computer program unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction -

Chapter 15 takes us clearly back into Heaven and God's presence. There we see seven angels *clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles*. They are given *seven golden vials full of the wrath of God*. These vials, we shall see in chapter 16, are poured out upon the men who take the mark of the beast. This judgment is directed against those who have been willing to give worship the beast which is the price to gain use of his financial system to continue living on the earth.

Lesson Text - Revelation Chapter 15:

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, **seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

Comments -

for in them is filled up the wrath of God - outpouring of these seven last plagues God will accomplish the wrath that He has to pour out in judgment upon the world during this Great Tribulation.

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: **and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his**

mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou* only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Comments on vs 15:2-4 -

These martyrs did not believe in the forgiveness of sin gained solely through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, and for that reason were not translated out with the church before the Great Tribulation. They endured that time of the horrors of God's judgments upon the earth but became believers and ultimately died martyr's deaths because of their faith.

and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name - victory over the beast and his false religious and financial system by refusing to accept his numbers on their persons, by refusing to worship the image of the beast, and by refusing to give him homage as a true expression of faith in the true god. For this they were martyred. Chapter 13 has shown us that the beast is allowed to gain sufficient power to compel people to honor him religiously and accept his numbering system to be able to buy and sell.

Rev 13:4 **did homage** to the dragon, because he gave the authority to the beast; and they **did homage** to the beast, saying, Who is like to the beast? and who can make war with it?

Rev 13:6 mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name and his tabernacle, and those who have their tabernacle in the heaven.

Rev 13:8 on the earth shall **do it homage**, every one whose name had not been written from the founding of the world in the book of life of the slain Lamb.

Rev 13:12 the authority of the first beast before it, and causes the earth and those that dwell in it to **do homage** to the first beast, whose wound of death was healed.

Rev 13:15 to it to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should also speak, and should cause that as many as should not **do homage** to the image of the beast should be killed.

Rev 13:16, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bondmen, that they should give them a mark upon their right hand or upon their forehead;

In all cases above in verses 13:4, 6, 8, 12, and 15 the Bold words translated with the thought of *doing homage* to the beast are translations of the same Greek word # 4352 in the e-Sword Program's Strong's Concordance defined as -

G4352 προσκυνέω proskuneō *pros-koo-neh'-o* From G4314 and probably a derivative of G2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to *fawn* or *crouch to*, that is, (literally or figuratively) *prostrate* oneself in homage (*do reverence to, adore*): - worship.

From that definition the thought is of willingly showing subservience to the one in control.

With the thought to (*literally or figuratively*) *prostrate oneself in homage* it may be that they do not necessarily believe everything they hear. But if so they are willing to give the beast the religious respect he requires to get along down here. How many people today believe it would be acceptable to do that *just to get along financially* rather than to watch their families starve to death. It is better for a family to be believers now, exercising belief that God will forgive as He has said He would, and ready to go when Jesus returns for them. If they are not they will be left here to suffer the horror John describes.

Rev 15:5 And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:

Rev 15:6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.

Rev 15:7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels **seven golden vials full of the wrath of God**, who liveth for ever and ever.

vials– G5357 φιάλη phialē *fee-al'-ay* Of uncertain affinity; a broad shallow cup (“phial”): - vial.

wrath– G2372 θυμός thumos *thoo-mos'* From G2380; *passion*(as if *breathing hard*): - fierceness, indignation, wrath. Compare G5590.

Robertson's Word Pictures from the e-Sword Bible program -

Rev 15:7-

Seven golden bowls(*hepta phialas chrusās*). Golden saucers, but **not full of incense** as in [Rev 5:8](#), but “full (*gemousas* for which see [Rev 5:8](#)) of **the wrath of God** who liveth for ever and ever” (*tou thumou tou theou tou zōntos eis tous aiōnas tōn aiōnōn*). **Portents of dreadful events.**

Comments -

seven golden vials full of the wrath of God - judgments seen thus far by John were terrible, causing incredible death and destruction. These judgments in earlier passages have also been referred to as wrath coming from God. But these judgments about to begin now are termed *the wrath of God*, seeming to give a sense of being special and perhaps final from what we read about them in chapter 16. We see there that they are specifically directed against those who have taken the mark of the beast and those who have worshiped his image.

*Rev 16:2*the first went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and there came an evil and grievous sore **upon the men that had the mark of the beast, and those who worshipped its image.**

Rev 15:8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled.

Comments -

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God- It's as if God is finally through with waiting to complete the fulfillment of what has been prophesied. He will deal with mankind and their rebellion no longer, nor suffer Satan's interference and accusation of we, the forgiven saints. We see a picture through John's imagery of God in His temple; the time is up, He is pushing His will out through His messengers, and no one will interfere

any longer.

and no man was able to enter into the temple - No man can even approach to try and see into the temple in Heaven. God is completely covered with smoke caused from the energy of His glory.

Conclusion -

In Chapter 15 we have seen John's view being directed back into Heaven where God's presence is manifested in the temple. There are seven angels who come out of that temple *clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles*. One of the four beasts gives them *seven golden vials full of the wrath of God*. These vials, we shall see in chapter 16, are poured out upon the men who take the mark of the beast. They receive this judgment because they were willing to worship the beast and that was the price required to be able to buy and sell to continue living on the earth. They saw no further than the needs for survival in this life. But there was the eternal existence that they should have prepared for.