

Another Scene in Heaven

Revelation 15
March 5, 2023

I. Introduction

- A. Chapter 4 also records a scene in heaven.
- B. The last seven plagues (bowls) are foreseen.
- C. This is the shortest chapter in the book.
- D. Talking about it – 15:1
- E. Doing it – 16:1

II. Preparation in Heaven for the Bowl Judgments

- A. A sign in heaven – v.1
 - 1. Three signs in heaven (12:1, 3; 15:1); four signs on earth (13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20)
 - 2. Seven angels with seven plagues
 - a. Seven seals – Revelation 6:1-17; 8:1
 - b. Seven trumpets – Revelation 8:1-9:21; 11:15-19
 - c. Seven bowls
 - 3. The wrath (Romans 1:18) of God is finished (same as John 19:30)
- B. Songs in Heaven – vs. 2-4
 - 1. A sea of glass (4:6) mixed with fire.
 - a. This seems to speak of perfection, peace, and persecution - fiery trials
 - 2. The ones who sang were those who remained faithful to the Lamb (20:4-6)
 - a. Even though they were martyred they were the victors.
 - b. “A man is no fool to give up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Jim Elliott
 - 3. These saints are holding harps of God (14:2)
 - a. Remember that everything belongs to the Lord (Haggai 2:8)
 - b. The harp (lyre) and trumpet are the only musical instruments in Revelation.
 - 4. They sang the song of Moses (Exodus 15; Deuteronomy 32)
 - a. Does this imply that they were largely Jews?

- 5. They sang the song of the lamb (1 of 14 doxologies in Revelation)
 - a. Praise for His great works
 - i. “Great and marvelous” = arousing wonder or astonishment
 - b. Praise for His strength
 - c. Praise for His righteousness and truth
 - d. Praise for His sovereignty – “King of the Nations”
 - e. Praise for the glory due Him – Proper fear will lead to worship
 - f. All nations will worship Him
 - i. Psalm 2:8, 9; 24:1-10; 72:8-11; 86:9; Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 7:14; Zechariah 14:9
- C. Seven Angels in Heaven – vs. 5-8
 - 1. The temple in heaven is opened - The Holy of Holies.
 - 2. God’s purpose is vin-dic-a-tive (exonerate, justification against denial)
 - a. Not vin-dic-tive (vicious, spiteful)
 - 3. God’s seven messengers of judgment
 - 4. One of the living creatures distributes the seven bowls
 - 5. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God.
 - a. No one was able to enter the temple until the plagues were finished.
 - b. The temple was filled with smoke (Ex. 19:18), not a cloud (Exodus 40:34-36; I Kings 8:10,11)
 - 6. No priestly intercession can delay the wrath of God.