

How to Get the Victory and Celebrate it

“This world in which we are living is under the judgment of God. It is hard for even believers to accept that fact. After almost a century of insipid preaching from America’s pulpits, the average man believes that God is all sweetness and light and would not discipline or punish anyone. Well, this book of Revelation tells a different story.” – J. Vernon McGee

God is holy and God is love but this world is neither.

(Rom. 1:28-32) God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; ³² and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

In a nutshell sinners like to sin, they want others to sin with them, and they get angry when someone calls their behavior sin.

The Revelation of John is not just the unveiling of Jesus Christ, it is telling the story of Christ’s ultimate defeat of Satan and sin.

As we saw last week, Revelation 14 and 15 is the final scene in heaven and here in chapter 15 we are introduced to the 7 bowls of wrath that will be poured out by a holy angel and these 7 bowls take us into chapter 16.

(Rev 15:1-2) Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished. ² And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

1. The Trustworthy Promises of God

Notice “a sea of glass.” This sea is not an ocean, instead what John sees is a great basin similar to the one that was in Solomon’s temple.

“And he [Solomon] made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.” (1 Kings 7:23)

Reminder: This Revelation made more sense to the 7 churches that received it than it does to us because they were familiar with the temple worship of the Old Testament.

Under the old covenant, before the priest would go into the temple to worship, he washed in a basin, this symbolized the Word of God that cleansing man from sin.

Ephesians 5:26 tells us how Jesus Christ (the Word made flesh) cleanses and sanctifies the church- that **“he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”**

Before Christ came the Jews washed, or bathed, in the sea but here in Revelation, these people are not washing in it because it has become crystallized—so **they are standing on it.**

Cleansing is no longer an act that needs to be done ... it is a FINISHED work!

And who are these people who are standing on this sea? *“Those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name.”* – **Those who have refused to worship the beast and take the mark.**

Look at what they do.

(Rev 15:3) And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!"

Exodus 15 is the **first recorded** song in the Bible. “The Horse and the Rider is Cast into the Sea.” [It is a song of praise for deliverance.]

The **last recorded song** is the song of the Lamb—both song speak of redemption.

The Scottish evangelist **John Linton** said, “*There are as many commands in the Bible to sing as there are to pray.*”

2. The Righteous Wrath of God

(Rev 15:4-7) "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED." ⁵After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, ⁶and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and white, and girded around their chests with golden sashes. ⁷Then 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.

The phrase “temple of the tabernacle of testimony” is referring to the Holy of Holies because it is where the ark of the covenant (or testimony) was kept.

As I’ve said before, the earthly tabernacle and temple in Jerusalem were copies of the heavenly one.

There has always been a temple in heaven and here we see these 7 angels with the 7 bowls (plagues) coming out of it—one of the four living creatures gives them the bowls.

... Revelation 16 tells us what these 7 plagues/wraths are.



People ask, “where is God” when there is so much sin in the World—wickedness, rape, rebellion, arson, child abuse, blasphemy, and war—where is God.

(Rev 15:8) ⁸And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

I'll tell you where He is—**He is on His Throne in Holy Temple!**

... And you can be certain that every sin will be punished. Yours, mine, and every one's—but for the child of God Jesus has already taken that punishment for us.

Seven angels will come from the temple to give **four judgments**:

1. A **righteous** judgment because they are wearing white robes.
2. A **sovereign** judgment because they are wearing golden sashes which represents the priests and king.
3. A **solemn** judgment because they have bowls of wrath.
4. A **sure** judgment because the Bible says no man can enter the temple until God is finished.

According to the text the place will be filled with smoke which speaks of the judgment of God consuming the sacrifice.

... And the bible says that no one can enter until the 7 angels have done their work ...

... It is almost as if God is saying, "*stay out I am busy. Don't interrupt me. I am going to judge this world that has rejected my son.*"

This begins the period of time known as the “bowls of wrath.

(Rev 16:1-2) Then I heard a loud voice from the temple, saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God." ²So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth; and it became a loathsome and malignant sore on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.

Do you see the irony here? The mark of the beast, that everyone has taken, turns into a cankerous, contagious sore that is putrefying and incurable—much like the plague of boils we see in Exodus.

(Rev 16:3) The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died.

Here is a dead world lying in its own gore. The sea does not become blood but LIKE the blood of a dead man.

In Exodus just the Nile River became like blood, but this is not a local judgment, it is global.

(Rev 16:4-7) Then the third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became blood. ⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; ⁶ for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." ⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

Again, we see the irony of God because when the judgments increase the **climate change** and **global warming** that people have predicted is going to come but not because of the actions of humanity, but rather the action of God.

(Rev 16:8-9) The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. ⁹ Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

When Jesus died, the sun hid its face and refused to shine. But here when Jesus is revealed in all of His glory, there will be erupting flames of fire and judgment, and the heat will be intense.

... And the world's beloved beast—The Antichrist will not be able to help them now.

(Rev 16:10-11) Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, ¹¹and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

In Exodus there was just darkness, here the darkness brings pain.

The world is drinking bloody water, smelling the stink of death, suffering from extreme sunburn, and experiencing painful, total darkness.

... and the world would rather die in the consequences of its sin than admit they are sinner and they are wrong.

(Rev 16:12) The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was dried up, so that the way would be prepared for the kings from the east.

... and now even the Euphrates is dried up ... why? The world is being prepared for the Battle of Har-megdon. Now armies can cross the riverbed.

In Rev. 9 we saw 4 demons imprisoned here at the Euphrates and an army of 200 million demons ... but still there are 3 more unclean spirits here.

(Rev 16:13-15) ¹³ And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; ¹⁴ for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ¹⁵ ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.")

These demon spirits are already working to draw the nations to the final decisive battle of mankind. Jesus coming at this point will not be a surprise to believers ... but it will be to non-believers.

3. The Great Battle to Come

(Rev. 16:16-17) And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon. ¹⁷Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done."



There is a corresponding thought that is obvious here. Jesus poured out His blood for our sin and then bowed his head and said, “it is finished.” At Calvary redemption was completed. Here at Armageddon judgment will be completed.

(Rev 16:18-19) And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. ¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

One of the secrets of our victory in Jesus is the wrath of God. Apart from the wrath and righteous judgment of God, there can be no ultimate victory. Sin must be dealt with fully and finally.

(Rev 16:20-21) And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. ²¹ And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.

The weight of a talent is about all that a man can carry. During this people will have hailstones, like crushing missiles of ice falling out of the sky hitting them ... and this is before the battle of Har-meggdon.

Near the end (v. 19) this chapter concludes saying the world is drinking from the cup of God’s wrath.

On Calvary Jesus drank the bitter cup of our sins.

... But there is another cup. The psalmist in 116:13 says, *“I shall lift up the cup of salvation And call upon the name of the LORD.*