

Notes on Revelation 15

Intro: Earlier we saw the announcement of the day of God's wrath having arrived followed by seven trumpets that begin God's wrath. Now we are about to see His wrath finished in the seven bowl judgments. But first, we are given another glimpse at those who have died before God's judgments come. Again, the picture is one of victory and celebration.

Those who came off victorious

A sea of glass mixed with fire (seems to symbolize the life of the Christian, his journey to God; though the sea is glassy indicating a life of peace, it does have its purifying moments of trial and affliction, indicated by the fire). Cf. Zech 13:9; Mal. 3:2; 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 1 Pet. 1:7

Holding harps of God (a symbol of praise; they possess in themselves the spirit of worship by means of life's experiences, their journey across the sea). The whole passage is reminiscent of the Exodus with the crossing of the sea a type of salvation. The singing of the song of Moses favors this symbology. This picture is that of the redeemed having reached their destination. They have come off victorious. They have possessed the faith and patience to endure. Though they did not live to see the judgment of the beast, it does not matter. For, God is still worthy of their praise and they are blessed. Their song is that of Moses and the Lamb. These are the two great songs of redemption.

Of Moses is the song of physical redemption from Egypt with the implication of spiritual blessing (cf. Ex. 15).

The Song of the Lamb is the song of spiritual redemption.

The portrait of God in their words is one of total awe and glorification. Though life has been difficult they do not doubt the justice of God's ways. Though they have been killed by the nations, they still know that God is Lord over them. It is with them only a matter of time until God will judge His enemies and avenge their deaths.

Prelude to the bowl judgments

The seven angels

The four living creatures give the bowls to the angel. If we are correct in concluding that the four living creatures are personifications of God's attributes, then it suggests that the judgments the angels pour out are the manifestations of God's justice and power.

Smoke fills the sanctuary of God (Cf. Deut. 29:20; Ps. 18:8; 74:1)