



SESSION 29 | REVELATION 15:1-16:11 | THE SEVENTH TRUMPET AND ITS VIALS

THE GREAT AND MARVELOUS SIGN | REVELATION 15:1-4

- Verse 1
 - The sign was great and **marvelous** - θαυμαστός [*thaumastos*] is of the same Greek word as the English word *theater*, where a person gazes upon a scene.
 - Plagues -
 - The root word is **πλασσω** [*plasso*], which is "mold-able," from which we get *plastic*.
 - It comes with the meaning of striking an object to mold it.
 - In the Bible, plagues are seen as something used of God to shape society.
 - Why are the plagues last?
 - In Greek, "last" is tied to "because," not "plagues."
 - These seven plagues are last because the wrath of God is completed in them.
 - The plagues fill up the wrath of God - **filled up**, or "completed." This is a completion of the "covenant of marvels" of Exodus 34:10.
- Verse 2
 - **A sea of glass** -
 - Compare to Jeremiah 52:20 where there was a "sea" of brass." The word sea could be used to speak of the laver before the entrance of the Temple.
 - Whether this is a literal sea or figurative, it gives imagery of the victory of the overcomers.
 - **Them that had gotten the victory over the beast...** -
 - This is a present active participle. Literally, "the [people] getting victory." It is not passive ("the people given the victory").
 - Note that under the seals there was a multitude of the redeemed (7:9), under the trumpets were the prayers of the saints (8:1), and now under the plagues there is a multitude of overcomers.
 - Because these who have gotten victory are in heaven, they are presumably the "remnant of the seed" (Rev. 12:17) who die because they will not take the mark of the beast.
 - The Critical Text does not include **over his mark**. The *Textus Receptus* literally says, *and of its mark of the number of its name*.
 - Note that the Greek references to the Beast are always "it" not "he."
 - The overcomers **stand on the sea of glass** -
 - Compare Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21.
 - These passages, in the light of chapter 15, give evidence to the interpretation of the seven assemblies as future, post-tribulation Jewish assemblies rather than church-age assemblies.
 - **Harp of God** - The word κιθάρας [*kitharas*] is the root of the English words *zither* and *guitar*. In the Bible, it is a stringed instrument, most likely the lyre.
- Verse 3 -
 - The **song of Moses** -

- The song is Deut 32:1-44.
- The song of Exodus 15 is "the song of Moses and of Israel," and also associated with Miraim.
- The intro to Deut 32, given in Deut 31:19-22, declares Deut. 32 to be the Song of Moses.
- Take special note of Deut. 31:29 concerning "the latter days."
- According to Deut 31:19 this song is going to be a "witness against" Israel, and here we see it used by the faithful remnant against the unfaithful nation.
- The use of this song provides an example of the Jewish means of interpretation of the books of history, in which history in the Biblical text is prophetic of the future. (For further study, look at the Jewish exegetical method called *pardes*.)
- The **song of the Lamb** - Possibly "worthy is the Lamb," from Rev. 5, or more likely the words immediately following in verses 3-4.

THE SEVEN ANGELS INTRODUCED | REVELATION 15:5-8

- The **temple of the tabernacle** - literally, the ναός [*naos*] is the "dwelling place," or the Holy of Holies.
- The **seven angels came out of the temple** -
 - The seven angels had entered into the Holy of Holies, and were now coming out from the presence of God.
 - Notice that the plagues come out of the Temple. Those who view Heaven and the things of God as "sugar and spice and everything nice" cannot reconcile this fact.
- Seven **golden vials** - Since the angels already have the seven plagues, and are here given the seven bowls, the plagues and the bowls must not be the same thing.

THE FIRST FIVE VIALS | REVELATION 16:1-11

- Chapter 16 picks up where 11:15-19 left off. Chapters 12-15 have been a parenthetical statement.
- Just as the plagues of Egypt were literal, the vials of wrath must be seen as literal also. There is absolutely nothing in the context to merit spiritualization or allegorization of these vials.

The Seven Vials of Revelation and the 10 Plagues of Exodus

Vial	Contents of Vial	Corresponding Plague
First	Boils	Sixth
Second & Third	Water to blood	First
Fourth	heat	No correspondence
Fifth	Darkness	Ninth
Sixth	Frogs	Second
Seventh	Hail	Seventh

- The wrath is given to those who **are worthy** (v. 6), that is, "they deserve it."
- The wrath of God is **true and righteous** (v. 7). This is clearly no longer the dispensation of Grace, in which God is "not imputing their trespasses unto them" (2 Cor 5:19).
- The fifth vial is poured **upon the seat of the beast** (v. 10). Revelation 2:13 refers to "Satan's throne" as being at Pergamum. Could it be that this becomes the headquarters of the Antichrist?
- The Kingdom of Antichrist will be **full of darkness** (v. 10). Compare Joel 2:1-2, 31 and Mark 13:24-25.