

Revelation 15 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are now looking at Revelation chapter fifteen, unit thirty-one in our study in the book of Revelation.

Verse one, *'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.'*

Seven angels are, of course, the seven church age messengers.

'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.'

'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.'

It's easy to forget sometimes that Jesus Christ is in control of everything. It's all under His hand. It's all working out or manoeuvred to ensure that His will is done.

What we have here are the people who overcome the beast as he has grown from the first church age from the Nicolaitans through to the people who say they are Jews and are not, that are actually killing the church or killing the influence, the life of the Holy Spirit in the church, to the Pergamos church age where the church and state became one, where marriage took place. Pergamos, of course, if you recall, means marriage. And so it goes on with Colombo trying to work out of Ionia and get the true message of Christianity instead of the church organised Christianity that was going on at that time, until in the end Martin Luther, the reformer, came and brought us back to the Word by saying 'The just shall live by faith'. Each age, all the way through that, has its overcomers, those that have recognised the fault or have hung on to what they know is of God. And God commends them for it. They are all here, standing on this sea of glass. They have made it. And in this age, we have after Luther, of course, came Wesley with sanctification and then finally the final age with us here and the prophet William Branham, bringing God's Word again, turning us back, as Malachi chapter four tells us, back to the hearts of the fathers. To the same faith that the church fathers had, to that same individual leading of the Holy Spirit where the church and each individual in the church is led by the Holy Spirit. Not by a man, not by an organisation, not by a committee, just the sons of God being led by the Spirit of God.

The song of Moses, of course, is the song that was sung when Pharaoh and his armies were drowned in the sea. Once again they escaped, they came through water baptism, the old self was left behind, they were new creatures, they were free to march to the Promised Land just as we are. And it's the same song, the same reasons, that we sing those songs for those people on that sea of glass.

Verse four, *'Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name?'*

Now, one of the key things that happened in the church ages, in the second church age, was the beginning of the organised church to stop using the name of Jesus and replace it with Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Here, once again, in the victories, the victors, there's the comment about God's name. The name of God is Jesus, Jehovah saves.

To continue with verse four, *'for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest.'*

Make manifest means to reveal. And here the seven angels are coming with the judgements and they show that God, in the end, will judge. There is a judgement for rejecting God's Word, for rejecting the move of the Holy Spirit.

Verse five, *'And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.'*

There is a proper temple in heaven.

'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.'

'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.'

The concept here is an angel has brought a message. Each age has been tried, has been exposed to that message, and made a decision from that message. Those that reject the message of God are now going to be judged. Each angel comes, and then a judgement. Each time God reveals Himself those that reject Him are being put aside.

Verse eight, *'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.'*

So there is, obviously, a holding time, a holding pattern, for men to enter the temple.

Now, that is the end of chapter fifteen, but just to recap where we've been through. We've had the seven church ages, we've had the seven seals, and we see that part of the ending of the seven seals is the revelation of those seals when God comes down in chapter ten to reveal those seals.

Those seals are the revelation of not only what the devil is doing and trying to achieve, but also the Holy Spirit opposing the devil. Now the next stage was, of course, the Jewish people, hundred and forty-four thousand, being called out. So we have the – Revelation chapter ten is dealing with the move of God for this day. What is going to happen is chapter eleven, where God turns to the Jews and sends His two witnesses Moses and Elijah. Then in the following chapters we had the beginning of the tribulation where the church, the organised religion of the world, is going to take complete power both politically, economically and in a religious sense, so that it has complete control over the world. One world government will ensue from this. Then, as we've just read, are the judgements that God has poured out, and is pouring out, on the world for the rejection of His Word.

All of this ties in with two of the Old Testament books. The book of Ruth, where Naomi went back to her homeland, taking the Gentile Ruth with her. And Naomi went back, or Israel went back to her homeland in 1946, the same time William Branham received an angel which gave him the Word or the instructions to start the final reaping. He is the head reaper. And then Ruth, of course, represents the believers who try and glean from the Word of God, the spiritual food necessary to get to a point where they can lay themselves at the feet of Boaz, or Jesus Christ, and offer their lives completely to Him.

That's the first book. The second is, of course, Esther, where the queen decided she was not going to listen to the king's feast, she was going to have her own feast, and that's exactly what the churches have done today. Just as King Ahasuerus divorced Vashti and went looking for a new bride, in the form of Esther as it happened, that is exactly what is happening today.

Well, may God bless you, and we'll look forward to seeing you in chapter sixteen.