

Revelation Chapter Fifteen

- Chapter 15 brings the panoramic interlude to a close with the heavenly preparation for the wrath of God coming in the seven bowls of the seventh trumpet.
- John observes another sign [15:1 cp. 12:1,3].
 - The sign involves seven angels with seven plagues.
 - These plagues are “the last” because they bring the wrath of God to completion.
- Tribulational martyrs [7:9-17] stand on a sea of glass [4:6] holding harps in preparation for singing [15:2].
- These Tribulational martyrs are blessed to sing two songs plus an additional closing verse [14:3-4].
 - They sing the song of Moses [Deut 32:1-43].
 - They sing the song of the Lamb [Rev 5:9-13].
 - They then sing an additional verse of praise [15:3-4].
 - This closing verse highlights that, in the coming Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ, people of all nations will bow down and worship before the Lord [Ps 66:1-4; 72:8-11; 86:9; Isa 2:2-4; 66:18-23; Zeph 2:11].
- John then observes the heavenly temple [15:5-6].
 - The heavenly temple is opened [15:5].
 - The seven angels exit the temple, dressed in priestly garments similar to the Lord’s [15:6 cp. 1:13].
- Seven bowls of wrath are given to the angels [15:7].
 - One of the four living creatures gives the seven angels the seven bowls of God’s wrath which will be poured out upon the earth [16:1-21].
 - These seven bowls are the seventh trumpet [11:15].
- The heavenly temple then fills with smoke [15:8].
 - This smoke represents the glory and power of God.
 - The smoke-filled temple is then closed off until the earthly result of these seven bowls of God’s wrath is brought to completion.
- This sign in chapter 15 makes it clear that the conflict between the Woman and the Dragon is not an earthly conflict, but rather it is a spiritual conflict which plays out in the physical world.