

The Beginning of the End

"The Preliminaries Before The Last Plagues"

Revelation 8

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. The abbreviation "NIV84" stands for the NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION of the Holy Bible published in 1984. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1201-1202.

The Scene in Heaven

1. The _____ in Heaven.

Revelation 15:1, NIV84 - ¹ I saw in heaven another great [meaning important and astonishing] and marvelous sign ["Sign" mean's wonders]: seven angels with the seven last plagues [meaning, a severe hitting or a devastating wound]—last, because with them God's wrath is completed [lit., It is finished].

Revelation 15:1, HCSB - ¹ Then I saw another great and awe-inspiring sign in heaven: seven angels with the seven last plagues, for with them, God's wrath will be completed.

Revelation 15:1, The Message - ¹ I saw another Sign in Heaven, huge and breathtaking: seven Angels with seven disasters. These are the final disasters, the wrap-up of God's wrath.

A Foreshadowing...

The Seven Bowl Judgments

"God's Super Bowls"

Contagious Sores (16:1-2)
Contaminated Seas (16:3)
Corrupted Streams (16:4)
Consuming Sun (16:8-9)
Confounded Sinners (16:10-11)
Controlling Spirits (16:12-16)
Catastrophic Shaking (16:17-21)

2. The _____ in Heaven.

Revelation 15:2-4, NIV84 - ² And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire [this represents both the trials and victories of the saints now in Heaven] and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God ³ and sang the song of Moses [cf., Exodus 15:1-18 when God delivered the Children of Israel out of bondage from Egypt] the servant of God and the song of the Lamb [cf., Rev. 5:8-14, sung by the redeemed saints before God's throne in Heaven]: "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages. ⁴ Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

3. The _____ Angels in Heaven.

Revelation 15:5-8, NIV84 - ⁵ After this I looked and in heaven the temple [refers to the Holy of Holies—the inner sanctuary], that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony [with the most important item in there being THE ARK OF THE COVENANT], was opened. ⁶ Out of the temple came the seven angels with the seven plagues. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls [the GK. word refers to shallow saucers used in the temple rituals] filled [lit., overflowing] with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. ⁸ And the temple was filled with smoke [representing God's presence] from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. [Quote: "The fact that no one can enter the temple until these seven plagues are completed may mean that no priestly intercessions can now delay God's wrath." – Dr. William MacDonald]

Gaining the Victory

A. We, too, must stand on the sufficient Word of God. vv. 1-2

B. We, too, must sing of the redeeming works of God. vv. 3

C. We, too, must see the righteous wrath of God. vv. 4-5

Our sins will either be pardoned by Christ or punished in Hell!

Answers to “The Beginning of the End” Sermon

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1. Sign

2. Saints

3. Seven