

I. SAINTS PRAISING

A. Their Position (vs. 2)

1. John saw ANOTHER sign in Heaven
  - a. Same language he uses in REV. 12:1 & 3
  - b. WEBSTER'S 1828 – “A wonder; a miracle; a prodigy; a remarkable transaction, event or phenomenon.”
  - c. ROM. 15:19 – “Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”
2. What was the sign? What caused John to wonder?
  - a. The Sea of Glass had been mentioned in REV. 4:6
  - b. But it had been EMPTY!
    - i. Before it was crystal
    - ii. And now it is mingled with FIRE
    - iii. And it is no longer empty, but filled
3. Now the Tribulation Saints stand on the Sea of Glass
  - a. They come out of the judgements of the Tribulation
  - b. They have come through the persecution of the Antichrist
  - c. And now stand VICTORIOUS!
  - d. 1 COR. 15:54-57 – “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

B. Their Playing (vs. 2)

1. They have been given Harps of God
  - a. Funny how one's mind misreads words sometimes
  - b. I had to look at that twice – not “gold” but “God”
  - c. Can you imagine anything that will sound sweeter?
2. God doesn't just ALLOW godly music
  - a. He ENCOURAGES and SANCTIONS it!
  - b. That includes instrumental music for our Church of Christ friends
  - c. These saints didn't just “hold” these harps, they played them!
  - d. PSA. 149:1-3 – “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. (2) Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. (3) Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.”

3. It is important to note the TYPE of music they played
    - a. Not worldly music but HEAVENLY music
      - i. Marches!
      - ii. Praises!
      - iii. Worship!
    - b. You're flesh thinks that kind of music is boring now (don't kid me)
    - c. But we are told to CRUCIFY the flesh!
- C. Their Praise (vs. 3-4)
1. They sing a song about their Deliverance
  2. Moses sang a song like this Exodus 15 after their PHYSICAL deliverance
    - a. After the Lord God parted the Red Sea
    - b. And they went across dry-shod
    - c. The children of Israel praised God on the "other side"
  3. Here too these saints sing a song of their SPIRITUAL deliverance
    - a. We see some of that in REV. 12:10-11
    - b. Salvation only comes by the Blood of the Lamb: HEB. 9:22 – "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
    - c. We aren't taking those songs about the Blood out of the hymnal
  4. As the day grows more evil, we need more singing about the blood
    - a. Not less! More hymns that magnify the name of the Lord!
    - b. "Jesus Loves Me" is a great song for all (child and oldster alike)
    - c. But we need "Standing on the Promises"
    - d. Songs like "When I See the Blood!"

## II. SEVEN ANGELS

- A. They come forward with the Last Plagues (vs.1)
1. Lots of "sevens" in the book of Revelation
    - a. God is signaling to us that it is "complete"
    - b. The times of the gentiles is over (His Kingdom on Earth will begin)
    - c. Not only the time fulfilled, but it is also "filled up"
  2. These plagues are described as being "filled up" with God's wrath
    - a. This is a frightening concept – God's wrath
    - b. The vials are examples of God's mercy, by the way
    - c. Praise God that these vials "contain" these plagues
    - d. Not left to be "uncontained" or nothing would remain!
  3. The Bible uses the word "last"
    - a. We might get hung up on the ferocity of these plagues
    - b. We might sit in wonder at the scope of these plagues
    - c. But never forget the FINALITY of these plagues
      - i. God says "last" and He means it
      - ii. Praise God, we will never worry about plagues after these!

iii. Never again! Not in the New Heaven or the New Earth will there ever be plagues and tribulation again!

B. Their description (vs. 6b)

1. Clothed in white linen – picturing God’s Righteousness
2. Golden girdles – denoting Priestly Garments
3. Obedient to God – executing judgement

C. They are on a royal mission (vs. 5)

1. Executing judgement - as precursors of Lord Jesus Christ
  - a. He will come to Earth - Our High Priest
  - b. He will come to Earth – As King of Kings
  - c. He will come to Earth – To Execute Judgement
2. In Revelation 15 we have an interval in Heaven
3. We saw the entire story in Chapters 12-14
  - a. The nation of Israel, the birth of the Child
  - b. The Tribulation Period
  - c. Ending in the Battle of Armageddon
  - d. The beginning of the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ
  - e. A physical kingdom for 1000 years

III. SEVEN VIALS

A. Their Source – the 4 Living Creatures (vs. 7)

1. We first saw these creatures in Chapter 4

B. Their Contents – God’s Final Judgement (vs. 4.b)

C. Their Finality

1. PROV. 1:23-29 – “Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. (24) Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; (25) But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: (26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; (27) When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. (28) Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: (29) For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:”
2. God offered mercy
  - a. But they denied it
  - b. Mercy upon mercy, but they set at naught His counsel.
3. Is that you today? Have you spurned the Mercy of God?

IV. SEALED TEMPLE

A. The Temple is Open (vs. 5)

1. God’s dwelling place in Heaven

2. The Seven Angels come out from there
  3. They leave the MERCY seat
    - a. Shows us that God is no longer dealing in Mercy
    - b. But now deals in Judgement
- B. Mercy had been available (vs. 6)
1. The Temple was open
  2. But now there's a change
  3. Too long the world waited and the Temple is closed
- C. Mercy is held back (vs. 8)
1. The Temple is closed until the Vials are completely poured out on earth
    - a. We will not see the end until Chapter 16
    - b. During this time, God's mercy is held back
  2. It reminds me of the time when Jesus was on the Cross
    - a. And the sin of all the world placed upon Him
    - b. All the ugliness, all the wickedness, all the disobedience to God
    - c. And the Father turned His back on His Son
  3. TODAY, my friend – throw yourself on the mercy of God

## V. SALVATION OPEN

- A. ISA. 55:6 – “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:”
1. The Door is open NO! – He will Save!
  2. But the Spirit of God will not always strive with the souls of men
- B. Be Saved today!