A Study of the Book of Revelation

Revelation's Seven Last Plagues Chapter 15 & 16

REVIEW:

In our last study out of Revelation 14, we learned that the 144,000 are seen standing upon Mount Zion with the Lamb. Zion is another name for Jerusalem, therefore, the 144,00 are seen with the Lamb (Jesus Christ) in the heavenly sanctuary, in the heavenly new Jerusalem. We also learned that the 144,000 is a symbolic number representing the living faithful saints when Jesus comes. Those who live through the time of Jacobs Trouble, who will be rescued by the Lamb. We looked at several of the characteristics of this group. We also discussed the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12 where the three angels are pictured **calling the world back to obedience and faith in God**. Following the end of the third angel's message, we saw a prophetic vision of Christ returning in the clouds to *"harvest"* His people for heaven. Finally, we saw the prophetic vision of the final harvest of the grapes representing the wrath of God which falls on those who were not gathered by Christ in the prior harvest of the grain.

We ended the study by learning that those who do heed the warnings, by not worshiping the beast, nor keeping his false day of worship, but choose to follow God are the ones described in that chapter as having the characteristics of the 144,000.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

THIS STUDY:

Revelation 15:1-8

"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. 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. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest. And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 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. 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."

Revelation 15:1

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for **in them is filled up the wrath of God.**"

Key Point:

The Greek word translated "*filled up*" is "*teleo*," which means to complete, bring to a close or end, to finish.

The same word is used regarding what Christ did on the cross in paying the penalty for our sins: *"It is finished (or paid)."* John 19:30 Therefore, in this first verse, we see that the seven last plagues will constitute the *"filling up"* or completion of God's wrath upon the sinful world and those that have not accepted the free gift of grace and salvation through Christ Jesus. Revelation chapter 11:18-19 and Revelation chapter 16:17-18 are other references to this period that help to demonstrate this point.

Revelation 11:18-19

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Revelation 16:17-18

"And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, <u>It is done</u>. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great."

Note: This seventh angel is the angel with the seventh last plague.

Revelation 15:2

"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 <u>on the sea of glass</u>, having the harps of God."

Notice where those that had "gotten victory over the beast" were standing "on the sea of glass." Think of the symbolism of baptism for a minute. We understand that "passing through the waters" of baptism represents our association with the death that Christ suffered for us. His death was the second death or the full separation from God. Thank the Lord, He rose victorious over that death so that we can also live victorious over the second death in Him.

Those victorious over the beast are seen standing **ON the water**, rather than passing through the water. Therefore, they are victorious through Christ over the second death. Think also about the description of the sea on which they stand. It is a glassy sea, one that is calm and serene. There is no turbulence, no waves or whitecaps of trouble in this scene; only the mixture of the "*fire*" (glory) of God's presence.

Key Point:

Let's look back to the Old Testament story of the Exodus, to another "passing through the waters," for some additional insight.

Exodus 5:1 -5

"And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold <u>a feast</u> unto me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go. And they said, The God of the Hebrews hath met with us: let us go, we pray thee, three days' journey into the desert, and sacrifice unto the LORD our God; lest he fall upon us with pestilence, or with the sword. And the king of Egypt said unto them, Wherefore do ye, Moses and Aaron, let the people from their works? get you unto your burdens. And Pharaoh said, Behold, the people of the land now are many, and ye make them <u>rest</u> from their burdens."

The context here is that Moses and Aaron are asking Pharaoh to allow the people to hold a "*feast*," a "*chagag*" or "*chag*." We learned during our Revelation 13 study that "*chagag*" or "*chag*," literally mean "*a sacred Sabbath festival feast*." In verse 5, "rest" is "*shabath*" or "*Sabbath rest*." Therefore, the people of Israel wanted to hold a Sabbath unto God. They desired to keep the Sabbath, but Pharaoh refused to allow them to. He went so far as to say, "Who is the Lord? I don't know Him." In verse 3, Moses said that the people needed to honor the Lord's Sabbath, or they would suffer the "*plagues*" and the "*sword*."

God's response to Pharaoh was to send 10 plagues. The first three affected everyone, even the Children of Israel. But the seven *last plagues* fell only upon the Egyptians, not upon God's people. In Exodus chapter 14, we have the story of Pharaoh issuing a decree to destroy (kill) the Israelites rather than letting them go to celebrate their Sabbath. Subsequently, they pass through the Red Sea to safety. In Exodus chapter 15, we have the <u>Song of Moses</u> about the victory that God had given them over the Egyptians.

NOTICE THE PARALLELS:

The Exodus story gives us the "*type*." Revelation gives us a picture of the end time spiritual "*antitype*," the fulfillment of that "*type*." The seven last plagues are God's response to the beast power for refusing to allow God's end time people to keep His Sabbaths. Those plagues lead up to the NEW EXODUS which is the final exodus of God's people, not only to keep God's "Shabath" (Sabbath Rest), but to be with the God of the Sabbath. God calls His people to "*Come out of her*," false religions and doctrines, just like the Children of Israel were to come out of Egypt.

Revelation 18:4

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people, that ye be** not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Revelation 15:3

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints"

Here we see a people who have a faith built upon both the Old and New Testaments. They sing the Song of Moses (of the victory over those that would keep them from the worship of the true God and the keeping of His Sabbath) and they sing the Song of the Lamb (of the victory that Christ gives over death and sin). We also see these people praising God saying, "Just and true are Thy ways." This is language that draws our attention to the Great Day of Atonement. God is just, and they see that His judgments are just and true. They recognize that what He said would happen, does occur.

Revelation 15:4

"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest"

"fear Thee" Those who receive the mark of the beast will not *"fear Thee."* REMEMBER we learned that to *"fear God*" means to "love God and obey Him." Faithful obedience! Moses explained clearly to God's people what God expected.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to **fear the LORD** thy God, to **walk in all his ways**, and to **love him**, and **to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul**, To **keep the commandments** of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?"

Revelation 15:4

"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest"

"for Thou only art holy" These people recognize that GOD alone is holy. They depend on God's (Christ's) righteousness rather than their own righteousness or the righteousness of another man.

"All nations shall come and worship before Thee" We have learned this is a direct reference to Isaiah 66:23 which talks of the Sabbath. These are people who know and keep the Sabbath.

Isaiah 66:23

"And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

Revelation 15:5

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened"

Key Point:

Verses 5-8 are a separate vision. The visions in Revelation are not all recorded in sequential time order. Rather, much like dreams, each is a snap shot of what John the Revelator saw or was shown. John is declaring that after the vision of Revelation 15:1-4, he saw another vision which is recorded in Revelation 15:5-8. What we see in operation here is the same principle we observed in Daniel-that of **repeat** and **enlargement**. In other words, John backs up and expands upon information given previously.

"the temple ... was opened" We now can focus back to Revelation 11:19 which is an allusion to the judgment setting. Our attention is drawn to *"the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven"*. What is the *"testimony?"* The testimony is God's Ten Commandment law.

Exodus 31:18

"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two **tables of testimony**, tables of stone, **written with the finger of God**."

This scene gives us a picture of the anti-typical Day of Atonement or judgment. The time that the Sanctuary in Heaven is to be cleasned from the record of sin. In judgment, every case is decided and every person will be eternally save or eternally lost. John now sees the seven last plagues coming from the Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary, as a result of judgment. These plagues fall on the wicked, while God protects His people.

Revelation 15:6-7

"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."

Revelation 15:8

"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."

Remember how, in the Exodus story, Pharaoh and the Egyptians refused to harken unto God. Instead they hardened their hearts and rejected God. Likewise, many people in the end times will harden their hearts toward God and not turn unto Him until it is too late. This verse suggests that once God's judgment period begins and the plagues start to fall, man's probation will be over. During this judgment period of the seven last plagues, men will be unable to enter God's sanctuary. Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Judge has finished judgment and comes out of the heavenly sanctuary. He takes off His High Priest garments and puts on His royal garments as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Therefore, He is getting ready to come and get His people!

Exodus 40:35

"And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**."

II Chronicles 5:13

"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then **the house was filled with a cloud**, even the house of the LORD;"

Leviticus 16:2

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; **that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.**"

Remember, sinful man cannot exist in the presence of God's fire and glory. Revelation chapter 15:5-8 starts with the Temple being opened. The same passage then ends with it being closed at the conclusion of God's probationary period. As you will recall, God gave literal Israel a period of probation following the Babylonian captivity until they lost the right to be God's truth bearers. (For more information, you may refer to the Daniel chapter 9 study, specifically the end of Daniel's 70 weeks.) Well, here is a spiritual parallel. We see the close of another spiritual probationary period.

The Wrath of God

According to Revelation 15:1, the 7 last plagues "*teleo*" (complete or fill up) the wrath of God. Let's study the wrath of God.

God's righteousness is revealed.

Romans 1: 16-17

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the **righteousness of God revealed** from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by** faith."

Romans 1:18

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

"Hold the truth in unrighteousness" literally means "to suppress the truth." Thus, those who suppress God's truth will have God's wrath revealed in and against them.

Romans 1:21-28

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"

Key Point:

When the wrath of God is revealed, God will give people the reward of their rebellion.

The seven last plagues in Revelation chapter 16

Revelation 16:1-2 1st Plague

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out **the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.** And <u>the first</u> went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a <u>noisome</u> and <u>grievous sore</u> upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image."

The first thing to note is where the plagues come from. In verse one it says, "Out of the temple," chapter 15 verse 5 it tells us where in the heavenly sanctuary it comes from, "The temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven." The Greek word use here for "Testimony" means "The Decalogue," another word for the 10 Commandments. The Law of God is in the Ark of the Covenant, which is in the Most Holy Place of the Heavenly Sanctuary. As we have learned in former studies, this is where Jesus has been ministering in judgment since 1844. As a result of judgment, the people who have chosen to surrender their lives to God are sealed, those who didn't will receive the seven last plagues, the wrath of God.

Revelation 14:9-10

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the** beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the <u>wine of the wrath of God</u>,"

There are two things to note about the seven last plagues.

1. They only fall on the Wicked.

Psalms 91:8-10

"Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling."

2. Not all the plagues are universal. If they were, everyone would die after the second and third plague of water to blood. The wicked are reaping the results of their choice to follow the beast.

Revelation 16:10

"And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast;"

The first plague to fall on the beast worshipers is a grievous sore.

Revelation 16:3 2nd Plague "And <u>the second angel</u> poured out his vial upon <u>the sea</u>; and it <u>became as the blood</u> of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea."

The second plague to fall is the sea turning to blood.

Revelation 16:4-7 3rd **Plague**

"And <u>the third angel</u> poured out his vial upon <u>the rivers</u> and <u>fountains of waters</u>; and <u>they</u> <u>became blood</u>. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, <u>true and righteous are thy judgments</u>."

The third plague is the rivers and fountains or springs (drinking water) turns to blood.

Revelation 16:8-9 4th Plague

"And <u>the fourth angel</u> poured out his vial upon <u>the sun</u>; and power was given unto him to <u>scorch men with fire</u>. And men were <u>scorched with great heat</u>, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and **they repented not** to give him glory."

In the fourth plague God uses the sun to scorch them with "Great Heat." Notice they blasphemed the name of God and didn't repent. Why didn't they repent? Because the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn and there is nothing to prick their conscience that they are wrong!

Revelation 16:10-11 5th Plague

"And <u>the fifth angel</u> poured out his vial upon <u>the seat of the beast</u>; and his kingdom was <u>full of darkness</u>; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and <u>repented not</u> of their deeds."

The fifth plague is aimed directly at the seat of the beast. The seat of the beast is Vatican City, where the pope reigns on his throne. They lead others into spiritual darkness and fornication, God will send them darkness.

Revelation 16:12-16 6th Plague

"And <u>the sixth angel</u> poured out his vial upon the great <u>river Euphrates</u>; and the water thereof was <u>dried up</u>, that the way of the <u>kings of the east</u> might be prepared. And I saw <u>three unclean spirits</u> like frogs come out of the mouth of the <u>dragon</u>, and out of the mouth of the <u>beast</u>, and out of the mouth of the <u>false prophet</u>. For <u>they are the spirits of devils</u>, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, <u>I come as a thief</u>. <u>Blessed is he that watcheth</u>, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue <u>Armageddon</u>."

The sixth plague is poured out, drying up the great river Euphrates, so the way is prepared for the kings of the east. In Daniel chapter five we have the story of king Belshazzar inviting his leaders to a drunken feast. That night a bloodless hand appears, writing on the wall, foretelling Belshazzar of his doom. That night Cyrus lead the Medo-Persian army in and conquered Babylon. Babylon had taken God's people into captivity, and now God was leading a king from the east to deliver them. The prophet Isaiah tells us long before Cyrus was born, what would happen.

Isaiah 44:27-45:3

"<u>That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers</u>: That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and <u>I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;</u> I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel."

Just as the river was diverted allowing for Cyrus, the king from the east, to march into Babylon of old, Revelation describes that the spiritual river Euphrates will be dried up. We have learned that "*Waters*" in prophecy means multitudes of people (Rev. 17:15). The support that the people have given the Roman Papacy will be "*Dried up*." This makes the way clear for the True King of the East, Jesus Christ to come and get His people.

The Scriptures then give us a picture of "<u>Three unclean spirits</u> like frogs come out of the mouth of the <u>dragon</u>, and out of the mouth of the <u>beast</u>, and out of the mouth of the <u>false prophet</u>. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Who is this unholy trinity of the dragon, beast, and false prophet, that are working miracles to deceive the people and prepare them to battle against God Almighty? We have already identified that the dragon is Satan.

Revelation 12:9

"And the <u>great dragon was cast out</u>, that old serpent, <u>called the Devil, and Satan</u>, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Next, we see the beast is identified as the Roman Catholic Church, the Papacy. Revelation 13:2-4

"And <u>the beast</u> which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. And <u>I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his</u> <u>deadly wound was healed</u>: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and <u>they worshipped the beast</u>, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" In our study of Revelation chapter 13 we identified this first beast as the same as the Little Horn of Daniel chapter 7, the Roman Catholic Church or Papacy. So, the dragon is Satan, the beast is Papal Rome, but who is the "False Prophet?" We also learned from the study of Revelation chapter 13 that a second kingdom was rising on the heels of the downfall of the first beast-Papal Rome. A kingdom or nation that rose from infancy. A new nation from an unpopulated area of the earth, based on two great powers, political and religious freedom. It opened her shores as a haven for those who wanted to get away from the tyranny of the king and persecution of the pope. This could be only one nation, the United States of America.

Revelation 13:11-15

"And I beheld <u>another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a</u> <u>lamb</u>, and he spake as a dragon. And <u>he</u> [United States] <u>exerciseth all the power of the</u> <u>first beast</u> before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein <u>to worship the</u> <u>first beast</u>, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; <u>saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the</u> <u>beast</u>, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And <u>he</u> [United States] had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

The country that has given us such freedom will, the Bible says, someday speak as a dragon [Devil]. How does any nation speak? Through legislating laws. Notice these laws will enforce the "Worship" of the first beast, Papal Rome. We have already learned that Sunday Worship is their "Mark" of authority. Therefore, the United States of America will legislate laws requiring worship on Sunday in honor of Papal Rome, instead of the Seventh Day Sabbath in honor of the God of Heaven. The Bible says that they should make an "Image to the beast." An image is a likeness or reflection of the first beast. For America to make an "Image to the beast," church and state would have to unite, therefore, using the government to enforce religious worship. We don't see the resurgence of the first beast, but rather another group of religious people that want the United States to enforce worship on Sunday in honor of Papal Rome. This other group is Apostate Protestant America! John the Revelator sees this unholy trinity of the dragon [devil], the beast [Papal Rome] and the false prophet [Apostate Protestism] that go out, doing miracles to deceive the people, gathering them to battle against God Himself in the "Battle of Armageddon."

Contrast this with the "*Three Angels' Message*" we learn about in our last study. One group of three encouraging the people to worship the True God, while the other three are trying to pull peoples allegiance to the devil. **Remember the Great Controversy is all over worship!** Therefore, the counsel is given, "*Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments,*" for Jesus will be coming as a thief (at a time you are not looking for Him).

Next, we see that the "*Battle of Armageddon*" takes place. Because this battle takes place between the sixth and seventh plague, and Catholicism and Protestantism have joined forces to kill God's people, we can know this battle is not going on in the Middle East right now. We also know that although the devil is using people on this earth to destroy God's people, we have His promise of His protection, just like He protected the Israelites in Egypt from the seven last plagues.

Psalms 91:8-11

"Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For <u>he shall give his</u> angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Revelation 16:17-21 7th Plague

"And <u>the seventh angel</u> poured out his vial into the <u>air</u>; and there came a great voice <u>out</u> of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, <u>It is done</u>. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was <u>a great earthquake</u>, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And <u>the great city was divided into three parts</u>, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And <u>every island fled away</u>, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men <u>a great hail</u> out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

The seventh plague is a great earthquake and great hail and the words "It is done." This brings it to a close. The message, "It is done," comes from the throneroom of heaven, the announcement that the wrath of God has been poured upon the people that worshiped the beast and his image. This last plague of a massive earthquake followed by hail, ushers in the second coming of Jesus! Revelation chapters 15 and 16 gives us the results from the choices we make! Those who choose to worship the beast and his image, will receiving his mark and the wrath of God poured out in the seven last plagues. While those who remain faithful to Jesus are pictured as standing on the sea of glass.

Revelation 15:2-3

"And I saw as it were <u>a sea of glass</u> mingled with fire: and <u>them that had gotten the victory</u> 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. <u>And they</u> 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."

What will your choice be? I pray it will be to follow Jesus, by walking in the light and truth that He gives us from His Word. That wherever He leads, we will go, and will do His will. That together we can exclaim with Paul, "*I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*" Romans 1:16