

Book of Revelation – A “Great and Marvellous” Revelation

--Revelation 15 Part I

Series REV-47

Revelation 15

As we begin this new segment in the book of Revelation, prayerfully read the chapter and contemplate over what you've read.

This chapter is the shortest in the whole book. It is couched between Rev 14:14-20 which deals with the two harvests of the earth after probation closes, and Rev 16 when the plagues are poured out. It is therefore, referring to a very brief moment in time, but it is comprehensive in its scope.

In the context of this reality, the Lord has been gracious to reveal deep far-reaching truths in Rev 15 for the diligent Bible student. It is thus fitting to ask the question why? Why would God plant in the shortest chapter at this juncture in the book such profound concepts in typical poetic fashion so frequent in Scripture?

To help us understand this inquiry, let us first look at the big picture. By beholding an eagle's view, the Lord will help us grasp and incorporate into our understanding on the macro level, that which will inspire us to press on trusting Him as we focus on the detail in our pursuit “unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph 4:13).

The “great and marvelous” sign revealed in this chapter is God's trophy case now clearly on display. God has a people, at last a remnant who have “gotten the victory over the beast...his image...mark and number of his name.” This is the first time in the book, that a people have obtained the victory. This is what all of heaven has been, not just waiting for, but working with a small group of people to accomplish.

The Detail

The Lord uses some phrases tied to earlier passages in the Revelation. It would be well for us to uncover these gems, examine them closely as we seek for greater light how to apply what we learn here.

Vs. 1 – John sees another sign (wonder), why another? {It was first mentioned in Rev 12:1, 3}, e.g. the same Greek word is used G4592 - *Sēmeion* (sign, mark, token). Incidentally, Rev 13:13 & 14 uses the same word as Rev 12. However, in vs.14 it is translated as “miracles” (referring to the lamblike beast who deceives the dwellers of the earth).

John then refers to this sign as “great and marvellous.” This begins to implant in our minds that it is a wondrous sign which He is about to unfold.

“Seven Angels . . .” This next line is deep with significance. But let us explore first these two words, “seven angels.”

Where else in the book did we see this phrase “seven angels” appear?

What was the immediate context? [i.e. the posture of the angels and what were they about to do?] _____.

Is there a connection (here in Rev 15:1) with those earlier occurrences? _____.
If yes, can it be described in one word and if so what do you think that one word might be? _____.

What is the difference between the two times it is mentioned in the earlier chapter and what is described as about to unfold here in Rev.15? [hint: the last few words of verse 1 are a big hint _____

_____.

Vs. 2 – Here again we notice a repeat of a phrase in an earlier chapter [This is very interesting what Holy Spirit is wanting us to pick up on. Could it be a closure to a theme, we should be well acquainted with by now?]

“Sea of Glass”

Share your thoughts as to why 1) this phrase is being repeated, (and where it is found), but with the changed description of “mingled with fire”? and 2) why at this point in the Revelation narrative we are seeing so many phrases being repeated and in just the first couple verses of this profound chapter.

[in question 1, something else is also “before the throne” involving fire. What might it be and what is it defined as?]

1) _____

_____.

2) _____
_____.

Does the “sea of glass mingled with fire” convey the idea of reflection? Could this give a hint as to why the change from “the sea of glass like unto crystal”?

We have reason to thank God He has written this book in code and symbol for our admonition upon whom the end of the world has come (cf Dan 12:10).

*We will discuss verse 3 & 4 in our Monday night study.
May our Captain continue to guide us into all truth.*