

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

The Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb (Revelation 15.1-8)



1. Review of Revelation (14.6-20)

a. Three Angelic announcements (14.6-13)

- i. The eternal Gospel: the announcement of final judgment to the glory of God (14.6-7; cf. Daniel 4.34; Phil 2.9-11; Ex 14.4)
- ii. “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great” – the cup of adultery/idolatry (14.8; cf. Hos 4.10-12; Jer 51.7-8)
- iii. The wine of God’s wrath: “... the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name” (14.9-11; cf. Rev 13.15-17; Ps 75.8; Jer 25.15; 51.7; Is 34.9-10; Gen 19.28; Jude 1.7; Rev 20.9-15; Rev 7.13-17)

b. Exhortation for endurance and spiritual blessing (Rev 14.12-13)

c. The Last Judgment (14.14-20)

Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

- i. The harvest of judgment (14.14-16; Dan 7.9-14; Joel 3.9-15; Gen 15.13-16)

d. The Vintage of Judgment (14.17-20)

¹⁷Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸And another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, “Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.

i. “the angel who has authority over the fire” (14.18; cf. Rev 6.9-11; 8.3-5)

Revelation 8:3-5 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

ii. “ripe grapes ... the winepress of God’s wrath”

Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

iii. “And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse’s bridle, for 1,600 stadia.” (14.20)

Isaiah 62:8-63:3 The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: “I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink your wine for which you have labored; ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in the courts of my sanctuary.” ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates; prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; clear it of stones; lift up a signal over the peoples. ¹¹ Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” ¹² And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.

63:1 Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? “It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save.” ² Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress? ³ “I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood splattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.

iv. Judgment outside the city (Zion; cf. 14.1)

Hebrews 13:12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Revelation 21:27 But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

2. Revelation 15

15 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

“Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

3. The Song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev 15.1-4)

a. 14.1-5 and 15.2-4 are an *inclusio*, with the exhortation in 14.12-13 in the centre

Revelation 14:1-5 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³ and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵ and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

Revelation 14:12-13 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. ¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

Revelation 15:2-4 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire-- and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, “Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

b. “Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.” (15.1)

Leviticus 26:14-24 “But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, ¹⁵ if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, ¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷ I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your

enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you.¹⁸ And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins,¹⁹ and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.²⁰ And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.²¹ “Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins.²² And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.²³ “And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me,²⁴ then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins.

Psalms 79:12 Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbours the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!

- c. “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire” (15.2a)
- d. Victory over Evil: “and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing [on] the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.” (15.2b)
- e. The Song of the New Exodus: “And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb” (15.3a; cf. Ex 15.1-18; Deut 31.18-32.47; Psalms 90-91)
- f. “Great and amazing are your deeds,
 O Lord God the Almighty!
 Just and true are your ways,
 O King of the nations!
 Who will not fear, O Lord,
 and glorify your name?
 For you alone are holy.
 All nations will come
 and worship you,
 for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (15.3-4)

Revelation 6:9-11 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Jeremiah 10:6-7 There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might.⁷ Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.

Psalms 86:9-10 All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

Psalms 98:2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

4. The Seven Angels with the Seven Bowls of God's Wrath (Rev 15.5-8)

- a. "After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened" (15.5)

Exodus 25:21-22 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. ²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

Exodus 31:18 And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

Exodus 32:15 Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written.

- b. "and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests." (15.6)
- c. "And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever" (15.7)

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Revelation 8:3-5 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, ⁴ and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel. ⁵ Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake. (cf. Rev 6.9-11)

- d. "and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished." (15.8)

Exodus 19:16-18 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. (cf. Exodus 20 = Decalogue)

1 Kings 8:9-10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Leviticus 16:12-13 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil ¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die.

Psalms 18:7-9 Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. ⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth;

glowing coals flamed forth from him.⁹ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet.

Psalm 104:31-32 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works,³² who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

Isaiah 6:1-4 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.³ And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (cf. Is 6.5-13 is a message of judgment)

Ezekiel 10:1-5 Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne.² And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in before my eyes.³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court.⁴ And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.⁵ And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard as far as the outer court, like the voice of God Almighty when he speaks. (cf. Ezek 10.6-19 is a message of judgment)

5. Prayer and Praise for God's Judgment (Exodus 15; Psalm 90)