

# Revelation

**17**

**Chapter 15**

**This chapter begins an explanation of what ‘the winepress of God’s wrath involves: In the last chapter:**

**Rev 14: 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. <sup>20</sup> They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.**

**This angel is ‘reaping’ the wicked from the earth for punishment.**



## Revelation 15

***I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed.** <sup>2</sup> **And I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name. They held harps given them by God <sup>3</sup> and sang (**ado**) the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the nations. <sup>4</sup> Who will not fear you, 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.***

*Note these are ‘signs’ (symbols) of things of come and they have not occurred yet at the time John is writing.*

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**This is a listing of the completion of God’s wrath on the wicked who persecuted and killed His people (7 = completeness)**

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The sea of glass is symbolic of calmness, and peace for those standing by it. It is clear - symbolic of God’s seeing and knowing all and ‘is glowing with fire’ symbolizing the wrath of God. (This is to bring calmness and assurance to the Christians undergoing persecution)

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*The 'harps' are as all the other things, not literal physical objects, but are symbolic of the melodious sounds made by their singing (see Rev 14:2)*

Those singing (ado) the song of Moses and the Lamb are those who are victorious over the beast and the number of his name. (They did not give in to the pressure to worship the emperor) Remember, this is a sign of what is to come – an assurance to those Christians currently dealing with persecution of their reward for remaining faithful.

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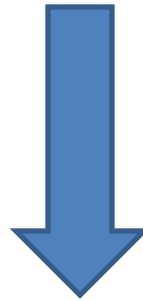
**Moses and the Lamb** – Moses is the symbol of the Old Covenant and the Lamb is the symbol of the new Covenant – the song is to give glory to God for all the great things he has done.

***<sup>5</sup> After this I looked, and I saw in heaven the temple—that is, the tabernacle of the covenant law—and it was opened. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup> And the temple was filled with smoke 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.***



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The temple is open symbolizes that all have access to God. (Similar to the temple curtain being torn in two at the death of Jesus) -



**Mark 15:37-38 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**

***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.***

The dress of the angels is like that of the priests – dressed in linen

The golden sash on the chest is symbolic of the authority of God (Jesus is pictured wearing a golden sash in Rev 1:13)



***7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke 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.***

**One of the living creatures around God's throne gave the angels bowls of God's wrath. The living creatures (see Revelation 4) were symbolic of all nature – lion, ox, eagle, man – symbolizing that all of nature will be involved in God's wrath.**

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### **Exodus 40:34-35**

***Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.***

### **2 Chronicles 7:1-2**

***When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it.***

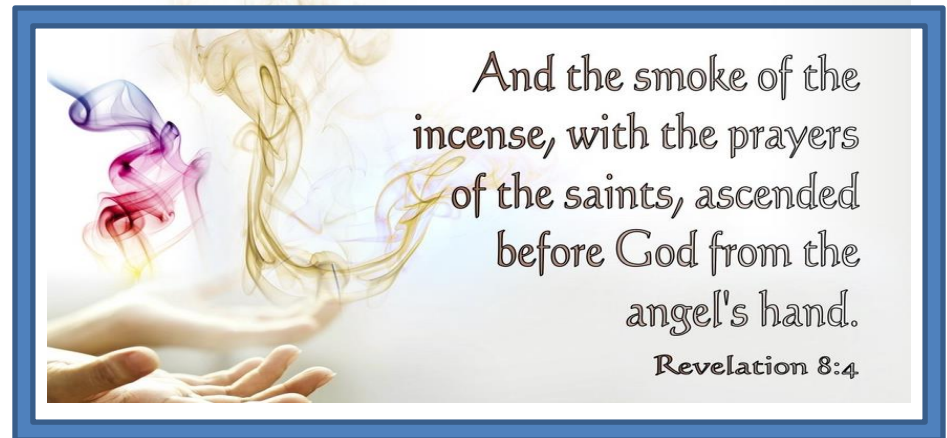
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### **Isaiah 6:1-4**

**In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup> And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” <sup>4</sup> At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.**

**God's glory filling the temple is symbolic of God's action – the temple fills with smoke and no one can enter until the work of God is completed. Once God has begun the action, it will continue to completion.**

**The smoke is symbolic of the prayers of the Christians – remember the question of the souls of the martyrs – ‘How long until you avenge our death?’ The smoke filling the temple indicates that the prayers have been heard and action is now being taken,**



**The seven angels with the seven bowls of wrath now begin to pour them out on the inhabitants of the earth in the next chapter:**

**We will see that these ‘bowls of wrath’ are similar to the punishments announced by the seven trumpets seen in Rev 8-11.**