

## Revelation 15

It has been three chapters since a “meanwhile, in heaven...” Chapters 12, 13, and 14 depicted vivid visions of the Woman, the Dragon and his two Beasts/Wild Things, additional martyrs, more calls for repentance, and a terrifying image of reaping the Earth’s harvest in chapter 14.

“We see in chapter 15 a paradox in the thought that there is a victory in dying at the hands of the enemy. [...] In the early church, ‘The Day of Martyrdom’ was known as the Day of Victory. In the case of the Martyrdom of Ste. Perpetua, the Day of Victory dawned, and they walked from the prison to the amphitheater as if they were walking to heaven, happy and serene in countenance. Matt. 16:25 gives us these words: ‘For whoever would save his life would lose it, and whoever would lose his life for my sake will find it.’” [1]

### Read Revelation 15:1-4

1. What finality do you hear in these verses?
2. What are all the details you glean from verse 2? What might be the significance of:
  - a. a sea of glass – purity? – All nations? And Fire – Judgment?
  - b. Standing beside the sea?
  - c. How did they conquer the beast and its image?
  - d. What are the harps of God?!
3. What might be the connection between the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?  
(What great event is linked to Moses, and what great event is linked to Jesus?)

The last time we were in the throne room of heaven was after the martyrdom of the two witnesses in Jerusalem. Chapter 11 ends with these words: “Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple, and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.”

### Read Revelation 15:5-8 The heavenly scene continues.

The seven angels robed in pure, bright linen and with golden sashes across their chests are certainly the Seven Angels of God.

[1] Erling W. Hansen, Revelation Lecture #6, p.2, Chapters 15, 16

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Fun Fact: The Seven Angels have names. Each angels' name contains a Hebrew word for "God" – "El"

1. Raphael, 2. Uriel, 3. Raguel, 4. Michael, 5. Sariel, 6. Gabriel, 7. Remoiel

For instance, El Rapha means "God Who Heals" (Ex. 15:26), and Raphael means "Healer of (from) God"

1. What are the seven angels carrying?
2. Are we told how they (*the plagues*) are being carried?
3. Who shows up with, and what are, the containers?
4. Is there something already in the golden bowls? ...to be mixed with the plagues?
5. What are some Bible stories you remember about God being in the midst of a cloud?
6. Apparently, no one can stand in the midst of God's glory cloud. As the Creator, why might God want to be alone until the end of the plagues? And, what might be significant to you about God turning and hiding their face from something they must do but wish with all their heart they did not have to do it this way? (*for a similar event, see Mark 15:34*)

With this in mind, read Revelation 15:8 through 16:1. Thoughts?