

The Beginning of the
End
Revelation 15
Dr. Michael D. Wedman

Overview

- ▶ The final events of world history are about to begin
- ▶ Bridges the gap between chapters 13 & 14 and what is coming in chapter 16
- ▶ Prepares us for the coming judgements of 16

The Wondrous Sign in Heaven v1

- ▶ A great and marvelous sign
 - ▶ Echoes of 12:1
 - ▶ Used when speaking about the works of God
- ▶ The seven last plagues are coming
 - ▶ The completion of God's wrath upon the earth

The Wondrous Sign in Heaven v1

- ▶ The seven last plagues
 - ▶ Ties to the Exodus story
 - ▶ The song of Moses - verse 3
 - ▶ See Exodus 15
- ▶ Question: What connects these two stories?

The Wondrous Sign in Heaven v1

▶ Answer:

Redemption of the people of God and judgment upon those who oppress them

The Song of the Victorious Saints

- ▶ Sea of glass
 - ▶ Reminiscent of 4:6
 - ▶ Also Ez 1:22-28
 - ▶ Are we back in the throne place of God?
- ▶ Mixed with fire
 - ▶ Perhaps the sign of the coming judgement

The Song of the Victorious Saints

- ▶ Those who had been victorious
 - ▶ Over the beast
 - ▶ Over the image of the beast
 - ▶ Over the number of the beast
- ▶ All Christians or those who came through the Great Tribulation?

The Song of the Victorious Saints

- ▶ They held harps
 - ▶ Common instruments in OT worship - David
 - ▶ See also 5:8; 14:2
- ▶ Sang the song of Moses and the Lamb
 - ▶ Ex 15; Duet 31:30-32:43

The Song of the Victorious Saints

- ▶ The Song of Moses and the Lamb
 - ▶ Epexegetical - to add words to clarify the meaning
 - ▶ The song of Moses, which is about, the Lamb
- ▶ The song praises God for His sovereignty over all and for His uniqueness as the Creator God
 - ▶ See 17:14; 19:16
 - ▶ Ex 15:18; Ps 86:8-10

The Seven Angels/heavenly temple

- ▶ The tabernacle language brings us back to Exodus again
 - ▶ The theme of redemption and judgment
- ▶ The tabernacle of the testimony
 - ▶ Likely refer to the stone tablets that were placed in the ark of the covenant

The Seven Angels/heavenly temple

- ▶ Seven angels with seven plagues
 - ▶ See Lev 26:14-28
- ▶ Came out of the temple
- ▶ Given bowls of God's wrath by one of the four living creatures

The Seven Angels/heavenly temple

- ▶ The temple is filled smoke from the glory of God
 - ▶ See Ex 24:15-16; 40:34-35; 1 Kings 8:10-12; Isa 6:1-4; Ez 10:2-4

The Seven Angels/heavenly temple

1. No one can enter into the presence of God until the wrath is completed
2. The verb “completed” appears in the last verse of this chapter as well as the first verse

Conclusion/Summary

We are headed toward the completion of created history that God began in Gen 1:1

His wrath is our vindication and final salvation
