

REVELATIONS FROM CRISES

REVELATION 15

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Verse 1, Prelude to the final judgment

1. Opening of seven seals (5-8:1)
2. Seven angels with seven plagues (8:2-11: 19)
3. Seven angels with seven plagues (15: 1)

In apocalyptic literature three groups of seven represent perfection

Verse 2, Victors in Christ

Sea of glass in 4:6 like crystal represents worship, glory and purity of God

Sea of glass in 15: 2 with fire represents judgment

1. Exodus 9:24, hails falls upon Egypt mixed with fire
2. Matthew 3: 12, Chaff consumed in fire
3. Hebrews 12: 29, God is consuming fire

Martyred Saints IN HEAVEN with harps

Judgment is for sinners not those who have given life to and for Christ

Verses 3-4, Song of Moses and the Lamb

Song of Moses, Exodus 15: 1-19 and 20-21

Song of the Lamb

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty (Psalms 92:5, 111:2, 98:1, 139:14)

Just and true are your ways, King of all nations! (Psalms 145: 17)

Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? (Psalm 86: 9)

For you alone are holy (I Samuel 2: 2, Psalm 99: 3, 111: 9)

All nations will come and worship before you (Psalm 86:9)

For your judgments have been revealed (Psalms 86: 9)

Both were new songs:

For Israelites as they came from Red Sea experience

For saints (14:6) as they stood in presence of God after martyrdom

Some experiences elicit new praise and worship

Importance of scripturally grounded praise

Focus is on God not on needs, wants, desires and accomplishments of believers

Focus is on sovereignty of God over nations and accountability of nations and rulers to God

Focus is on holiness and righteousness of God

Difference:

Aftermath of worship

Verses 5-7, Tent of Witness and Avenging Angels

Tabernacle in wilderness

Numbers 9:15, Worship

Numbers 17:7, Will and word of God is given

Numbers 18: 2, Consecration

Tabernacle or tent is interim dwelling, Hebrews 11: 9

Dress of angels

Priestly garments

Earthly and heavenly priests

Royalty, garments of princes and kings

Heavenly, (Matthew 28: 3, Mark 16: 5), dispense God's decrees

Four living creatures:

Lion, ox, man, eagle (4:7): bravest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in nature

Final judgment will take form of disasters from the nature or natural world

Judgment reminds us of our reaping abuse upon environment

With all of our crimes against each other (wars, slavery, economic exploitation)

our greatest crimes have been against nature that we were charged to care for

Verse 8, The Unapproachable Glory

Smoke symbol of God's glory (Isaiah 6: 4)

Smoke related to fire (Glory is to be revered as judgment is to be respected)

Power of God's Glory in Worship

Exodus 40: 34-35

I Kings 8: 10-11

God's glory is sign of God's pleasure and favor

God's glory comes after extravagant giving

Moses and Israelites, Exodus 35: 4, 20-22, 29; 36: 1-4

David and Israelites, I Chronicles 29

(New Testament signs and wonders accompany generous giving, Acts 2: 43-47)

When the glory or Holy Spirit moves in unusual ways

Do not panic, pause and enjoy God's presence; pause to see how God directs

Welcome power the glory of God brings

Be prepared for change