

The Book of Revelation

By

Russell I. Humberd

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CHAPTER FIFTEEN

INTRODUCING THE LAST PLAGUES

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels, having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God" (15:1).

There have been many plagues, but now comes the last. Under the seals various judgments were visited which resulted in many being saved; under the trumpet judgments, more and greater plagues were sent out. GOD has been going slow, giving all an opportunity to repent. Now comes the full wrath of GOD. A time will come when GOD's mercy will run out and **"thy wrath is come."**

The Crystal Sea

"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire, and them that had gotten the victory over the beast... stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God" (vs. 2).

These plagues are so terrible that GOD pauses to give assurance to His own. On earth it looked like defeat to refuse the mark of the beast and lose their life, but just behind the scenes there is another realm where their loss is counted naught but gain.

Heaven is a real place. It has real gates of pearl, real streets, real walls and real inhabitants. The sea of glass is something real and solid. The harps point to real joy and music. It is strange how some who are up to their ears in the materialism of this world, yet seem to abhor a real material Heaven.

Song of Victory

"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty, just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints" (vs. 3).

When Israel, standing on the banks of the Red Sea looked back and saw their old masters dead upon the shore, their hearts thrilled with joy and the sands of the desert vibrated and revibrated as Moses led in the song of victory and deliverance. Here is another sea; a sea of fire and glass. Here is another company that has won the victory over its enemy and how the courts of Heaven

ring for joy as again they sing the song of Moses the servant of GOD.

But there is a new note in that song. Not only is it the song of Moses but of the Lamb. "**Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name?**" (vs. 4). Fear in this sense is akin to love. In the godly home, the children love and fear the father and mother.

"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in Heaven was opened" (vs. 5).

The tabernacle in the wilderness and later the temple in Jerusalem, were both a figure of the one in Heaven.

The Seven Angels

"And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen" (vs. 6).

These angels come out of the temple. For centuries the temple has been crying to GOD for mercy. For ages the blood upon the mercy seat has stood between the sin of man and the holiness of GOD. But now the last and terrible plagues are ready to be poured out upon a sinful world, and the temple itself furnishes the personnel for these instruments of wrath.

"And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth forever and ever" (vs. 7).

The throne scene of chapter four is a permanent fixture. Here again the four living creatures take action towards the earth. It was these same four creatures that called forth the four horses of the seal judgments.

Men talk of the love and mercy of GOD; they prat about the universal fatherhood of GOD and brotherhood of man; they cry peace and safety but reject the warnings of the wrath of GOD.

It is true that "**God is love,**" but it is also just as true that "**Our God is a consuming fire**" and "**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God**" (Hebrews 10:31).

One place and only one in all the universe can a man be in the love of GOD, and that is in CHRIST JESUS. Outside of CHRIST there is nothing but wrath and the "**terror of the Lord**" (II Corinthians 5:11).

The rains kept falling; the water kept piling up.

Would the dam hold? Hours passed - and still it held. And then with a mighty crash and a terrible roar the Johnstown flood was on its way. And so GOD's mercy has long dammed up His wrath and fierce anger against sin. But a time will come when that wrath will be full and will burst forth in terrible fury upon those who dare to trifle with His love.

No Repentance

"And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled" (vs. 8).

Under the seal judgments, multitudes turned to GOD and were saved, but under the vial judgments there is no place for repentance until the last dreg of the last fearful vial has been drained to its last drop.

It is in the temple and only there that men find repentance, and no man is able to enter that refuge until he has tasted the terrible vials of GOD's wrath.

When the door of Noah's ark closed it brought to an end the invitation to GOD's salvation; so here during the time of the vials, there will be no offer of salvation. Rather is it recorded that men blasphemed the name of GOD in the great heat and because of their terrible sores and great hail.

Men today would put off salvation and trifle with GOD's mercy, not realizing that it is "**the goodness of God**" that leadeth thee to repentance (Romans 2:4), and "**that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost**" (I Corinthians 12:3).

~ end of chapter 15 ~

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