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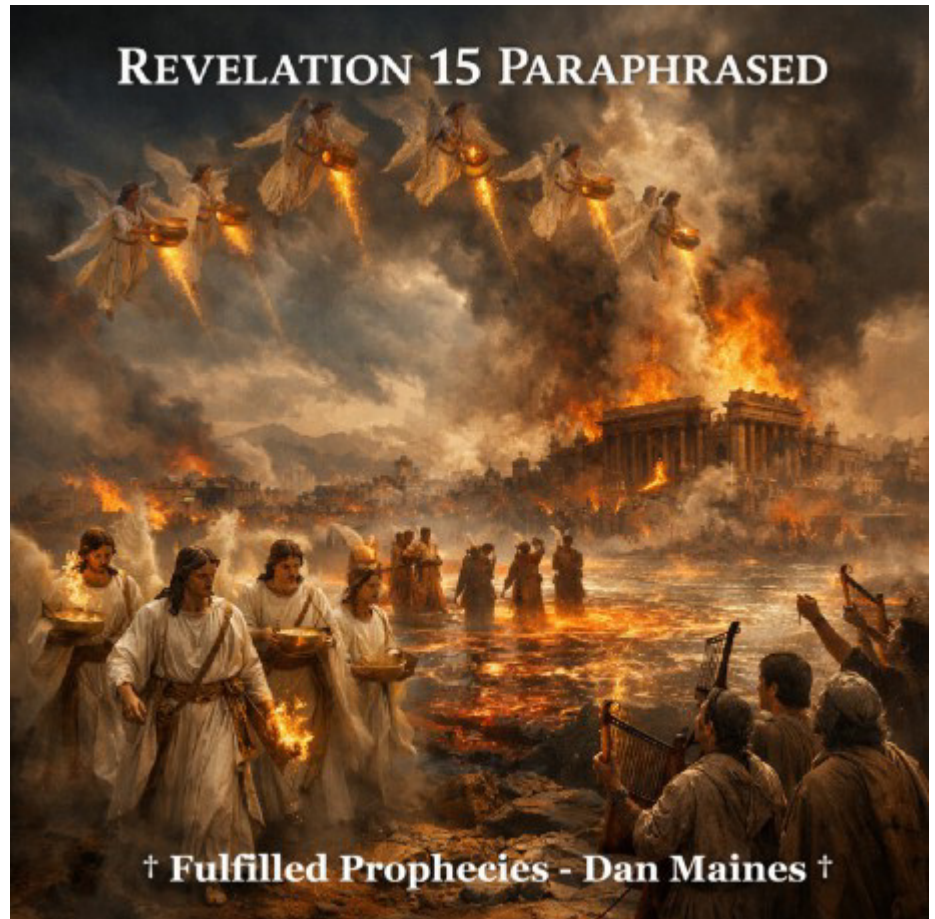
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Revelation 15 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Revelation 15 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Revelation now shows another vision of final judgment that was about to fall on Jerusalem and the persecuting powers of that age (Matthew 23:36; Luke 21:22).

† These signs represent the completion of God's wrath against the old covenant system that rejected the Messiah and

persecuted His people (Matthew 21:43; Hebrews 8:13).

† The language is symbolic and covenantal, pointing to the end of the old temple order and the vindication of Christ and His followers (Revelation 1:1; Luke 21:20-22).

Revelation 15:1

Revelation 15:1

Then I saw another great and amazing sign in heaven. Seven angels appeared holding seven final plagues, because through them God's wrath would be completed.

† The seven final plagues symbolize the completion of covenant judgment against Jerusalem and the temple system that rejected Christ (Matthew 23:37-38).

† Jesus said all the righteous blood would come upon that generation, showing that this judgment was directed toward the first century audience (Matthew 23:35-36).

† The idea of wrath being completed points to the closing of the old covenant age when the temple was destroyed in AD 70 (Hebrews 9:26).

Revelation 15:2

Revelation 15:2

Then I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and standing beside it were those who had overcome the beast, his image, and the number of his name. They were holding harps given to them by God.

† The sea of glass represents God's throne presence, showing the victorious believers standing before Him after enduring persecution (Revelation 4:6).

† Those who overcame the beast represent Christians who refused allegiance to the Roman emperor and remained faithful to Christ (Revelation 13:15-17).

† The harps symbolize worship and victory, showing that God's people were vindicated despite the suffering they endured (Revelation 14:2-3).

Revelation 15:3

Revelation 15:3

They were singing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God Almighty. Your ways are just and true, King of the nations.

† The song of Moses recalls Israel's deliverance from Egypt, showing that God was again delivering His people from oppression (Exodus 15:1-3).

† The song of the Lamb connects that earlier deliverance with the greater salvation accomplished through Christ (John 1:29).

† This union of Moses and the Lamb shows the fulfillment of the law and prophets through Jesus (Matthew 5:17).

Revelation 15:4

Revelation 15:4

Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, because your righteous acts have been revealed.

† The expansion to all nations shows the global reach of the gospel after the fall of the old covenant system (Matthew 28:19).

† God's righteous acts refer to His judgment and salvation being revealed together (Romans 3:21-26).

† The fall of Jerusalem removed the barrier that once separated Jew and Gentile under the old covenant order (Ephesians 2:14-16).

Revelation 15:5

Revelation 15:5

After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened.

† This vision points to the heavenly reality behind the earthly temple, showing that God's true dwelling was never limited to the physical building in Jerusalem (Acts 7:48-50).

† The opening of the heavenly temple reveals that judgment is coming from God's authority, not from earthly power (Hebrews 9:24).

† It also signals that the earthly temple system was about to be removed (Matthew 24:2).

Revelation 15:6

Revelation 15:6

The seven angels who held the seven plagues came out of the temple. They were dressed in clean shining linen and had golden sashes around their chests.

† Their clothing reflects purity and divine authority, indicating they carry out God's righteous judgment (Daniel 10:5-6).

† The angels coming from the temple shows that the judgment originates from God's holy presence (Psalm 11:4).

† The symbolism emphasizes that these events are part of God's planned justice, not random disasters (Revelation 16:1).

Revelation 15:7

Revelation 15:7

Then one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.

† The bowls represent the outpouring of God's covenant judgment that would soon fall upon the rebellious city (Revelation 16:1).

† The living creatures around the throne symbolize the authority of heaven confirming this judgment (Revelation 4:6-8).

† God's eternal nature highlights that His justice is righteous and final (Deuteronomy 32:39-41).

Revelation 15:8

Revelation 15:8

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 finished.

† The smoke recalls God's presence filling the tabernacle and temple, showing His holiness and authority (Exodus 40:34-35).

† It also signals that judgment had begun and could not be stopped until it was completed (Isaiah 6:4).

† The completion of these plagues points forward to the destruction of Jerusalem, when the old temple system finally ended (Luke 21:20-22).

Historical References

† Josephus recorded that Jerusalem was filled with turmoil, famine, and violence before its destruction, matching the intense judgments described in Revelation (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6).

† Eusebius wrote that Christians fled Jerusalem before the destruction after recognizing the signs Jesus gave (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

† Tacitus described the terrible suffering and collapse of Jerusalem during the Roman siege (Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13).

How It Applies To Us Today

† This chapter reminds us that Christ keeps His promises and His warnings always come to pass (Matthew 24:34).

† It shows that faithfulness during persecution leads to victory with Christ (Revelation 2:10).

† It also encourages believers to trust God's justice, because even when evil seems powerful, God ultimately brings judgment and vindication (Romans 12:19).

Q & A Appendix

Q: What do the seven plagues represent?

A: They represent the final covenant judgments that fell upon Jerusalem and the old temple system in AD 70 (Luke 21:20-22; Matthew 23:36).

Q: Who are those standing by the sea of glass?

A: They are believers who remained faithful during persecution and overcame the authority of the beast and the Roman

imperial system (Revelation 13:15-17; Revelation 14:12).

Q: Why is the song of Moses and the Lamb mentioned together?

A: It shows that the salvation accomplished by Christ fulfills the earlier deliverance God gave through Moses (Exodus 15:1-3; Matthew 5:17).

Q: Why was the temple filled with smoke?

A: It represents the powerful presence of God and the certainty that His judgment would be completed before the temple system ended (Exodus 40:34-35; Luke 21:20-22).

Q: Why are these plagues called the last plagues?

A: Because they represent the final stage of God's covenant judgment against the old covenant order that rejected Christ. Once Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed, the old system ended completely (Hebrews 8:13; Luke 21:22).

Q: Why are the believers shown standing on the sea of glass with fire?

A: This symbolizes victory after persecution. The fire represents the trials they endured, and standing before God shows they overcame the power of the beast and remained faithful (Revelation 13:15-17; Revelation 14:12).

Q: Why do they sing both the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb?

A: The song of Moses celebrated Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and the song of the Lamb celebrates the greater deliverance through Christ. Together they show the fulfillment of God's redemption plan (Exodus 15:1-3; John 1:29; Matthew 5:17).

Q: What does the smoke filling the temple represent?

A: It represents the powerful presence and authority of God during the time of judgment. Just as God's glory filled the

tabernacle, this shows that the coming judgment was directly from Him and could not be stopped until it was completed (Exodus 40:34-35; Isaiah 6:4).

Q: Why does Revelation show angels pouring out bowls of wrath?

A: The bowls symbolize the complete outpouring of God's judgment that came upon the rebellious generation that rejected the Messiah and persecuted His followers (Matthew 23:36; Luke 21:20-22).

Q: How does this chapter confirm the fulfilled perspective?

A: The judgments are shown as finishing God's wrath. That fits perfectly with the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, when the temple system ended and the old covenant age passed away (Matthew 24:2; Hebrews 9:26).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Revelation 15:1-8; Matthew 23:35-38; Luke 21:20-22; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 9:26; Revelation 4:6-8; Revelation 13:15-17; Revelation 14:2-3; Exodus 15:1-3; John 1:29; Matthew 5:17; Matthew 28:19; Romans 3:21-26; Ephesians 2:14-16; Acts 7:48-50; Hebrews 9:24; Matthew 24:2; Daniel 10:5-6; Psalm 11:4; Revelation 16:1; Deuteronomy 32:39-41; Exodus 40:34-35; Isaiah 6:4; Romans 12:19.

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book 5-6; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5; Tacitus, Histories 5.12-13.

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