

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

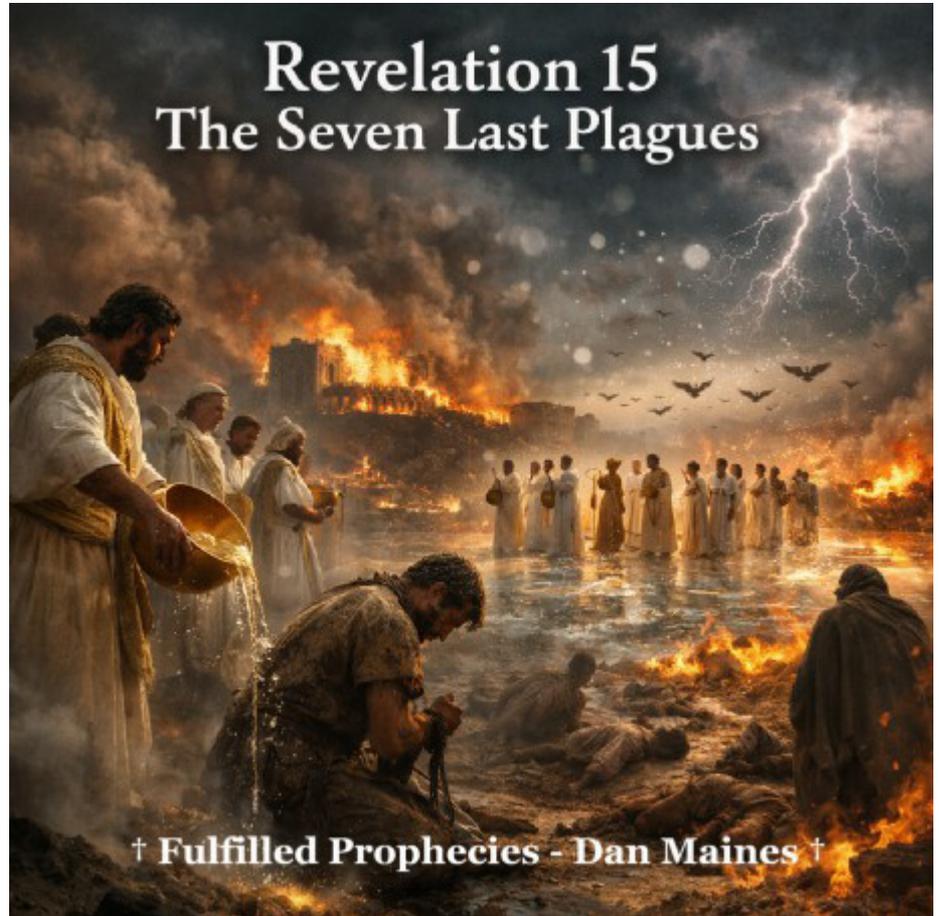
[R](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Revelation 15 The Seven Last Plagues



By Dan Maines

Revelation 15 The Seven Last Plagues

Introduction

† Revelation 15 prepares the reader for the final outpouring of God's covenant wrath. The vision describes the last stage of judgment that was about to fall on apostate Jerusalem.

† The imagery is drawn from the Law and the prophets. The plagues echo the covenant curses warned about in Leviticus 26

and Deuteronomy 28.

† Just as God once judged Egypt to deliver His people, He now brings judgment upon the corrupt temple system that rejected the Messiah.

† This chapter shows the closing stage of the covenant lawsuit against Israel, the moment when God's wrath reaches its completion.

† The chapter also functions as the introduction to the bowl judgments that follow in Revelation 16. Chapter 15 shows the preparation in heaven before those final judgments are poured out.

† John is showing that the judgments about to fall are not random disasters but the final stage of the covenant consequences that the Law had warned about from the beginning.

Revelation 15:1

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

† The seven last plagues correspond to the covenant curses of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. These plagues complete God's wrath, signifying the final judgment on apostate Jerusalem.

† The phrase the wrath of God is finished shows the covenant case against Israel had reached its conclusion. For centuries the prophets warned that judgment would come if the nation rejected God and killed His messengers.

† Jesus confirmed this when He declared that the guilt of the prophets would fall upon His own generation.

Matthew 23:36

Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

† The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 fulfilled that statement. The plagues described in Revelation are the final covenant judgments falling upon the system that rejected Christ.

† The covenant background for these plagues is also found in the Song of Moses, which warned Israel that national judgment would come if they became corrupt.

Deuteronomy 32:36

For the Lord will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their strength is gone.

† This passage shows that the covenant lawsuit predicted in the Law would eventually reach a point where God would bring judgment and vindicate His faithful people.

Revelation 15:2

And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God.

† The sea of glass reflects the throne imagery earlier in Revelation.

Revelation 4:6

and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal

† The fire mixed with the sea symbolizes judgment. The saints stand upon it because they share in Christ's victory over the beast.

† These believers refused to worship the Roman emperor and would not participate in the imperial cult demanded by Rome.

† Tacitus records that Christians were brutally persecuted during Nero's reign, confirming the suffering that Revelation describes.

† Tacitus wrote that Christians were torn apart by dogs or burned as living torches in Nero's gardens (Tacitus, Annals 15.44).

† Revelation shows that those martyrs were not defeated. They stand victorious before the throne of God.

Revelation 15:3-4

And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God, the Almighty; righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations! Who will not fear You, Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; for all the nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed.

† The song of Moses connects this vision directly to the Exodus.

Exodus 15:1

Then Moses and the sons of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and said, I will sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted; the horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea.

† Israel once sang this song after escaping Pharaoh. In Revelation the saints sing again after being delivered from persecution.

† The addition of the song of the Lamb shows the fulfillment of the Exodus story. What began with Moses reaches its full meaning through Christ.

† The merging of both songs shows the unity of God's plan. The Exodus was the shadow and Christ's redemption is the fulfillment.

† Philo wrote that Israel's songs celebrated God's power to deliver His people and reminded them that God would redeem them again (Philo, *On the Life of Moses* 1.19).

† The song also anticipates the universal worship of God among the nations, fulfilling the promise that the Messiah's kingdom would extend beyond Israel.

Revelation 15:5-6

After these things I looked, and the temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened, and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and their chests wrapped with golden sashes.

† John sees the heavenly temple opened, reminding us that true authority comes from God's throne rather than the earthly temple in Jerusalem.

† The angels appear in priestly garments, clean linen with golden sashes. This shows that the coming judgment is holy and righteous.

† Josephus described how priests serving in the temple wore white linen garments during their duties (Josephus, *Wars* 5.5.7).

† The imagery highlights the contrast between the corrupt earthly priesthood and the holy authority of the heavenly temple.

Revelation 15:7

And one of the four living creatures gave the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God, who lives forever and ever.

† Golden bowls were normally used in temple worship to hold incense offerings.

† In this vision the bowls are filled with divine wrath, showing that judgment is now replacing the sacrificial system.

† The prayers of the saints and the injustice done against them had reached their final answer.

† The Mishnah describes priests using golden bowls in temple rituals as part of the sacrificial service (Mishnah, Tamid 5:4).

† Revelation reverses the imagery. Instead of worship rising from Jerusalem, judgment now pours out upon it.

Revelation 15:8

And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

† The smoke recalls the moment when God's glory filled the tabernacle in the wilderness.

Exodus 40:34-35

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the

Lord filled the tabernacle. Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

† Isaiah also saw the temple filled with smoke when God announced judgment.

Isaiah 6:4

And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

† In Revelation the same imagery signals judgment rather than inauguration.

† The fact that no one could enter the temple shows that intercession had ended. The time for repentance had passed.

† The prophet Jeremiah described a similar moment when God told him to stop praying for Jerusalem because its judgment was sealed.

Jeremiah 7:16

As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you.

† Revelation echoes this same finality. The covenant verdict had been declared and judgment was about to be completed.

Historical References

† Josephus described the famine, violence, and destruction during the siege of Jerusalem in AD 70, confirming the covenant curses warned in the Law (Josephus, Wars of the Jews Book 5-6).

† Josephus recorded that the famine became so severe that people fought over scraps of food and entire neighborhoods were destroyed by fire and internal violence (Josephus, Wars 5.10-12).

† Tacitus recorded Nero's persecution of Christians, confirming the suffering of believers described in Revelation (Tacitus, Annals 15.44).

† Eusebius wrote that believers fled Jerusalem before the Roman siege after remembering Jesus' warnings (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

How it applies to us today

† God's judgments are righteous and complete. History confirms that when God declares judgment it comes exactly as He said.

† The victory of the saints reminds us that faithfulness is never wasted. Even when believers suffer for the truth, God honors their faith.

† The song of Moses and the song of the Lamb show that God's plan from the Law to Christ is one unified story.

† The temple imagery reminds us that God's dwelling place is no longer confined to stone buildings but is among His people.

† The fulfilled judgment of AD 70 confirms that Jesus' words were true and reliable.

Q and A Appendix

Q: Why are the plagues called the last plagues?

A: They represent the completion of the covenant judgments promised in the Law. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 warned

that if Israel rejected the covenant severe curses would follow, and Revelation shows those curses reaching their final stage.

Q: What does the sea of glass represent?

A: The sea of glass represents God's throne and authority. The saints standing upon it show that through Christ they share in His victory over the beast and the persecuting powers of their generation (Revelation 4:6; Revelation 15:2).

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

A: The song of Moses celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egypt in Exodus 15. The song of the Lamb celebrates the greater deliverance accomplished by Christ, showing the fulfillment of the Exodus pattern.

Q: What does the smoke filling the temple mean?

A: It represents the overwhelming presence of God in judgment. Just as the tabernacle was filled with God's glory in Exodus 40:34-35, Revelation shows the temple filled with divine glory as judgment is carried out.

Q: Why does Revelation use Exodus imagery so often?

A: Because the judgment on Jerusalem was a covenant Exodus. Just as God judged Egypt and delivered His people, He judged the corrupt temple system and delivered the church into the fully revealed new covenant kingdom (Exodus 15; Luke 21:22; Revelation 15:3).

Q: Why does Revelation describe the judgment as coming from the heavenly temple?

A: Because the true authority of judgment comes from God, not from the earthly temple in Jerusalem. By the first century the temple leadership had become corrupt and had rejected the Messiah. Revelation shows that the real temple is in heaven, and that God's judgment against Jerusalem was issued from His throne (Revelation 11:19; Revelation 15:5-6; Hebrews 8:1-

2).

Q: Why are angels carrying bowls of wrath in this chapter?

A: The bowls represent the final stage of the covenant judgments that were about to fall. Earlier in Revelation the saints' prayers were pictured rising to God like incense (Revelation 5:8; Revelation 8:3-5). Now those same temple vessels appear again, but instead of incense they carry judgment, showing that the time for patience had ended and the time for justice had arrived.

Q: Why is the wrath described as being finished?

A: The phrase shows that God's covenant judgment against the old covenant system was reaching its completion. Jesus warned that Jerusalem would face days of vengeance when everything written by the prophets would be fulfilled (Luke 21:22). The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 completed that covenant judgment.

Q: Why are the saints shown standing and singing before the bowls are poured out?

A: Their song shows that the victory of Christ had already secured their triumph. Even though persecution was still happening on earth, heaven already recognized the saints as conquerors over the beast and his image (Revelation 12:11; Revelation 15:2). This vision assures believers that faithfulness to Christ leads to victory even in the face of suffering.

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

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

Source Index

† Revelation 15:1-8; Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28; Matthew 23:36; Deuteronomy 32:36; Revelation 4:6; Exodus 15:1;

Exodus 40:34-35; Isaiah 6:4; Jeremiah 7:16

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44; Josephus, Wars of the Jews 5-6, 5.10-12; Mishnah, Tamid 5:4; Philo, On the Life of Moses 1.19; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1968469650707833/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.