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December 24

Revelation 15:1-8

Prelude to the Bowl Judgments

Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. ² And I saw *something* like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark *and* over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

³ They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous *are* Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true *are* Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For *You* alone *are* holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

⁵ After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. ⁶ And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. ⁷ Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. ⁸ The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God

and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

In chapter 15 the apostle John sees seven angels with seven bowls full of the wrath of God. He also sees a multitude of believers coming forth standing on a sea of glass. It was revealed to him that these were the ones that did not worship the beast or receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands. This is why the Bible says they are overcomers. They were given harps and worshiped God who sits on the throne with the song of Moses. These believers were faithful and true and they did not bow down to the beast or his idolatrous image. No, they reserved their worship for the only true God who is worthy and God received their worship and praise. What a glorious sight this must have been to John the apostle as he witnessed this multitude worshiping God. The very thing that Satan craved and desired more than anything he could not get these men and women to perform for him. This proves that there are people that will value bringing glory to God and remain faithful to him even in times of greatest persecution and martyrdom the world has ever known.

The temple in heaven was filled with the presence of the glory and power of God. The Bible says that no one could enter into the temple until the seven angels poured out the bowls of judgment of the wrath of God. It seems that God did not want to be petitioned from anyone concerning his decision to bring his wrath upon the ungodly. Remember how it was revealed to Abraham that the Lord was going to destroy Sodom? Abraham interceded with God for the sake of his nephew Lot and his family. He negotiated with God saying if there were only 10 righteous people found in the city would God destroyed the city for the 10 righteous? The Lord answered Abraham and said he would not destroy Sodom if he found only 10 righteous people living there. Well, we know that there were not even 10 righteous people to be found in Sodom and God rained fire down from heaven on that city and destroyed them all after Lot had been rescued by angels.

However, it appears that at this point in God's prophetic timetable he does not want to listen to any more prayers for the lost because he's made up his mind and given every opportunity to all of humanity to repent and be saved. Now those that remain on earth will experience the full measure of the wrath of God and there will be no escape because God's not listening to prayers for any more mercy at this time. Proverbs 29:1 says He who is often rebuked, *and* hardens *his* neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. God sent all kinds of preachers, prophets, apostles and even angels to preach the gospel and get people every opportunity to make a decision to repent and be saved but the group that remained on earth at this point had hardened their hearts and now they would be destroyed without escape.

What should we do in light of the coming wrath of God that is irrevocable? We should preach the gospel and urge people to make a decision to repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We should pray for people like we have never prayed before that they would be saved and that God would send workers across their paths, divine messengers sent by the

Holy Spirit. We also should be willing to invite people to church and Christian gatherings as Bible studies where prayer and worship and the fellowship of the Saints and the love of God can be experienced. This can be a powerful witness to people that need to be saved and many times just need someone to be a friend caring for their soul. Be that friend today and pray that God give you the wisdom to influence others to salvation.

Prayer: Lord help us be faithful doing your works and serving you in Jesus name, Amen,

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