

v1-4 Prelude To The Vial Judgements

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**v1-4 Prelude to the vial judgements**

Sign Of The Seven Angels With The Seven Last Plagues

1 ¶ ***And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.***

Signs are used x 7 in Revelation and are used of "miracles and wonders" as signs of Divine authority; Note use of "I saw" indicating three elements of the sign. 1) Seven angels with seven last plagues 2) Martyred saints singing the Song of Moses and of the Lamb 3) Seven angels coming out of the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony

Great:- indicates the importance of the sign. Word used x 75 in this book

Marvellous:- indicates effect on the beholder of the sign. The word is used x 2 in Revelation, v1 and 3 of ch 15.

and x 7 in NT. Matt 21.42 and Mark 12.11 in respect to the corner stone. In the response of the blind man in Jn 9.30. By Paul in 2Cor 11.14 speaking about satan as the angel of light. 1Peter 2.9 speaking about being called into His marvellous light.

Note:- eight sevens in this chapter. There are 53 seven's in this book and they are used of 19 different objects. Speaks of completeness.

**Seven last plagues:-** The word is used for stripes, wounds. It is used for the wound of the beast in ch 13.

The word is used metaphorically of a calamity, and from its use in ch 9; ch 11; ch 16 and ch18, it would appear that the plagues in ch 15 are the contents of the vials in Ch 16. The pouring out of the vials indicates that the purposes of God have been accomplished in this pouring out of the 'wrath of God' in v1

Note:- This is the seven last plagues and in ch 16.17 we read "***It is done***", the judgements are over and the scene is set for the Lord to appear. The tense for "***filled***" in v1 is aor pass ind and this indicates the event being in the past. The word '***plague***' is used in ch 9.20 in respect of the trumpet judgements. It is used of the two witnesses smiting the earth with plagues in ch 11. It is used of the vial Judgements in ch 16.9; & ch 16.21; It is used of the plagues inflicted on ecclesiastical Babylon in ch 18. It is also used in ch 21.9 referring back to ch's 15 & 16 and as a warning in ch 22.18

**Filled up:-** this is the thought of completion, it is the same word translated 'fulfilled' in v8.

It is also translated 'finished', in ch 10.7, 11.7, 20.5. 'fulfilled' in 15.8, 17.17, 20.3, 'expired' in 20.7

**Martyrs On The Sea Of Glass**

2 ***And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.***

**Sea of glass:-** cp ch 4.6 in ch 4 it is in relation to the throne and is like unto crystal speaking of reflected glory, here it is in relation to the martyred saints and could indicate their purity and holiness

**Fire** in found in 25 verses in revelation. **Fire** :- speaks here of the fiery trial of the martyrs.

**Them that had gotten the victory over the beast.** This would include the martyrs of 6.9 ***And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?*** Their cry is seen to be in the process of being answered in the vial judgements

Victory is from:- 1) The beast 2) The image of the beast. 3) The number of the beast

**Harps** cp 5.8 Trumpets speak of a clarion call or a warning.. Harps speak of sweetness and harmony.

"**over his mark**" is omitted in most texts. Cp RSV. ESV. JND.

**Song Of Moses And The Song Of The Lamb**

3 ***And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are***

**thy ways, thou King of saints. 4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

Notice:- Thy works; Thy ways; Thy name.

v3 '**King of the saints**' should be King of the ages or King of the nations. The context would suggest King of the nations.

This title is used x 4 in OT. Ge 14:1, 9 x2 "Tidal king of nations;" Jer 10:7 [Of the LORD] "Who would not fear thee, O King of nations?" Jos 12:23 [no name given. List of Kings] "the king of the nations of Gilgal, one;"

**Song of Moses**... earthly deliverance Song of redemption Exod 15 1-19 also Deut 31.22 Deut 31.30 Deut 32.44

**Song of the Lamb** :- spiritual deliverance. See Ps 86 8 ¶ "**Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. 9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone**".

See also:- Isa 66.15 Isa 66. 23 Zeph 2.11 Zech 14.16 17

### **v5 - 8 Preparation For The Vial Judgements**

#### **Temple Opened In Heaven**

**5 ¶ And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened:**

**Temple** x 13 in Rev. Tabernacle x 3

**Temple**:- naos 1) used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies Vine <naos> "a shrine or sanctuary," was used among the Jews, the sanctuary in the "Temple," into which only the priests could lawfully enter, e.g., Luke 1:9,21,22; Christ, as being of the tribe of Judah, and thus not being a priest while upon the earth (Heb. 7:13,14; 8:4), did not enter the naos; of the "Temple" seen in visions in the Apocalypse, Rev. 3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 14:15,17; 15:5,6,8; 16:1,17;

#### **The Seven Angels With The Seven Plagues**

**6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.**

**White linen clothing**:- purity and glory

**Breasts**:- affection

Cp. Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; Re 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

**Girded loins** speaks of strength. Girded breasts speaks of the seat of affection of righteousness

**Golded girdles** holy indignation a zeal for the vindication of his holiness . John Baptist wore a leathern girdle

#### **Seven Golden Vials**

**7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever.**

**Full of the wrath of God.** This is a different word from 'filled up in v1 and simply means 'to be full'. See 5.8 vials full of odours which are the prayers of the saints. See also 21.9 seven vials full of the seven last plagues

**Full of** used x11 and x7 in Rev.

**The wrath of God:** Two greek words are used in the N.T. 1) Thumos and 2) Orge. Thumos, "wrath" is to be distinguished from orge, in this respect, that thumos indicates a more agitated condition of the feelings, an outburst of wrath from inward indignation, while orge suggests a more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with a view to taking revenge. Thumos is found eighteen times in the NT, ten of which are in the Apocalypse, in seven of which the reference is to the wrath of God; Many times the word thumos is used in a bad sense. In Gal. 5:20, it follows the word "jealousies," which when smoldering in the heart break out in wrath. Thumos and orge are coupled in two places in the Apocalypse, Rev. 16:19, "the fierceness (thumos) of His wrath" (orge); and Rev. 19:15, "the fierceness(thumos) of the wrath (orge)of Almighty God." see use in *Re 12:12 Re 14:8 Re 14:10 Re 18:3 Re 14:19 Re 15:1 Re 15:7 Re 16:1 Re 16:19 Re 19:15*

**who liveth for ever and ever.** This displays the eternal character of the reign of God in contrast no doubt to the pending end of the reign of the trinity of evil. Unique to revelation used x5. Liveth for ever is found x 2 in Daniel and x1 in Heb 7 and x 1 in 1 Pet 1. For use in Rev. see ch 4.9. 4.10. 5.14.10.6. 15.7. cp 1.18 'alive for evermore'.

**Smoke From The Glory Of God**

***8 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.***

**Glory of God** x 3 in Rev Re 15:8 Re 21:11 Re 21:23

**Smoke** just means smoke Used in Re 8:4 And the smoke <2586> of the incense, Used as smoke from a burning in Re 9:2 Re 9:3 Re 9:17 Re 9:18 Re 14:11 Re 15:8 Re 18:9 Re 18:18 Re 19:3