REVELATION 15

# Seven Last Plagues: The Song of Moses and the Lamb

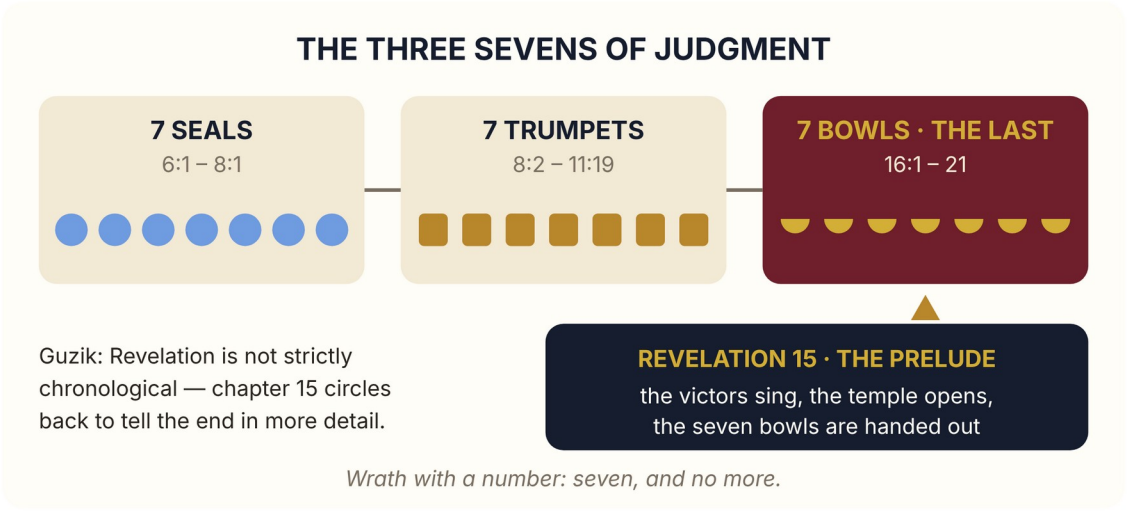
> *"And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, 'Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, King of the nations!'"*
> REVELATION 15:3

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · WITH TSARFATI · MACARTHUR · GUZIK · JEREMIAH

# Where John has brought us

1. Revelation 14 ended at the wine press of God's wrath, a preview of Armageddon.

2. This is the shortest chapter in the book — eight verses that serve as heaven's prelude to the seven bowls of chapter 16.



# Another Sign: The Seven Last Plagues

*In them the wrath of God is finished*

**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.*

**AMIR TSARFATI**

Tsarfati calls this the third great sign in heaven — after the woman of chapter 12 and the dragon who pursued her — and he sees in it that the wrath has a number: seven plagues, and no more.

**DAVID GUZIK**

Guzik insists chapter 15 is not the next event after chapter 14.

**τελέω**

TELEŌ · "FINISHED"

Teleō means to complete, to bring something to its goal. It frames the whole chapter: in the seven last plagues "the wrath of God is finished" (15:1), and no one can enter the temple until the plagues "were finished" (15:8).

# The Song on the Sea of Glass

*The beast's victims are heaven's victors*

**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.*

### DAVID JEREMIAH

Jeremiah observes that the shortest chapter in Revelation is the calm before the last plagues — and God fills the calm with worship. The singers are the tribulation's martyrs.

### JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur says the sea like crystal in chapter 4 spoke of God's holiness; mingled now with fire, it speaks of the judgment that proceeds from that holiness.

### DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notices the harps of God: until now only the twenty-four elders held harps, and these once-hunted believers are given the blessing of leading heaven's music.

**ὅσιος**
HOSIOS · "HOLY"

In verse 4 the victors sing, "For You alone are holy." The word is not the usual hagios but hosios — pure, devout, set apart; the intrinsic, unimpeachable purity of God's own character.

# One Song, Two Shores




*The song of Moses at the Red Sea and the song of the Lamb at the sea of glass are one song of deliverance (15:2–4; Exod 15).*

# The Temple of the Tabernacle Opened

*Judgment comes out from the place where God's law is kept*

**REVELATION 15:6**

*and the seven angels who had the seven plagues came out of the temple, clothed in linen, clean and bright, and girded around their chests with golden sashes.*

**JOHN MACARTHUR**

MacArthur says everything here underlines the righteousness of what follows in chapter 16. The angels come out of the temple — from the immediate presence and throne of God.

**AMIR TSARFATI**

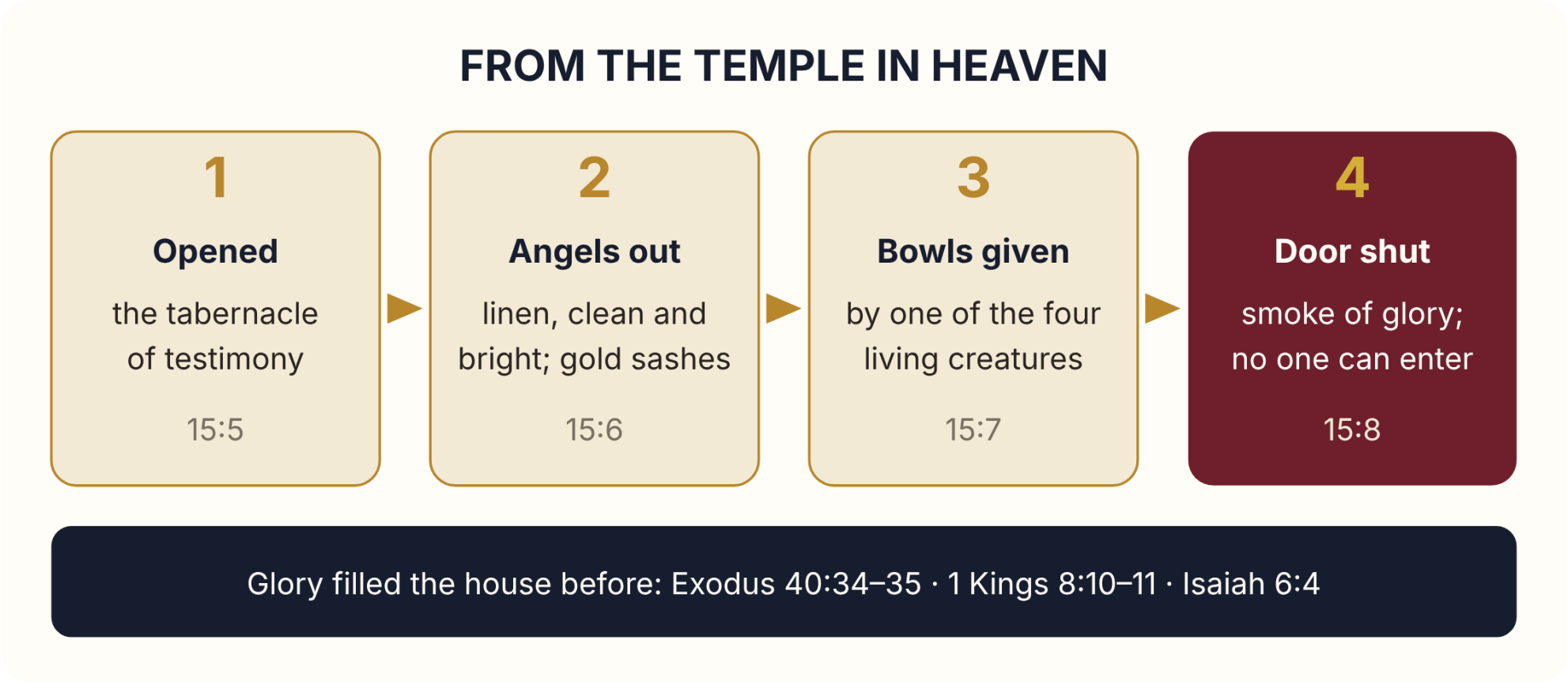
Tsarfati hears covenant language in the tabernacle of testimony. When it opens in heaven, God is declaring that the judgments about to fall are covenant faithfulness in action.

**μαρτύριον**

MARTYRION · "TESTIMONY"

Martyrion means witness or evidence. "The temple of the tabernacle of testimony" (15:5) reaches back to Moses' tent, built after a heavenly pattern (Exodus 25:9, 40), whose ark held the tablets of the law — the testimony.

# From the Temple in Heaven




*The heavenly temple opens, the priestly angels come out, the bowls are given, and the smoke of glory shuts the door (15:5–8).*

# Golden Bowls and a Closed Door

*When the smoke fills the temple, no one can enter*

**REVELATION 15:7**

*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.*

**DAVID GUZIK**

Guzik, with Seiss, points out that vials is a poor translation — these are the flat golden bowls of the temple service, quickly and completely poured out, and they are handed over by one of the four living…

**DAVID JEREMIAH**

Jeremiah calls the smoke that bars the temple door the most sobering line in the chapter: there comes a moment when the day of grace closes and no prayer can hold back what God has determined.

**φιάλη**
PHIALĒ · “BOWL”

A phialē is a broad, shallow bowl used in temple service. The KJV's “vials” misleads; these are not slender bottles but flat golden bowls.

# What to carry from this chapter

1

### The third sign.

After the woman and the dragon come seven angels with the last plagues — wrath with a number, and no more.

2

### Not strictly chronological.

Chapter 15 backs up and re-tells the approach to the end in greater detail.

3

### Finished.

Teleō, the word of 15:1 and 15:8, is the word of Jesus' cry from the cross, It is finished.

4

### Victory is faithfulness.

The beast killed them, and heaven calls them victorious over the beast (15:2).

# More to carry

5

### Wrath worshiped.

Heaven sees no tension between the wrath of God and the worship of God; it is worshiped because it is righteous.

6

### All about God.

Your works, Your ways, You alone — the martyrs never mention their own costly victory.

7

### Only holy.

Hosios — intrinsic, unimpeachable purity of character — not the usual hagios.

8

### Bowls, not vials.

Broad, shallow temple bowls, emptied all at once — and the smoke-filled temple means judgment is irreversible.

# Talk it through

1. Why would heaven stop to sing right before the last bowls of wrath are poured out?

2. What do Moses and the Lamb have in common, and why are their two songs sung as one?

3. Count the words “Your” and “You” in verses 3–4. What does it say that the singers never mention themselves?

4. Can you sing “Righteous and true are Your ways” over the parts of your story you do not understand?

5. “No one was able to enter the temple” until the plagues were finished. What does that teach about the day of grace?

CLOSING

*Revelation 15 is the shortest chapter in the book, and it is filled not with dread but with music. Before the wrath of God falls, the people of God sing — and the songs we learn now are the ones that will hold us then. Today the door of mercy stands open: learn the song of the delivered while it is still called today.*

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides, reflection journal and film: see the Revelation study page.