

The Last Judgments of History

Revelation 15

“For us the idea of judgment is at best a somber and sorrowful thought, but the perspective of revelation is quite different. In the visionary world of this book, it signifies the justice of God and the vindication of the saints. In the Lord’s Prayer of Matt. 6:9-10, two concerns are intertwined: ‘May your name be kept sacred,’ and ‘May your kingdom come.’ These two ideas are also connected in the ancient Jewish Kaddish prayer that closed the synagogue service, ‘Exalted and sacred may his great name be in the word’.... ‘May he let his kingdom rule.’ It was believed that the name of God would be made sacred only when his kingdom arrives. Thus, the appearance of the angels with the ‘seven last plagues’ is special because, as Rev. 15:1 says, the ‘wrath of God is complete,’ as at that event the glory of God will also be complete. The appearance of the angels is a ‘great and wondrous sign’ because it signifies the onset of the final reign of God.” Osborne

- I. God's judgments (plagues) are necessary because of man's refusal to repent and recognize God as the one and only true God. His final judgments are reserved for those who **embrace** the false gospel of the false god, Satan. All that we see that is not right, the demonic forces destroying families, the attack on the moral strength of the church, the attack on children to get them to not only be confused about their gender but to also screw up their lives for the rest of their lives, the pitting of people and nations against one another, punishment for speaking out against LGBTQIP2SAA++, or diversity, equity, inclusion, the murder of babies, and on and on will be dealt with. Rest assured; God will deal with it in such a way that he will put to death anyone who drinks of the maddening wine of Babylon’s adulteries so that they will not in any way be a part of His righteous kingdom.

Rev. 15:1

Rev. 14:10

Isa. 44:7b-8

Rom. 1:28

Matt. 24:10,12

James 4:4

plēgē = a stroke; by implication, a wound; figuratively, a calamity:—plague, stripe, wound(-ed).

Teleō = to end, i.e. complete, execute, conclude, discharge (a debt):—accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, (ref. Jn. 19:30)

Zeph. 3:8 “Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.

- II. The battle for souls will be exceptionally brutal during the Great Tribulation. Those who **embrace Jesus Christ** as their Lord and Savior will be enabled to steadfastly endure and overcome personal conflict with the beast, the religious pressure from not worshipping his image, and the economic persecution that comes by refusing to be marked by the number of his name. For many, death will be imminent, but the immediate joy of their salvation will move them to spontaneous **God-centered** exuberant **worship** in the presence of God himself. The song they sing will be written on their hearts. It will be a song that celebrates God's covenant faithfulness in delivering his people from bondage to slavery from those who desired to oppress His children. It is a song of God's victory over all that is evil.

Rev. 15:2-4
Rev. 12:11
1 Jn. 4:4
1 Jn. 5:4-5
Ps. 111:1-3
Ps. 72:11
Heb. 12:2-3

Ps. 111:1-3 *I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. 2 Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. 3 Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.*

- III. True righteousness means holiness, blamelessness, moral purity, uprightness, decency, and virtue. It is what we've been given when we were imputed with the righteousness of Christ upon salvation. The angels dressed in clean shining linen represent that. When they pour out the last seven bowls of God's wrath against all ungodliness, they'll do so based on the righteousness of God Almighty Himself. His glory will not and cannot be snuffed out or even dimmed by sin. It will shine forth as a powerful force against all darkness. It should move us to pray *"Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"* (Matt. 6:9-10).

Rev. 15:5-8
Nahum 1:3a,6

"The righteous justice of God in judging his enemies is a time for joy, not sorrow."
Osborne