

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - C. The Unholy Trinity (12:1–14:20)
 - D. The Seven Bowls (15:1–16:21)
 1. The Seven Angels with the Seven Final Plagues (15:1–8)
 - a. The Introduction (15:1)
 - “Then I saw” marks a new vision (cf. 6:1; 13:1, 11; 19:17; 20:1, 4, 11; 21:1).
 - “another sign in heaven”
 - ✓ 12:1 = Israel, the people to whom the true kingdom has been promised.
 - ✓ 12:3 = Satan, the founder of the counterfeit kingdom.
 - ✓ 15:1 = Seven angels as instruments to destroy the counterfeit kingdom.
 - “seven angels”
 - ✓ First mention of this group of 7.
 - ✓ Appear 7 times as a group (15:1, 6, 7, 8; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9).
 - “seven plagues, *which are* the last”
 - ✓ These comprise the final cycle of world judgment.
 - ✓ They conclude the manifestation of God’s wrath.
 - ✓ See 10:7 and 16:17 for the declaration of the completed program of judgment.
 - ✓ These make up the third woe announced in 11:14.
 - b. The “Sea of Glass” (15:2–4)
 - Where is this “sea of glass” (15:2a)?
 - ✓ See Revelation 4:6. But, here it is “mixed with fire”; there it was “like crystal.”
 - ✓ See Ezekiel 1:22.
 - Who are there (15:2b–4)?
 - ✓ They are tribulation saints who were victorious over the beast (the man of sin) and his program of intimidation and murder. They were victorious in death. Cf. 14:1–5, 13.
 - ✓ These shall reign with Christ upon the earth for 1,000 years (20:4).
 - ✓ They identify themselves with Moses and the Lamb by singing a song which praises God as Lord, the Almighty, and the King of the nations (cp. Jer 10:7;

Pss 22:28; 47:2, 7–8; 82:8). God is also righteous and true (Cp. Deut 32:4; Ps 19:9; Rev 16:7; 19:2), and holy.

- ✓ The song concludes with a rhetorical question which expects the answer “No one” (v. 4). The survivors of the plagues will respond with godly fear. “Universal fear of God will replace a blatant unwillingness to repent and defiant blasphemy (cf. 16:9, 11, 21) and a repudiation of His ‘everlasting gospel’ (14:7) as responses to the ‘King of the nations’”—Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8 – 22: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 237.
 - ✓ The song is a song of deliverance similar to the Song of the Sea in Exodus 15.
- c. The Seven Angels in the Temple (15:5–8)
- “After these things I looked” introduces a new vision and an important new subject (cf. 4:1; 7:9).
 - “The temple of the tabernacle of testimony” in heaven is opened (v. 5)—cf. 11:19. The source of judgment is God and the standard is His law or testimony, which on earth was kept in the ark of the covenant in the tabernacle and the temple.
 - The Seven Golden Bowls (vv. 6–8)
 - ✓ Verse 6: The angels are clothed like Christ in 1:13 and 18.
 - ✓ Verse 7: The four living creatures give the bowls to the seven angels.
 - Cf. Ezekiel 9:1–10:22.
 - ✓ “full of the wrath of God”
 - Not full of incense like those in 5:8.
 - ✓ Verse 8: No one will be able to enter the Temple in Heaven throughout the duration of these seven final plagues. The implication seems to be that the glory of the Lord which had left Jerusalem in Ezekiel’s day will be manifested in this final series of judgments (cf. 2 Thess 1:6–2:12) as that glory returns to reside in the millennial Temple (cf. Ezek 43:1–5).

Questions for Discussion

- a. What are the key concepts in the song which the martyred saints sing?
- b. Why is the temple referred to as “the tabernacle of the testimony”?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- Jesus, as the Lamb, is the subject of the song of the martyred saints.
- Jesus’ works are great and marvelous (cp. Mark 5:20; 1 Pet 1:3).
- Jesus is the Lord God, the Almighty (cp. Rev 1:8).
- Jesus is righteous and true (cp. Rev 3:7, 14).
- Jesus is King of the nations (cp. 1 Tim 6:15).
- All people will fear and glorify Jesus.
- Jesus is holy (cp. Acts 2:27; 13:35; Heb 7:26).
- All nations will worship Jesus (cp. Phil 2:9–11).
- Jesus possesses glory and power unapproachable (cp. 1 Tim 6:16).