

Twelve Lessons

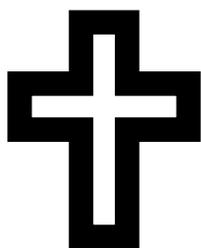
on

Revelation III

(15 - 22)

by

Ronnie Simpson, Ph.D., Th.D., LL.D., D.D.



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

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THE SIGN AND THE SANCTUARY – LESSON 1

THE GREETING – LESSON 1

Revelation 15:1-8

Introduction: In this chapter, John sees two different things. In verse 1, John sees a sign and verse 5, John sees a sanctuary.

Lesson Goals:

1. To study the conflict between Israel and Satan.
2. To examine the Judgment Seat of Christ.
3. To observe the workings that come out of the Temple.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Plague – An affliction sent by God as punishment for sin and disobedience. In most cases in the Bible the affliction is an epidemic or disease. The Greek word for plague literally means a blow or a lash, implying punishment or chastisement. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Gleaning – Moses provided a liberal treatment of the poor at the harvest season. In reaping the field the owner was not to "reap to the very corners," etc. (Lev 19:9-10); i.e., he was not to reap the field to the extreme edge, or gather together the ears left upon the field in the reaping. In the vineyard and olive plantation the fallen fruit was to be left for the distressed and the foreigner (cf. Deut 24:20-22), hence the proverb of Gideon (Judges 8:2). (The New Unger's Bible Dictionary).
3. Vial – KJV word for juglet, a vessel that held oil for the anointing of a king (1 Sam 10:1; 1 Kings 9:1,3; flask). The word is also used for a broad, shallow bowl, mentioned in the Book of Revelation, that held the wrath of God (Rev 15:7). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

I. THE SIGN

A. John Sees a Sign – *“seven angels having the seven last plagues.”*

1. The Importance of the Sign – a duplication of the plagues of Egypt
 - a. Three Signs from Rev. 12-15
 - (1) Rev. 12:1 – The Sign of the Woman – Israel
 - (2) Rev. 12:3 – The Sign of the Dragon – Satan
 - (3) Rev. 15:1 – The Sign of the Seven Last Plagues
 - b. Three Signs were given to Moses, Gideon, Saul, and Elijah – incidental?
2. The Identity of the Sign
 - a. The Signs of the Woman and Dragon answer to the first and second chapters of Exodus.
 - b. The Signs of the Seven Last Plagues answer to the Plagues upon Egypt.
3. The Intensity of the Sign – *“having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.”*
 - a. Judgment upon the earth comes to a head. That time came in the days of Noah, and *“as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”* – Matt. 24:37 – There is a storm building again on the horizon for a wicked world.
 - b. God's wrath means the final expression of divine righteousness. Ex. 11:1 – *“And the Lord said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence.”* After that Israel was free!! Thank God for that blessed hope as He is going to free Israel once again!!

B. John Sees a Sea

1. The Sea of Glass – Rev. 4:6 – This is the same sea which is symbolic of the laver in the temple where the priests washed their hands and feet daily. The “gleanings” or the “tribulation saints” have been resurrected and raptured out and have passed through the Judgment Seat of Christ. Note: All those who will not allow God to burn sin out of their lives must burn in their sin.
2. Their Stand on the Sea – Signifies their position as victors
 - a. *“Victory over the beast”* – His threatening beastly nature
 - b. *“Victory...over his image”* – His enticing and deceptive idolatry
 - c. *“Victory...over his mark”* – His slavish control in receiving the mark
 - d. *“Victory...over the number of his name”* – His wicked character as seen in the number of his name.
3. Their Symphony – *“harps of God”* – The glorified saints in chapter 5 and the tribulation saints in

chapter 15 both have “harps of God” signifying their equal position. They are the “gleanings.”

C. John Sees a Song – Vs. 3

1. The Song of Moses – Recorded in Ex. 15:1-19 – *“Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty”* – This is Old Testament – The Historical Order of God is the God of History.
 - a. Lord – Jehovah, the Self-Existing, Sovereign, Independent One
 - b. God – Elohim, the Creator, the God of gods
 - c. Almighty – Shaddai, Almighty in power, resources, and sustenance.
 - d. This song is sung about a safe crossing from Egypt – Faith is confidence in the past where God has shown His power.
2. The Song of the Lamb – *“just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints”* – This is New Testament – The Prophetic Order of God is the God of Prophecy. In Exodus, God delivered Israel through the blood of a lamb but then through the “blood of the Lamb.”
 - a. King – the foundation or basis
 - b. Of Saints – the saints of all the ages
 - c. Feared and Glorified – Why?
 - (1) *“For thou only art holy”* – God alone is worthy of worship
 - (2) *“For all nations shall come and worship before thee”* – This has never happened but there is coming a day when “every knee shall bow...and every tongue shall confess” – Rom. 14:11
 - (3) *“For thy judgments are made manifest”* – There is coming a day of reckoning when God will even the score.
 - b. This song is sung about a safe crossing to Canaan – Hope is confidence in the future where God will show His grace.
3. The Similarities of the plagues of Egypt in Exodus compared with the Tribulation and its plagues.
 - a. Here an all-powerful ruler oppresses the Jews – Pharaoh was a type of the Antichrist.
 - b. Pharaoh’s false prophets worked miracles – so does the false prophet of the Man of Sin.
 - c. Plagues of water turned to blood, of hail, of earthquakes, of locusts – similarities in both cases.
 - d. In both cases – wicked rulers opposed God openly, blasphemously, and must be destroyed.
 - e. In each case – Israel is brought back to God, brought into Palestine. In the case in Exodus it ends 430 years of sojourning from Abraham to the day they came out (Ex. 12:40, 41). After the rebels are purged out (Ezek. 20:33-38) they will be saved (Zech. 12:10-14; 13:1; Rom. 11:26).

II. THE SANCTUARY

A. The Definition

1. The Temple of the tabernacle refers to the holy of holies.
2. The Tabernacle itself comprises the holy place, and the holy of holies.
3. The Testimony has reference to the two tables of the law which were placed within the ark.

B. The Dreadfulness-- *“The temple...was opened”* – refers to the unveiling, the uncovering of the Ark of the Covenant, thus exposing the dreadful presence of the holy God.

C. The Direction – *“And the seven angels came out of the temple”* – This is opposite of what the High Priest did after he had slain the lamb. Instead of going into the temple, he is coming out.

D. The Dress – *“clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles.”*

1. It is significant that on the great Day of Atonement the high priest did not wear his garments of glory and beauty, but this coat of fine linen.
2. The golden girdle about his breasts speaks of judgment.

E. The Deadline – Vs. 7 and 8

1. Vs. 7 – A vial is like a small perfume bottle, a bottle with a large rounded base and a slim neck.
2. Vs. 8 – From this time forward, *“...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.”*
3. Point: No one is saved or can be saved from this time until the end of the tribulation.

Conclusion: God’s wrath is building up against the wicked world and someday “no man” will be able to enter into the temple.

1. But when God is judging this world, the saints will have been taken out of judgment’s way.