



SAVED TO SERVE

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REVELATION 15:

INTRODUCTION TO THE 7 LAST PLAGUES

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study Revelation 15, which introduces God's wrath upon unrepentant sinners, the seven last plagues.
2. What was the other sign that John saw in heaven? Revelation 15:1

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3. According to Revelation 15:1, how else are the seven last plagues described? _____
 4. **Note:** It is important to know the time period of the seven last plagues. We will compare scripture with scripture to find out when the plagues will fall.
 5. What event precedes the seven last plagues and identifies who will receive the plagues? Revelation 14:9, 10

“The most fearful threatening ever addressed to mortals is contained in the third angel's message. That must be a terrible sin which calls down the wrath of God unmingled with mercy. Men are not to be left in darkness concerning this important matter; the warning against this sin is to be given to the world before the visitation of God's judgments, that all may know why they are to be inflicted, and have opportunity to escape them...” {GC 449.2}

6. Read Revelation 15:2. Based on that verse, what words indicate that the Mark of the Beast crisis happens before the seven last plagues?

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7. **Note:** When the seven last plagues begin to fall, it is a sign that God has finished His work of investigation in the heavenly sanctuary and that probation has closed. No longer can men choose to repent for their sins; all cases have been forever decided (Revelation 22:11). Let us prove this point.

8. Just before the outpouring of the seven last plagues, how was the temple in heaven described? Revelation 15:5

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9. Which specific part of the temple did John see? Revelation 15:5; 11:19; Exodus 26:31-34 _____

10. Read Revelation 15:8. The smoke from the glory of God filled the temple. What were the priests not able to do once God's glory filled the temple in 1 Kings 8:10-11? *See also 2 Chronicles 7:1-3*

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11. **Note:** This shows us that in Revelation 15:8 when God's glory fills the temple and the plagues are falling, Jesus who is our Great High Priest and Mediator (Hebrews 7:22-25; 8:1-2, 6), is no longer interceding on the sinner's behalf. Probation has closed and Jesus begins to pour out His judgment of wrath upon the living wicked.

“As Jesus moved out of the most holy place, I heard the tinkling of the bells upon His garment; and as He left, a cloud of darkness covered the inhabitants of the earth. There was then no mediator between guilty man and an offended God. While Jesus had been standing between God and guilty man, a restraint was upon the people; but when He stepped out from between man and the Father, the restraint was removed and Satan had entire control of the finally impenitent. It was impossible for the plagues to be poured out while Jesus officiated in the sanctuary; but as His work there is finished, and His intercession closes, there is nothing to stay the wrath of God, and it breaks with fury upon the shelterless head of the guilty sinner, who has slighted salvation and hated reproof. In that fearful time, after the close of Jesus' mediation, the saints were living in the sight of a holy God without an intercessor. Every case was decided, every jewel numbered. Jesus tarried a moment in the outer apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and the sins which had been confessed while He was in the most holy place were placed upon Satan, the originator of sin, who must suffer their punishment.” {EW 280.2}

“Christ casts to the earth the censer which He holds in His hand. He lays aside the garments of His priesthood, and passes from the temple. Probation is closed. Christ's work is finished; and as He, with those who have ministered with Him for fallen man, passes from the temple, the glory of God bursts forth in all its grandeur, until His train fills the temple. **“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.” When the Son of God was offered for the sins of the world, when He became a man, and afterwards ministered in heaven as a man, God, the Father, had veiled His exceeding great glory until the work of redemption was complete. But when the Saviour utters the triumphant shout, “It is finished,” the restrained glory bursts forth in the splendor which was seen before the fall. Human language is so weak that words fail to express the thought; but for six thousand years, even the God of the universe has mourned for the lost world; and when at last the redeemed are gathered out, although they are still on earth, the pent up glory of Jehovah flashes forth, -a living, consuming fire. This was typified in the temple at Jerusalem, when at the words, “It is finished,” uttered by the Saviour on the cross, the veil was rent from top to bottom. With the announcement of these words this second time, the man Jesus Christ, with the four living creatures and four and twenty elders, who for centuries have represented the redeemed, leave the temple altogether, and enter no more, until Christ returns from earth, bringing with Him the host of the redeemed. Then with the hundred and forty- four thousand, glorified, and reflecting the character of Christ, He enters the temple, and this company minister there.” {SSP 267.2}

12. Why are so many people today bold in sin when God warns us of the judgments that will fall upon unrepentant sinners in these last days? Ecclesiastes 8:11; Isaiah 3:8-11

13. In contrast to those who will receive the wrath of God, who else does the Bible mention in Revelation 15:2?

14. Where are those that had gotten the victory standing? Revelation 15:2 _____

15. Where is the sea of glass located? What does the fire represent? Revelation 4:1, 5, 6; Exodus 24:17

16. What is the condition of the people on the sea of glass, which makes them able to stand in the presence of God's glory? Isaiah 33:14-17

17. What do the people on the sea of glass have, and which group do they typify? Revelation 15:2; 14:1-3

18. What song will they sing as they stand on the sea of glass? Revelation 15:3

19. Over which nation had Moses and the Israelites gotten the victory? Exodus 14:30, 31 _____

20. What does Egypt represent for us today, which we must get victory over, in order to stand on the sea of glass mingled with fire? Exodus 20:1, 2; John 8:32-34; Romans 6:1

“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake” (Psalm 115:1). Such was the spirit that pervaded Israel's song of deliverance, and it is the spirit that should dwell in the hearts of all who love and fear God. In freeing our souls from the bondage of sin, God has wrought for us a deliverance greater than that of the Hebrews at the Red Sea.... The daily blessings that we receive from the hand of God, and above all else the death of Jesus to bring happiness and heaven within our reach, should be a theme for constant gratitude. What compassion, what matchless love, has God shown to us, lost sinners, in connecting us with Himself, to be to Him a peculiar treasure! ... We should praise God for the blessed hope held out before us in the great plan of redemption, we should praise Him for the heavenly inheritance and for His rich promises; praise Him that Jesus lives to intercede for us.... {AG 352.3}

“All the inhabitants of heaven unite in praising God. **Let us learn the song of the angels now, that we may sing it when we join their shining ranks.** Let us say with the psalmist, “While I live, will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being” (Psalm 146:2). “Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee” (Psalm 67:5). {AG 352.4}

21. **Note:** Let us now take a brief look at the song of Moses to see what our experience must be if we are to be victors over the beast and his image.

22. Read Exodus 15:1-2. What did Israel say they would prepare for God? _____

23. This habitation represents a dwelling place for God. What habitation should we prepare for God? 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20

24. How practically do we allow our bodies to be a habitation or dwelling for God? James 4:7-9; Romans 12:1-2

25. Exodus 15:3 tells us that God is a man of war. What war or battle are we all fighting in which Paul described in the book of Romans? Romans 7:15-20, 24

“The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness.” {SC 43.3}

26. How can we practically allow Jesus, the man of war, to fight for us in this battle against self and sin? 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

27. Once we get the victory over self and sin, what words will we declare, which Israel also similarly declared after God slayed the Egyptians? Compare Revelation 15:3-4 and Exodus 15:11, 14-16

28. Since the seven last plagues and the people on the sea of glass are mentioned together in the same chapter (Revelation 15), does it mean that the saints are already in heaven when the plagues start falling? Compare Revelation 15:1, 2 and Exodus 8:20-23

29. Are the majority of professed Christians getting prepared for the time when Jesus will no longer intercede on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary?

“I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. {EW 71.1}

“I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of “refreshing” and the “latter rain” to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord and to live in His sight. Oh, how many I saw in the time of trouble without a shelter! They had neglected the needful preparation; therefore they could not receive the refreshing that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God. **Those who refuse to be hewed by the prophets and fail to purify their souls in obeying the whole truth, and who are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come up to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there will be no time then to do it and no Mediator to plead their cause before the Father.** Before this time the awfully solemn declaration has gone forth, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” I saw that none could share the “refreshing” unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord. Let all remember that God is holy and that none but holy beings can ever dwell in His presence.” {EW 71.2}

“It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner.” {ChS 41.1}

30. Is there any hope for us to remain faithful after Christ leaves the Most Holy Place and the plagues begin to fall? Isaiah 59:16 (last part of the text)

“Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God without a mediator. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil...” {GC 425.1}