

REVELATION: Lesson 135

Chapter 15:1-2, The Time of God's Wrath / Standing in Victory

15 January 2021

"I saw another sign in heaven"

Signs are for the Jews, Gentiles require wisdom and preaching (1 Cor 1:18-22). During the Tribulation God is once again dealing with the Jews, therefore signs are back in view.

- The presence of signs is another evidence that the Church will not be present during the Tribulation.

"In them (in the seven last plagues) is filled up the wrath of God."

There were seven seals, then seven trumpets, and finally, there are seven vials containing the fullness of God's wrath (vs 1).

- Jesus endured the fullness of God's wrath for us on the cross at Calvary so that we would not have to face it ourselves.
 - You can receive Jesus Christ and His suffering on your behalf.
 - Or you can receive the wrath of God and suffer for your own sin.
- The vial judgments are "**great and marvelous**" in comparison to the 14 previous judgments.
 - These vials contain the wrath of God (Rev 16:1).
 - It is a time when Satan has been cast out of the second heaven down to Earth (Rev 12:9-12).
 - The first seven (**seal**) judgments pertain to the wrath of **nature**. Natural disasters destroy mankind.
 - The second seven (**trumpet**) judgments pertain to the wrath of **man**, as the restraining influence of the Church is gone.
 - The third seven (**vial**) judgments pertain to the wrath of **God** Himself, coupled together with the wrath of Satan, who knows his time is short.
 - The Tribulation Jew cannot escape the seal and the trumpet judgments. But they have an opportunity to escape the judgments poured out of the vials (**Matthew 24:15-16**).
 - At the midpoint of the Tribulation, if the Jews will believe the preaching of Daniel from the Bible, and the Tribulation witnesses, they will flee into the wilderness and escape the wrath of Satan and the wrath of God.
 - The Church will leave the Earth (Pre-Trib) and escape all of the Tribulation judgments.
 - We have been delivered from the wrath to come (**1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**).
 - We are not appointed to wrath (**1 Thessalonians 5:9**).

"A sea of glass mingled with fire"

- John first saw the sea of glass in Revelation 4:6, at the rapture of the Church.
 - He looks again in Revelation 15:2 and observes that now the sea of glass is mingled with fire.
 - **1 Corinthians 3:7-15** explains that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, the Church-Age believers' works are being tried and some of those works will be burned. This is what John sees in Revelation 15:2.
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Standing in Victory (Vs 2)

These Tribulation believers stand in victory in Heaven because they stood in victory on Earth.

New Testament believer's application: We are instructed to stand in the victory provided by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:57). We are not trying to obtain victory or gain victory or work for victory. We already have the victory. We must simply stand in it.

Standing in the Grace of God (Romans 5:1-2)

Standing in the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

Standing in Liberty (Galatians 5:1)

Three things that will try and move you:

1. **Men will try and move you (Colossians 1:23, etc).** They will use rudiments, teachings, philosophies, doctrines, and ways of men to try and move you from the place where God put you.
 - a. Charismatics will try and convince you that you must speak in tongues to keep you in the victory. They're trying to move you from the victory you already have.
 - b. Members of the Church of Christ will insist that you must be baptized into their "true" church, trying to move you.
 - c. Seventh Day Adventists want to move you to be focused on the Sabbath day meeting and the food that you eat. Religion, with all of its "have to's" and "better not's," never gave anyone peace. We need to stand and say, *"I want to serve the Lord and live for Him."*

 2. **Afflictions will try and move you (1 Thessalonians 3:3).** The Bible says that Christians are appointed unto afflictions.
 - a. Any church that tells you that afflictions (troubles) are an indication that you're out of the will of God, they are trying to move you from the truth.

 3. **The devil will use his wiles (tricks) to try and move you (Eph 6:10-14).**
 - a. We must "stand" on our knees in prayer to stand against the devil's wiles.
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Personal Responsibility: If you don't stand in the victory Christ gave you, nobody is to blame but you.

1 Corinthians 7:37, you have power over your own will to stand steadfast in your heart. You can stay pure and holy if that is your desire. When God sees that desire in you, He will give you victory over whatever sin or temptation is trying to move you.

Philippians 1:27, believers in Christ need to surround themselves with other believers, standing fast **"in one spirit, with one mind, striving for the faith of the gospel."** We can help each other to stand fast and not be moved.

Colossians 4:12, notice that we are not striving to BECOME perfect and complete in the will of God. That is where we already stand if we don't move from it.
