

come, and all the holy ones with him.” This prophecy was given or directed at the Jewish people after they return to their homeland in Israel. This prophecy will come to pass at the end of the seven year tribulation period, which is the same time period that completes the ‘seventh’ week of Daniels→ seventy week prophecy, see Dan. 9: 20-27.

Summary:

Verse 20 concludes the six verses that I believe is a summary of the judgments that God has in store for the unsaved world during the → ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’. Again, I believe that these six verses speak about the → ‘Seven Seal Judgments, the Seven Trumpet Judgments, the Seven Bowl Judgments to include with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ’. (Note: at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period → the seven seal & seven trumpet judgments will have already occurred → first harvest & the seven bowl judgments will be yet future → second harvest) This seven year period will come to a conclusion at the → Battle of Armageddon. Also, remember this seven year period includes both; Daniels 70th week prophecy directed at the nation of Israel & the seven year period where Satan will be allowed to rule the earth and all of its people & the last chance for the gentile nations to repent and be saved.

CHAPTER 15:

We have just finished chapter 14 which is what we have called an interlude chapter (actually the words in chapter 14 provided the reader with → 1) a re-cap of what is already history: at the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period, and 2) some additional prophecy of what is yet to come during the last half of the seven year tribulation period). Many scholars believe Chapter 15 is also an interlude chapter. However → I think chapter 15 should be viewed as an interlude

chapter, as well as, a lead-in or introductory chapter to chapter 16. I will outline, by verse, my thinking to make it easier to understand:

Verse 1 → **Lead-in** → to chapter 16 → Introduction of **'Seven Last Angels'**

Verses 2-4 → **Interlude** → Describing the location in heaven of the saints that had been **'Martyred'** up until this point in the **'Tribulation Period'** and → What they were doing in heaven, which was **'Worshipping & Glorifying God the Father'**

Verses 5-7 → **Lead-in** to chapter 16 → Details about **'Seven Last Angels'** → **Location, Appearance** and **How they obtained the 'Seven Last Plagues/Judgments'**

Verse 8 → **Interlude** → Description or condition of **"...the Temple...of God... in heaven..."** when the **'Last Seven Plagues/Judgments'** were given to the **'Seven Last Angels'** to execute or implement on Satan and the kingdoms on the earth.

Again, this chapter contains both → **Interlude & Lead-In information**. Now we will discuss in a little more detail the → **Three Specific Pieces of Information** that Chapter 15 provides the reader.

FIRST → Introduction to the → **'Last Seven Bowl or Vial Judgments'** (**Bowls or Vials: depending on translation**) are coming and chapter 16 describes → **Note: six of the last seven bowl or vial judgments.**

SECOND → In chapter 15 John is recording for future readers a description of → **additional events that are going on in heaven at this point in his vision.** (**Note: I think it is worth pointing out that God through the Holy Spirit then through John continues to provide the reader with snippets or additional details about what heaven looks like! See chapters 4 & 5 & 6:9-17 & 8:1-5 & 11:15-19).**

THIRD → **Chapter 15 provides the reader with the process in heaven that is leading up to the actual releasing and recording of six of the → 'Seven Bowl or Vial Judgments'.**

It would appear to me that even though chapter 15 is the shortest chapter in the Book of Revelation, only containing eight verses → **there is a tremendous amount**

of anticipation being described as to how heaven is reacting to the fact that the last part of Gods process of → 'JUDGMENTS' has begun that will culminate with the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' and 'The Battle of Armageddon'.

There is also one technical point I would like to point out for you to keep in mind when reading this chapter, which is this chapter contains what is known as the **'law or concept of recapitulation'**. This **'law or concept'** is used by God/Holy Spirit when they want to provide man with additional information about an already discussed subject. I will provide several examples which are well known and easy to verify:

One → In the Book of Genesis God/Holy Spirit provides us with an account of creation (first six days). Then in chapter 2 God/Holy Spirit discusses this same subject (creation) except provides a lot more detail about the creation event with a special focus on man.

Two → In the first part of the Book of Exodus we have recorded the story of Moses and Israel's escape from Egypt and from about chapter 19 on we find the **'Mosaic Laws'**. This same subject matter is also presented in the Book of Deuteronomy except with a lot more details.

Three → In the New Testament we find that it took four books: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to record all of the information (events, actions and words) required to convey to future men, women and children all of the aspects of the **'life of the God-man, Jesus Christ'** that God/Holy Spirit wanted men to know!

The reason I reviewed the concept of **'Recapitulation'** is because this chapter uses this concept. I will explain below:

One → In verse 1 → John introduces the, **"seven angels with the seven last plagues"** The entire verse is as follows: **"I saw in heaven → another great and marvelous sign → seven angels with seven last plague → last, because with them God's wrath is complete."**

Two→ Now in verses 5-7 these **“seven angels”** are again introduced except this time with a lot more details provided in terms of what they are wearing and how other beings in heaven are interacting with these **“seven angels”**. Notice the additional details in verses 5-7, **“After this I looked→ and in heaven the temple, that is,→ the tabernacle of Testimony→ was opened. Out of the temple came the seven angels→ with the seven plagues. They were dressed in→ clean, shining linen and→ wore golden sashes around their chest. Then one of the four living creatures→ gave to the seven angel’s seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God.”**

If I were to try to summarize this chapter I would say it is painting a very good picture for man of→ **‘The ENOROMUS or INCONCIEVABLE POWER’** that→ **The God of Creation Actually Possesses**, as it relates to the existence of man and the earth!

Now we will discuss in some details the eight verses within chapter 16.

VERSE 1:

Greek Translator→ **“And I saw another sign in heaven→ great and marvelous→ seven angels having the last seven plagues→ because the anger of God was complete with them.”** **NIV**→ **“I saw→ in heaven→ another great and marvelous sign:→ seven angels with seven last plagues→ last, because with them God’s wrath is complete.”** I will break this verse down into smaller sub-sets to make it easier to understand:

First Part of Verse 1→ **“And I saw...”**

I used the Greek Translator because I think it offers a better interpretation of→ How this was the next thing John saw in his vision, with the addition of the word; **“And”**. I also think the use of the word **“And”** is letting the reader know that this is the next thing John observes in his vision. Also, John is still the observer and the one writing what he was seeing.

I think it is worth noting that the NIV & the Greek Translator actually transpose several of the remaining words within this verse. However, it does not appear to interfere with the overall meaning of this verse.

Second Part of Verse 1 → Greek Translator translation: **“...another sign in heaven...”**

Based on the fact that the **“sign”** is in **“heaven”**, I think we can assume that John is also in heaven recording what he is seeing. Also, I think we can assume that this **“sign in heaven”** is from God the Father. I base my assumption on the content of the words within the remaining verses of Chapter 15.

Third Part of Verse 1 → Greek Translator → **“...great and marvelous ...”** NIV → **“...another great and marvelous sign...”**

Which of these two translations you decide to use I think depends on → How you connect previous chapters to chapter 15.

If you go back and connect the words used in our verse NIV; **“...another great and marvelous sign...”** to this same type of language used in chapter 12, as listed below, you could make the assumption that this is the **‘NEXT’** → **“sign in heaven”**. Meaning in chapters 13 & 14 God through John’s words does not ‘report or record’ any **“...great or marvelous signs...”** Also, I think the word **“another”** would also lend support to the connectivity of this interpretation. Chapter 12 → **“...signs...”**

- 1) Rev. 12:1, **“A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.”** The **“woman”** in this verse we have previously identified as → The Nation of Israel.
- 2) Rev. 12:3, **“Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.”** The **“red dragon”** has previously been identified as → Satan.
- 3) There has not been a lot written about the correlation or meaning of the adjectives that describe these three specific → **“signs”** → (that) **“appeared in the heavens”** but I think it is worth a little discussion.

- a) **First “sign”** → Defined as Israel and is described as **“great and wondrous”**, Rev. 12:1, quoted in (a) above. Given the context of the rest of this verse and others words in the bible associated with or describing Israel **(In) → A Positive Relationship to God → Therefore, I think portrays or defines the word “great”** is as follows: ‘markedly superior in character or quality’. The next word used is **“wondrous”** → meaning; ‘that is to be marveled at’ or ‘extraordinary’.
- b) **Second “sign”** → Is defined as Satan and is described as **“another sign”**. I think to understand what God was trying to tell us in this verse, Rev. 12:3; quoted above in (b); we need to go back and read Rev. 12:1-3 and notice the sequencing of verse 1 and verse 3. Israel is presented first and Satan is presented second in the sequencing. Now the definition of Satan’s sign → **“...another sign...”** Meaning → ‘one that is different from the first or present one’ & ‘different or distinct from the one first considered’. Based on these definitions out of my Webster’s Dictionary it would appear ‘words’ and the ‘sequencing’ of words do matter. **The first “sign” is defined as → ‘extraordinary’** and the **second “sign” is defined as → ‘different’**.
- c) **Third “sign”** → Defines the → **Last Seven Plagues and are described as “marvelous”**. Again, remember the context and location of this verse within scripture when you read the various definitions out of Webster’s Dictionary: → 1) **causing wonder** → 2) **astonishing** → 3) **miraculous** → 4) **supernatural** → 5) **of the highest kind of quality** → 6) **notably superior**. **Again words do matter.**
- d) **All three signs are seen in heaven** but the results of these **“signs”** will be enacted or carried out on the earth. Also, the last **“sign”**, which speaks to: **‘Judgment’ → will be much more harsh and destructive to the people living on the earth and even the physical earth itself than the first 14 judgments → remember there are 21 in all**. The reason for this is that this last **“sign”** will include **‘the last seven judgments’ → from God the Father before the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’**, which are the most destructive and harsh of any of the 21 judgments. Most scholars believe

that these last → 'seven bowl judgments' are what has been called 'The Great Tribulations Period', which will occur in the last 42 months or the last half of the seven year tribulation period.

Third Part of Verse 1 →

Greek Translator → "...seven angels having the last seven plagues → because the anger of God was complete with them." NIV → "seven angels with seven last plagues → last, because with them God's wrath is complete."

In the first part of verse 1 John describes for the reader what he was seeing → a "...great and marvelous sign..." → And now he provides the reader with the meaning of this "...great and marvelous sign..." which is defined as → "...seven angels having the last seven plagues..." This appears to me to be a → 'Really, Really Big Sign'. Remember all of the judgments → Seals, Trumpets and now Bowls/Vials all contain 'seven' separate judgments. The difference in this set of judgments is that they are → The "last" of Gods Judgments that He/God will bring on man and the earth during → 'The Seven Year Tribulation Period'. The 'Seventh' Bowl/Vial Judgement is actually the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' which will conclude with the 'Battle of Armageddon'. We know this because in chapters 16 and 19 God provides the reader with a detailed description of these events.

Also, in this verse God actually tells the reader that with these last seven judgments His/Gods process of judgment is done, "...last, because with them God's wrath is complete." This is confirmed in Rev. 16:17, "The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice saying, and 'It is done'!" However, I think we need to keep in mind that with these last 'Seven Bowl Judgments' to include the Battle of Armageddon → this will not be the last conflict between God & Satan. In Revelation Chapter 20, verses 7-10 we are told that after the 1,000 year millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth → Satan will be released one last time and → he/Satan will deceive the nations of the world and will once again try to destroy Gods chosen people, Israel, and at this point God will destroy them, which will lead directly to the 'Great White Throne Judgment'.

Last, I think there is one last thing worth noting about this verse, which is, God uses the word **“seven”** twice in his description of the **“marvelous sign”** and the word **“complete”** to end the sentence. The word “seven” from a scriptural stand point is associated with ‘perfection’ and ‘completeness’ → and the word **“complete”** means → **finished, done, the end!** Just food for thought!

Verse 2:

NIV, **“And I saw → what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire → and standing beside the sea → those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. → They held harps given them by God.”**

Greek translator, **“And I saw → a glassy sea having been mixed with fire. → And the ones overcoming the beast, and its image, and its mark, of the number of its name, → were standing on the glassy sea, having harps of God.”** I have provided both the NIV and Greek Translator, translation because I believe the Greek Translator translation is a much better translation because it does not use the word **“like”**. I will break this verse down into sub-sets to make it easier to understand.

First Part of Verse 2 →

“And I saw...” Remember verse 1 started with John stating, **“And I saw in heaven...”** and now John states again, **“And I saw...”** meaning this is the very next thing he/John saw → **‘IN HEAVEN’**. Keep in mind John is actually → **‘seeing into heaven’**. The remainder of what John was seeing after he saw → **“I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous; seven angels having the last seven plagues...”** is recorded in the remaining part of verse 2 and Chapter 15.

Second Part of Verse 2 →

“...a glassy sea...” Most scholars believe this is the very same **“...sea of glass...”** that John saw in Rev. 4:6, **“Also before the throne there was what looked like → a sea of glass, clear as crystal.”** However, in Rev. 4:6 the **“...sea of glass...”** is

described as being “...clear as crystal.” Where is Rev. 15:2 it is described as→ “...having been mixed with fire...”

Third Part of Verse 2→

“...having been mixed with fire...” Remember back in Revelation chapter 4 verse 1 opens with what most scholars believe is the→ ‘Rapture of the Church’, “After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’” which from a chronological stand point would make it just prior to the beginning of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’. Then the remaining verses in chapter 4 provide the reader with a ‘basic or high level’ description of the ‘Throne Room of God the Father’. Therefore, at that point in Johns vision there would not have been any ‘martyred tribulation saints’ to be associated with the “...sea of glass... before the throne...” because the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ had not begun! Also remember→ the events recorded in the Book of Revelation→ should be either considered chronological or sequential, except for interlude chapters. Therefore, by the time Revelation Chapter 15 was written→ John had already recorded the events of at least the first 42 months or one half of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’. And based on the remaining wording of this verse it would appear likely that we are just past the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period because the word, “...beast and his image...” & “...and the number of his name.”, has already been discussed back in chapter 13. Therefore, these two word phases would lead me to believe that these events have already happened. Again, read for yourself and make your own decision.

I believe, we have established John vision is somewhere just past the mid-point of the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ we can go back to defining the words “...mixed with fire...” Most scholars believe that the→ “sea of glass” in Rev. 4:6 was “clear as crystal” because at this point in John’s vision the seven year tribulation period had not started therefore; there→ were no ‘martyred saints to be before the throne of God the Father’. However, by the time John writes chapter 15 there

had already been → 1) 14 judgments (7 seal & 7 trumpet) unleashed on planet earth → 2) Satan has been cast down to earth and no longer has access to heaven → 3) Satan has probably indwelt the antichrist which is in full power → 4) the false prophet is in full power → 5) the image of the beast is set up in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. I think this must truly be quite a scene! My point is by this time in John's vision many saints will have been martyred as first recorded in the 'opening of the fifth seal judgment', Rev. 6:9, "When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained." This picture is again expanded in Rev. 7:9a, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb."

Many scholars believe that this same scene is being repeated in Rev. 15: 1-4 to provide the reader with additional information about the group of 'martyred saints' in Rev. 6:9, 'The Fifth Seal Judgement', as well as, any additional 'saints that had been martyred' since the 'Fifth Seal Judgment'. Keep in mind that we are just past the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period and the first 14 judgments have already been executed or applied on → men & the earth.

Now let's go back to the actual words we were discussing, "...having been mixed with fire..." At this point John tells us that the "glassy sea" was "...mixed with fire..." Most scholars believe that this additional description "...mixed with fire..." is speaking to the issue of → the implementation of the first 14 judgments of God on man and the earth. These judgments would have included a great deal of death and destruction; at least 50% of the world's population by this point would have been killed by the sword, famine or plague, not including the raptured saints. Also, these words could speak about the coming seven last judgments. **Point being** → there has been a MAJOR change in the composition of the "...glassy sea..." between Chapter 4 and chapter 15 and the difference appears to be because of the number of saints that have been martyred up until this point in the seven year tribulation period.

I think there is one last point is worth talking about as it relates to the description of the **“glassy sea”**, which is→ Revelation Chapter 4 is describing the→ **Perfection & Purity of Heaven**. In chapter 4 the **“glassy sea”** is described as→ **“clear as crystal.”**

Also, it is my opinion that Revelation Chapter 4: 2-11 is what I call a→ **Lead in Chapter**. Revelation Chapter 4:2-11 sets up the mental picture of the **‘Throne Room of Heaven’** for the reader and then in chapter 5→ introduce **Jesus Christ & the Seven Seal Scroll’**→ which then leads directly into chapter 6 and implementation of six of the **‘Seal Judgments’**.

However, Revelation Chapter 4 taken by itself is what I would call a **‘Positive Chapter’**, in terms of the information being presented to the reader, whereas, Revelation Chapter 15 is what I would call a **‘Negative Chapter’**, in terms of its content. Again, just my opinion, you need to read and make up your own mind.

Fourth Part of Verse 2→

“...and standing by the sea→ those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.” In this part of the verse I think the NIV is easier to understand because of the order of the words.

First→ It identifies where this group is standing→ **“...and standing beside the sea...”**

Second→ It defines who this group is and what they had done→ **“...those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.”**

Fifth Part of Verse 2→

Again, I am using the NIV translation→ **“They held harps given them by God.”** I think these words make it clear what they were given by God when they arrives in heaven, **“... harps...”** We will see in the next verse why theses martyred saints were given or provided these harps.

Verse 3-4:

The next two verses provide the reader with a good description of what this group of martyred saints was doing while either "...standing beside the sea..." or "...standing on the glassy sea..." depending on translation.

As I stated at the end of verse 2 → now we know why these 'martyred saints' were given "harps" when they arrived in heaven → They will be singing the **'Song of Moses & The Song of the Lamb'**. My personal opinion is that they will be singing for two primary reasons: 1) To Glorify God the Father & His Son, Jesus Christ → 2) Because of the Great Joy that they will be experiencing when they arrive in heaven.

NIV → (3) "...and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: → "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. → Just and true are your ways, → King of the ages. (4) Who will not fear you, O Lord and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed'."

I will break these two verses down into their basic sub-sets or the different actions being taken by this group of 'martyred saints' to make it easier to understand and discuss.

Verse 3:

"...and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God and → the song of the Lamb: → "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. → Just and true are your ways, → King of the ages."

First Part of Verse 3 →

"...and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God..." The "song of Moses" can be found in Exod. 15:1-21 & again in Deut. 32:1-43. Both of these two songs by Moses speak to the issue of → salvation, deliverance and faithfulness. Therefore, I think "The Song of Moses" would be very appropriate for the situation these 'martyred saints' are in → They have just arrived in heaven and

received their **Reward** for (or because of) their → **Salvation** → They have also been → **Delivered** → from **'Eternal Separation from God'** and this is based on their → **Faithfulness** → while they were on this earth (and God's Grace). It is also my opinion that this somehow would relate to the Old Testament Saints. Just an opinion!

Second Part of Verse 3 →

"...and the song of the Lamb..." I believe that this **"...song of the Lamb..."** should be viewed as a praise song to Jesus Christ as our → **'Redeemer, Savior and Deliverer'**. We heard this same song sung back in Rev. 5:9-14 describing why Jesus Christ was **"worthy"** to take the **'seven sealed scroll'** from the hands of **'God the Father'**. Again, verses that speak to this issue are as follows: Rev. 5: 9-14 & Rev. 14:3; also, Old Testament verses: Isa. 42:10 & Ps. 33:3, 40:3, 144:9, 149:1

NOTE: I think by combining these two **'SONGS'** in this one sentence God is providing or reaffirming to the reader **'A Key Biblical Concept'** → God can: 1) **'Provide for all of your Physical Needs/Physical Problems, as He did when He led the Israelites out of Egypt → which is the Basis of the Song of Moses'**; meaning → **'Physical Deliverance'**; and, 2) **God can 'Provide for all of your Spiritual Needs/Salvation, as He did when He → Sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to die on the cross for all of our sins → 'Spiritual Deliverance'.**

Third Part of verse 3 →

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lords God Almighty. → Just and true are your ways. → King of the ages." In the last part of this verse three specific deeds and/or attributes of **'God the Father'** are listed by the **'martyred saints'**, as well as, a reference to the **'Triune God Head'**, which are as follows:

First → 'Praise' to God the Father by the Martyred Saints → for the way the martyred saints are being treated when they arrived in heaven;

Second → 'Praise' by the Martyred Saints to God the Father → for what He/God had done and is going to do during the remaining portion of the 'Seven Year Tribulation Period'; in terms of bring justice to the earth through judgment.

Third→ This 'praise' of God the Fathers actions could, for sure, extends all the way back to creation. I like Psalm 139: 14, it just seems to fit this verse, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Now we will break down verse 3 into its basic sub-sets:

One→ "Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty." These words begin the praise words being sung or spoken by the→ Saints who had died during the 'Tribulation Period' up until about the mid-point, (most likely martyred). It is my opinion that they are→ Confirming or Praising the Actions talked about in the previous words of verse 3, "...and they sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb." which speaks to **'Salvation→ Deliverance→ Faithfulness and then Reward.** Again, to me these words are a conformation of Gods Actions by these saints.

To me the words→ "Lord God Almighty" is a simple statement of→ **Exactly Who it is that they are→ Praising & Reaffirming His Actions.** Also, given this saints are now actually in heaven with God the Father I think that could be→ **REAFFIRMING & CONFIRMING for all future reader that they are with→ The God of Gods & for that matter→ The ONLY GOD.**

Two→ "Just and true are your ways, King of the ages." Again, this sentence appears to contain two separate concepts:

- 1) "Just and true are your ways..." This would for sure speak to (a) above in terms of 'God the Father keeping His word/promise in terms of 'Reward' for 'Salvation & Faithfulness', as well as, bring justice to the earth through judgment for all→ unsaved people & Satan & the antichrist & false prophet'. However, I think this goes much deeper and covers the entire time the earth will be in existence. Remember Gods **'Justice and Truth'** has always existed and goes back to the creation and actually has no beginning. When God created Adam and Eve he told them that they could not eat of the 'tree of forbidden fruit' and they rebelled and ate it anyway. Then because God is a 'God of Justice and Truth' he/God was forced, because of

his very nature, to take action and remove them from the garden of Eden, as well as, place a specific curse on Adam, Eve and the earth. Another example is Abraham was saved based on his 'faith'; however, his faith was only validated (Justified) when Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, raised from the dead and ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. Today Christianity and the world in general believe that the God of the Jewish nation Israel and the Christian church is a God of Love, Grace and patience → **ONLY**. All of which are true attributes of the God of Creation, however, during the 'seven year tribulation period' man and the earth in general will see the 'Justice and Truth and Judgment' side of the God of Creation; just as Israel and all other great nation in history have seen when they were in 'rebellion' against the God of Creation. For some this will be a great day of vindication (like this group singing the songs) and for others it will be a very sad day. Their first day of eternity will be one that totally separates them from God and it will remain that way for all of eternity as they will remain in 'Hell' for all of eternity.

- 2) **"King of the ages"** To me these four words speak to three specific issues as it relates to God the Father:
- a) God is the 'King of all times/ages including all of creation and before',
 - b) Validates the concept of the 'Triune God Head' as they all were present at creation and we are talking about the **"King of the Ages"** → **Actually → THREE IN ONE.**
 - c) Is the basis for or confirms the words in the latter portion of verse 4, **"All the nations will come and worship before you..."** which is actually what will happen after the → 'Second Coming of 'Jesus Christ and the Battle of Armageddon' and is prophesied in Zech. 14:16, **"Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles."** This event will occur every year for each of the 1,000 years in which Jesus Christ will reign on planet earth. For more information on how this event will work see Zechariah 14: 16-21.

Verse 4:

“Who will not fear you O Lord, → and bring glory to your name? → For you alone are holy. → All nations will come and worship before you, → for your righteous acts have been revealed.”

First Part of Verse 4 → “Who will not fear you O Lord, → and bring glory to your name?”

In general it appears to me that → this group of martyred saints is in the process of praising God for who he is (Creator) and what he has done for all of humanity (Savior). It also appears verse 4 should be viewed in two ways:

One → Continued praise and worship by the Martyred Saints:

Two → As now shifting their ‘tone and subject matter’ with the opening of verse 4 into a question of → what any rational human should be asking. Especially after what the men of the earth experienced during the first half of the seven year tribulation period: Question → “Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?” The unfortunate part of this question by the martyred saints is the answer → which is → there will be many people on the earth during this seven year period that will not “fear the Lord” or “bring glory to your name”. If you go back to Rev. 9:20-21 you will see the attitude of the men of the earth after the opening of the ‘Sixth Trumpet Judgment’, “The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood—idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.” Again, I am afraid that this is how much of the earth population will respond to Gods final offer & effort to bring man around → and accept him/God for who he is → the Creator! And be saved.

Second Part of Verse 4 → “For you alone are holy.”

In the next portion of this verse the words go back to → ‘Straight Forward Praise’ because of who God is, “For you alone are holy.” However, if you think about it this is a very big statement? I think 1 Samuel 2:2 makes this point very clear,

“There is no holy one like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no rock like our God.”

Third Part of Verse 4 → **“All nations will come and worship before you, → for your righteous acts have been revealed.”** The last portion of this verse I think should be split into two separate pieces:

One → First it is a statement of **FACT** → **“All the nations will come and worship before you...”** We have already discussed this concept in # 3 above and we used Zech. 14:16 to support our view ‘as a statement of fact’.

Two → The answer that supports why the first part of this verse is a statement of fact → NIV, **“...for all your acts have been revealed.”** Greek Translator, **“Your righteousness’s were made known.”** I think there are many Biblical Concepts and specific scriptural passages that would support this statement but I will only provide several:

- 1) **Creation/nature** → **Genesis**,
- 2) **The Holy Bible** → All of God’s words contained within the ‘Holy Bible’ as to how man is to live without sinning,
- 3) **The Shed Blood of Jesus Christ** → **Thereby providing for** → **Man’s Salvation** → All of Old & New Testament, with a special focus on → Prophecy
- 4) **The Book of Revelation and related supporting Books of the Old and New Testament that support the Book of Revelation** → Which contains the **‘History of Prophecy’** → **thereby providing man with written proof of God keeping his word that the unsaved will be judged based on their actions and also saved peoples will be covered by ‘The Blood of Jesus Christ’** → as stated in the New Testament and prophesied in the Old Testament.

In the next 4 verses God provides the reader with a somewhat detail picture of how the ‘seven angels’ were given the ‘seven bowl judgments’ and → a basic view of Gods Throne Room in Heaven. Again we will break this section down by verse to make it easier to understand.

Verse 5:

“After this→ I looked and→ in heaven the temple, that is,→ the tabernacle of the Testimony,→ was opened.” The order of events is as follows:

First Part of Verse 5→ “After this I looked...”

Meaning John will talk about the next thing to happen in his vision. The order would be: 1) Events of verse 1; then the Events of verses 2-4 and now the Events of verses 5-8.

Second Part of Verse 5→ “...and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was open”

These words appear to be describing the→ first thing John sees after he→ **“looked”**. John is now telling the reader that the **‘heavenly tabernacle’** (spoken of in Heb. 9:23) is now being opened and something of great importance is about to come out! The fact is we are talking about the original temple built in heaven, by God the Father→ of which the earthly temple is a direct copy is validated in the next two quotes: 1) Exodus 25:40, KJV, “And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.” 2) Rev. 11:19, NIV, “Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.” (NOTE: I think this verse should dispel any rumors, by men, that they have found the **‘Ark of the Covenant’** or know its location on this earth.) Also, given the previous verse and the rest of the verses in this chapter I am sure there was great anticipation and excitement in heaven, as to what was about to happen. I base this on the words coming out of the temple in heaven after the opening of the **‘Seventh Bowl Judgment’** Rev. 16:17, **“...and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying,→ ‘It is done!’”** Just an opinion!

Verse 6:

“Out of the temple→ came the seven angels with the seven plagues. →They were dressed in clean, shining linen and→ wore golden sashes around their chest.” In verse 5 we are told that the **“...tabernacle of Testimony, was opened.”** And now in verse 6 we are being told four additional things about this scene in heaven:

First Part of Verse 6→ “Out of the temple...”

Meaning something is coming out of the temple. I think we can assume that anything that is coming directly, **“Out of the temple...”** of God the Father is→ Very Special and Possesses Great Authority. Just an assumption!

Second Part of Verse 6→ “...came the seven angles...”

Indicating what it was that was coming out of the temple. Again, **‘Very Special and Possesses Great authority’** and the next words in this verse make this very clear.

Third Part of Verse 6→ “...with seven plagues”

Indicating what they→ **“...the seven angels...”** were given in ‘The Temple of God the Father’ & ‘What They Were Carrying’. We are also told that what they were given and carrying should be viewed as→ **‘bad’** for humanity and the earth→ **“plagues”**. Also, keep in mind the number is **“seven”** and the→ subject is→ ‘Judgment’.

Fourth Part of Verse 6→ The last sentence of this verse I believe provides the reader with several facts about the→ ‘purity, dress and how the dress can determine ranking or level of authority’.

First Fact→ **“They were dressed in clean, shining linen...”** We have discussed this issue before, that the words like, **“clean, white, shining and linen”** are all descriptions of heavenly clothing; also indicating ‘purity and sinless’. Just flip over to Rev. 19:8, which is talking about the dress at the **“...wedding of the Lamb...”** → Rev. 19:8, **“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear.”**

Second Fact→ “...and they wore golden sashes around their chest.” I believe this statement or description speaks to the→ ‘character, ranking and authority that these angels possess’. The word “golden sash” may even correlate to some type of ‘royalty position’. Remember they are coming directly out of the “temple” of God and are assigned a very important task. Last, the fact that the “golden sash” is being worn “around their chest” indicates to me that they are of some type of ‘priestly order’ like the ‘high priest’ of the Old Testament and even Jesus Christ himself. However, this time they are not functioning as and intercessor before God for the sins of man (like Jesus Christ does) but as the one’s (seven angels) whom God the Father has chosen to bring final judgment on man for man’s refusal to repent of his sin! I think this is a real turn around in function of the priestly order.

Also, keep in mind that this verse (6) and verse 7 are the second part of what we called ‘the law or concept of recapitulation’ back at the beginning of this chapter. Again, ‘recapitulation’ is when God the Father through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit provides man with additional information about a subject that has already been discussed.

Verse 7:

“Then one of the four living creatures gave → to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, → who lives for ever and ever.” To me this verse would be hard to misunderstand, given the wording is very straight forward. However, I will break it down into its basic subsets to make our discussion easier:

First Part of Verse 7→ “Then one of the four living creatures...”

This is one of the “living creatures” we first saw in Rev. 4:6b and was part of the ‘four beings’ that are present in the ‘Throne Room of God the Father’, in Revelation Chapter 6. These four “living creatures” are also the beings that ‘Commanded’ the ‘first four horses and their riders’ to “Come!” in Revelation Chapter 6. Remember Revelations chapter 6 was the opening of the→ ‘First Six Seal Judgments’. Again, these “living creatures” must hold a very high position in

heaven and possess a lot of authority, based on their location—position to God the Father, in heaven, and the many important tasks God the Father empowers them to carry out.

Second Part of Verse 7 → **“...gave→ to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God...”**

These are the same ‘seven angels’ that were introduced in Rev. 15:1. Again, this verse is an example of ‘the law or concept of recapitulation’ as it provides the reader with additional information about these seven angels in terms of:

First Fact → States that **“...one of the four living creatures...”** → **“...gave...”** something → **“...to the seven angels...”**

Second Fact → States → What the **“...seven angels...”** were given → **“...seven golden bowls...”**

Third Fact → States what was inside the **“...seven golden bowls...”** which the **“...seven angels...”** were given, which was → **“...filled with the wrath of God.”**

Extra Point → Notice the **“...seven golden bowls...”** are **“...filled with the wrath of God...”** → **NOT LOVE**. How do you think the people today would view this sentence as they appear to only view God as one dimensional and that dimension is ‘love’ and never ‘JUSTICE & JUDGEMENT’. Just a question for thought!

Again, to me this verse is very straight forward and the meaning is very clear.

Third Part of Verse 7 → **“...who lives for ever and ever”**

To me these last six words are were put in to remind the reader that they are hearing from and dealing with the ‘God of Creation’ and all that you are reading is ‘trust worthy and true’. Remember the words back in Revelation Chapter 1: 8, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega’, Says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty’.”** Also, in the seven letters to the seven churches Jesus Christ was introduced as: 1) Church at Smyrna, Rev. 2:8, **“First and the Last”**, 2) Church at Philadelphia, Rev. 3:7, **“...him who is holy and true...”** 3) Church at Laodicea, Rev. 3:14, **“...the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation.**

NOTE→ think there is also a **'Major Biblical Concept'** being stated within these **'six words'**. The first part of this concept is → **'Has The Christian God Always Existed'** → Meaning He has no beginning and no end. (Ps. 93:2, "...you are from all eternity...") The second part of this concept is → **'There Is No Other Like Him'**, (1 Chr. 17:20, "O Lord, there is no one like You, nor is there any God besides You...") Both of these concepts are stated many times within the Holy Bible → and the question for men is → **'You Either Believe This Concept or You Do Not'**. The way men answer this question will determine → 1) How they live their lives and 2) Where and with whom they will spent ETERNITY.

Verse 8:

"And the temple → was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, → and no one could enter the temple → until the seven plagues of the seven angels were complete." To me this verse provides the reader with another overview of heaven during the period when the **'Seven Bowls Judgments'** are being implemented or until, **"It is done!"** However, there are several specific facts which I think are worth discussing, which are as follows:

First Part of Verse 8 → **"And the temple..."** To me this verse should be considered a continuation of verses 5 & 6 (re-read) as it provides the reader with additional information about **'heaven'** and specifically the **"temple in heaven"**.

Second Part of Verse 8 → **"...was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power..."** Verses 5, 6 & 8 all speak about or reference the **"Temple" → Of God** which to me would indicate that God is speaking directly to the nation of Israel. We know that the Jewish Temple had or played no part with the **'Church of Jesus Christ'**. (I think this is another point that speaks to the issue that the church has already been **'Raptured From the Earth'**.) This chapter speaks about the last **'Seven Bowl Judgments'**, but also speaks to the completion of **'Daniel's Seventh Week Prophecy'**. I will provide some more specific details about these words:

ONE→ “...was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power...”

Most scholars believe that the ‘key’ to understanding the concept of these words is that→ ‘God uses ‘smoke’ & ‘clouds’ to hide→ ‘His Glory and Unlimited Power’ from mortal men so as not to destroy them.

TWO→ Scholars like Clarence Larkin believe that the, actual word used to describe the event, like→ ‘cloud & smoke’ are the key to understanding the meaning of this entire portion of scripture: “When the Tabernacle was finished by Moses, and the Temple by Solomon, there was a ‘cloud’, the ‘Shekinah Glory’, but ‘no smoke’→ Exod. 40: 34-36 & 1 Kings 8: 10-11. The ‘cloud’ means ‘GRACE’, the ‘SMOKE’ means ‘JUDGMENT’→ Isa. 6:1-4 & Exod. 19:18. To me Clarence Larkin’s view appears to pass the first level→logic and reasonable test. However, if you read all of the scripture around the specific scripture he is quoting I am not sure the definitions of the words ‘Cloud’ & ‘Smoke’ are→ exactly correct, but the concept appears to be correct! You need to read and make up your own mind.

THREE→ The bottom line is that God uses→ ‘physical means: like→ clouds & smoke’ to cover himself and protect mortal man from being destroyed. Also, remember God has also used ‘clouds’ to transport people and even Jesus Christ to heaven.

Third Part of Verse 8→ “...and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were complete.” Not much has been written about this portion of verse 8. However, I will list some of the key thoughts that have been mentioned, (I have organized these points in the way the chapter flowed and no one scholar used all of these points in his view), which are as follows:

- 1) Remember we are now talking about the ‘Last Seven Judgments’, which are from God the Father,
- 2) The example God is using in chapter 15→ has to do with Israel and the completion of Daniels 70th week prophecy.
- 3) The→ Temple of the Tabernacle is also being used as an example,
- 4) The→ Temple of the Tabernacle was open,

- 5) In the Old Testament the Temple of the Tabernacle was opened once a year to allow the High Priest to enter to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people,
- 6) Even though the Temple of the Tabernacle is open, God's glory (clouds and smoke) are blocking the entrance so that no one could enter,
- 7) If no one can enter then—NO ONE—one can intercede on behalf of the unsaved, nor can they be saved during this period? Not sure on this one!
- 8) These situations will last until the last of the seven bowls is poured out.

Conclusion:

To me this interpretation would mean that no one was going to be saved during the implementation of the last seven judgments and is not consistent with God's overall plan for this period → Being man's last chance to repent and be saved before the 'Seconding of Jesus Christ'. Therefore, it is my opinion that all of the facts stated about are correct except (g) which I do not think can be correct. Also, it is my opinion that any human living during this period can be saved up until the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ'.

SOME INTERESTING DETAILS ABOUT CHAPTER 15→

Just some final points about the → 'PERFECTION of CONTINUITY & CONNECTIVITY in SCRIPTURE' → Only an 'ALL KNOWING GOD COULD PROVIDE MAN WITH SUCH DETAILS ABOUT→ PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE EVENTS COVERING THE LAST 6,100 YEARS

Other basic Facts about the Holy Bible, which is it has → 66 books → 40 authors → authors' with many different occupations and back grounds → written over a 1,500 year period (1,450BC to 100AD) → and in 3 different languages → AND NOT ONE CONTRADICTION HAS EVER BEEN FOUND!

I would like to point out two specifics about Chapter 15, which I think are significant to this concept, which are as follows:

ONE → The 'Continuity & Connectivity' of God's words written by John, as it relates to "...great and marvelous signs...in heaven..." We have already talked about this issue when we discussed Chapter 15 verse 1. We stated that Rev. 15:1

is the → **Third in a string of “signs in heaven”**. The other two are in Revelation Chapter 12: verses 1 & 3. To me this brings **‘Continuity & Connectivity’** to Chapters 12, 13, 14 & 15. Just my opinion: read for yourself and make up your own mind.

TWO → This is something we have not previously discussed, which is how I believe that God the Father is bringing **‘Continuity & Connectivity’** to the entire Book of Revelation & even the entire Bible. To me → This is how God the Father provides men with words that will allow man to **‘Develop a Picture in Their Minds’** that will allow them to understand → **What Heaven Really looks Like!** This process actually began in chapter 4 & ends in chapter 22. This process appears to provide details about; God & Heaven →

- 1) **Chapter 4 →** The **Throne Room in Heaven** (layout, heavenly beings present and activities in general)
- 2) **Chapter 5 →** The **Seven Seal Scroll** (again, heavenly beings present, authority, order, layout, form of worship)
- 3) **Chapter 7: 9-17 →** The **‘Martyrs from the Tribulations’** (to date); (again, heavenly beings present, reward for saints, heavenly structure, worship)
- 4) **Chapter 8:1-5 →** The **‘Golden Censer’** (heavenly being present, their actions, how the heavenly being react to Gods actions)
- 5) **Chapter 11: 15-19 →** The **‘Seventh Trumpet’** (words from heaven, reaction from heaven). This chapter also provides the reader with specific details about → ‘Gods Temple in Heaven’, which is as follows, **“Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within His temple was seen the ark of His covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake a great hailstorm.”** These words are similar to the ones in chapter 15.
- 6) **Chapter 12: 7-12 →** **When Satan and his fallen angels lose their place in heaven & heaven reaction.**
- 7) **Chapter 15, All →** The **‘Seven Last Bowl Judgments’** to include the **‘Battle of Armageddon’** (events in heaven—introduction of last seven judgments, martyrs & their reward/location, Temple/Tabernacle of Testimony, heavenly being present and an example of Gods power → verse 8, which is

very similar to Rev. 11:9 → verse 8, “**And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one could enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were complete.**”

- 8) **Chapter 19:1-10** → Wedding Supper of the Lamb and His Bride, (wedding supper of the Lamb & His bride, heavenly being present, dress in heaven)
- 9) **Chapter 20:11-15** → Great White Throne Judgment. (Gods judgment Throne, judgment event, books of heaven)
- 10) **Chapters 21-22** → Creation & picture of New heaven & Earth & New Jerusalem (the old sin filled creations have passed away and the new sinless creation has been created)

Again, this is just my opinion but it appears to me that God has provided the readers of His Holy Bible with a → **‘Continuous’ picture/information about Himself & His Heaven.** And if you read carefully the information/words He has provided, **I think you will find that the ‘Continuity & Connectivity’ of this information/words is → Without Error or Flaw’!** Again, just my opinion!