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I would also encourage you to go to Amazon and pick up a copy of “**Liberating the Book of Revelation, Returning to the Source of the Message.**” This book is intended to help us all know what the Spirit said and how He said it. This book is focused not so much on interpreting the book of *Revelation*, that is what this podcast is for, but on accurately representing the book of *Revelation* in the manner in which the Spirit originally spoke it to John. It is available in all formats: hardback, paperback, e-book format, and as an *audible*.

## EP130 Revelation 15 verses 5-8; 16:1

In our last podcast, we discussed the picture of how God is even now bringing in fire into people’s lives in what is a safe and secure environment, all for the purpose of saving His people from the clutches of the Beast, from the Woman who rides the Beast, and from the Lord’s time of Wrath. This scene was declared “great and marvelous” because it is intended to transform how we think about all that we are going through in this life in terms of the fires of suffering that burn all around us. This perspective shift is intended to destroy the victim mentality in which so many of us tend to live and cause us to realize that this entire time **Yahweh** has been redeeming us.

Those who are victorious have been standing in this fire, and they have been and are willing to let God burn off from their lives anything that does not want Him to reign as their **I AM**.

Let’s pick back up with the seven angels who are holding the seven plagues. We will be finishing **Revelation 15** and moving into **Revelation 16**.

### *The Angels Come Forth*

#### **Revelation 15:5-6**

After these things I looked, and the Sanctuary of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was caused to be opened, and the seven angels who are **now** having the seven plagues {wounds} came out of the Sanctuary, chosen to being clothed in linen, clean and bright, and having been caused to being girded and having chosen to being girded around their chests with golden sashes.

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden vials {bowls} **now** being full of the wrath of God, who is **now** living forever and ever.

And the Sanctuary was caused to be filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was caused to be able to enter the Sanctuary until the seven plagues {wounds} of the seven angels might be caused to be finished.

After these things, after all that was “*great and marvelous*,” John beheld something that was likely

chilling to the core of his being. The “*naos*,” the holy place of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven (the Sanctuary of God) was opened. These seven angels, who are now having the seven vials containing the plagues, wounds, or poundings, come forth from the most holy place in the heavenly realms.<sup>1</sup>

## Judged by the Law

A specific reference is made not just to the “*naos*” (the holy place) but to the tabernacle of testimony. This phrase, “*the tabernacle of testimony*,” corresponds to the tent (the Tabernacle and later the Temple) in which the testimony (or the law) of God was contained in the Ark of the Covenant that was located within the Holy of Holies (which was a separate room within the “*naos*”).<sup>2</sup>

The implication of this picture is that the wrath, this reckoning, is not arbitrarily administered upon earth. There is a standard for this judgment, and the standard will be the perfect law of God. Everyone had time to choose to be dead to the law and become alive through grace, but for those who ignored or outright rejected the grace of God, they will be judged by the standard of the law of God, a law which no one has kept, or even could keep. For the law of God is perfect, and being written on stone, it is inflexible.<sup>3</sup>

## The Holy Place Opened

“... *the Sanctuary of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was caused to be opened, ...*”

In the tabernacle (and later the temple), the Sanctuary (the “*naos*”) was located within the court of the priests, meaning that there was no access to those who worshiped in the temple at large (in the “*hieron*”). The Sanctuary area was set apart and access was exclusively limited to the priests of **Yahweh**.

The Sanctuary had two sections, the Holy Place (which held the table of showbread, the golden lampstand, and the altar of incense) and the Holy of Holies (which held the Ark of the Covenant). These two sections were separated by a veil, and no one was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies except for the High Priest and then only once a year on **Yom Kippur** (the Day of Atonement) to offer the blood of sacrifice and incense.

If the High Priest attempted to enter at any other time, he would be killed, for this is the room where God would appear over the mercy seat in the cloud of incense arising from the altar of incense. The smoke from the incense veiled His presence.<sup>4</sup>

But suddenly, with the opening of the Sanctuary, the holiness of God is put on display or made manifest and opened to all because this is a time for the blood of sacrifice to be presented on the most holy day of judgment, the Day of Atonement. No longer will the glory and holiness of **Yahweh** be veiled by a curtain. This could only mean one thing: certain death.

This is an irony that must not be lost on us. When Jesus was crucified, judged by the law, and put to death, the curtain in the earthly Holy Place was torn, revealing access to God and a pathway of life given by the blood of the Lamb. In fact, at that exact time, many of those who had been dead and buried rose

<sup>1</sup> The traditional translation “had” is rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>2</sup> See **Exodus 38:21; Numbers 1:50**

<sup>3</sup> **Psalm 19:7**

<sup>4</sup> **Exodus 25, 26:31-37, 30; Leviticus 16; Numbers 1:48-51**

to life and coming out of the tombs entered Jerusalem and appeared to many.<sup>5</sup>

But for those who rejected this pathway to life, that which comes only through the blood of Jesus that was poured out for all as an atonement, an appeasement of wrath, will now be judged and their blood will be spilled, great amounts of it.

The holiness of God is going to be displayed, or made manifest, in the acts of these ministering angels, as these seven plagues come from His holiness and demonstrate perfect judgment.

This is the second time that **Yahweh** opened the Holy Place. In the first instance, the Ark of the Covenant was seen and there were flashes of lighting and sounds and peals of thunder and an earthquake and a great hailstorm.<sup>6</sup> This was a huge **WARNING** to the world of the coming judgment. This occurred with the blast of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and was preceded by the cry:

### **Revelation 11:17-18**

"We **now** give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who is **now** being, who is **now** *being* and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned. And the nations have been caused to be enraged, and Your **wrath** came, and the time for the dead to be caused to be judged, and the time to reward Your bondservants the prophets and the holy ones and those whom you caused to **now** be fearing Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who are **now** destroying the earth."

### **NOW IS THE TIME!**

## **Fashion in Heavenly, Really?**

*"... and the seven angels who are **now** having the seven plagues {wounds} came out of the Sanctuary, chosen to being clothed in linen, clean and bright, and having been caused to being girded and having chosen to being girded around their chests with golden sashes."*

These seven angels have chosen to be clothed in linen, clean and bright and they have chosen to be girded around their chests with golden sashes. This is a decision they made in the past, and it is an ongoing decision.<sup>7</sup> Although, someone did help them with the girding of the gold sashes.<sup>8</sup>

Once again, we must ask the question, why did the Spirit think it was necessary that we know something about heavenly fashion? Clearly, this must be some sort of **Code** that we are to understand.

**First: Linen.** Clearly, we are not to assume that they have flax plants growing in heaven and the angels prefer strong fibers that are very absorbent and dry fast. Rather, this is an image, and it speaks to us in **Code**.

These angels are ministers of **Yahweh**, in effect priests unto our God. They serve Him in the Sanctuary,

<sup>5</sup> See **Matthew 27:50-53; Hebrews 8:1-14**

<sup>6</sup> See **Revelation 11:19**

<sup>7</sup> "clothed" and "girded" are both rendered in the *perfect middle participle*

<sup>8</sup> "girded" is a parsed verb, and is also rendered in the *perfect passive participle*

in the holy place. In the days of the tabernacle, only the priests of God wore linen and then only when they were performing duties within the tabernacle. Their linen clothing is what set them apart, or made them holy, from all others who were not permitted to serve much less enter the Sanctuary of God.<sup>9</sup>

The message is clear that these seven angels, in bringing forth their vials containing the wrath of God, are serving as priests, or ministers, of God. They are doing His service.

**Second: *clean and bright.*** The linen these angels wore was literally pure and radiant. This image communicates that these angels have no malice, no guile, are not out for revenge, and are not filled with hatred toward those on the earth. Rather, the purity of their garments reveals that they have clean and pure motives, and that what they are doing is an act of righteousness, and an act of justice.

Moreover, they come forth from the innermost sanctuary of God and they shine with His glory as they move forward to do the work which God has assigned to them.

**Third: *Golden Sashes.*** A sash was a common item of clothing in the ancient world, it was worn like a belt keeping the outer clothes tight and fitting. Their robes of linen are not loose and ill fitting, but they are held together tight by that which is divine (gold being **Code** for the divine). In other words, this confirms that these angels are in continual service of God in the presence of God within the “*Sanctuary,*” and they perform Godly service as they bear an emblem of divinity, which identifies them as having the authority to pour out the vials of wrath.

## ***The Vials of Wrath***

### ***Revelation 15:7***

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden vials {bowls} **now** being full of the wrath of God, who is **now** living forever and ever.

Once again, we see one of the Four Living Creatures. He gave to the seven angels seven vials (a broad shallow cup or bowl) that are even now full of the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> Here we get an interesting combination of sorts. These seven angels are now having the seven plagues or wounds that will come upon the earth, and it is matched with seven vials that are full and practically overflowing with wrath.

The idea is that the “wrath” is God’s fury, but how His hot and passionate fury is unleashed upon the world has already been crafted in each welt or strike that these angels are even now possessing. The idea is that before being poured out upon the earth, God’s wrath will be mixed into each vial containing a specific wounding. In ***Revelation 16***, we will see the specifics of each pounding that will wound humanity.

## **Forever and Ever**

Why did the Spirit add this little tag line that God now and continually lives “*forever and ever*”?<sup>11</sup> This

<sup>9</sup> See ***Exodus 28:39-42, 39:27-29; Leviticus 16:4***

<sup>10</sup> “full” is rendered in the *present active participle*

<sup>11</sup> “lives” is rendered in the *present active participle*

is another **WARNING**. He wants everyone to be assured that only God, only that which is divine, will live forever and ever.

This explains why the new bodies which God promised to those who are now overcoming will be made in His image, divine and immortal.<sup>12</sup> It is a bit shocking, but God promises that those who are now overcoming, those who have been standing in the fire, will be His imagers, they will be like Him. They will share in the very substance of the Godhead, and through Him live forever and ever.<sup>13</sup> They just won't have golden sashes, but every part of their being will be imbued with the divine.

The message contained in this **WARNING** is that eternal life, *forever and ever*, is available to anyone who wants it, and a great pounding is waiting for those who don't.

By way of clarification, this statement "*forever and ever*" does not mean that everything that is not divine ceases to exist; rather, they cease to have life. Life is far more than just existence; it is about experience. Those who are not divine will suffer death, both in their temporal experience as well as in their eternal experience.<sup>14</sup> They will by no means cease to exist. They will find themselves in eternal death, the **Second Death**, which is another way of saying, eternal torment without the joys that come with life.

## *The Sanctity of the Holy Place*

### **Revelation 15:8**

And the Sanctuary was caused to be filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power; and no one was caused to be able to enter the Sanctuary until the seven plagues {wounds} of the seven angels might be caused to be finished.

This is an interesting statement as it speaks not of a future constraint to be placed during the time of the tribulation, but a **past constraint**.<sup>15</sup> Using the technical *past* tense, the *imperfect*, sometime in the past God restricted access to the Sanctuary in heaven (the Holy Place), until the seven plagues of the seven angels are completed.

There are those who now dwell in the Sanctuary in heaven, like the Four, the 24-Elders, the myriads of angels, and the 144,000 (those who are even now choosing to come out of the tribulation), but no one else is permitted to enter the Holy Place until this grave event is finished.<sup>16</sup>

## *The Smoke of Mercy*

*"And the Sanctuary was caused to be filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power ..."*

Although the holy place is open and visible, the smoke presumably will prevent or obscure others from

<sup>12</sup> **1 Corinthians 15:52-53**

<sup>13</sup> **1 John 3:2; Psalm 17:15**

<sup>14</sup> *See Romans 8:6*

<sup>15</sup> "able" is rendered in the *imperfect passive indicative*

<sup>16</sup> *See Revelation 4:4, 6; 5:11, 7:13-17*

seeing the purity and radiance of **Yahweh**.<sup>17</sup> Without this covering all humanity would die.

This is the same reason that when presenting Himself to humanity, God always wraps Himself in a cloud, and it is why the High Priest had to burn incense before he entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle blood on the mercy seat of God, where God's glory would rest. The smoke created a protective cloud so the radiance of God's glory, which rested upon the mercy seat, would not kill the priest.

The Sanctuary was filled entirely with this smoke, not just partly, but entirely. And this smoke comes from God's glory and from His power. In other words, it comes from the majesty of His personhood.

This is another great and marvelous display of mercy and kindness to all those who might otherwise be exposed to His brilliance and cease to exist. His very personhood emits mercy to all His creation. "*For Yahweh your God is a merciful God.*"<sup>18</sup>

Once again, the only appropriate response is:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, O **Lord** the God, **the God**, the Almighty, **the Almighty**; righteous and true are Your ways, the King, **the King** of the nations!

Who will not be caused to fear, O Lord, and in the **future** glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; for all the nations will in the **future** come and in the **future** worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been caused to be revealed."

## Revelation 16

***Overview: 6 Vials of Wrath, Preparation for the Battle of Armageddon, The 7th Vial of Wrath.***

### ***Judgment & Redemption***

We now arrive at the 3<sup>rd</sup> segmentation, each with a series of 7's. First there were seven Seals, then seven Trumpets, and now seven Vials. According to the **Code**, this indicates a perfect (3) completion (7). With the bride of Christ having been harvested, the earth will now be used as the bronze altar of judgment and the sacrifice upon that altar, which will be entirely consumed by the fires of judgment, are those people who have not been marked by God for life.

But make no mistake, God's has dual purposes. Clearly His judgment is a reckoning to destroy those who are now destroying the earth. But in it all He also purposes **redemption**.

Certain people have been marked for life and they will be saved through the Great Tribulation. The Righteous and the Elect will be redeemed by the Lamb. They will **NOT** be the Bride of Christ who is cleansed by the blood of the Lamb; rather, they will be purified and cleansed by the fires of suffering and

<sup>17</sup> See **Leviticus 16:12-13**

<sup>18</sup> **Deuteronomy 4:31**

the blood of humanity.

However, when it is all said and done, they will be the fortunate ones to live under God's perfect kingdom as Christ rules and reigns on the earth for one-thousand years. They will be subjects of those who are now overcoming, as **Yahweh's** victorious Bride will rule and reign with Christ over the nations, just as He promised to the church at Thyatira.<sup>19</sup> Amidst judgment, God is redeeming many people unto Himself.

### ***Zechariah 13:8-9***

Two-thirds of the people in the land will be cut off and die," says **Yahweh**. **But one-third will be left in the land. I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'These are my people,' and they will say, Yahweh is our God.'**

Again, despite the terrible judgment that is coming upon the world, we must understand that even this is a great and marvelous deed, for from out of the ashes of judgment, God will bring forth a people that belong to Him and who will call on His name, **Yahweh**, and identify Him as their God.

### ***Revelation 16:1***

Then I heard a loud voice from the Sanctuary, **now** saying to the seven angels, "You are commanded to **now** go, and you are commanded to **now** pour out, and you are commanded to pour out on the earth the seven vials {bowls} of the wrath of God."

Once again, John hears this "*me gas*" voice, great or loud, from the "Sanctuary." As before, the voice is not identified, but it must come from either the Lamb or one of those beings that has been permitted to dwell in the holy place, like one of the Four.

## **Now, Really?**

There is an interesting play on the **Code** by which the Spirit communicates intention and instruction.

### ***Intention***

This voice is **now** saying to the seven angels to **now** go and **now** pour out on the earth the seven bowls of wrath.<sup>20</sup> These are commands rendered in the *present* tense. This should stop us in our tracks. How can this be about the final judgment of humanity if the angels are commanded to do this now?

Through this voice, the Spirit is clearly communicating the present intention of the one with the loud voice. Those in the heavenly realms desire God to now destroy those who are now destroying the earth.

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<sup>19</sup> ***Revelation 2:27-28***

<sup>20</sup> "saying" is rendered in the *present active participle* and "Go" is rendered in the *present active imperative*.

However, these commands are still subject to His timing.

### *Instruction*

The verb “**pour**” is parsed and it is rendered both in the *present* and the *aorist active imperative*. Let’s break this down. Although this voice desires them to **now** go, this command (the *imperative*) is subject to the timing of things associated with the **End**, after the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. Hence the command is also rendered in the *aorist active imperative*, a command indicating something that will be.

## **The Vials**

### **Revelation 16:2-21**

So, the first angel went and poured out his vial on the earth; and it became, by choice, a loathsome and malignant sore on the people which are **now** having the mark of the Beast and who are **now** worshipping his image.

The second angel poured out his vial into the sea, and it became, by choice, blood like that of a dead man; and every living soul in the sea died.

Then the third angel poured out his vial into the rivers and the springs of waters; and they became, by choice, blood. And I heard the angel of the waters **now** saying,

"Righteous **now** are You, **who are now being, who are now being who, who were, O Holy One, O Holy One, because You have judged; for they poured out the** blood of holy ones and prophets, and You had given to them, you gave to them blood to drink. They **now** deserve it."

And I heard the altar **now** saying,

"Yes, O **Lord** the God, the Almighty, **the God, the Almighty** true and righteous Your judgments."

And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun, and it was caused to be given to him to scorch men with fire. Men were caused to be scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who is **now** having the power over these plagues {wounds}, and they did **not** repent so as to give Him glory.

Then the fifth angel poured out his vial on the throne of the Beast, and this his kingdom was, by choice, caused to being darkened; and they have gnawed, by choice, their tongues because of pain, and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

The sixth angel poured out his vial on the great river, the Euphrates; and its water was caused to be dried up, so that the way may be caused to be prepared for the kings from the east.

And I saw out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the Beast and out of the mouth of the False Prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; for they **now** are spirits of demons, **now** performing signs, which **now** choose to go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.

Behold, I **now** choose to-come like a thief. Blessed is the one who is **now** staying awake and is **now**



keeping his clothes, so that he may not **now** walk about naked, and they may see his shame.

And they gathered them together to the place which is caused to **now** being called in Hebrew Har-Magedon.

Then the seventh angel poured out his vial upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the Sanctuary from the throne, **now** saying,

"It has been done."

And there were, by choice, flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was by choice a great earthquake, such as there had not been, by choice, since man came, by choice, to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty.

The great city was split, by choice, into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was caused to be remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrathful anger.

And every island fled away, and the mountains were caused to not be found. And huge hailstones, about the weight of a talent {one hundred pounds}, **now** came down from heaven upon the men; and the men blasphemed the God because of the wound of the hail, for great **now** is the wound extremely severe.

Before we dig into the detail, understand that each bowl of wrath is specifically targeted at some segment of creation. Remember, each plague or pounding is extremely specific, and this is not some random apocalyptic chaos.

- Bowl 1: Upon humanity.
- Bowl 2: The sea.
- Bowl 3: The rivers and springs of water.
- Bowl 4: The sun.
- Bowl 5: The kingdom of the Beast.
- Bowl 6: The great river Euphrates.
- Bowl 7: The great city (Babylon the Great)

What is immediately clear and distinct from both the Seal and the Trumpet Judgments is that all the metaphoric "like" and "as" language is removed. In other words, we will not be searching the **Codex** for similar metaphors to understand these wounds, because they are not metaphors, they are actual wounds.

**The spiritual invades the physical in a terrifying way that defies nature, logic, science, and the normal course of things. This is a spiritual judgment into the physical realms that brings forth God's reckoning on both that which is spiritual and that which is physical.**

Let's stop here, and in our next podcast we will continue with **Revelation 16** and the vials of wrath.

I am glad you "tuned in" and have been "ready to listen."