

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of The Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Last week I completed the exegesis of Rev 15:1 and reviewed the *Doctrine of Anger*. When the bell tolled 7:45 p.m., we were in the process of analyzing Rev 15:2, and the *Doctrine of Music*.
2. Before I continue I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's review some of that learned last week and then we will begin new material at point eight on page three.
4. Before we resume our categorical study of Anger I want to provide an expanded translation of Rev 15:1-2

Expanded Translation

Rev 15:1 I, John then saw in the third heaven a third sign which was even greater than the first two, it was awesome; there before my eyes were the seven angels with the seven last plagues - I'm talking about the last seven vials, these bowl judgments represent God's final and complete wrath. I mean it is curtains for planet earth.

5. Now let's return to our analysis of Rev 15:2.

KJV

Rev 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

NIV

Rev 15:2 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 ...

1. As we saw last week the sea described in chapter four was smooth and tranquil vis-à-vis the sea described in Rev 15:2 where we find divine judgment from a righteous God.
2. The saints in Rev 15:2 are said to have "harps given to them by God."
3. The harp (a Lyre) and the trumpet are the only musical instruments mentioned in the book of the Revelation.
- 3.1 The harps signal music to soothe the savage beast; music to relax with; the sound of pleasant victory over all that is unholy.

3.2 The trumpet on the other hand seems to be used when action is required; a call to battle signals the sound of the trumpet, a call to action and often judgment.

4. John Walvoord has also written:

"The harpers' privileged position before the throne contributing to the heavenly harmony of the chorus of the redeemed is their reward for refusing to worship the beast, receive his mark, bow to his image, or be identified with his number. They clearly belong to saints martyred during the time of great tribulation, confirming that the time schedule is near the end of the period and contrasting them to saints of other ages."

5. I "can neither confirm or deny" the validity of Mr. Lindsey's position that there are also raptured saints standing and celebrating on the Revelation chapter fifteen sea of glass; though certainly such may be the case.

6. Let me again give you an expanded translation of Rev 15:1-2:

Expanded Translation

Rev 15:1 I, John then saw in the third heaven a third sign which was even greater than the first two, it was awesome; there before my eyes were the seven angels with the seven last plagues – I'm talking about the last seven vials, these bowl judgments represent God's final and complete wrath. I mean it is curtains for planet earth.

Rev 15:2 And then I saw what was like an earlier scene I had recorded, a sea of glass but this time the tranquil sea was mixed with fire and judgment; standing beside the sea were numerous saints martyred in the Great Tribulation; these were those special believers divinely selected to live, suffer and die in the Tribulation. They had been given harps by God the Father and they were ready to play and sing in praise of God.

7. Now let's resume the study of Revelation 15:3-4:

KJV

Rev 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

Rev 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

NIV

Rev 15:3 and 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.

Rev 15:4 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."

1. It would seem all heaven echoes with the spontaneous singing of the martyrs as they praise the Lord, God has just made them victors over sorrow, pain and death.
2. All the heartache is behind them now, and they are just beginning to grasp the reality of what it is going to be like to spend eternity with all their expanded family in praise of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. The changes in their friends, their family and themselves is breathtaking; there is a unity of perfection and therefore appreciation of one another. Texas Aggie fans will like U.T. fans, Red Sox fans will like Yankee fans and Texas Ranger fans will like Astro fans ... etc. etc. etc. and vice-a-versa.
4. The hymns of praise sung by the martyred saints in glory are identified as "the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."
5. The fact that the word "song" is repeated with a definite article in both cases would lead to the conclusion that two songs are in view rather than one, both being sung by the martyred throng.
6. The former, the song of Moses, recounts the faithfulness of God in delivering Israel of the Exodus.
7. How fitting for them to sing the "song of Moses." This is a song the Jews have sung for thousands of years, and commemorates their great deliverance from Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea.
 - 7.1 The words are recorded in Exo 15:1-19.
8. Now for new material and the "Song of the Lamb."
 - 8.1 Just as the Israelites looked back toward Egypt and realized that they were forever delivered from slavery, so these people will look back to their experiences of horror on earth and realize that they are forever delivered from the grasp of suffering, defeat and death.
9. In this regard their song also becomes a song of praise and victory.
10. The song of the Lamb speaks of redemption from sin made possible by the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.
11. The words of the Song of the Lamb would seem to be that which is found in Rev 15:3-4

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

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."

12. This song also is a song of praise and victory. There are those who believe the first song is one with particular application to Jewish martyrs and the second, the Song of The Lamb, as a song with particular application to gentile martyrs.

13. Whatever the case there is joy in heaven because this time "mighty Casey did not strike out."

14. Let's resume the review of the *Doctrine of Music*.

1. Singing is one of several acts of worship to be done in the local church, the others being: prayer, giving, the communion table and teaching.

2. Singing is authorized in every dispensation, including our own church age.

3. Singing will even be done in heaven and enjoyed by all.

3.1 Singing is one of many heavenly metaphors used to describe praise for the Trinity in a state of ecstatic joy.

Rev 14:2 And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of rushing waters and like a loud peal of thunder. The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 14:3 And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders. No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

3.1.1 This song is no doubt very specialized and relates to the great evangelists of Israel who functioned during the Tribulation.

4. There is symbolic singing mentioned in Revelation Chapter Five. Again, a specialized song of praise, in this case a praise of the victorious Christ who is the only One worthy to release the divine vindication of God by opening the seals.

4.1 Christ is the only One who is worthy to open the book.

4.2 In verse nine we have a song of praise.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

5. Singing is also noted as an emotional response to God, as we respond from the doctrine which is in our souls.

Jam 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

5.1 Singing when you are happy and full of gratitude is a natural response and an appreciator of what is in your soul.

6. The first musician was Jubal, from the family of Cain.

Gen 4:21 His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute.

7. The Levitical system of worship used music to teach doctrine.

7.1 Moses, as the supreme priest of God, sang praises to God as the God of war and victory.

Exo 15:1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: " I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

7.1.1 This, as we have just seen, was a praise song for killing the Egyptians and saving Israel from certain destruction.

7.2 There were certain Levites who played musical instruments as part of the Levitical worship services.

1Ch 23:5 "Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose."

7.3 David and his military commanders needed chaplains to inspire their men and to orient them to their reason for fighting.

7.3.1 The Chaplains taught the Bible accompanied by the musical sounds of a giant choir made up of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun.

1Ch 25:1 David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals. Here is the list of the men who performed this service:

7.3.2 Musicians and singers were stationed at the gate of the city no doubt to provide pomp and ceremony when David reviewed his valiant warriors on their way to battle.

1Ch 16:42 Heman and Jeduthun were responsible for the sounding of the trumpets and cymbals and for the playing of the other instruments for sacred song. The sons of Jeduthun were stationed at the gate.

7.3.3 Music was part of Solomon's dedication of the Temple.

2Ch 7:5 And King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand head of cattle and a hundred and twenty thousand sheep and goats. So the king and all the people dedicated the temple of God.

2Ch 7:6 The priests took their positions, as did the Levites with the LORD'S musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the LORD and which were used when he gave thanks, saying, "His love endures forever." Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.

7.3.4 When Hezekiah rededicated the Temple he also used music in his dedication ceremony.

2Ch 29:20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the LORD.

2Ch 29:21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven male lambs and seven male goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, for the sanctuary and for Judah.

7.3.5 The king commanded the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer these on the altar of the LORD.

2Ch 29:22 So they slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and sprinkled it on the altar; next they slaughtered the rams and sprinkled their blood on the altar; then they slaughtered the lambs and sprinkled their blood on the altar.

2Ch 29:23 The goats for the sin offering were brought before the king and the assembly, and they laid their hands on them.

2Ch 29:24 The priests then slaughtered the goats and presented their blood on the altar for a sin offering to atone for all Israel, because the king had ordered the burnt offering and the sin offering for all Israel.

2Ch 29:25 He stationed the Levites in the temple of the LORD with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king's seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the LORD through his prophets.

7.3.6 Trumpets sounded as David himself sang and praised the Lord in psalms.

7.4 David commanded a song be sung during the Levitical ceremony to teach doctrine.

Psa 40:6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced; burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

7.4.1 For some it must have seemed strange. This because the Psalm taught that the offerings did not to resolve the sin problem.

7.4.2 For those who were positive however the prophesy of the Messiah must have been comforting.

Psa 40:7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come--it is written about me in the scroll.

Psa 40:8 I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

7.4.3 The anonymous writer of the Book of Hebrew quoted this Psalm of David to teach the Jews of Jerusalem.

Heb 10:5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

Heb 10:6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

Heb 10:7 Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll--I have come to do your will, O God.'"

7.5 There were certain priests designated as singers by Nehemiah after the return to the land. They were led by Ezra in the singing of songs and the playing of musical instruments.

Neh 12:27 At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Neh 12:28 The singers also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem--from the villages of the Netophathites,

Neh 12:29 from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem ...

Neh 12:35 as well as some priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph,

Neh 12:36 and his associates--Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani--with musical instruments prescribed by David the man of God. Ezra the scribe led the procession

Neh 12:42 and ...The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah ...

Neh 12:45 They performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did also the singers and gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son Solomon.

8. Music however like all forms of "worship" when not a result of the consistent use of the two power options can be a substitute and a tool of Satan to keep people away from the transformed mind.

Amo 6:1 Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come!
Amo 6:2 Go to Calneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours.

Amo 6:3 You put off the evil day and bring near a reign of terror.

Amo 6:4 You lie on beds inlaid with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves.

Amo 6:5 You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments.

Amo 6:6 You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

Amo 6:7 Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

Amo 6:8 The Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself--the LORD God Almighty declares: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it."

8.1 Amos warns the careless men and women of Judah, as well as those of Israel, that their recklessness will end in disaster.

8.2 Singing then is very often a liturgy and a substitute for true worship or like any number of other things can become the headlight on one's locomotive.

9. We have already seen an example noted by Amos of the use of music in a state of "reversionism" during the 8th century but people in every age have used music as a substitute for true worship.

9.1 Isaiah as a prophet to both the northern and southern kingdoms lamented the misuse of God's ritual. Remember ritual without reality is evil and useless.

Isa 5:12 They have harps and lyres at their banquets, tambourines and flutes and wine, but they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD, no respect for the work of his hands.

Isa 14:11 All your pomp has been brought down to the grave, along with the noise of your harps; maggots are spread out beneath you and worms cover you.

10. In the case of the idolatrous Chaldeans their response to music facilitated the worship of idols.

Dan 3:5 As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

11. The Psalms were sung in praise of God.

Psa 100:2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Psa 126:2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

11.1 All the Psalms were at one time sung and they all have a doctrinal message.

11.2 A few examples where music is mentioned in the psalms:

Psa 33:1 Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.

Psa 33:2 Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings.

Psa 33:3 Sing unto him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

Psa 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Psa 81:1 Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

Psa 81:2 Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.

Psa 81:3 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our Feast;

Psa 81:4 this is a decree for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

Psa 81:5 He established it as a statute for Joseph when he went out against Egypt, where we heard a language we did not understand.

Psa 81:6 He says, "I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands were set free from the basket.

Psa 81:7 In your distress you called and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

Psa 81:8 "Hear, O my people, and I will warn you--if you would but listen to me, O Israel!

Psa 108:1 O god, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.

Psa 108:2 Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.

Psa 108:3 I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.

Psa 108:4 For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.

Psa 108:5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;

Psa 108:6 That thy beloved may be delivered: save with thy right hand, and answer me.

Psa 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Psa 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness."

Psa 150:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Psa 150:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Psa 150:5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Psa 150:6 Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

12. There was even a death march sung in Psalm 119.

12.1 On their way to slavery many of the people of God were positive.

Psa 119:15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

Psa 119:16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

13. Angels, or the stars say some, sang when the heavens and the earth were created.

Job 38:7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

14. David was a great musician and songwriter.

1Sa 16:18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the LORD is with him."

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