

Our passage today is the prelude to God pouring out His wrath on the unrepentant. Mankind tends to balk at the idea of God demanding justice and being wrathful. God hates evil and must judge it (Psalm 5:5ⁱ; James 4:12ⁱⁱ). One of Satan's greatest lies is that man is basically good (Psalm 14:3ⁱⁱⁱ). The fact that so many fall for it shows how insensitive we are to sin. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the lie seems to have taken hold in the minds of most people.

Consider the present world for a moment. Russia and Ukraine are allowing hundreds of thousands of men to die in a land dispute. Iran and the Palestinians raise their children to hate Jews. They raped and killed over a thousand Jews who were at a peace celebration. A few dictators in Venezuela take it from the richest country in South America and turn it into the poorest. Terrorists want to destroy America. Gangs murder one another fighting over drug turf. Hundreds of thousands die in the USA due to drug overdoses, the ingredients supplied to Mexico by China. Would be immigrants are raped and robbed on the way to our open borders. Little children are sex trafficked. Man with unchecked power will commit the most horrible acts. Che Guevara is said to have personally enjoyed torturing and executing prisoners. It is reported that he said there was a fantastic feeling when he would put a bullet in someone's head.

But you say that is not about me. I am a good person. Really? Do you love your Creator above all else for giving you life and every good thing (James 1:17^{iv})? Or do you complain when you are sick, cut off in traffic, or insulted? If you do not do what the God who gave you life commands you to do for your good, you are putting yourself above Him and claiming you know better than God. Pride is one of the worse sins and that is what we are exhibiting every time we ignore God's instructions and go our own way. Have you ever been angry with someone for what they did to you? Jesus calls that the same as murder (Matthew 5:21,22^v). Have you ever lusted after another person and wished they were your spouse? That is adultery and idolatry (Matthew 5:27,28^{vi}). Did you ever desire something someone else has? That is coveting, forbidden by the tenth commandment. It is thinking that God made a mistake in allowing them to have it and not you. Do you love your neighbor as you love yourself (Matthew 22:39^{vii})? Come on, be honest! What have you done about it? Have you done something sacrificially for them? Now tell me how pure and innocent we are and how we do not deserve to be judged by our holy God who gives us every breath we breathe.

The Bible declares we are fallen beings with a sinful nature (Romans 5:12^{viii}). Only the indwelling presence of Christ can begin to change us. That is the declaration of the Bible (Romans 6:23^{ix}). That is why God sent Jesus, to restore our relationship with God and give us a new heart and the strength to begin to be honest and desire to change. When we give our life to Christ, He takes up residence in us by His Holy Spirit and reveals areas of action and thinking that must change. Thankfully, He also helps us change. Little by little, step by step, we move toward Christlikeness (2 Corinthians 3:18^x).

In the last chapter we saw the three angels give announcements. One proclaimed the gospel to the whole world. The second proclaimed the fall of Babylon. The third gave a warning to all who would take the mark of the beast. The chapter concluded with the harvest of wheat and the grape harvest that was thrown in the winepress of the wrath of God. This chapter begins with the amazing sign of the seven angels with the seven final

plagues. ¹ *Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.* Revelation 15:1

There were two signs in heaven given in chapter 12. 12:1^{xi} showed the sign of the pregnant woman who was *clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars*. We saw that this was Mary but representing all people of faith. The second sign was in 12:3^{xiii}, *"a great red dragon, with seven heads and then horns, and on his heads seven diadems."* The two signs set up the scene of conflict between the woman and the dragon, the righteous and the wicked. Now in 15:1 we are seeing the outcome of that conflict as another sign in heaven. The dragon poured out his wrath on the believers, and now he and his followers will receive God's wrath. Just like the plagues on Egypt caused the idolaters to suffer, but also showed their gods to be powerless, so will these seven plagues do the same in like manner.

This sign is "great and amazing!" We have seen seven is a number of completeness. Seven angels come forth from heaven with seven plagues. These plagues are the bowls of wrath that finish the wrath of God upon the earth. No one left on the earth can say they were tricked into worshiping the beast or that they did not know how to turn to God, for the three angels had announced their messages directly overhead to all who dwelt on the earth (14:6-11^{xiii}).

The wrath of God being finished does not mean that hell does not follow. Judgment is still to come (20:11,12^{xiv}). This is God's wrath upon all man's hardness against God and for the persecution of the people of God. This is God's response to the souls under the altar who asked how long until their innocent blood was avenged (6:10^{xv}). God is about to show how He feels about the systems of man that draw people into greed and idolatry, worshiping the gifts rather than the Giver of all good things. God gave us all things and God can take all things away. Instead of recognizing their ingratitude and repenting we will see the people repeatedly cursing God for taking back His gifts (16:9^{xvi}; 11^{xvii}; 21^{xviii}).

I see this attitude on a small scale in our society. Many people act as if they deserve to have everything handed to them. Imagine loaning someone a nice house and a car and then after five years of them showing no gratitude, carelessly treating both, you take it back. How would you feel if they cursed you to your face instead of thanking you for loaning it to them for years? That does not compare to the abundance that God has given us. Our life, health, sustenance, shelter, community, the Word of God, family, beauty of nature, and our very breath, all and more comes from His grace moment by moment and yet we take it all for granted, forgetting to praise Him for the abundance of His goodness. No wonder the Psalms remind us to give thanks more than fifty times (Psalm 30:4^{xix}; 33:2^{xx} etc.)!

The people who are still on the earth not only do not recognize any of His many gifts as cause to thank Him, but they also hate Him for taking them away. God is exposing their idolatry of things and their ingratitude, but they will refuse to see it (Romans 1:21^{xxi}).

² *And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.* Revelation 15:2 John sees a sea of glass mingled with fire. We read of the sea of glass in 4:6^{xxii} and harps in 14:2^{xxiii}. It was before

the throne of God in heaven so we can assume that is the case here. The difference is that this time the glass sea is mingled with fire. Fire purifies and God is about to purify the earth of evil with the fire of His wrath. Beside (literally "on") the sea are the ones who conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name. We think of these being those came out of the tribulation whose victory was obtained through death (7:14^{xxiv}). This may be all those who have refused to submit to worldly pressure to worship the things of this world and have entered God's kingdom (13:8^{xxv}). They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony for they loved not their lives to the death (12:11^{xxvi}). We are more than overcomers when we trust in God both in life and in death. Knowing that the wrath of the beast is nothing compared to God's wrath, we can face captivity or the sword knowing we will be abundantly rewarded. The world's worst tortures cannot come close to the judgment those who refuse to believe will face.

In their hands are harps and they are ready to sing! I do not think we will need harp lessons. We will probably get a harp 5.0 download and all be in perfect harmony! We last saw harps in the heavenly realm held by the 144,000 around the Lamb on Mount Zion (14:2^{xxvii}).

³ *And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"* Revelation 15:3 The chorus they are singing is the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb. We can read the song of Moses in Exodus 15. Here is a portion of it:¹ *Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. ² The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. ³ The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. ⁴ Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. ⁵ The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. ⁶ Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. ⁷ In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. ⁸ At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. ⁹ The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.'*¹⁰ *You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters. ¹¹ Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? ¹² You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them. ¹³ You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode."* Exodus 15:1-13 Do you see the parallels? God has rescued and delivered His people and destroyed their enemies, His enemies, who refused the patience and long-suffering of God despite all the plagues and proofs that He alone is God. The Lamb is the ultimate deliverer of which Moses was but a shadow (Deuteronomy 18:15^{xxviii}). Just as the lamb's blood on the doorposts caused the destroyer to pass over them, so the blood of the Lamb of God rescues us from the second death (Exodus 12:13^{xxix}). Just as the enemies of the Children of Israel were overthrown in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:28^{xxx}), so will the enemies of God and His people be overthrown on the day of God's wrath.

Great and amazing are your deeds! Yes indeed! He saved a wretch like me, and He gives all a chance to turn from their wickedness and receive His grace (22:17^{xxxvi}). He shows His creative power in the world and the heavens above. The marvel of living species with their unique form and function, each that fit in their habitat whether ocean depths or the sky above (Psalm 89:11^{xxxvii}). The earth is full of the glory of our all-powerful God, and the heavens declare His glory as well (Psalm 19:1^{xxxviii})!

Just and true are His ways. The God who fills all space and time is righteous. What He does is always just. Praise Him for that, but especially because He bore the justice we deserve. His ways are the ways of truth. He cannot be unjust or dishonest. Why would anyone want Him to be otherwise? When we are in our heavenly home, we will be able to look back over the history of the world and see how just and true God has ever been and know He ever will be.

O King of the nations/ages. He is the King of nations! Few Christians understand that God set the boundaries of nations for His own purposes (Deuteronomy 32:8^{xxxix}). Nations are a plan of God. Each reveal how corrupt man can be and how careless with human life. A rare nation will follow the ways of God and find blessings, while those who turn from God create their own hell. Look what happened to Venezuela. It was the richest of the Latin American countries, beautiful and prosperous. Now the average person has lost 30 pounds due to starvation and the lack of resources. A large portion of the nation has fled to other countries to survive. Look at California. I would argue that it is our most beautiful state, but ideologies that are anti-God have had the same effect of causing people to flee to other states. As the businesses and people move the tax base declines and their debt becomes unmanageable. Nations teach us about the nature of man and the blessings that come with godliness or the decline that comes with godlessness. And over it all reigns the King of nations, teaching us if we are willing to learn. But at this turning point in history that we are reading about, class will be over. The King will directly reign, and evil will be swiftly dealt with.

We should understand this to be a glorious song of praise that God is finally stepping in, punishing evil, rewarding His children, and cleansing the earth. Millennia of sin comes to an end. Man's corrupt governments will be no more. Senseless wars will be a thing of the past. The Lord will reign forever and ever! Justice will be righteous and complete. I do not think we can imagine how good that will be.

⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." Revelation 15:4 The incomparability of God is seen in the song of Moses. ¹¹ *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"* Exodus 15:11 Majestic in holiness! What an expression applied to God alone. *"Awesome in glorious deeds"* is rendered here as *righteous acts* (Psalm 89:9,10^{xxxv}). Truly none can compare to our eternal God who made all that is and turns sinners into saints.

Many go through life pretending God does not exist, but when they face death, most people with any sense fear God (Jeremiah 10:7^{xxxvi}). When we stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment everyone will fear Him and glorify His name. Some of us will glorify Him from our hearts and others will bow because they must submit to His sovereignty. Those three couplets are followed by the reason behind those words. He alone is holy - set apart - high above the heavens - Creator - and Judge of all the earth.

“All nations will come and worship Him” does not mean every person, but rather people from all nations. They come to worship Him because His righteous acts throughout time will have been revealed. They have been revealed in the Word. They will probably be even more fully revealed when we get a glimpse of all that God did in each of our lives and how He wove history together to save souls and bring glory to His name. We will be in awe of the intricacy and richness of His design. Everything will make sense then. His glory will be overwhelming. People will either wail at their impending judgment or rejoice that His justice meant their deliverance. Verses 2 to 4 are a song of praise for God’s wonderful work of redemption but also for His righteous judgments.

⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, Revelation 15:5 John had seen the golden altar in the heavenly temple, just before the seventh seal was opened in 8:3^{xxxvii}. The heavenly temple was opened to reveal the ark of the covenant after the seventh trumpet had been blown in 11:19^{xxxviii}. Now in verse five John sees the tabernacle opened as the seven angels prepare to pour out the seven vials of wrath. This indicates that they are coming from the presence of God who is completely just in all He does.

In Exodus the ten commandments were referred to as the testimony (Exodus 16:34^{xxxix}; 25:21^{xl}; 27:21^{xli}). They were God’s code of right living. On top of the ark of the covenant was the lid called the mercy seat. The blood of the substitutionary animals was placed between our holy God, whose presence in the form of a ball of light hovered above the mercy seat, and the law within which condemns us. Jesus’ blood was placed on the mercy seat in heaven (Hebrews 9:24-26^{xlii}). But those who reject the blood of Jesus on their behalf have nothing to come between the Judge of all the earth and His laws.

⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. Revelation 15:6 The seven angels are clothed like the Son of God in chapter one in pure bright linen and golden sashes (1:13^{xliii}). Their dress represents their holy service to God. They come out from the presence of God to deliver His justice. The failures of man ruling the earth and the horror that sin has caused are about to reap what they have sown.

⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever; ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished. Revelation 15:7,8 One of the four living creatures, a seraph, brings the angels seven bowls of the wrath of eternal God (14:10^{xliv}). The fact that the bowls are delivered by one of those beings closest to God is an added emphasis that this justice is God’s perfect will. Seven implies completion, the wrath of God will be complete. (Compare with Leviticus 26:21-31.) Nothing will be held back. Unlike the seals and trumpets, the bowls affect the entire earth. We saw the bowls in 5:8^{xlv} which were filled with the prayers of the saints. Now they are filled with the answer to those prayers for justice!

Just as the earthly tabernacle was filled with a cloud of glory at the dedication (Exodus 40:34-38^{xlvi}), so now the sanctuary in heaven is filled with the smoke of the glory of God and from His power. When that happened in the dedication of the earthly temple, no one could enter for a time. *God’s presence is so awesome in expressing wrath that not even heavenly beings can stand in his midst.*^{xlvii} Even though it is in response to the cry of the martyrs asking how long until their deaths were avenged^{xlviii}, this is pure

justice upon those who will never turn to God. (Compare with Ezekiel 10:2-4.^{xlix}) Once the earth is purged of evil, God will take up His residence on His holy mountain. ⁹ *They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* Isaiah 11:9

This wrath of which we will read about in the coming weeks should have fallen on us as well, but Jesus took it upon Himself so that we could escape it. We should grieve over the hardness of the hearts of the rebels, but also know that it is exactly what they deserve. Even as the Son of God held out His hand of forgiveness merited by the cross, they slap His hand away and declare that they are their own lord. Jesus did not deserve to drink that cup filled with the just wrath of God, yet He took it upon Himself for our sakes (Luke 22:42). Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

This chapter is just the prelude to the next three chapters. We are going to watch the Brooklyn Tabernacle's rendition of the first four verses. Let it speak to your hearts. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7EnvXfu1DY>

Questions:

- 1 Is mankind generally good?
- 2 How does this third sign relate to the other two?
- 3 Where are we in verse 2?
- 4 How does the Song of Moses relate to this point in Revelation?
- 5 What are some of His great and amazing deeds?
- 6 What is implied by "all nations"?
- 7 Who will fear God?
- 8 Where do the bowls of wrath come from? How do we know?
- 9 On whom does the wrath of God fall?
- 10 What spoke to your heart?

ⁱ **Psalm 5:5 (ESV)**

⁵ The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

ⁱⁱ **James 4:12 (ESV)**

¹² There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

ⁱⁱⁱ **Psalm 14:3 (ESV)**

³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

^{iv} **James 1:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

^v **Matthew 5:21-22 (ESV)**

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

^{vi} **Matthew 5:27-28 (ESV)**

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

^{vii} **Matthew 22:39 (ESV)**

³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

viii **Romans 5:12 (ESV)**

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

ix **Romans 6:23 (ESV)**

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

x **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

xi **Revelation 12:1 (ESV)**

¹ And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

xii **Revelation 12:3 (ESV)**

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

xiii **Revelation 14:6-11 (ESV)**

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water." ⁸ Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality." ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

xiv **Revelation 20:11-12 (ESV)**

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

xv **Revelation 6:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

xvi **Revelation 16:9 (ESV)**

⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

xvii **Revelation 16:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

xviii **Revelation 16:21 (ESV)**

²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

xix **Psalms 30:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

xx **Psalms 33:2 (ESV)**

² Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

xxi **Romans 1:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

xxii **Revelation 4:6 (ESV)**

⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

xxiii **Revelation 14:2 (ESV)**

² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,

^{xxiv} **Revelation 7:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

^{xxv} **Revelation 13:8 (ESV)**

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

^{xxvi} **Revelation 12:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

^{xxvii} **Revelation 14:2 (ESV)**

² And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps,

^{xxviii} **Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—

^{xxix} **Exodus 12:13 (ESV)**

¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

^{xxx} **Exodus 14:28 (ESV)**

²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained.

^{xxxi} **Revelation 22:17 (ESV)**

¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

^{xxxii} **Psalms 89:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them.

^{xxxiii} **Psalms 19:1 (ESV)**

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

^{xxxiv} **Deuteronomy 32:8 (ESV)**

⁸ When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.

^{xxxv} **Psalms 86:9-10 (ESV)**

⁹ All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

^{xxxvi} **Jeremiah 10:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you.

^{xxxvii} **Revelation 8:3 (ESV)**

³ And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,

^{xxxviii} **Revelation 11:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

^{xxxix} **Exodus 16:34 (ESV)**

³⁴ As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the testimony to be kept.

^{xl} **Exodus 25:21 (ESV)**

²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.

^{xli} **Exodus 27:21 (ESV)**

²¹ In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.

^{xlii} **Hebrews 9:24-26 (ESV)**

²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his

own,

²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

^{xliii} **Revelation 1:13 (ESV)**

¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.

^{xliiv} **Revelation 14:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

^{xlv} **Revelation 5:8 (ESV)**

⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

^{xlvi} **Exodus 40:34-38 (ESV)**

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷ But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

^{xlvii} G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 807.

^{xlviii} This connection is confirmed by the verbal similarity between the "*golden bowls full of God's wrath*" and the "*golden bowls full of incense*" representing the saints' prayers in 5:8

^{xlix} **Ezekiel 10:2-4 (ESV)**

² And he said to the man clothed in linen, "Go in among the whirling wheels underneath the cherubim. Fill your hands with burning coals from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city." And he went in before my eyes. ³ Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the house, when the man went in, and a cloud filled the inner court. ⁴ And the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub to the threshold of the house, and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was filled with the brightness of the glory of the LORD.

^l **Luke 22:42 (ESV)**

⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."