

THE HEAVENLY PREPARATION FOR JUDGMENT

Rev. 15:1-8

Study #34

Introduction: The seventh trumpet now blasts forth its judgments and they will come fast and furious because God has decided to end human history. Jesus Christ will destroy all the ungodly and evil of this world quickly. The tribulation will last seven years but is divided into two periods. Three and one half years called *the beginning of sorrows* and the last three and one half years are called *the great tribulation*.

-When the tribulation begins, during the first 3 1/2 years there will be seven seal judgments that take place on earth (6:1-7:17)

-When the *great tribulation* itself begins, the final 3 1/2 years there will be seven trumpet judgments that take place on earth (8:1-14:20)

-Then, at the very end of the tribulation period, there will be seven more judgments called the bowl judgments and these will end human history as we know it.

This study is the preparation that will be made for the launch of the judgments that will end all the ungodliness and evil of man upon earth.

I. THE SIGN OF GOD'S JUDGMENT IN HEAVEN

1. The scene in heaven strikes reverence in the human heart:

- What is about to happen brings silence and anticipation.
- Seven mighty angels are about to go forth for God. -
- Seven last plagues are ready to be poured upon earth. -
- The wrath of God is sensed by all.

II. THE REASON FOR THE JUDGMENT IS THAT BELIEVERS HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED

Literally millions of believers will be slaughtered during the rule of the antichrist.

1. The martyred believers will stand on a sea of flaming glass-like surface.
2. The martyred believers will have been victorious over the antichrist for they:
 - never worshipped his image - never received his mark - were never numbered among his followers.
 - True believers will not follow the antichrist. They will be slaughtered by the millions.

3. The martyred believers will possess harps. Instruments of peace and rest.
4. The martyred believers will sing two great songs of victory: the song of the Lamb and the song Israel sang as they crossed the Jordan into the promised land. (Ex. 15) - They sing to the Almighty God, praising His works. -They sing to the King of saints and nations, to His just ways. -They sing to the Lord, to the fear and glory of His Name. -They sing to the holy and just God, for all nations shall worship Him.
5. A note of reminder: To be up in heaven, one must stand up for Christ down here.

III THE JUDGMENT OF GOD WILL BE SENT FORTH

1. The door to the most holy place in the Temple in heaven will be opened (where the presence of God dwells.)
2. Seven angels come out from the most holy place and are awesome.
 - They hold the seven plagues in their hands.
 - They are dressed in white, symbol of God's holiness and righteousness.
 - They have gold belts, symbols of royalty and authority and power.
3. They have seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God. No lids, for the contents are to be emptied quickly and efficiently.
4. The door to heaven and salvation will be closed. No one will be able to enter heaven until the seven judgments are completed. God's grace will end - prayer will not do any good. God's judgment will be falling upon the antichrist and his ungodly and evil followers.

CONCLUSION

1. God's patience and offer of salvation is going to come to an end.
2. Up until the very last second during tribulation times, God will accept and welcome any and all who call upon the name of His Son Jesus.
3. Once these seven angels emerge from the Holy of Holies, the presence of God, with their bowls of judgments, all is over for the salvation of those on earth.
4. Total slaughter will come upon every single unbeliever on earth.
5. Now is the time for us to be busy telling what we know is coming.