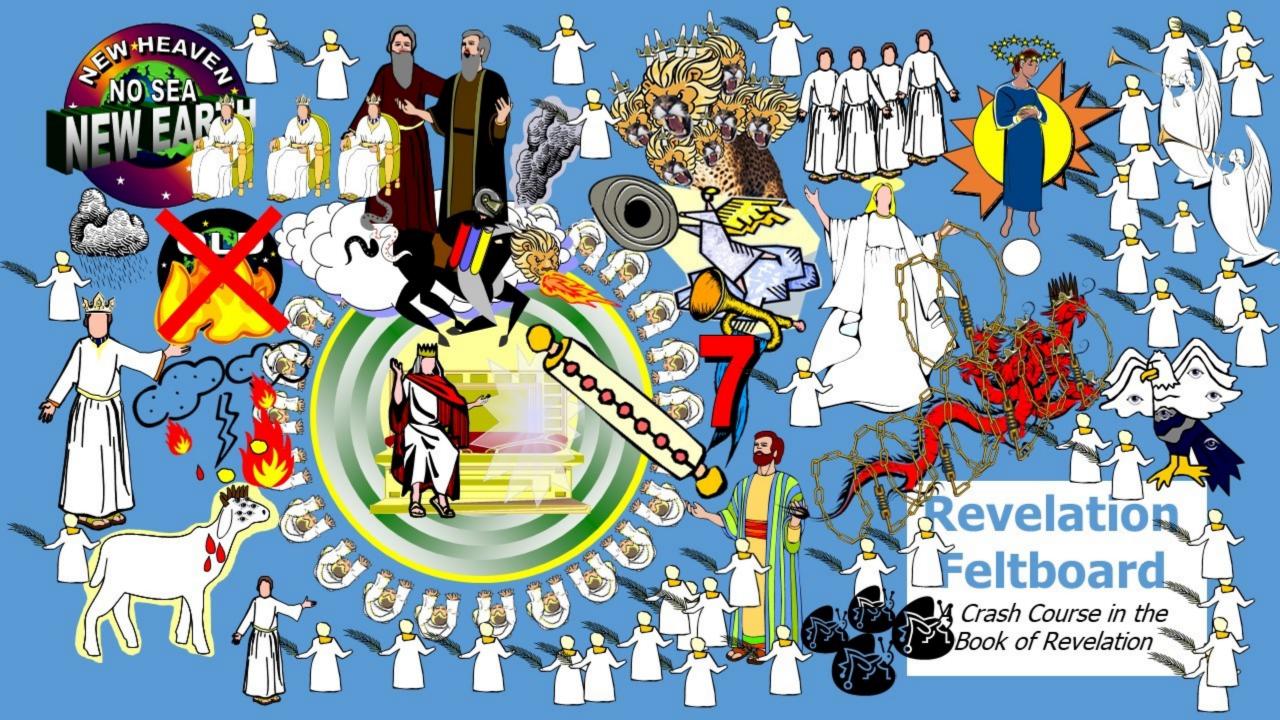
### "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! (Revelation 15:3)

## Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God The LORD is One. Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.





<sup>1</sup> Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

<sup>2</sup> And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. <sup>3</sup> They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! <sup>4</sup> Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

 <sup>5</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.
 <sup>6</sup> And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. <sup>7</sup> Then 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. <sup>8</sup> The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. <sup>1</sup> Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. "Then I saw another sign in heaven..." 7 such signs in Revelation, connect /those started in ch 12...

**12:1** woman clothed with the sun (nation of Israel, God's divine plan of redemption)

**12:3** red dragon (God's enemy, opposition to God's plan)



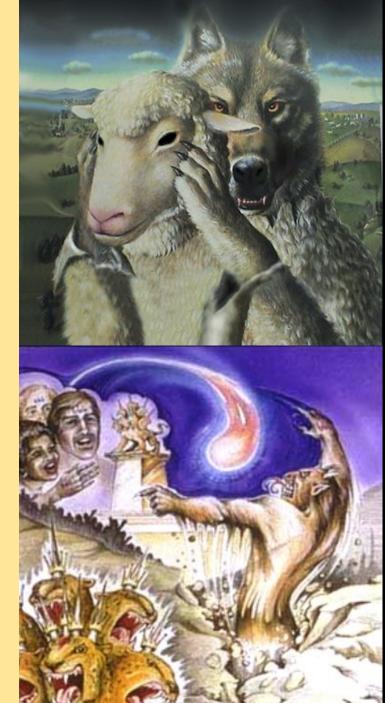
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## **13:13** 2nd Beast (false prophet misleading God's people)

## **13:14** false prophet signs - deceiving God's people



**15:1** 7 angels with 7 last plagues (unraveling of God's wrath)

**16:14** work of demons (deceiving mankind preparing them for final battle)

**19:20** mention of signs of false prophet, just before final doom



- All "signs" = one thing in common: all major players in tribulation, and all point to critical element/event:
- **1. 12:1** Woman (Israel), persecution/protection
- **2.** 12:3 Dragon (Satan), evil, Enemy agenda
- 3. 13:13 Beast from Earth (False Prophet), "unholy Trinity," massive deception to "inhabitants of earth" A sort of "summary?
- 4. 13:14 More deception (by "signs")
- 5. 15:1 7 angels with 7 plagues, angels facilitating everything in Tribulation, judgments, final wrath
- 6. 16:14 Work of demons (like frogs), demonic activity sponsoring/promoting more deception
- 7. 19:20 Beast and False prophet captured, only a mention of signs (by false prophet), defeat of enemy

- "Great and marvelous" = "mega kai thaumaston" ONLY place these words used together entire NT. Indicates angels with their plagues are wonderfilled, will produce astonishment (not a pleasant wonder!)
- Last set of judgments, "Bowl" or "Vial" judgments, also called 7 last plagues, imminent. 7 angels who will dispense these plagues standing ready.
- These plagues are completion/finishing of God's wrath, all judgments will be poured out.

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#### **Revelation 15**

<sup>2</sup> And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.

- Sea of glass <u>only mentioned in Revelation</u>, first in ch 4 around Throne of God: *"Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal."* (4:6), and here in ch 15.
- John trying to describe something never seen before. Most likely not an actual "sea" but vast expanse that appears like glass. (phrase "like glass" describes a calm, peaceful sea.) "Sea" may have additional implication (more in a moment!)
- Saints standing ON it, not next to it (note "something like" in description.)

- Sea of glass may be representative of God's vastness and holiness. Here <u>mixed with fire</u>, symbol of judgment (or testing, refinement).
- This "sea" surrounds throne of God. With fire mixed here, perhaps representative of holiness of God, <u>transferred to us by the covering blood of Yeshua</u>, which rescues us from judgment.
- Saints <u>STANDING on sea</u>. Standing on holiness of God himself. <u>ONLY thing we have to stand on!</u>
- Some believe this sea represents "molten sea" of Solomon's Temple. Perhaps.

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- Tabernacle built by Moses, <u>God prescribed a laver</u>, (washing basin), for priests.
- Not told dimensions.
- Where priests wash feet/hands before entering Tabernacle/Temple.
   Between bronze altar and entrance to holy place.
- When Solomon built
   permanent Temple, <u>made</u>
   <u>laver HUGE</u>!



## No pictures but have dimensions. Big!

#### Outside diameter = 10 cubits (~15 ft)

#### (2 Chronicles 4:2-6, 1 Kings 7:23-26)

Inside Circumference = 30 Cubits



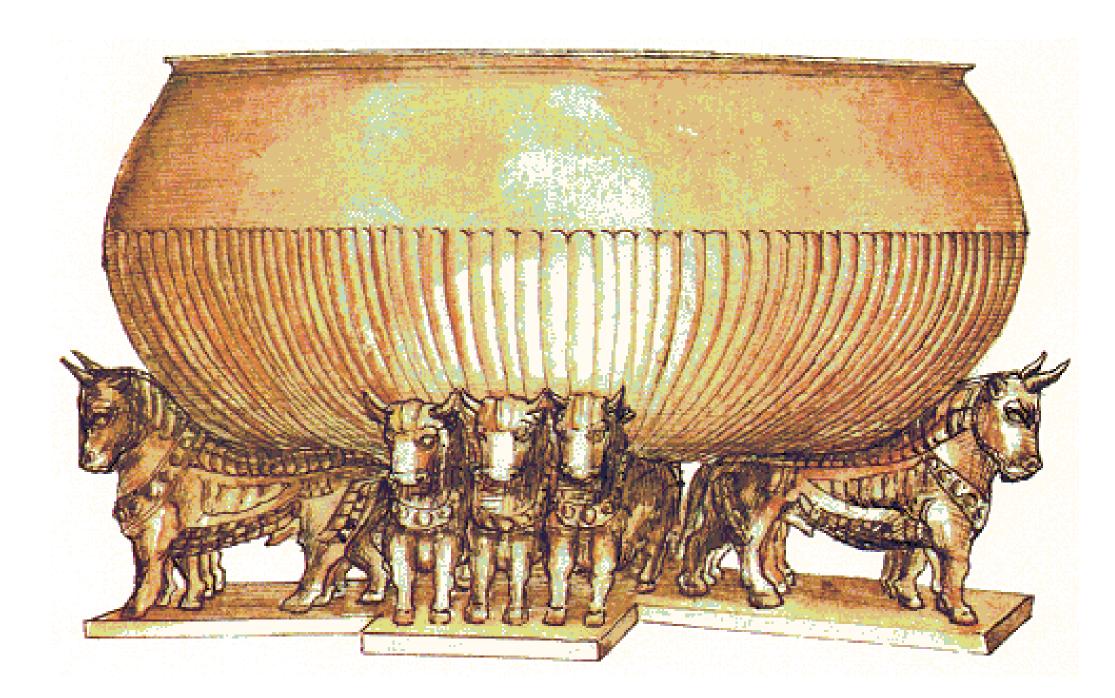
Rim thickness = handbreadth Approx. 0.225 cubits (~4" thick)

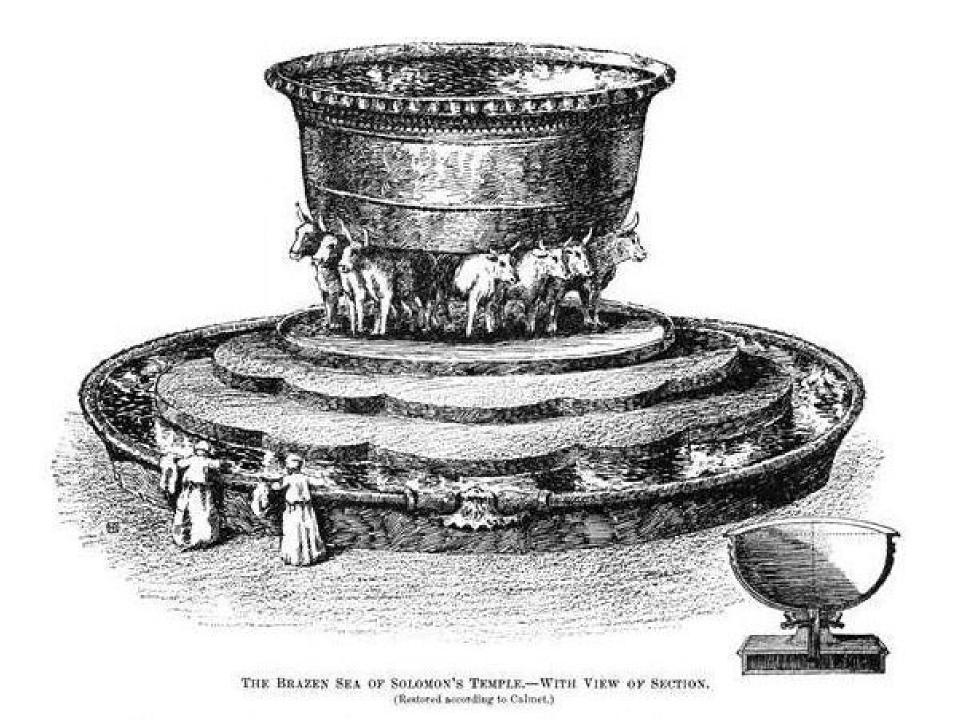
Height = 5 cubits (~7 ½ feet)





- Don't know exact configuration, except dimensions, materials and what it sat on.
- All kinds of speculation and artistic renditions of what might have looked like.
- Very large, spectacular, like everything else in Solomon's Temple.





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Some believe "sea of bronze" ["molten sea"] (cast from bronze, heated to very high temps until molten) is spiritually symbolic, and ma be what sea of glass represents. (Cleansing through refinement process)

SEE.

Isaiah 55:1

John 4:14,15:3

**Hebrews 10:22** 

- Guarded access to temple. Picture of our access to God through His provision for cleansing.
- Before "sea," altar of sacrifice. Ultimate sacrifice on cross, no further sacrifices needed.
- Brass/bronze, symbolic for judgment.
- Made by fire, appearance of fire. May Ephesians 5:25-27 represent both judgment, and trials of saints here. Concept of refinement by fire. **Revelation 21:6**
- We are cleansed by Word of God, through confession and repentance, before approaching His sanctuary. "Water" = cleansing power of God's Word.

- "those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name..." clear reference to tribulation saints who did not take the mark, have not worshipped beast.
- If here, before Throne of God, <u>are in heaven</u>. Seems to indicate martyred for faithful stand for God.
- "Having harps of God" Harps mentioned 3X in Revelation. Redeemed!
- Must be standard issue in heaven! Elders in chapters 4 and 5 had harps as well (Church). Tribulation saints now join in unceasing praise song of redeemed.



- Harps associated with praise, representative of God's saving grace.
- Also considered <u>Hebrew</u> <u>national instrument</u>.
- Sound of the harp is sweet, clear, crisp and touches the soul – just like God's grace and mercy, and His incredible provision for our safekeeping with Him. What is celebrated here.

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<sup>3</sup> They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying:



"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, **O** King of the saints! <sup>4</sup>Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."

אלוהים אדירים Adonai El Shaddai



- Like Israelites who stood on shore after crossing Red Sea, overcomers also now sing Song of Moses (Exodus 15:1-21), which was to celebrate <u>deliverance from</u> <u>Egyptians</u>.
- Song of Moses combined with Song of the Lamb, to celebrate <u>deliverance of Tribulation saints from the</u> <u>beast</u>, into Promised Land of heaven.

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#### Exodus 15

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! <sup>2</sup> The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him. <sup>3</sup> The Lord is a man of war; The Lord is His name.

<sup>4</sup> Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. <sup>5</sup> The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.

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#### Exodus 15

<sup>6</sup> "Your right hand, O LORD, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O LORD, has dashed the enemy in pieces. <sup>7</sup> And in the greatness of Your excellence You have overthrown those who rose against You; You sent forth Your wrath; It consumed them like stubble. <sup>8</sup> And with the blast of Your nostrils The waters were gathered together; The floods stood upright like a heap; The depths congealed in the heart of the sea. <sup>9</sup> The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; My desire shall be satisfied on them. I will draw my sword, My hand shall destroy them.' <sup>10</sup> You blew with Your wind, The sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

#### Exodus 15

<sup>11</sup> "Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? <sup>12</sup> You stretched out Your right hand; The earth swallowed them. <sup>13</sup> You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation. <sup>14</sup> "The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants of Philistia. <sup>15</sup> Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab, Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.

#### Exodus 15

<sup>16</sup> Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over Whom You have purchased. <sup>17</sup> You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In the place, O LORD, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. <sup>18</sup> "The LORD shall reign forever and ever." <sup>19</sup> For the horses of Pharaoh went with his chariots and his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.



- Both <u>celebrate</u> <u>deliverance</u>, both <u>celebrate</u> goodness and <u>strength of God</u> <u>Almighty</u>. He delivers His people!
- He delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery and pursuit. He delivered tribulation saints (and all saints) from eternal separation from God.

- Every Jew knows Song of Moses (Exodus 15). Sung at Sabbath evening services, followed by a prayer: "True it is that Thou art Yehovah our God, and the God of our fathers, our King, and the King of our fathers, our Savior, and the Savior of our fathers, our help and our deliverer. Thy name is from everlasting, and there is no God beside Thee. A new song did they that were delivered sing to Thy name by the sea shore; together did all praise thee King, and say, Yehovah shall reign, world without end! Blessed be the Lord who saveth Israel!"
- All believers now sing this song, pray this prayer. May also be reference to saved Jews who know this prayer!

- Entire Exodus story real event in history, *but also stands as a type for a* greater, more marvelous deliverance.
- Could assign roles to characters here: Pharaoh = antichrist Egypt = world system, bondage (sin), deception, death Moses = greatest Deliverer, Yeshua Promised Land = Heaven, presence with God
- Moses led God's people out of slavery to Promised Land, <u>but only physically</u>. Jesus, the Lamb, leads God's people out of spiritual slavery into ultimate Promised Land, heaven.
- Moses and Jesus frequently compared in NT, Jesus always said to be "greater."

- Song composed almost entirely of OT references: **Exodus 15:14** Leviticus 11:44 **Deuteronomy 32:3-4** Psalm 86:8-10, 145:17 Isaiah 66:23
- <u>Song all about God</u>, not achievements of victorious ones. All glory belongs to Him!



Commentator (R. H. Charles) said "In the perfect vision of God, self is wholly forgotten." Amen! **COMMENTARY: (H.B. Swete):** "In the presence of God the martyrs forget themselves; their thoughts are absorbed by the new wonders that surround them; the glory of God and the mighty scheme of things in which their own sufferings form an infinitesimal part are opening before them, they begin to see the great issue of the world drama, and we hear the doxology with which they greet their first unclouded vision of God and His works."

- "Great and marvelous are Your works...." First phrase about God's works and ways. Last part about His <u>character</u> (holy).
- "O King of the saints!" Various translations have this as King of the saints, or King of the nations, or King of the Age. Either way, He is King! No one above Him.
- "Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?" Not many in this day. People don't fear God, nor do they glorify His name, aside from His saints.
- Someday <u>they will indeed fear Him</u>. And every knee will bow and every tongue will confess to God. (Romans 14:11)

- *"For all nations shall come and worship before you..."* Not true today, *but will be*. Millennial Kingdom, every nation will come to worship the King on His Throne.
- *"For Your judgments have been manifested."* Literally means *"your righteous acts have been revealed."* God has shown Himself righteous, <u>even in His wrath</u>. All of His ways are revealed to man, eventually, AND THE REDEEMED REJOICE!

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# <sup>5</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.

**Revelation 15:5** 

- Very sudden mood and scene change.
- Shift occurring here (joyful to somber), as <u>last</u> judgments prepared to be poured out.
- No one can stand against, or defy, the law of God, or His will. His wrath will continue as prophesied, until it is complete.
- Note again *"behold."* Listen up, pay attention, something big is coming.
- "...the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven..." This temple in heaven. Not earthly tabernacle/temple.



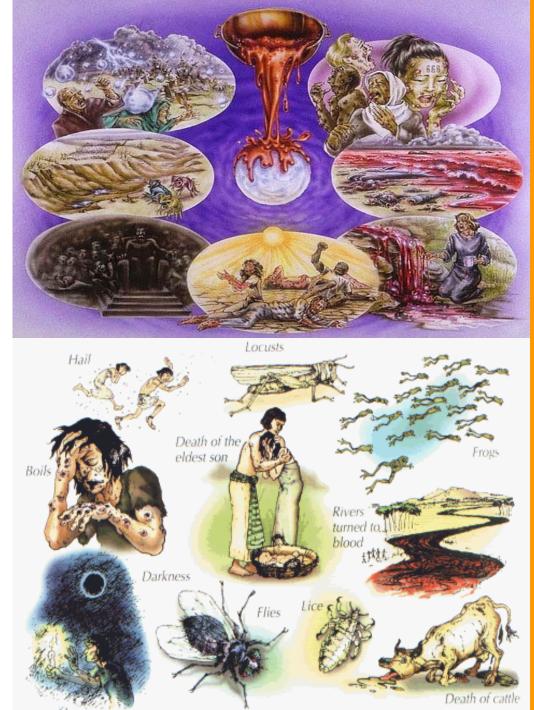
- Gr. <u>temple</u> = *naos*, not word for overall temple, but for most sacred place, Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies).
- *"Tabernacle of the testimony"* = Ark of the Covenant (literally means "dwelling place of the witness").
- Temple mentioned 15 X in Revelation, but <u>only after</u> <u>chapter 4</u>. Earthly temple only replica of one in heaven (see Exodus 25:40; Hebrews 9:23).

<sup>6</sup> And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

- Now, coming from Most Holy Place (very Presence of God) seven angels bearing last seven plagues (literally, calamities).
- Clothing mentioned, pure bright linen, with golden bands across chests. *Royal service to the King?* Brightness <u>reflects glory of God</u>.
- Some believe these are "angels of the Presence," those who spend eternity in presence of Elohim.
- Referenced in *pseudopigraphal* writings, with names, but not found in Canon. Tradition and extra-Biblical writings <u>may or may not be true</u>.

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- These angels, and plagues, authorized by God Himself.
   Even in wrath, God is holy.
- Many attempt to symbolize these plagues.
   Must understand these are literal.
- *Cannot* attempt to make them less than <u>real, literal</u> <u>catastrophes</u>. *(Egypt, plagues real. These are too.)*



<sup>7</sup> Then 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.





- 4 living creatures involved in dispensing God's wrath.
- Chapter 6, give <u>command to</u> <u>"Go!</u>" to each of "horses" of first 4 seal judgments.
- May be appropriate, as living creatures may be understood as representing ALL God's creation.
- Judgments are given against the creation, corrupted since the Fall.

- <u>All creation under God's authority</u> and does His bidding.
- Egypt worshipped *nature*, the creation, rather than Creator, so Elohim used gods of Egypt against them. Same true here.
- Man today also worships the creation, and himself, and God will use it against him.
- Everything mankind looks to for security will crumble before their eyes.

- Golden bowls also "vials" from Greek phiale = "broad, shallow cup." Broad, flat bowl, similar to those used to carry incense.
- Instead of incense, however, now these bowls carry wrath.
- Because bowls carry "wrath of God," many believe Paul's statements in 1 Thessalonians (1:10, 5:9) indicate believers are NOT subject to bowl judgments, or removed prior. (Pre-Trib or Mid-Trib "catching away" belief)



**DEBATE:** Is "wrath" in these verses God's wrath in Tribulation judgments, or His wrath against unbelievers eventually separated eternally from Him?

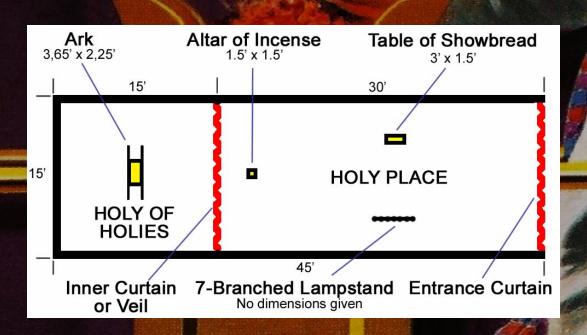
"...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who <u>delivers us from the wrath</u> to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with *Him.* (1 Thessalonians 5:9-10)

<sup>8</sup> The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed.

 Altar of incense directly before veil and entry to Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies).

 Purpose, to fill tabernacle with smoke so view of God's seat of mercy obscured, so priests would not die in His presence.



 Smoke also represents glory of God. Exodus 19 (note similarities in this book to story in Exodus!) smoke surrounded mountain of God, where He spoke to Moses. **Smoke acted to obscure** glory of God so man did not die in His presence.





Same thing in chapters 4 and 5. **God's Word perfectly consistent.**   Reminds of beautiful picture in Isaiah 6, Isaiah's vision of temple, "... I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke." (6:1-4)

### Tabernacle/Temple represents <u>God's desire for</u> <u>fellowship with mankind</u>.

- **Conditions**: Must be "covered" so sins not seen. Law enabled fellowship under a covering.
- Temple associated with <u>Law and judgment</u> in Revelation. Law demands *totally righteous behavior*.
- Our inability to meet Law is <u>covered only by blood of</u> <u>Jesus</u>. Abide under His covering, immune from judgment, and able to fellowship with God.
- If not, are under Law, will be judged by Law, and suffer penalty of Law – <u>eternal separation from Him</u>.

- In New Jerusalem, Temple does not exist because old order of things (Law and its requirements) gone.
- Provision already made for our fellowship with Him.
- On earth, Temple was God's dwelling place with man. In New Jerusalem God and the Lamb (Jesus) are the temple (chapter 21) and make their dwelling place WITH man.



- "...no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed." God's dwelling place is holy, during final execution of His wrath no one can enter.
- God's work alone, not man's, not enemy's. <u>Wrath, but</u> <u>holy wrath</u>.
- Mankind has no part in the price God paid for His redeemed, or His wrath on unrepentant. God is alone in His payment for sins of mankind, and <u>alone in</u> <u>delivering holy wrath for sin</u>.
- He is ALONE ("echad") in His power and plan. HE IS SOVEREIGN.

### God is alone in His provision of salvation, and alone in His judgment and wrath. Reminds of Isaiah 63:

Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." <sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

<sup>4</sup> For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. <sup>5</sup> I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. <sup>6</sup> I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth." (Isaiah 63:1-6)



Reminds of Shema...

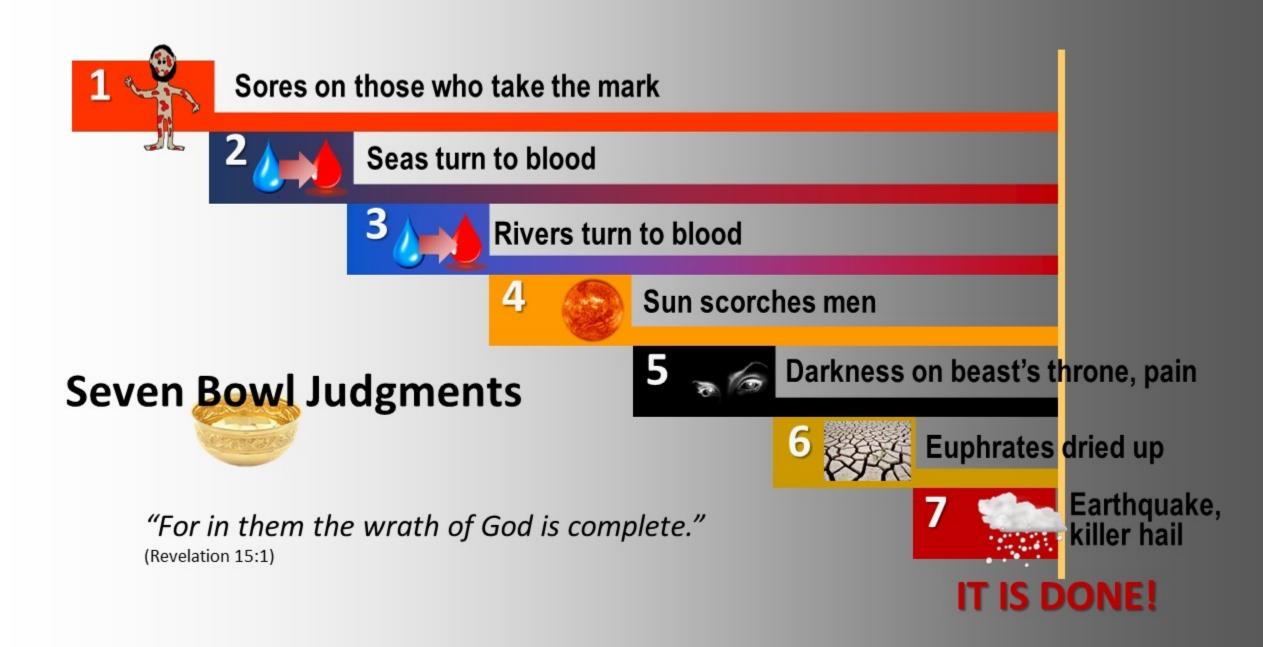
Sh'ma Yisrael YHWH Eloheinu Hear, O Israel: Yehovah (YHVH) is our God YHWH Echad Yehovah (YHVH) is One.

also correctly translated Yahweh is ALONE.

There is no one above Him, or beside Him. He Is SOVEREIGN! In salvation, and in wrath!

- Seven = perfectly complete. God's holy wrath complete (15:1) with pouring out of final seven plagues.
- Some say...
  - 7 SEALS **REVEAL** God's wrath,
  - 7 TRUMPETS <u>ANNOUNCE</u> God's wrath
  - 7 BOWLS <u>EXECUTE</u> God's wrath
- However, judgments found in all 3 sets. 7 seals on ¼ part of earth. 7 trumpets on 1/3 of remaining, 7 bowls on ALL of earth.
- But climax still to come.

THE INTERLUDE BEFORE THE FINAL JUDGMENTS IS **NOW OVER.** THE 7 PLAGUES WILL BE **POURED OUT NEXT.** 



## Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

#### Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

# Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.