

Revelation 15: 1-8

- A. Sign—7 angels—symbolic portrayal of judgments; pouring out bowls is a symbol.
1. Bowls begin John's final sequence of judgments.
 2. Bowls of divine anger—same Greek word used for the prayer bowls used by the saints (5:8).
 3. Cup—of God's anger (14:8)—in response to the worship of the faithful saints.—God hears their cry for vindication.
 4. Victorious—Faithful who have overcome the power of evil by way of the cross. —THEY HAVE REFUSED TO COMPROMISE!—this is the same group who portrayed God's conquering army in 14:1-5.
 5. "Sea of Glass"—representative of the heavenly temple. "Mixed with Fire"—these saints have overcome the lake of fire (19:20).
 6. Harpists glorifying God in song—recalling 14:2—"New song" of victory; New Exodus—saints celebrating the victory—have been delivered and now standing as conquerors on the sea of glass and fire.
 7. "King of the ages or King of the nations"—eternal King—fits context of God as Alpha and Omega (1:8)—will reign forever (11:15)—king of the nations also fits context—God has triumphed over the nations as he triumphed over Egypt in the Exodus and the nations now come to worship him (15:4).
 8. White—symbolic of purity—only those who are pure were allowed in the temple.
 9. Smoke filling the temple—no one could enter in the temple when the Spirit of God was so strong—Ex. 40:35

Food for thought:

1. God's Wrath— Are these bowls, the bowls of wrath that Paul promised believers deliverance through sharing Christ's resurrection (I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9)? Does wrath in this context mean present wrath or on-going wrath?
2. Spiritual Warfare and overcoming—it's a difficult message to hear—we overcome by being physically defeated—those who are faithful to Christ will be raised with him in glory. For the Church and believers have nothing to fear—for Christ endures forever.
3. Praising God—the song in Revelation 15 reminds us that we must praise God for his deliverance and acknowledge his greatness (15:3-4).
4. The bowls—The bowls serve as reminders to the world and serve as wake-up calls to the world. Such judgments thus serve as a foretaste of the final Day of Judgment, to warn people to get ready for it before it is too late (9:20-21; 16:9).