

INTRODUCTION

1. Rm 1:18 Paul speaks of that wrath that Jn describes apocalyptically: Rv 15:1-8
 - i. v2-4 = worship of church triumphant - future [yet relevant to our worship]
 - ii. v1 & 5-8 - heavenly backdrop of present wrath on earth
2. Review the literary structure: cycles depicting the Church-Age leading to the return of Christ. Already & Not-Yet tension. "See" this heavenly scene.

1st: The Temple - v5

1. Allusion to OT Exodus: Red Sea, song of victory -> OCov. God of Sinai comes to dwell w. His people in wilderness: tabernacle - Holy Place & Holy of Holies w/ Ark of Covenant. Later temple: outer court.
2. *Temple of the tabernacle of testimony* - focus on Holy of Holies & ark of cov.
 - i. Mercy seat, propitiation seat: blood of lamb - Day of Atonement.
 - ii. In the ark - jar of manna, Aaron's rod & 2 tables of 10c [1Kg 8:9]. The throne of YHWH: King of Israel, wrath propitiated by cultus. [Exo 25:22]
 - iii. The *testimony* = 10c. [Exo 31:18; 32:15].
3. The *testimony* = "witness. God's throne in court room & 10c = witnesses to men's sin as violations of God's Law [1Jn 3:4].
4. Rv 11:19 wrath revealed in present & future = wrath for lawbreakers.

2nd: The Angels - v6

1. 7 angels - 7 bowls - 7 *plagues* of wrath -> chpt 16: pour out bowls.
2. *plagues* echoes Exodus: 10 plagues. Here 7 plagues - Lev 26. Warns of apostasy 4x & threatens 7fold punishment - Lev 26:21.
3. Angels uniform recalls Jesus in Rv 1:13. Priestly King. Angels authorized to execute jdgmnt - dressed in uniform of the King Himself.

3rd: The Bowls - v7

1. *One of the 4 living creatures*: seen in 6:1 & chpts 5, 7 & 14; 1st intro'd in chpt 4 worshipping God as Creator: *God who lives forever & ever* = Creator.
2. Bowls = equipment of priests - assoc'd w/ prayers of saints.
 - i. Rv 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5
 - ii. 15:7, altar is explicit but implied [temple, bowls]. Explicit in 16:7.
 - iii. Jdgmnt & our *witness* - Rv 11:5-6. *Temple of tabernacle of witness*: 10c
3. *Wrath of "God who lives forever & ever"*: Creator. Rv 4:9-11; Rv 10:6 cites Ex 20:11 = IVth c - Sabbath.
4. Connect dots: Creator - wrath - law - witness - Sabbath.

4th: The Smoke - v8

1. Smoke/cloud => arrival of God. Exo 40:34-35. Lev [1Kg 8:10-11; Isa 6].
2. Earth-dwellers: no admission 1T 6:15b-16 unapproachable: Hb 12:28-28
3. *finished* - inclusio w/ v1. Conclude revelation of wrath in history: this age. Each cycle delves deeper into reality of jdgmnt. W/ bowls, what Gos has to say re: His present wrath is *finished*. Next up: in 6th cycle: Jdgmnt

Applic #1: We Are Given Admission into God's Temple in Union with Christ

1. What a sober privilege we have! The blood of the Lamb is our propitiation in the Holy of Holies of God's heavenly temple. We experience our salvation in worship & then witness to our Savior & overcome in the war.
2. The law directs our love to God & neighbor - Rm 3:31.

Applic #2: People Outside of Christ Need to Hear About the Wrath of God

1. Today, the day of salvation, is set in context of revelation of God's wrath. JnB: flee from wrath of God! Is this what we are telling unsaved people?