Revelation 15:1-16:11

* The beginning of the third and last vision of events on earth.
* Seven censer angels
  + Initially are the sign and yet introduce the signs of the plagues of God’s anger
  + Can we identify these angels with the prior angels of the seven churches (ch. 2-3) or the angels of the trumpets (8:1-6)?
    - John does not use the word “another” or “other”
    - What is important is that these angels are to show God’s wrath and judgement against His enemies.
* The Battlefield (15:2)
  + Glassy sea with fire
    - Reminiscent of 4:6
    - Here the fire is a reminder of the persecution and suffering of the church
      * Yet the saints stand victorious
        + Thought not apparent on earth
    - We know who the beast is
      * More than likely the political beast here
* The Victory Song (15:3-4)
  + The Song of Moses
    - Reminiscent of Exodus 15:1-21
      * God brought salvation from their enemies and WILL do in the future
      * Pointed forward to Christ’s deliverance
  + Also known as the Hymn of the Lamb
    - Celebrates the deliverance from the enemy in any suffering at any time on earth
    - Reminder that the Lord is ALWAYS delivering His church
      * Though always defeated by worldly standards, she is also ALWAYS being delivered
      * The mission must go on
    - Emphasis on the Name of Yahweh
      * Psalm 111:1-3
      * Amos 4:13
      * Malachi 1:11
      * Deuteronomy 32:4
    - Righteousness made visible
      * Romans 1:17
      * 2 Corinthians 5:21
      * Standard by which all humans are to live!
        + Romans 2:26
        + Need for Christ!
      * Righteous judgments about to be poured out
        + Call to repentance
* The Tabernacle and Censers (15:5-8)
  + The sanctuary of the temple is in heaven
    - Reference to OT tent, not the temple
      * Tent was God’s dwelling place with His people while wandering
        + Exodus 25:8-9
      * Tent was the focal point of Israel’s life with God
        + Reminds John that because of God’s covenant, His presence is the center of the life of His saints in heaven
      * Hebrews 9:11-12
        + Through the covenant with Christ, God is with His saints on earth
  + Seven angels
    - Clothed
      * Reminiscent of angels at the tomb
        + Matthew 28:3
      * Golden belts indicate honor received by royalty
        + Son of Man’s sash in 1:13
  + Seven censers of fury
    - Isaiah 6:6, Ezekiel 2:9
    - Filled with the anger and judgments of God
      * Angels just dispensers (UPS drivers)
  + Smoke in the sanctuary
    - OT part of God’s awesome and terrifying presence of God
  + Can’t come in
    - Exodus 40:34-35
    - Terrible things about to take place
      * Concealed
* A Great Voice from the Temple (16:1)
  + Since no one can enter, this is the voice of the Lord
  + Isaiah 66:5-6
  + Seven plagues
    - Similar to the ten plagues of Egypt (Exodus 7:14-11:9) and what John saw earlier (Revelation 8:6-9:21 and 11:15-19)
    - Purpose is to move hearts to repentance
    - Here events are intensified in order to portray God’s final warning
      * Example: In chapter 8, only 1/3 was affected. Here, ALL is affected
* Plagues 1-3 (16:2-4)
  + #1
    - Strikes those in opposition to God and His saints, those who worship the beast and bear its mark
    - Grievous and painful sore
      * Boils (Exodus 9:8-12) for a short time
      * Here, it will strike through the time of Christ’s ascension to the end
        + Hit and miss
        + But people will be moved to curse God and each other (Job 2:9)
  + #2
    - Seas to become blood as from a corpse
      * Like from one who has just died
    - Reminiscent of Exodus 7:19-21
      * Fish died and stunk
    - Reminiscent of Revelation 8:8-9
      * 1/3 became blood
    - All earth will be affected
  + #3
    - Rivers of fresh waters affected
      * In 8:10-11 only 1/3, here all
    - No drinking water is safe
      * John 4:13-14
    - Earth will become uninhabitable
* A response (16:5-7)
  + Jewish tradition has angels under God’s authority to be in charge of the elements of creation, dispensing or restraining them at God’s command for punishment or blessing
  + This angel has some authority over the waters
  + Cries out
    - Not in woe but in praise to God’s righteous judgement
      * Call to repentance
      * Isaiah 49:26
      * Matthew 7:2
    - Amen is a resounding yes to Yahweh
* Plagues 4-5 (16:8-11)
  + #4
    - Poured out on the sun to burn people with extreme heat (and no water!)
    - Opposite of 8:12 and partial darkness and cold
    - Doesn’t kill but makes life unbearable
      * And sadly people curse God
        + Acts 4:12
        + Philippians 2:10-11
        + Statements about those who worship the beast

Romans 1:18-32

* + #5
    - Kingdom of the beast becomes darkened
      * Now that which the unrepentant worship is struck
      * Not stated how the judgement of the beast and his kingdom takes place
        + More about the final judgement and destruction of the enemy of God’s people that the world worships.
      * This takes place between Christ’s advents
        + Calls to repent when worldly powers fail
    - Adherents of the beast also suffer
      * Anger only grows towards God
      * Refuse to repent