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