MAIN THOUGHT  Following ONE LAST PREVIEW of victory (1-4), THE LAST PLAGUES (the 7 golden bowls of God’s wrath) are prepared to begin (5-8).

ONE LAST PREVIEW OF VICTORY (1-4).

- Yet another sign (12:1, 3) appeared to John – 7 angels with the seven last plagues which are contained in the 7th trumpet (11:15).
- It had been a long time (HOW LONG? – 6:10) in coming following the long interlude (Rev. 10-14). God’s asks us to be PATIENT (1:9; 13:10; 14:12).
- These are the LAST (21:9) of God’s judgments that completed (prophetic past; 10:7) His wrath (17).
- The SEA OF GLASS (4:6) reminds us of the bronze molten laver (15’ diameter; 11,500 gal.; 7.5’ H; 3” thick walls – 1 Kings 7:23) in front of the heavenly temple. MIXED WITH FIRE is His justice that comes from His holiness (purifying water). Like a mirror, the sea reflects God’s nature and character.
- Standing beside the sea were the martyred tribulation saints (12:11; 17:6).
- They SANG their song of victory with harps by the sea as did Moses (Ex. 15:1), Mariam (Ex. 15:20-21), and all Israel after the 10 plagues delivered them through their sea – the Red Sea.
- God and Jesus (combined in one song) are praised: (1) GREAT (gk=mega) (2) MARVELOUS (Psa. 139:14); (3) AL-MIGHTY (gk=panto [all] krator [ruler]); (4) RIGHTEOUS and TRUE (Dt. 32:4).
- There will be UNIVERSAL recognition of God (Psa. 86:9; Isa. 45:22; Mal. 1:11).

THE LAST PLAGUES BEGIN – THE 7 GOLDEN BOWLS OF GOD’S WRATH (5-8).

- The TEMPLE in heaven, described as the TABERNACLE OF THE TESTIMONY (10 commandments) due to the previous reference to Moses, was opened.
- From the Holy of Holies comes 7 angels with the 7 plagues that begin the final assault upon the rebellion on earth.
- Their CLEAN, SHINING LINEN were indicative of their holiness to represent an all holy God in the Holy of Holies.
- Their GOLDEN SASHES represented their priestly duties (1:13; Lev. 8:7).
- One of the FOUR LIVING CREATURES (4:6) gave to these 7 angels the 7 golden bowls each containing the WRATH OF GOD.
- The WRATH OF GOD is being revealed from heaven today (Rom. 1:18) as people reap what they sow (Gal. 6:7). But it will come full force as predicted (Col. 3:8; 1 Thess. 2:15-16) with the bowls of the tribulation period.
- The SMOKE indicates the presence of God (Ex. 19:18; Isa. 6:4).
- This operation would now take first priority until COMPLETE (10:7; 16:17).