REVELATION: PART 45 · STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 15: The Tabernacle of Testimony Opened

Revelation 15:5–8 | Sunday, May 28 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Because Revelation 15 names the temple in heaven the tabernacle of the testimony, Hal spends most of the message walking through the tabernacle itself to show what that testimony was. He works inward: the fence of acacia posts in their silver sockets, silver being the price of salvation; the one gate; the brazen altar, brass standing for the judgment of sin; the goat skins that made the outside ugly while the beauty was all within. Then the holy place with its single golden candelabrum beaten out of one piece of gold, and the holy of holies with the ark, the cherubim, the shekinah glory and the mercy seat. Inside the ark, three emblems of the sins of mankind — broken tablets, a pot of manna, a rod that budded. Each year the blood satisfied, and the very repetition, he argues from Hebrews, proved the offering could not be the final one. That is the testimony the world refused. Then verses 6 to 8: seven angels dressed as priests, the golden bowls handed over, and the temple filled with smoke that no one may enter.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 15 — The tabernacle of testimony — the scene in heaven, and why God gives it that name

Revelation 15:6 — The seven angels come out of the temple in clean bright linen with golden sashes

Revelation 15:7–8 — The golden bowls given; the temple filled with smoke, and no one able to enter

Revelation 14 — The harvest of salvation, now finished

Hebrews — Come boldly to the throne of grace; a high priest tested in all ways as we are, yet apart from sin

1 John 2 — He is the satisfaction for our sins, and not for ours only but for the sins of the whole world

KEY TERMS

The tabernacle of testimony — the portable dwelling whose whole design testified that there is one way to God, through the sacrifice he appointed

Silver — in the tabernacle, always associated with the price of salvation

Brass — in the tabernacle, always associated with the judgment of sin

The holy of holies — the rear third of the tabernacle, entered by the high priest alone and only once a year

Shekinah glory — the beautiful, multicoloured, multifaceted light that was the manifestation of the presence of God

The mercy seat — the golden throne at the centre of the ark, where the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled

Propitiation — satisfaction — Christ is the satisfaction of God’s justice for our sins, and not for ours only

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. Why does Hal say God always preferred the tabernacle to the temple built in its place?

2. What did the silver sockets under the acacia posts picture?

3. What did a worshipper see first on entering, and what does brass stand for?

4. Why was the outside of the tabernacle ugly?

5. What happened on the day of atonement, and why the rope?

6. How is the golden candelabrum made, and what does it picture?

7. What three emblems were inside the ark, and what did each represent?

8. What did the two cherubim say once the blood was on the mercy seat?

9. What argument does Hal draw out of the sacrifice having to be repeated?

10. Why is the tabernacle of testimony brought into view at this point?

11. What do the clothes of the seven angels tell us about them?

12. What changes once the four living creatures hand over the golden bowls?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. The tabernacle was portable because this world is a place we are passing through. What in your life is built as though you were staying?

2. Everything in the design said there is one way in. Where does that press hardest against how people around you talk about God?

3. The outside was goat skins and the beauty was all inside. Where have you judged something — or someone — by the covering?

4. The high priest went in with a rope around his foot. What has been lost, and what has been gained, now that believers are told to come boldly?

5. Hal calls Christ a defence attorney who never lost a case. What difference does that make on a day when you have failed?

6. The judgments fall because the testimony was refused, not because it was never given. How does that change the way you hear this chapter?

MEMORY VERSE

“He is the satisfaction for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.”

— 1 John 2, as Hal reads it in this message