

Chapter One

The Foundation!

To lay the foundation of our study of Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18, we will begin in the visions which John saw just before he saw Mystery Babylon.

Revelation 15:1 says: *"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God."* Whatever these plagues would be, they would be the last of or the end of God's wrath upon the earth. The prophets wrote many times of the Day of the Lord in which God's wrath would be poured out on the wicked of the earth. It is possible that the pouring out of these seven last vials of plagues would be during the time which the prophets called, the "Day of the Lord," of which we'll see more later in this study.

After John sees the angels with the vials, and before they pour them out, he goes on in **verse 2**: *"And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."* That mark and number of the beast referred to here is, of course, the number "666" given in Revelation 13:18 and referred to again in Revelation 14:9. The number "666" is that of man or of man's rule in opposition to the rule of Jesus Christ. We could use the term "antiChrist" (which, by the way, means both in opposition to Christ and in replacement of Christ). I won't cover the number "666" in this study except to say that it already is in use on a worldwide basis.

For example: textiles being imported from Red China have the number "666"

imprinted upon them. The number "666" is used by the Jews in Palestine as the first three numbers of all license plates issued in Jerusalem. It is also the prefix of the phone numbers of the Israeli government offices. In the United States, the U.S. Treasury Department uses it on publications, which carry a U.S. Treasury agent's badge on the front. The number on the badge is "666." And it is still true today, as was taught by the great men of the Protestant Reformation in Europe, that the title of the Roman Pope in Latin, with each letter's numerical equivalent added, totals "666."

The number "666" is not future; it has been with us for centuries and it is openly used by antiChrist people and organizations in the world today. I think they know exactly what it means. They, also, know that most of the people of the world know nothing about any such number, which was to be an identifying mark of things which were antiChrist.

The people seen in Revelation 15:2 are those who had gotten the victory over the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name; and **verse 3** tells us, *"And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb...."* Two songs are referred to here and the substance of these two songs is then given in the rest of verse 3 and in **verse 4**: *"...saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest."*

These verses contain the promise that all of the people of the earth will ultimately-worship the God of the Bible. However, prior to all coming to worship God Almighty, only the saints who have overcome the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name are shown here as singing praises to God; and they worship Him by singing two songs. The song of the Lamb is quite-obviously what we call the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the preaching and believing in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the redemption of Israel and the salvation of the world.

But what is the song of Moses? We don't hear much preaching about Moses in the churches today; and yet, John saw the overcomers singing what he called the "Song of Moses." In Deuteronomy 32 is found a long passage referred to as the "Song of Moses," which was given to the Israelites by God Almighty through Moses, as a witness against them. (A few years ago, I did a series of eight sermons, each of forty-five minutes in length, on the "Song of Moses" of Deuteronomy 32. Listen to Tapes No. 7215 thru 7217.)

Revelation chapter 15 ends with verses 5-8 as follows: *"And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the*

seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Notice in the last verse that "...no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues [or period of great tribulation] of the seven angels were fulfilled" Some would have you believe that you go to heaven (the temple) as soon as you die and others say that before the great tribulation begins, Jesus will return secretly and take the believers off to heaven (the temple). However, here we are told that "NO MAN" was to enter the temple (whatever and wherever it is) until after all seven plagues had been completed on the earth. Jesus Christ, in **Revelation 3:12**, tells us that he would make overcomers *"....a pillar in the temple of my God"* This is the same temple of God referred to in. Revelation 15:8 into which the overcomers would enter after the seven plagues.
