

Song of Triumph

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Freedom Gala.

II. **Intro:**

A. *From grapes of wrath to bowls of wrath.* Welcome to the shortest ch. in Rev.

1. We have here an Interlude (*L. inter/between, ludus/play*) [something performed during a theater intermission: an orchestral interlude].

2. John gets to listen to a **2 song** interlude...before it all breaks loose. *Moses & the Lamb* come together in *the Song of Triumph*.

III. Slide2 **7 ANGELS W/7 BOWLS (1)**

A. Another Heavenly scene.

B. **Last** - A Promise from God this is the *last* of the series of judgments. *The last plagues to pour on a wicked world.*

C. **Plagues** - The plagues remind us of *the Plagues of Egypt*. ch.16

D. **In them the wrath of God is complete** - That means that His wrath began some time before these judgments.

1. This seems to come against the overlapping theory (occurring simultaneously).

E. **Complete** - Judgments will be *finished*, & He will begin to set up his kingdom.

IV. Slide3 **THE VICTORS VICTORY (2-4)**

A. **Who are these people?** (2)

B. *They are those who have the victory.*

1. Believers from the tribulation who had *overcome* the beast & his system.

C. **Note:** They are *in Heaven*, *not* purgatory. They are *singing*...something which is *impossible* if their *souls were asleep* between physical death & resurrection.

1. They are those who *loved not their lives unto death*. (12:11)

2. They are they whom the world would call **LOSERS**...They were *captured, imprisoned, reviled, hated, some tortured, then put to death.*
- a) Ray Stedman, *The beast thinks he is showing his absolute power, & ridding himself of his enemies. In reality, all he doing is **running a shuttle service to heaven!** He wants to be worshiped, but he's nothing more than **an elevator boy** in God's service, taking saints by the car load up to Glory.*
- b) **So**, they were not *sorry losers*...but *Crowned Victors*.
3. Just as **they** had Victory over the beast, **so we** can have victory over the beast's in our life.
- a) The Flesh beast, the World beast, & devil himself.
- b) Simply *love not your life unto death* (death to SELF)
- (1) Mk.8:35 *For whoever desires to **save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.***
- (a) *Though he will **lose it now**, he will **find** it again in the resurrection of life.*

D. **Slide4 2 SONGS** (3,4)

E. You remember the last song we couldn't listen to (14:3 *Lambs* song). **Like** static on an old am radio where the station wont come in. **But** this SiriusXM station we get to hear clearly

1. **The Song of Moses:**

- a) **Was Moses was the Conductor out front?**
- b) **Background to Moses song?** Israel's redemption from Egypt at the Red Sea.
- c) ***Sinners may not learn from the past; but believers can be encouraged by it.*** www
- d) **Slide5 Look @ the comparisons of the 2 songs:**
- (1) SoM was a song of triumph over Egypt. SoL triumph over Babylon.
- (2) SoM told how God brought his people out. SoL tells how God brings His people in.
- (3) SoM was the 1st song in scripture. SoL is the last one.
- (4) SoM commemorated the execution of the foe, the expectation of the saints, & the exaltation of the Lord. SoL Ditto
- (5) SoM was sung by a redeemed people. SoL Ditto.

(6) Both songs looked back to *the Blood of a Lamb*.

2. **The Song of the Lamb:**

3. **Note:** There is not ONE word about *the martyr's* own achievements.

a) *Not...Oh Lord, how faithful we have been to you...How true we have been to your word...How patiently we have endured.*

b) The only pronouns refer to God. (You, Your)

4. They Praise Him for **His Works & His Ways**.

a) Ps.145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.*

5. Can you praise Him for His ways when they're not your ways?

6. Can you trust His ways when they are not your ways?

a) Trust Him with your very life.

b) Ps 56:3 says, *Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.* Spurgeon called that going to heaven in 3rd class. 1st class is Is.12:2, *I will trust and not be afraid.* Trust Him in **all** His works & ways.

V. Slide6 **SMOKE SCREEN (5-8)**

A. (5) A New vision opens & John escorts us to *the Holy of Holies* in Heaven.

B. We have here *the commissioning* of the outpouring of the plagues.

1. Probably are coming from here (H.o.H.) to speak of His Holiness...*His Righteous judgments.*

C. Slide7 (7) **Bowls** = *phiale* (fee-ALL-A) deep saucer/incense bowl. An offering bowl, a broad shallow bowl, especially for making offerings.

1. They contain the **White-Hot Wrath & Holy Anger of God.**

D. Think of where these Angels are *coming from & going to.*

1. **From:** the heavenly Temple's Holiest site, supreme headquarters, from God's pure presence.

2. **To:** face a world that has reached its climax of its *wickedness.*

a) Gen.6:5 *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

- E. **Slide8a** (8) Here's where I think we got the term *Holy Smoke*. (or from *Robin* on Batman, c.1960's)
- F. Until the bowls are poured out, no one can enter the Temple because of the **smoke**.
1. This smoke alludes to the **theophany** at Sinai. Which is an appearance of God that people can discern - not all appearances of God are recognized by people. [theos = *god*, phaino = *to appear*/be revealed]
 2. Since people cannot possibly process God's nature as a disembodied, formless spirit, **theophany** allows God to make His presence known in a physical way that people can discern through their senses. Theophanies also address the problem in the OT that people cannot withstand direct contact with the unfiltered divine presence. **Theophany** both protects people, and allows for contact with God.
 3. **Theophanies** in the OT occur when God **takes form** in the natural world, as a phenomena (like wind, spirit, or the burning bush) or when God takes human form (like the Angel of Yahweh).
 4. **Slide8b** Like in Ex.19:18 *Now Mount Sinai was completely in **smoke**, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.*
 5. Like in Is.6:3,4 *And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with **smoke**.*
 - a) Where do we tell our children the safest place in the house is during earthquakes? (The door ways) **And here, even the posts will shake.**
 6. We have here the deepest insight on **the Holiness of God**.
- G. John Phillips said, *Since Calvary, the way into the Holiest in heaven has been opened to all, because the blood of Christ has blazed a highway to the heart of God. Bright glory burns w/in the temple, filling it w/smoke & standing guard at its door...now for a brief spell the **Royal Road** is barred.*
1. **Barred to whom?** It says, *no one can enter. Does it mean....no one on earth can pray? Or, no one can enter the place of intercession to advert these judgments (i.e. **it's too late!**)*

H. Slide9a END:

- I. Is this a true statement, *Love the sinner but hate the sin*? Or some have phrased it, *Hate the sin, love the sinner*.
1. Slide9b Did Jesus say that? No. Actually *Mahatma Gandhi* did in his autobiography in 1929.
 2. Imagine me saying to you...*I love you...I hate the way you treat your spouse, verbally abuse your kids, and are a slacker at work....but I love YOU.*
 - a) You really can't separate out the 2.
 - b) Sin isn't only something you **do** but something you **are**.
 - c) And God doesn't send **sin** to hell, but **sinner**s.
- J. The Bible talks a lot about the wrath of God.
1. Actually it talks more about His **wrath** then it does His **love**. [*Read* Ps.5:5b,6]
 2. God **loves** all that is right & good. He **hates** all that is opposed to His moral character.
 3. God's wrath directed against **sin** is therefore closely related to **God's holiness & justice**. [God has a *holy hatred* towards sin, *as should we*]
 4. Slide9c This is not only an OT thing but in the same NT chapter where He expresses His *love for the world* Jesus states, *He who believes in the son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides upon him*. Jn.3:36 [*abides/meno* - to continue a certain state, condition or activity]
 5. Ask this, what would God be like if He were a God that **did not** hate sin?
 - a) He would then be a God who either *delighted in sin* or at least was *not troubled by it*. Such a God would not be worthy of our worship. It is in fact a virtue to hate evil & sin.

K. Slide10 The Good News:

1. Jesus bore the wrath of God that was due to our sin, in order that we might be saved.
2. Eph.2:3 Paul explains we *were by nature children of wrath, just as the others*.

3. 1 Thes.1:10 *even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*
4. Brian it's confusing...*Does God hate sin? yes, look at the cross. Does God love sinners? yes, look at the cross.*
 - a) *Love covers a multitude of sin...*now that's in the bible!