66-Revelation – 17-Transcript welcome back to Wednesday night Bible study tonight is Revelation chapter 15 let's open with a quick word of Prayer and get straight into the study Heavenly Father we come before you ever so grateful that in such a topsy-turvy and crazy world such a violent world that we can take refuge in you in Jesus Christ we just want to thank you so much Father for your word for this study we pray God that you'll bless it that you'll increase our understanding and increase our faith we praise you Lord and we praise Jesus Christ and we thank you for him we pray in his name amen so it is Revelation chapter 15 which begins with the hundred and forty-four thousand which we covered last week so we just want to revisit the 144,000 but in doing this before we get right into 15 I want to revisit the letters to the churches and I want to do that because there are some among us that have the view that the Philadelphian church does not have to suffer martyrdom that the Philadelphian church will be taken to a place of safety and you know there's as I mentioned last week there's a false prophet who teaches that the Laodicean Church which is this deficient Church they will comprise the 144,000 and so rather than seeing the 144,000 as a people of great honor by God they're seen as some sort of deficient sub-optimal group of people that didn't quite make it and therefore they have to follow the lamb wherever he goes that is absolutely nonsense absolutely nothing could be further from the truth that those who die in the Lord are highly regarded and I think it's very important for us to have this view especially as we talk to young people

you know sometimes as we get older and we sort of look at the world we have this sense that I'm glad I'm checking out I'm on my way out and and woe unto you if you have to live through the future and I think if we understand the Scriptures properly we will have a completely different view our view will be I'm sorry that I might not be here to actually see the Lord return and and I may not be here to stand up for the Lord in this time is this final pivotal climax and conflict between good and evil but you will do exploits and that's actually where I want to start today in in Daniel in Daniel chapter 11 but before I do I just want to make an announcement that next week I'm traveling so our Bible study will be on Thursday evening so that's next week and rather than Wednesday night Bible study will have this study on Thursday and that will be the same time 6:30 central 7:30 Eastern so I'm very sorry if that's inconvenient but as you know these are these are being recorded and they'll be in the archive so let's begin with the study in Daniel 11 and in Daniel 11 what we see here is the Prophet sees that such as do wickedly against the covenant shall this beast power corrupt by flatteries but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits and this is the message that we should be communicating to our young people you shall be strong and you shall do exploits you will be filled with the Holy Spirit you have nothing to fear and in fact what a privilege you have to live into the future and to stand up for Jesus Christ and let's do that and strengthen our youth and not have this message that I'm sorry for you I'm glad

I'm going but you're gonna be around no no you are truly blessed and and and that's what this book of Revelation is all about to strengthen us so that we can understand what's going to happen and we can take a stand for Jesus Christ now let's look at this in Chapter three the letters to the Philadelphians where it says because you have kept the word of my patience I also will keep you from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth now people will look at this scripture and they'll say see the philadelphians are protected from the tribulation they don't have to go through the tribulation they're gonna have a seal set upon them and they'll escape they'll be in the place of safety and everybody else will go through the tribulation my question is where in this verse do we see that the Philadelphians are protected from the tribulation because I don't see it now what we're gonna as we go through the text here what we're going to see is the philadelphians are not protected from the tribulation the Philadelphians are predicted protected from God's wrath and so let's go through this text and we're gonna see very clearly as it says right here they have kept the word of his patience that's the struggle that's the struggle for the Saints not to give up not to give in not to compromise with evil but to have this patience that it requires faith that requires vision that requires understanding and no matter what we do not depart from the way of God so having this patience means we will face whatever tribulation we have to face because of this he will keep us from the hour of temptation if we if in

fact we are in this category called the Philadelphia Church that he'll keep us from the hour of temptation notice it says the hour of temptation it doesn't say the Great Tribulation no where does God promise to keep his Saints safe from the Great Tribulation what he promises is to keep the Saints here in Philadelphia safe from the hour of temptation now what is this hour of temptation he tells us right in the text it is an hour which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth so the Great Tribulation if you're a worshipper of Satan you have nothing to worry about you'll be living large you'll be having quite a good time if you take the mark of the beast you can buy you can sell you don't have to suffer persecution so the Great Tribulation cannot be what God or Jesus Christ is referencing here because this hour is to come upon all the world to try them that dwell those that are established in the earth the Saints are running for our lives we're not established the wicked are established they're the ones who are dwelling in the earth and this hour of temptation is to come upon their heads but it will not come upon the heads of the Saints and so as we get into chapter 15 I think this will become very very clear but before we do this let's just back up our Hortman from chapter 3 we'll go forward to chapter 13 where we were a couple of weeks ago where this beast from the land he had power to give life unto the image of the beast from the sea so this false prophet has this ability to give life to the image of the beast so somehow some kind of deception that this image now has life that the image

of the beast should both speak and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the Beast should be killed so these faithful Philadelphians they are or we are they whoever these this category of people are are not going to worship the image of the beast and because of that the Beast ensures that the faithful are killed but the faithful keep the word of God's patience they do not compromise and notice this he causes all both small and great rich and poor free and bond to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads and we spoke about that a couple of weeks ago I won't repeat this but notice that he's very thorough he's everybody to worship the devil that no man might buy or sell save that he had and you have to have one of three things a lot of people are so consumed with this 666 but it's not just 666 it's one of three things it's the mark or the name of the beast or the number of his name

one of those three things now with that in mind that this this beast power is being very thorough and is forcing everybody to worship the image of the beast with that in mind we come now we were interrupted we were in chapter 14 last week where we saw the 144,000 who are faithful coming out of that of the faithfulness of 144,000 we now roll into chapter 15 there should be no chapter break so it's the same subject he says here I saw another sign in heaven so remember that John is having a vision this is apocalyptic literature it's like you fall asleep and you just have this crazy dream that just seems to make no sense and then it's not in proper order and it's just kind of wild things just change but but if it could be

interpreted if these were all symbols and then the symbol the interpretation of the symbols is given to you it's like okay this dream makes sense in fact Nebuchadnezzar had an apocalyptic dream that he didn't understand and somebody had to tell him this is what this all symbolizes well John's having the same thing so the whole vision is signified it's made into symbols so he sees another symbol in heaven great and marvellous seven angels having the seven last plagues so this is it this is the final hour these are the seven last plagues for in them is filled up the wrath of God so this is now when God acts so prior to this Satan knowing that he has a short time it has been Satan that has been hacked and God has been watching now there enough enough now it's time for God to act and these are now the seven last plagues and I saw and then I want to just confirm that these plagues represent the wrath of God God is angry with the wicked and he's now going to unleash his judgment and his anger and I saw as it were and of his symbol a sea of glass mingled with fire mingled with fire so remember from chapter 4 that God's before God's throne was this sea of glass now John sees the sea of glass but this time it's mingled with fire well the fire represents God's wrath it's a symbol of God's wrath God's wrath is about to be unleashed upon the earth and them that had gotten the victory over the beast so now he sees in in front of the throne this sea of glass but it's mingled with fire but on the sea of glass mingled with fire are them that had gotten victory over the Beast and over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name so remember the Beast is forcing this agenda that you've got to worship His image you've got to take his mark or you got to take his number in order to participate in his economy and in his system but there are people who have the patience of God the patience of the saints and they resist him and they gain the victory over the Beast and I've got to ask you this you know when you think about gaining victory over something gaining the victory does this sound like a walk in the park does it sound like no problem we have the victory yes we're in the Lord let's just waltz over to the finish line or does it sound like an agonizing struggle like a contest where the outcome is not absolutely certain we have to make it certain we have to make our calling and election Shore and we have to struggle to up to the finish line and he that endures unto the end shall be saved not he that endures almost to the end but all the way to the end will be saved and so these are the ones that gain the victory over the beast and that's why we have this this scripture in Revelation is to give us vision to give us understanding so that we never compromise so these Saints are able to stand on this sea of glass mingled with fire because we've gained the victory and notice that here it says we saw that he saw them stand on the sea of glass having the harps of God and we saw last week that the 144,000 are singing a song that only they can sing but they're standing on this sea of glass which is mingled with fire it's mingled with the wrath of God and vet they're able to stand in the midst of it now in and we know that the fire represents this fire here it's mingled with fire we know that it

represents the wrath of God because next week when we do chapter 16 which goes into the plagues in detail when the fourth angel pours out his vial upon the Sun and power was given him to scorch men with fire god is angry with the wicked and fire is going to be thrown down to the earth fire and brimstone and so the fire represents God's wrath and yet these Saints are standing in the sea of glass which is mingled with fire and they're able to stand before the throne and that takes us back to chapter 6 verse 16 when the wicked are fleeing and when God finally acts and they're saying to the mountains and the rocks fall on us and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb the wrath of the Lamb and and this is this is their doing this is their choice and that's what this is all about there's the blood of the Lamb and there's the wrath of the Lamb very much like the first Exodus that when he saw the blood of the Lamb the death angel would pass over and today we're going to overcome the wicked we're going to overcome the beast through the blood of the Lamb and because we have the blood of the the wrath of God will pass over us leading into the second Exodus so this is all very very symbolic so they're now panicking over the wrath of the lamb for the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand well we just found out who's able to stand those that that have the victory through the blood of the Lamb and so in Chapter 7 when we see the hundred and forty-four thousand counted out we see and this is where people connect this to chapter three so that they say that the Philadelphians don't have to go through

the tribulation because here before this angel acts in Chapter seven it says that he's instructed hurt not the earth neither the sea nor the trees until we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads and I heard the number of them which were sealed and they were sealed 144,000 of all the tribes of Israel so there is this automatic assumption that because because the 144,000 are sealed there's this automatic assumption that that seal protects them from the Beast but the scripture doesn't say this that seal protects us from God's wrath that's what it protects us from so let's look at the text more carefully it says here in going back to chapter 3 because you've kept the word of my patience I will also keep you from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world to try them that dwell upon the earth and that phrase is very important that this hour that the Philadelphians are protected from is an hour that tries them that dwell upon the earth who are they that dwell upon the earth well let's read the scripture so first of all the patience what does it mean to so he says here you've kept the word of my patience what is the word of his patience what does that mean well the scripture tells us in chapter 13 you'll remember why we're there that there's an understanding that that what revelation gives us is this understanding that he that leads in to captivity shall shall go into captivity and he that kills with the sword must be killed with the sword here is the patience and faith of the saints so when the Saints see the beast rounding up brethren and putting them to death for their faith in Christ and and

and we're next the patience of the Saints is this understanding that our God will act you have your hour but our God has the last hour and so we will be patient like Shadrach Meshach and Abednego the same the same Babylonian system is the head that all these succeeding empires have the same thinking as Nebuchadnezzar and the same way Nebuchadnezzar was forcing everybody to worship the image of the Beast is the same way when we get down to the final hour that the thinking is the same it's the same devil it's the same Empire it's the same Babylonian system and so the patience of the Saints is this understanding that you have your our and our God has his and we'll wait for our God just as Shadrach Meshach and Abednego we're willing to be killed if if need be and so here in chapter 14 the same shall drink the same that is the wicked shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God this is what the Saints are protected from but the wicked shall drink of the wine the remember we saw the image of the the winepress with all the grapes and the crushing down well these are going to be human beings crushed under God's wrath and the blood will be the wine that they'll have to drink which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation god is angry and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the Holy Angels and in the presence of the Lamb this is the final word this is the final hour and this is what God is promising to protect the faithful from but the wicked will have to face this and the smoke of their torment ascends

and the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever and they that's the wicked have no rest day nor night who

worship the Beast and His image and whosoever received the mark of his name so during the Great Tribulation those who are worshiping the Beast and His image they're having a party that this is like we in the Roman Empire when when Nero would set Christians on fire as entertainment he would put them in the ring to face wild animals as entertainment they were having they were having a rip-roaring good time and in the Great Tribulation the wicked are gonna have a wonderful time but that's not the hour that God is saying he's gonna protect the Saints from it's his wrath the last hour that's what the Saints are protected from and so he says in this understanding that those who worship the Beast and received the mark of his name they're gonna be punished by God's severely in the most severe way here this understanding this understanding that we're getting from the book of Revelation this is where the patience of the saints comes from we'll face whatever we have to face we will face whatever we have to face why because we have the understanding you know Christ even told us do not fear those who can kill the body and after they've killed the body there's nothing more they can do we're going to fear God she says here's the patience of the saints here are they this is where this is the category that the Philadelphians fit in that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus and you know one of the problems that the people who are trying to interpret the Philadelphians as not having to face martyrdom one of the problems is they believe that it's only in the Philadelphians who who don't have to face the it's only believe it's only the philadelphians

who don't have to face the the story it's only the philadelphians who are not criticized by God well remember that analysis that we did of the letters to the churches that yes Philadelphia had no criticism but Philadelphia was not the only congregation that Jesus did not criticize he also had no criticism for Smyrna and it was Sardis and Laodicea so Sardis and Laodicea he had no commendation for them he had nothing good to say about Sardis and Laodicea but he had nothing bad to say about Philadelphia and Smyrna and yet when we read the scripture to Smyrna to the Angel of the church in Smyrna write these things says the first and the last which was dead and is alive so this is this is the letter to Smyrna just to show that there's no criticism here I know your works and tribulation and poverty but you are rich so you're in the category of people who are spiritually on target and I know the blasphemy of them that's the wicked which say they are Jews but are not but are of the synagogue of Satan fear none of those things which you shall suffer this is Jesus Christ's message to his faithful people don't fear any of those things that you usually all suffer behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison that you may be tried and you shall have tribulation 10 days be you faithful unto death and I will give you a crown of life this is the promise of Jesus to his faithful Saints and this is the same promise to the Philadelphians when he says I will keep you from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the earth to try them which dwell upon the earth it's the same thing that he's

saying to Sardis to this Smyrna Church here to say be faithful unto death and I'll give you a crown of life you will not have to face my wrath so he goes on to say he that has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches so we should hear what the Spirit says to all of the churches that's what we should be

is done to make sure we understand the message to the churches now notice this this is this is the real message of these letters we've got to get our act together in order to succeed to gain the victory over the beast we have to get our act together he that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death this is what Jesus Christ cares about this is why he's giving us this message so we can know ahead of time the things that shall shortly take place upon the earth so that we can be overcomers the book of Revelation is all about victory it's all about overcoming when the beast thinks that he has the ability to overcome the Saints it's the Saints that are overcoming the Beast and it's the Saints because we overcome because we are successful in this victory we stand with God and we reign with God now we're seated in Thrones with God and we are born into the family of God why because we are overcomers not because we're sniveling cowards who are looking to save our skin this is the way we really have to shake this very terrible belief that we have developed in in in the Churches of God that we don't have to suffer if we're good if we're really good we don't have to suffer no if we're really good we will love God and if we're really good we will love our brethren and no greater love has this that a man will lay down his life for

his friends and and the faithful in Christ love not their life into the death because we understand this physical life is not it this physical life is not it there's an eternal life now we lay hold on this eternal life and nothing will dissuade us this is what this is all about and so you know these people who are teaching us that we don't have to worry no harm is gonna come upon us this is very very dangerous far better to take the stance I may have to face this even so amen and then maybe we don't have to face it but we were ready rather than oh I would never have to face something like this and then suddenly we find ourselves having to face it and we become sniveling cowards we've got to shake this and develop the strength of faith and the patience of the saints so here in Thessalonians what Paul says but let us that's the faithful who are of the day be sober putting on the breastplate of faith we understand and we're putting on this breastplate of faith and with this we can face the fiery darts of the wicked one and love love of God love Jesus love of each other love of the truth love of all mankind that perfect love casts out fear he that is fearful is not made perfect in love so let us put on the breastplate of love so that we will not be fearful and for a helmet the hope of salvation for God has not appointed us to wrath that is to his wrath yet we may have to face the wrath of the devil so be it we will not be the first we may have to face the wrath of the Beast so be it we will not be the first but we will not have to face the wrath of God we're not appointed unto the wrath of God but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ who died for us

that whether we wake or sleep we should live together with him so let's just go back now to this to try them this is an hour of temptation to try them which dwell upon the earth and so we saw in chapter 6 the Saints who have been martyred are crying out when when the fifth seal opens we get this vision or John gets this vision that the Saints are just asking like how much longer before you avenge which we stood up for you and we were slaughtered and we know you're a righteous God we know you love us when will you avenge us and they're told hold on but look at the question they asked how long O Lord holy and true did you not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth this is what the philadelphians are in fact it could be the philadelphians sells crime part of this group crying out to say how much longer before you we we kept the word of your patients and we were killed for it now when will this hour of temptation come that is to try them that dwell upon the earth and the Lord and so this is again this this crying out is very similar to the first Exodus when the Lord said I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt and I've heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters for I know their sorrows and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large unto a land flowing with milk and honey unto the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites the AMA rights of the Perizzites the Hivites and the Jebusites so that's the first Exodus the cries God heard the cries and he acted well the second Exodus is gonna be so much bigger that we won't even talk about the first

Exodus and God is hearing the cries and he will act to deliver but he's going to punish them that dwell upon the earth and then the Saints are asking specifically about those that are established on the earth in Revelation chapter 11 and they have the people's and Kindred's tongues and nations shall see that's the two witnesses going to see their dead bodies three days and a half and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves so the Saints have been killed these two witnesses have been killed and and they will not even get the dignity of a burial and they that dwell upon the earth they're gonna get their comeuppance but it's not now right now they're having a party they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them so while the Saints are being put to death

those that dwell upon the earth are partying this is not laid the hour of temptation for those that dwell upon the earth they shall dwell upon the earth and shall rejoice over them and make merry and shall send gifts one to another because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth the wicked dwell on the earth when the beast is in power the wicked dwell on the earth and so when the Beast has his hour that is not the hour of temptation upon those that dwell upon the earth and in chapter 13 and all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him whose names are not written in the book of life the book of life of the lamb slain from the foundation of the world so those of us who refuse to worship the Beast our names are written in the book of life and so the second death will have no power over us we will not have

to face the wrath of God in the hour of temptation but those that dwell upon the earth

they shall have to face the wrath of God and he exercises all the power of the first beast before him and causeth the earth and them which dwell not in the earth to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed in verse 14 and he deceives them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the Beast saying to them that dwell on the earth so this category of people is not the Saints and so when the same sir facing tribulation this is not the hour of temptation that God is speaking to promising to keep the philadelphians from in fact when the philadelphians are martyred that is their stealing because they died in the faith they kept the word of his patience and so they will not have to face they will be able to stand on the sea of glass mingled with fire the wrath of God and the wicked are asking who can stand in the face of the wrath of the Lamb well you shouldn't have taken the mark of the beast saving to them that dwell on the earth that they should make an image to the Beast which had the wound by a sword and did live in verse chapter 17 now the Beast that you saw was and is not shall ascend out of the bottomless pit and go into perdition and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation

world so we can just see here that so again let's just now that we understand who these people are and what patience is let's now just read this very clearly because you that's the faithful Saints have kept the word of my patience

revelation tells us that the word of his patience is the ability to understand that there's a final hour that the beast can go ahead and have his party and all the wicked and those that dwell on the earth can celebrate with him but that's not the end they the Beast doesn't get the final say and so the patience comes from understanding our God will act we don't know when he will act the same way Shadrach Meshach and Abednego did not know when he would act and they may have they were willing to die but they knew their God is faithful this is what it means to keep the word of his patience that no one can take the commandments of God away from us no one can take our testimony away from us because of that God will keep us or keep the philadelphians from the hour of temptation it does not say from the great tribulation it says from the hour of temptation which hour of temptation is that he defines it it's the one that shall come upon all the world to try them to test them that dwell upon the earth those that dwell upon the earth are the wicked and we see that repeatedly throughout the book of Revelation so hopefully this is really clear now that the 144,000 are not some deficient group who didn't measure up to the Philadelphian standard being martyred for God is an honor precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints and and we should honor those who do this and who might have the opportunity to do this rather than think that somehow you know if you're really honorable you'll be in the place of safety and if you're not honorable well you might have to face martyrdom just it's just a wrong way of thinking and

it's not in accordance the scripture so we saw in chapter 14 last week that the lamb stood on the Mount of Zion and standing with him were the hundred and forty-four thousand and so the lamb it we're not when this is fulfilled when Christ returns it's not he's not gonna be an actual lamb on the Mount Zion this is a symbol the lamb is a symbol and right in the same verse is the hundred and forty-four thousand so people want to take 144,000 literally but they'll take they won't take the lamb literally the lamb is symbolic but then 144,000 have to be a literal 144,000 from the twelve tribes it's clearly these this is apocalyptic literature and so the lamb is a symbol and 144,000 are a symbol and we've covered this last week I won't repeat it but it's very clear that this these people are people who trusted in the faith the covenant faithfulness of the God of Israel and that was demonstrated by his covenant faithfulness to the patriarchs his covenant faithfulness the new covenant faithfulness to the apostles to a thousand generations so we get 12 by 12 by a thousand to get 144,000 and so we heard this voice and the voice of harpers harping with their harps and we saw in chapter 15 that 144,000 have these harps and they sung this new song before the throne and no one could learn that song except 144,000 which were redeemed from the earth so those there are those that dwell upon the earth and there are those that are redeemed from the earth there were just pilgrims were just passing through the others are settled and established and think that their kingdom is going to last forever and so we talked about what it means to be not defiled with women

and the daughters of Babylon and her daughters and to be spiritual virgins and so these are the firstfruits of and what it means to be without fault and so just a reminder that all of this is symbolic that the scripture is given to John in in a signified form in a signified format it's apocalyptic literature so it's given to him in symbols so we come now to chapter 15 and verse 1 and so with that context and weaved 144,000 who are the faithful Saints who lived in this facing this beast power and these these wicked people that dwell upon the earth to accept his image and his mark of his number these are the faithful ones who keep the patience of God the patience of the saints and I saw another symbol in heaven great and marvellous seven angels having the seven last plagues for in them is filled up the wrath of God this is it now this is the final hour and I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire and then 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 and they sing the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the lamb saying great and marvellous are thy works Lord God Almighty just and true are thy ways you king of saints so so they have gotten the victory and now they are singing the song of Moses in the same way that in the first Exodus the children of Israel got the victory not by their strength or their power or their might they they just stood still and they watched the conquest of God so the conquest comes through the lab and they are just these Saints now are so grateful singing how great and

marvelous are the works of God Almighty and how Justin true are his ways king of saints who shall not fear you I mean this is like you would have to be crazy not to fear God who shall not fear thee O Lord and glorify thy name for you only are holy so the 144,000 understand this they're not holy they wash their garments in the blood of the Lamb you only are holy for all nations shall come and worship before thee so this is something that all nations are going to come and worship before God all nations are going to know that God is the God of Israel for you only are holy for all nations shall come and worship before you for your judgments are made obvious made manifest and jeremiah that's the same question so this is an echo of jeremiah who would not fear thee o king of nations for to you does it a pertain for as much as among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like unto thee so it is fitting for all nations of the earth to fear god for as much as among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like unto you so there you know this is who shall not worship the Beast and who can make war with him he's just so wonderful he's just so great nonsense there's only one holy God there's only one that deserves this kind of adoration and it's it's the God of Israel in Psalms David writes all nations whom you have made shall come and worship before you O Lord and shall glorify your name and these prophecies are throughout the scriptures Isaiah says it shall come to pass that from one new moon to another and notice this from one Sabbath to another hello Sunday keepers from one Sabbath to another this

is future when God is returned and and those who are keeping his Commandments the Ten Commandments and found faithful and now when he establishes his kingdom from one Sabbath to another shall all flesh

flesh come to worship before me says the Lord coming back to Revelation chapter 15 and verse 5 he says after that I looked and behold the Temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened so where have we seen this language before the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony well here in chapter 38 of Ezekiel he says this is the sum of the tabernacle and notice what he calls it even of the tabernacle of testimony as it was counted according to the commandment of Moses so the tabernacle has always been a tabernacle of testimony and that's what this is all about it's all about testimony testifying about the true God so he says here in continuing chapter 15 and the seven angels come out of the temple so these seven angels come out of the temple having the seven plagues so this number seven is significant the number seven we know is the symbol of completion of perfection and so this God is finally going to act now once and for all and put an end to this wickedness of man and so these seven ages the seven angels with the seven plagues represent the complete wrath of God so these seven angels now are clothed in pure and white linen so we know this is again symbolic white linen his righteousness and having their breasts girded with golden girdles and so this we've seen again language from Ezekiel and behold six men came from the way of the higher gate which lies toward the north and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand and one man

among them was clothed with linen so this is now a righteous judgment and with a writer's inkhorn by his side and they went in and stood beside the brazen altar and the Lord said unto Him go through the midst of the city through the midst of Jerusalem and set a mark upon the foreheads of them that sigh and cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof and we as the people of God should be grieved by the wickedness that's going on around us just tonight I got news of another mass shooting in America and in Florida in high school young children going to school should never have to face this it should grieve us and so if we have the view of God to see human beings made in His image being just words fail me human beings made in God's image we should sigh and cry for this but those who have God standards are standing against wicked men and so God says set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and cry in Revelation and set a seal upon our foreheads and people think that this seal means all we won't be touched by the Beast we may very well be touched by the Beast in fact our martyrdom is our seal it demonstrates that we kept the word of our patience right to the finish of patience right to the finish line so going back to Revelation 15 he says one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God so again another symbol and these vials that had the prayers of the saints earlier now they're full of the wrath of God seven golden vials God is angry with the wicked who live God who lives for ever and ever and so these seven golden vials again this is a jeremiah language for thus says the Lord

God of Israel unto me take the wine cup of this fury at my hand and cause all the nations them that dwell upon the earth to whom I send you to drink coming back to revelation 15 so these vials are given one of the four living creatures gave unto we know these four living creatures are in front of the throne see if glasses in front of the throne it's mingled as fire he's given to these seven angels the seven golden vials full of the wrath of God who lives forever 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 until the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled and where have we seen this language before if you remember in Exodus that a cloud covered the tent of the congregation and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle so God was there and Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation because the cloud abode thereon and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle and in first Kings 8 and it came to pass when the priests were come out of the holy place that the cloud filled the house of the Lord so the priests could not stand to Minister because of the cloud for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord in second chronicles speaking of the same time period he came to pass as the trumpeters and singers were as one to make one sound to be heard and praising and thanking the Lord and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and music instruments of music and praised the Lord saying for he is good for his mercy endures forever that then the house was filled with a cloud even the house of the Lord so that

the priests could not stand to Minister by reason of the cloud for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God so when we see when when these the seven bowls the the seven the four living creatures are given the seven bowls to the seven angels they're full of the wrath of God the this this undiluted wrath is gonna

come down upon the head of the wicked even so amen

because the God who is authoring this is a holy and a righteous God his glory fills the temple he is so glorious he is so holy and his judgments are right and true and I think you know sometimes we as Christians we want to put on this kind of holy holy attitude where we're more righteous than God and when God wants to judge the wicked and condemn the wicked we want to know no no let's not be judgmental let's just this is the glory this is the god of judgment the god of glory and we back up and support his judgments even so amen so just the first verse now in chapter 16 which will go into detail next week and remember that next week the Bible study will be on Thursday evening rather than Wednesday evening but next week these seven bowls these seven vials and the seven angels that have been introduced here in chapter 15 next week we go into detail in what's inside each of these balls when they're dumped toriel poured upon the earth but chapter 16 verse 1 says and I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels go your ways and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth upon them that dwell upon the earth and this is the hour that the Philadelphians because of their faithfulness that Smyrna because of

their faithfulness that all the churches who took under advisement the advice of Christ and got their act together and and washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and sorted themselves out so that we could obtain the victory this is the hour of temptation that we are kept from and those that dwell upon the earth must now face these seven angels as they go their ways to pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth and that's what we'll cover next week Thursday evening as we dive into god-willing Revelation chapter 16 so thanks for joining tonight hope it was all clear and what a God we said what a God we serve

he's holy he's glorious he's righteous he's patient and so we have a we have a work to do you have a testimony we have a story to tell to the nation's we have a gospel to preach let's be about our father's business praise be to Jesus Christ