

REVELATION

The Song of the Lamb

Icebreaker

What is a favorite song you love to listen to and/or sing? Why is it one of your favorites?

Context

This week's lesson looks at the initiation of the last set of judgments unleashed upon sin. All of the prophecies and discussions in the Old and New Testaments about the "Day of the Lord" are about to be fulfilled, and chapter 15 is the inauguration of the final events. From here on, events will unfold quickly in the book with the final set of judgments kicking off the beginning of the end.

In one sense, this is very sobering. The unrestrained, undiluted wrath of God is about to be poured out. It is fearsome and terrible to those who will be the object of that judgment. At the same time, this is the beginning of a moment that has been anticipated by God's people for thousands of years. The cries for justice and the full revelation of God's holiness and judgment on sin has arrived.

The role of this passage is two-fold in the movement of the story. As mentioned earlier, it is the inauguration of the last judgments. What follows in chapter 16 will be the description of those judgments. The second role or purpose of this passage is one more reminder that God's character and nature demands that these judgments be poured out on sin. God's holiness demands that sin be punished and that punishment is unprecedented.

As we have seen throughout Revelation, these moments are marked by worship in heaven. The acknowledgment of who God is through song is a means by which truth is communicated and emotions are engaged to teach and affirm.

Discuss

1. In verse 1, John says "I saw another sign in heaven, great and awesome." Of all the things John has seen, this is the first time he has described it as "great and



amazing." What is it (in chapter 15) that made this scene "great and amazing (or marvelous)?"

2. Read Revelation 13:1-2. When this beast rises up out of the water, do you think the scene is tranquil or chaotic? What are we supposed to understand about God when the sea in heaven in this passage is described as a sea of glass? How can these truths about God's peace help Christians today?
3. Does it surprise you that there is so much singing in Revelation (Heaven)? Why singing instead of statements or a speech?
4. Read Exodus 15:1-18 and Revelation 5:8-14. In your opinion, how are these two songs connected to the song here in Revelation 15? According to these three songs, who is responsible for setting people free (from slavery/sin/judgment)?
5. Why is it important to remember that God is justified in punishing sin?
6. What does it signify that John notes that the 7 angels "come out of the temple" rather than just saying that he saw 7 angels?
7. Why do we have all the traditions we associate with weddings (decorations, attire of those participating, roles of particular people, words that are spoken) rather than just signing a paper and getting on with life? (We do similar things with funerals, baby dedications, graduations) Why does this moment described in Revelation 15 seem so "formal?"
8. Read Exodus 40:35 and 1 Kings 8:11. What does it say about God when God's full presence/glory is revealed and no one can enter his presence? What does it say about created beings that they are unable to be in his presence when his full glory is revealed?

