

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 34

THE HEAVENLY TEMPLE

PRELUDE TO THE SEVEN BOWLS OF WRATH

(REVELATION 15:1-8)



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Revelation 15 is **the prelude just before the release of the seven bowl judgments upon the earth.** These seven bowls contain the complete wrath of God (Rev. 15:1; 16:1).

The Bible does not term the seals and the trumpets as the wrath of God. This makes sense as the Church will still be around on the earth during the release of those judgments. Then at the seventh trumpet, Jesus returns and the Church is raptured.

Revelation 15 records for us what will happen at that moment when the raptured and overcoming saints stand before the throne of God on the sea of glass. They were making declarations in agreement with God's plans for the release of the final bowls of wrath. After this, they will be coming down to the earth with Jesus to release His judgments upon His enemies and to cleanse the earth.

What were the saints declaring?

***“Great and marvellous are Your works,
Lord God Almighty...” (Rev. 15:3)***





This is truly unbelievable! You see, in this context, the works they are referring to are the most severe judgments of God, which are the seven bowls of wrath that God is about to release. Multitudes of people will be killed by the bowls, yet the saints are able to call them great. They must have understood something about the wisdom and the heart of God that we don't.

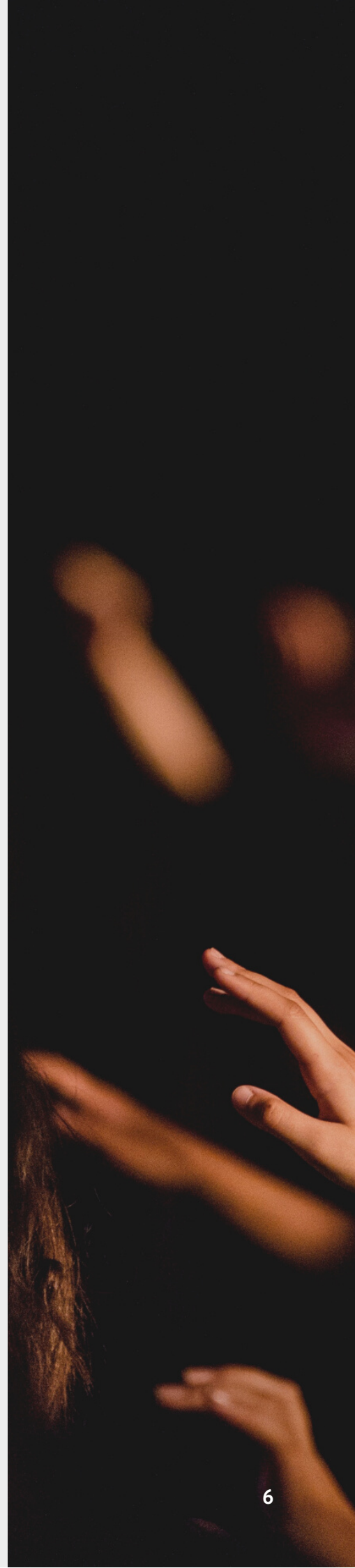
God wants us to understand what the End-Time saints feel, as well as what the seven angels with the seven bowls feel. He wants us to wrestle with and meditate on these eight verses in Revelation 15 until our hearts come into full agreement with Him.



In Revelation 15, John saw **two visions**. In verses 2 to 4, **he saw the victorious overcoming saints singing two songs to God**. They are songs of thanksgiving, agreement and prophetic declarations of what is soon to happen. As a result of the declarations of the saints, the bowls are given to the angels for the release of the wrath of God. This shows us that even in the final judgments, Jesus is looking for His Bride's agreement with Him.

The Song of Moses refers to the two songs in Exodus 15 and Deuteronomy 32. Exodus 15 is about the crossing of the Red Sea which is a picture of the rapture. We will be singing God's victory over the Antichrist, Satan and all evil on the earth. In Deuteronomy 32, the Israelites were about to enter the promised land. That is a prophetic picture of us entering into the Millennial Kingdom.

The rapture of the saints is the marriage of the Lamb where Jesus will finally have His Bride by His side. What song will the Bride of Christ be singing about the Lamb at the wedding? It is likely to be one where she sings about Jesus' love for her, His leadership over her and how He has journeyed with her until she is fully mature. There is one song in the Bible that fits this description. **It is the Song of Songs.** The Song of Songs, which is also known as the Song of All Songs (the best of all songs), is about the journey of the Bride towards holy passion and spiritual maturity. **The Song of the Lamb is likely to be the Song of Songs!**





It is the singing and declaring of these two songs that will release the bowls of wrath upon God's enemies. And the victorious saints will be singing them throughout the Second Coming Procession in the sky, on the land and into Jerusalem!

Revelation 15:3-4 tells us that there are **nine aspects** to the declaration of these two songs:

1 | Great and Marvellous are Your works

We will be singing about the greatness of our God. Whenever we sing about the greatness of God, it is usually centred on three main aspects – God’s greatness in love, greatness in power and greatness in wisdom. Hence the saints are saying, **“Your judgments are great in love. They are great in wisdom because they produce wholehearted love. They are great in power and through these judgments, the whole earth will be cleansed and perfected.”**

The saints also declared that His judgments are marvellous! Their hearts were actually stirred. They were fascinated and awestruck by God’s judgments!

2 | Lord God Almighty

This is the first of two titles of God mentioned in Revelation 15. It is addressing God as All sufficient and All powerful, as the Redeemer and the Creator, who is able to remove all evil government and replace them with righteous leaders.

3 | Just and True are Your ways

The saints are declaring that God's judgments are right and they are necessary. They are neither too severe nor too lenient. Neither too early, nor are they too late.

They are perfect in intensity, in timing, in appropriateness and are right and just in accordance to God's love!

4

0 King of the Saints

This is a prophetic declaration and agreement of the saints with the Lordship and Kingship of Jesus over all the earth.

5

Who shall not fear You, O Lord

This is a prophetic declaration that all nations and people shall fear the Lord in the coming reign of Jesus. Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11).

6

Who shall not glorify Your name

Nations will not just fear the Lord, they will love and worship Him! The saints are interceding and declaring for this to come to pass!

7 | You alone are Holy

In contrast to the perverse and oppressive ways of the Antichrist, Jesus is holy and His agenda is pure. He alone will produce pure and righteous love!

8 | All nations shall come and worship before You

This is a prophetic declaration of the reign of Jesus during the Millennial Kingdom. Even though it is just around 30 days away from fulfilment, the saints are still making intercession and declarations, because the kingdom of God functions through prayer.

9 | Your judgments have been manifested

This is a prophetic declaration for God to release His judgments.



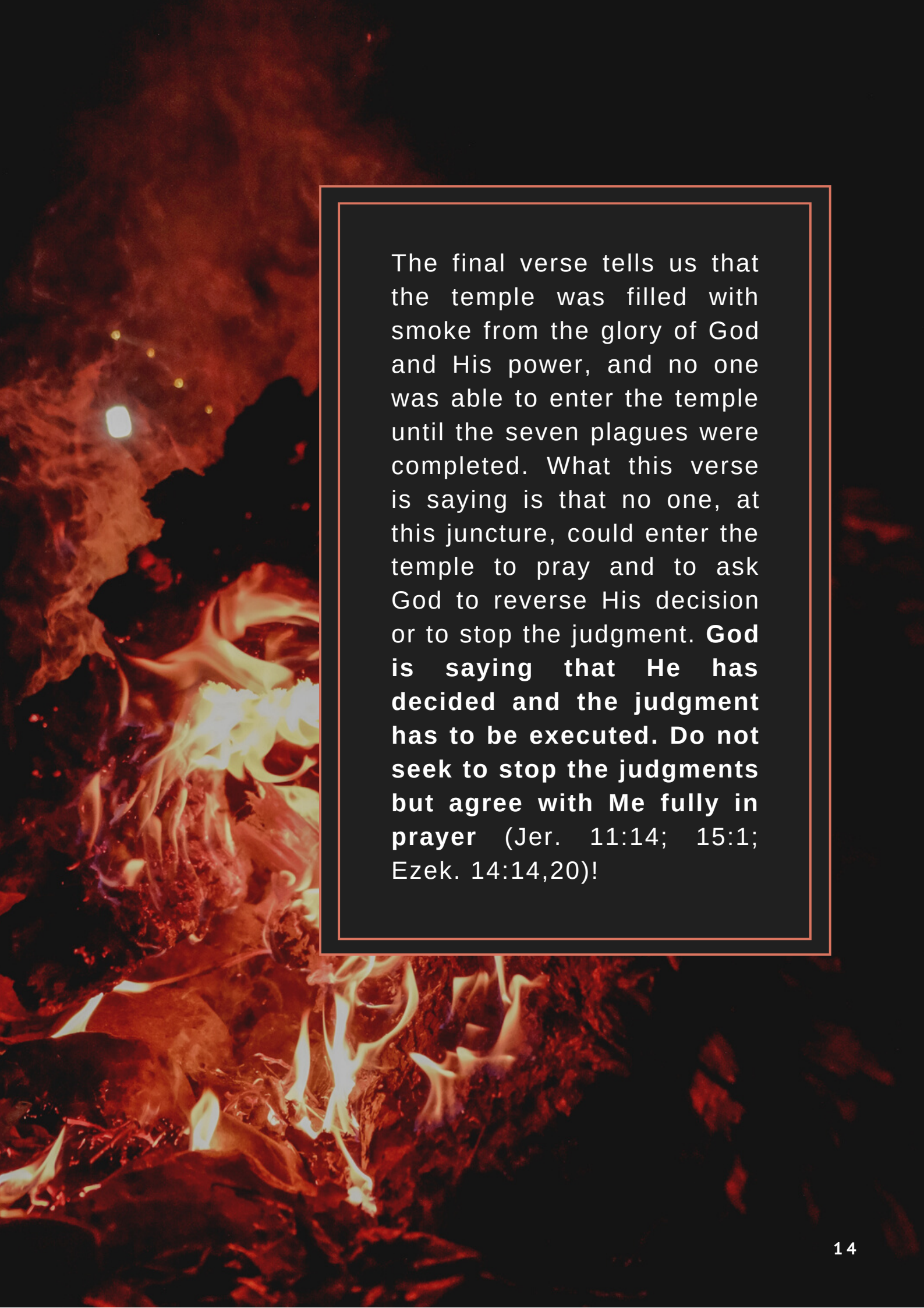
Verse 5 to 8 is the **second vision** John saw. He saw the seven angels leaving the heavenly temple. They were given the seven bowls of wrath. It is the prayers of the saints that will release the seven angels to come forth from the temple.

The term “*Temple of the Tabernacle*” is uniquely used here and is found nowhere else in the Bible. It combines the reality of the Temple of Solomon and the Tabernacle of Moses. It reflects the intensities of the presence of God, the revelation of who He is and His heart, and the judgments that are about to go forth.

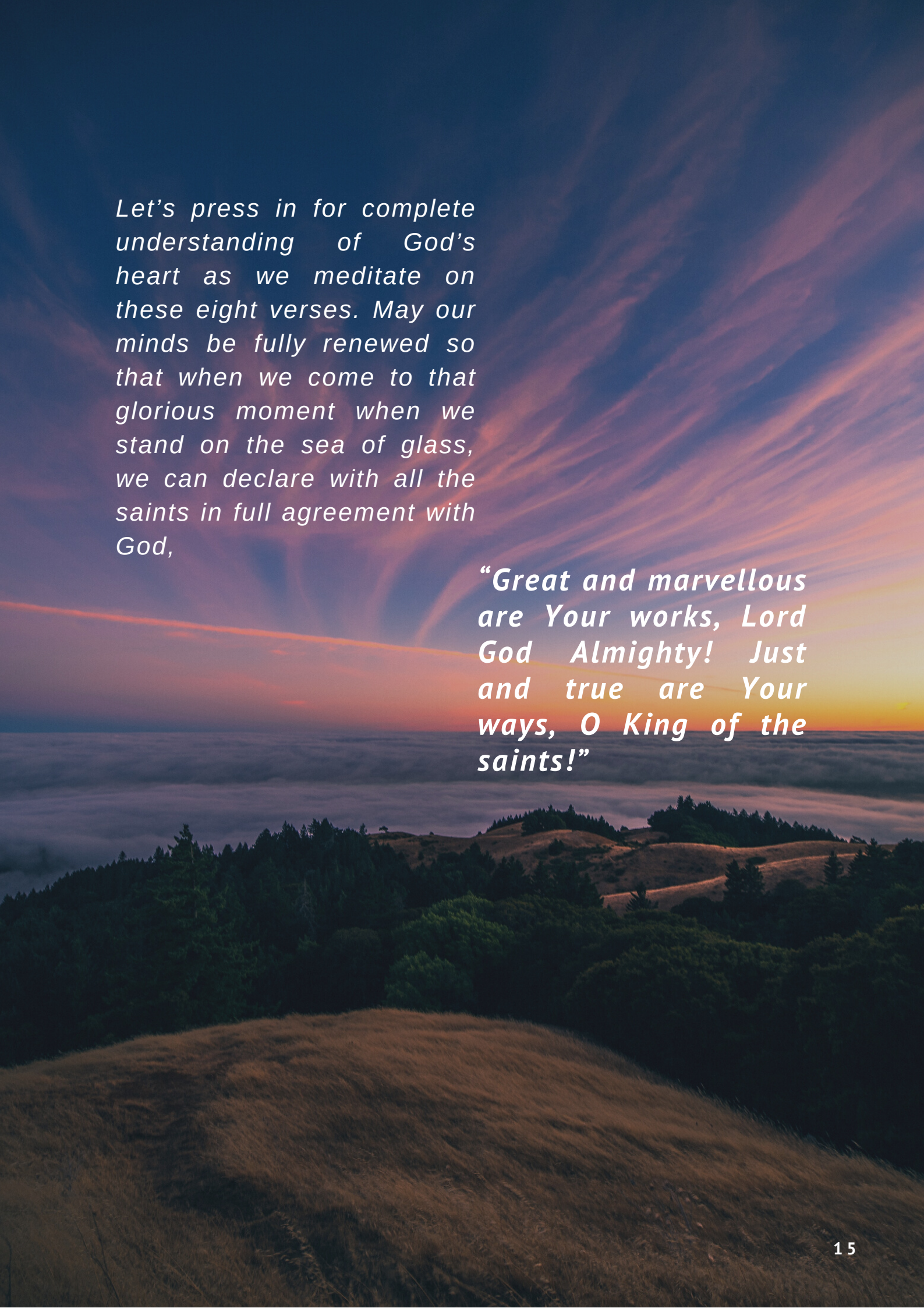


The term “*testimony*” in the phrase “*the testimony of heaven*” refers to what was written on the two tablets that were kept in the Ark of the Covenant. Inscribed on the tablets were the ten commandments and these represented the law of God. **The testimony represents the benchmark and standard of God. God is about to enforce His standards on rebellious earth through the judgments of the seven last plagues.**

The seven angels were clothed in priestly attire of pure and white linen, having their chests girded with golden bands. The purity and the brightness of their attire reflect their countenance and the position of their hearts – they are carrying out this honourable task with hearts of purity and righteousness.



The final verse tells us that the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and His power, and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues were completed. What this verse is saying is that no one, at this juncture, could enter the temple to pray and to ask God to reverse His decision or to stop the judgment. **God is saying that He has decided and the judgment has to be executed. Do not seek to stop the judgments but agree with Me fully in prayer (Jer. 11:14; 15:1; Ezek. 14:14,20)!**



Let's press in for complete understanding of God's heart as we meditate on these eight verses. May our minds be fully renewed so that when we come to that glorious moment when we stand on the sea of glass, we can declare with all the saints in full agreement with God,

“Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!”



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