

Wednesday

Sing a New Song

Today's Scripture Revelation 15:5-8

Numbers were important in the Jewish culture. One of the most important numbers in this book is the number seven. It is found 52 times. It plays an important role in the layout of the book. In chapter five we have the book with seven seals. The was symbolic of information that was sealed up and then revealed. Jesus was revealing things to come and John was to write it down. Chapter eight reveals seven angels with seven trumpets. In Israel's history, the trumpet sounded as they marched into battle and as a warning. The latter is probably the symbolic meaning of the trumpets in chapter eight.

This brings us to chapter fifteen and the seven bowls of wrath that are being poured out. It is interesting that these bowls of wrath are also called plagues. When one looks at the details of the plagues in chapter 16, there are many similarities to the plagues in Egypt as recorded in Exodus (first, second, sixth, seventh, ninth are also found in Revelation). These plagues are a reminder that God is a God of justice and that those who rebel against him will face his wrath.

One of the best-known statements in Revelation is found in this chapter: "And they sang the song of Moses" (15:3). There are two songs that Moses is known for. One is the song in Exodus 15 on the shores of the Red Sea as the army of Egypt lay floating nearby. The other is in Deuteronomy 32 as Moses was on the doorstep of eternity and the children of Israel were on the doorstep of the Promised Land. Both songs speak of God's greatness and his deliverance of his people. They also speak words of warning to those who rebel against the Lord. These songs were designed to praise, teach, and warn. It is a reminder of all the songs we sing what have powerful messages. I wonder if we are listening.

Today, I will...pay closer attention to the songs I sing in worship.