

End-Time Prep Series
Lesson 17: "How to Walk on Water Mingled with Fire!"
Bible Sermon Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

What did John see in vision beginning at Revelation 15:1?

Revelation 15:1 And I saw another **sign in heaven**, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the **wrath of God**.

Before the wrath of God is poured out upon the earth, Jesus gives us another glimpse of the future of the 144,000 in heaven who go through the seven last plagues, sealed with the seal of the living God, what does John see next in heaven that should give us all great encouragement?

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a **sea of glass mingled with fire**: and them 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.

This heavenly scene of the 144,000, the last days disciples and apostles, depicts their deep faith in Jesus and the persecution and trials they had to go through for standing up against the beast (Papal Rome), his image (modern fallen churches), his mark (false Sunday sabbath), and the number of his name, 666 (the head of Papal Rome, the pope.)

Let's break this down for further encouragement... You can make it! VICTORY!!!!

Where is the sea of glass located in Heaven?

Revelation 4:6 And before the throne [God's] *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

So we are standing on a sea of glass before the throne of GOD as soldiers before the King singing the song of victory!

Let's get an even better understanding of this powerful scene in heaven.

Notice we, 144,000 are standing on the sea that is so calm that it reflects like glass! It's not solid glass, but water! We are standing on water mingled with fire! Don't miss it!

Why are we able to stand on water mingled with fire?

Let's go to the story of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14:24 – 33. After the miracle of the feeding of five thousand men plus women and children, Jesus commanded his disciples to take the boat and cross the sea to the other side. Jesus went to a secluded place to pray and a great hurricane like storm came upon the sea. The disciples where caught in the midst of this stormy sea. As they struggled through the storm of strong winds, lightning and thunder, Jesus comes to them walking on that stormy sea.

Matthew 14:26-33

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.**

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Why did Peter sink? Little Faith! Little faith is not enough. Little faith will sink in the time of trouble. Peter took his eyes off Jesus because he was more concerned about the storm and feared his life instead of trusting in Jesus.

How did Jesus walk on water in the midst of a storm? Great Faith!

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.**

John 5:30 **I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**

Why must we walk by in these last days?

2 Corinthians 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

Hebrews 10:36-39

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the **just shall live by faith**: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

1 John 2:5, 6

5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Jesus leaves us this great real lesson of “walking” on water. The lesson that Jesus is teaching us here is that it takes great faith in Jesus for us to walk in Christ in the midst of the storms of life's trials and persecution, especially in the last days.

Why did Jesus tell the disciples to be of good cheer and be not afraid as he was walking on the stormy sea toward the boat?

Remember the storm on the sea depicts trials and persecution. The rough stuff we all must go through.

First, while we are going through storm we MUST be of GOOD Cheer, why Jesus is near!

1 Peter 4:12, 13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

God wants us to cheerfully endure, keeping our eyes of faith on Jesus not the "storms".

Jesus also tells his disciples not to be afraid in the midst of the storm because he knows that fear will cancel out all faith and that a little faith will still cause you to sink!

The law of fear – when you fear you are going to get what you feared. Think about it! If you compromise God's truth (God's truth Sabbath) because you fear death by the hands of man, what you feared you will receive anyway - eternal death by the hands of God.

Going back to Revelation 15:2 to the heavenly scene with the 144,000 standing on water, why are we able to stand on water mingled with fire before the throne of God?

Remember "**fire**" = represents the fiery trials, especially the seven last plagues that the 144,000 must go through. The three Hebrews boys in the Daniel chapter 3 were tossed in the midst of the burning flames for standing up for truth, Jesus was with them in the midst of the fire. He did not allow the fiery trials to consume them. The same is true for the 144,000 who go through the last days sealed with the seal of the living God.

WE will be thrown in the midst of the fire for standing up for truth! But in the end, those who reject the beast, his image, his mark and the number of his name will be able to stand on this sea of glass mingled with fire only by having the great faith of Jesus Christ! Wow! What a beautiful and powerful scene that depicts our great faith in God even in the midst of great fiery trials.

What songs are the 144,000 singing as they stand on the sea of glass before the throne of God?

Revelation 15:3-4

3 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, thou King of saints.

4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou only art* holy: for all nations

shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb

“Upon the crystal sea before the throne, that sea of glass as it were mingled with fire,--so resplendent is it with the glory of God,--are gathered the company that have "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." With the Lamb upon Mount Zion, "having the harps of God," they stand, the hundred and forty and four thousand that were redeemed from among men; and there is heard, as the sound of many waters, and as the sound of a great thunder, "the voice of harpers harping with their harps." And they sing "a new song" before the throne, a song which no man can learn save the hundred and forty and four thousand. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb--a song of deliverance. None but the hundred and forty-four thousand can learn that song; for it is the song of their experience--an experience such as no other company have ever had." {Ellen White, Great Controversy p. 648}

A song of Moses Exodus 15:1 - 18-- song of deliverance

A song of Moses Deuteronomy 32:1 - 43 -- song of the Everlasting Covenant

A song of Moses and the Lamb -- 144,000 a song that they sing about their experience and the great deliverance that is promised in the Everlasting Covenant.

Faith or fear would determine their success or failure. God told them to “Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” In other words, have faith in God. He said that “The Lord shall fight for you!” and He told them and us to keep our peace even in the midst of being trapped in the middle of a storm with NO WAY out. In the last days, during the seven last plagues when the world-wide death decree is enforced against the faithful people of God who refuse to submit to the mark of the beast, we will be surrounded by an angry superpower of people. It appears that God's people will be totally destroyed. It appears that Satan will be victorious. It appears that they, like Peter, will be swallowed up in storm. It appears that they, like the three Hebrews boys in Daniel, will be consumed by the fiery flames. It appears that they, like Israel in the wilderness, will be overcome by Pharaoh's army.

But what are some of the promises that we must remember and act on by faith during this great time of trouble when the universal death decree is enforced?

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Psalms 46:1 God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalms 91:1-7

1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;
 6 *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.
 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.

What did God do for Israel in the midst of apparent defeat surrounded by an impossible way of escape?

Exodus 14:15, 16

- 15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they **go forward**:
 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea.

Moses did what God told them, God split open the Red Sea and the people of God went forward through the Red Sea on dry land to escape Pharaoh's army. With the Red Sea still opened Pharaoh's army decided to go through the Red Sea, but God released the walls of water on each side and destroyed Pharaoh's army in the sea. The people of God were delivered! Satan was defeated and God was honored.

Remember the 144,000 will go through an experience that NO one else will go through. They will have their own unique experience. Only they will sing this song of deliverance.

Revelation 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

All people saved will worship God throughout eternity.

Isaiah 66:23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.