6. Seven Bowls - 15:1-18:24

a) Six bowls - 15:1-16:16

1. Song of Moses and of the Lamb 15:1-4
1. 15.1 seems to be the header for 15:2-16:16
2. Sea of glass (15.2) We saw this before in 4:6. Given the context of 15.2, it seems I must change my mind… Is it the sea of the world of nations that has become pacified, after the rulers of this world have been conquered? Also, the song of Moses after going through the Red Sea makes it likely that here we have to think of that unruly sea that harms the people of God. But NIV comment: 'The sea of glass is the transparant pavement surounding God's throne.'
3. Song of Moses and song of the Lamb (15:2) Interesting that this is one and the same song. What Jesus did was fully aligned to what Moses did. Jesus fulfilled Israel's redemption.
4. Your righteous acts have been revealed. (15:4) See Romans 1.16-18.

2. Events in heaven 15.5-8
1. Where does God's wrath originate? (15:5)
2. What impressions do the seven angels make? (15:6)
3. Remberer the 'golden bowls'? (15:7) See Rev 5.8.
4. Note that the seven plagues are linked to God's power and glory. (15:8)

3. Six angels pour out God's wrath 16.1-16
1. The intensitty of this and following punishments is greater than before. (16:2)
2. Compare 16:6 with Luke 11.46-52, Mat 23.29-38. Is John in Revelation describing the same vengeance of God as Jesus did?
3. Does 'the altar' speak? (16:7)
4. 'They cursed God and did not repent'. (16:8-10) A reminder of Pharaoh and Egypt.
5. The sixth angel - Babylon will attack Jerusalem again? (16:12) That seems the background to the imagery.
6. God uses his greatest enemies to destroy themselves. (16.13-14)
7. The blessing of 16:15 (the third of seven in the book) suggests that the church is alive and well at this time of disasters. It is also a direct hint to the seven churches John is writing to, that they must keep the faith and be courageous.
8. Harmageddon. (16:16) Meggido was a plain where many battles were fought. The fact that John calls it now 'Har', Mountain of Megiddo, underlines the symbolic character of what he writes.