

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Message #11
Revelation 11:15-19 – The Seventh Trumpet
(9/20/09 PM)

Revelation is not necessarily in chronological order. The judgments appear to advance the narrative. (Refer to overview handout)

Last week we saw the two witnesses that God will raise up. We believe that their ministry will occur during the 2nd half of the Tribulation. We ended that section with verse 14, “The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”

The Third Woe Is the Seventh Trumpet

We saw that the Trumpet Judgments do not follow the Seventh Seal they are the Seventh Seal. The Seventh Seal contains all of God’s final judgments to be visited upon earth in the Tribulation Period. These judgments will most likely occur in the 2nd half of the Tribulation. (Outline Map of the Tribulation).

(10:1-11:14) is parenthetical. Earlier we saw that there was an interlude between the 6th and 7th Seal Judgments. There will be no interlude between the 6th and 7th Bowl Judgments. Verse 15 marks the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet. “Then the seventh angel sounded:”

Verses 15-19 are an introductory sketch of the consummating events ushered in by the 7th Trumpet Judgment. This trumpet embraces everything involved in the completing of the entire mystery of God. (10:7) “but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished.” This is God’s complete plan of redemption and judgment. This will include the coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His kingdom. The sounding of the 7th Trumpet is such a significant milestone that all of heaven appears to join in anticipatory praise.

The 7th Trumpet Will Set in Motion the Completion of God’s Redemptive Plan for the Present Universe

1. The Praise of Heaven (15)

Heaven Resounds in Anticipation

“And there were loud voices in heaven”

When the 7th Seal was opened there was (8:1) “silence in heaven”. The sounding of the 7th Trumpet is just the opposite. This is such a significant milestone that all of heaven appears to join in praise of the Lamb. We are not told specifically whose voices these are. Something similar occurred with the Lamb took the seven sealed scroll from the hand of God the Father (5:7).

• **They proclaim a radical change in world government**

The word “kingdoms” is not plural, it is “kingdom”. All of the world governments are really one kingdom under one king, Satan. Three times in the Gospel of John Jesus called Satan “the ruler of this world”, John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. Satan is the real power behind the governments of the world.

Ephesians 2:1-3, “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience.”

Ephesians 6:11-12, “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but

against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Daniel saw the world kingdoms as wild beasts, destructive and vicious. Daniel 7:3, “And four great beasts came up from the sea.” People today believe that the ideal would be one world government. This will be realized through the Antichrist. Satan will personally indwell him in one last attempt to rule the world. Revelation 13:7-8, “And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

- **Christ’s kingdom comes destroying Satan’s kingdom**

“The kingdoms of this world have become”

This is what scholars call a proleptic aorist. It is used in prophet language. It describes a future event that is so certain it is spoken of as if it has already occurred. This is the stone of Nebuchadnezzar’s vision in Daniel.

Daniel 2:44-45, “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold.”

Revelation 20-22 reveals that Christ will reign in the Millennial Kingdom for 1,000 years. This kingdom will then be incorporated into the Eternal Kingdom. The fact that Jesus Christ will rule the earth is a predominant theme of scripture.

Zechariah 14:9, “And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — “The Lord is one,” and His name one.”

Once the Reign of Christ Begins It Will Never End

2. The Worship of the Twenty-four Elders (16-18)

They Represent the Raptured Glorified Church

(16) “they fell on their faces and worshipped God”

We will be expressing our love, adoration, reverence, and worship of God for what He is about to do. We will praise “The One who is and who was and who is to come”. This three-fold praise is seen in Revelation 1:4 (John’s intro); 1:8 (Christ’s identification of Himself); 4:8 (the praise of the four living creatures). Some translations do not include the phrase “and who is to come” since this passage views Him as already here.

- **The Kingdom of Christ has come**

(17) “Because You have taken Your great power and reigned”

Christ has promised New Testament believers that we will reign with Him.

Revelation 1:5-6, “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Romans 8:17, “And if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

The Kingdom’s Coming Is the Church’s Victory

- **The day of judgment has come**

(18) “The nations were angry and Your wrath has come...and should destroy those who destroy the earth”

These are people who destroy through the defilement of their sin. The nations are defiant and enraged against the coming of Christ and His kingdom. This verb suggests a deep seated and ongoing hostility. This language is a reflection of Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:1-9, "Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure: "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

The nations will attack Jerusalem and vent their hatred upon the Jewish people. Only the coming of Christ will save Israel.

Zechariah 14:1-5, "Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken,

The houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley..."

The earth dwellers will not repent and believe in Christ. They harden their hearts and curse God.

(18) "And the time of the dead that they should be judged"

The word "time" is *kairos* which speaks of a period of time. This is a general reference to the fact that the time for God to judge the world has come. There are actually different judgments that will yet take place. This side of the grave justice is never fully done. Often the guilty go unpunished and the innocent suffer. Death is not an escape from the judgment of God.

The Coming of the Day of Judgment Is the Church's Vindication

• The day of reward has come

(18) "And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great"

Service to Christ is not a way to gain the favors of this world. Service to Christ is the way to gain the blessing of God. God promises to reward those who serve Him.

Matthew 19:29, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

As with judgments there are different times of reward for different groups. For the church our place of reward will be the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

Most Likely the Church Has Already Been Rewarded

In Revelation 4:10 the 24 elders are seen casting their crowns before God's throne.

3. The Opening of the Heavenly Temple (19)

The Ark of the Covenant Is Revealed

This is most likely not the Ark that was on the earth. It may be discovered which will cause the Temple to be rebuilt.

• **The Ark symbolizes God's communion**

In the midst of God's wrath being poured upon the world He gives a reassuring symbol to believers. God as it were opens the Holy of Holies. The Ark is symbolic of the New Covenant that God promised to Israel and that the Church has shared in its blessings. Israel on earth is going through intense suffering, and God is reassuring them of His covenant promises to them.

(19) "And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."

There were thunderings and signs when the Law was given at Sinai; there are thunderings now as God is about to judge the world for breaking His Law.

The Final Bowl Judgments Are About to Be Unleashed