

Revelation #30**March 12, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet; Revelation 11:15-19**

In Revelation 11:14 the warning is sounded. The third woe is coming in quick succession after the second woe has passed. You can sense from the reading of the verse that there is a short, a very short interval between the second woe and the third and final woe.

It is important to know that the third woe refers to the bowl judgments of the seventh trumpet, which is about to sound. For the Christian the sounding of the seventh trumpet is the signal that truly the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus to the earth, and the establishment of His millennial Kingdom is about to take place. But, take note, this seventh trumpet is not the same trumpet as the "last trumpet" in 1 Corinthians 15:52. This "last trumpet" is an instantaneous event, says MacArthur. Whereas the seventh trumpet includes the terrible judgments which last through the last 3 ½ years of the tribulation, known as the Great Tribulation.

John MacArthur notes what these final events involve. We will recognize them as follows: 1. During the days of the last trumpet will come the "final fury of the day of the Lord's judgments. In other words, the magnitude of the final judgments will dwarf the previous judgments.(16:1-21). 2. The final harvest of judgment of earth will occur (11:18 ;16:19). 3. The Lamb will defeat the kings of the earth (17:12-18). 4. These final events conclude with the final triumph of our Lord Jesus over the mighty 200 million man army at Armageddon.

Let's begin this study by getting a handle on the timeline and structure of Revelation at this point.

I. (11:15 - 15:8) From the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet to the actual implementation of the judgments associated with the Seventh Trumpet

A. From the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet to the preparation of the Judgments contained in the Seventh Trumpet

1. The Sounding: 11:15
2. The Instigation of the judgments contained in the trumpet: 15:1-8

B. The Structure of Revelation 11:15 through 15:8

1. (11:15-19) The Sounding of the trumpet is the announcement of the coming coronation of the rightful King of the earth.
2. (12:1-14:20) These chapters describe the tribulation from Satan's perspective
 - a) Whereas Revelation 4-11 focus on the Lamb recovering what is rightfully His through the Seven Seals and the first six Trumpets,
 - b) Revelation 12-14 focuses on the final Antichrist (the Dragon) and his activities during the period of Revelation 4-11.
3. (15:1-8) The preparation for implementation of the final judgments contained in the Seventh Trumpet.

II. (11:15-17) The Announcement of the Coming Coronation of the Sovereign Christ

A. (11:15a) The Seventh Angel Sounded his trumpet

1. Garland points out that this trumpet “parallels the trumpet of Joel 2:1-2,” which warns of the coming judgment on the inhabitants of the earth.
 - a) Joel 2:1-2: “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand— a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness...”
2. There are “loud voices in heaven” at this same time!
 - a) Voices of joy and exaltation! Praise for what the trumpet means! That is, for what is about to take place!

B. (11:15b) Highest joy for the Sovereign Lord and His Christ is soon to rule and reign over the kingdom of earth.

1. “The kingdom of this world...”
 - a) Kingdom, not kingdoms. This singular “kingdom” provides a great truth:
 - (1) All the world’s systems (MacArthur: “the diverse national, political, social, cultural, linguistic, and religious groups are in reality one kingdom under one king. That king is Satan.
 - b) Satan is known by many names, indicating his great reach in power and authority: The following list is from MacArthur.¹
 - (1) The accuser, “Accuses believers before God (Rev. 12:10
 - (2) Beelzebub, “Lord of the flies” (Matthew 12:24,26-27)
 - (3) Belial, “Worthless” (2 Corinthians 6:15)
 - (4) The Devil, “Slanderer” (Matthew 4:1)
 - (5) The dragon, “Destructive creature” (Rev. 12:3, 7, 9)
 - (6) The Evil One, “Intrinsically evil” (John 17:5)
 - (7) The god of this world, “controls the philosophy–world” (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - (8) The prince of the power of the air, “controller of unbelievers” (Ephesians 2:2)
 - (9) The roaring lion, “Opponent” (1 Peter 5:8)
 - (10) The ruler of this world, “Rules the world’s system” (John 12:31)
 - (11) Satan, “Adversary” (Matthew 4:10)
 - (12) The serpent of old, “Deceiver in Eden” (Rev. 12:9; 20:9)
 - (13) The Tempter, “Enticer to sin” (1 Thess. 3:5)
 - c) Though God has ordained all human governments for the good of mankind (Romans 13:1), these same governments have refused to submit to God and bow to His Sovereignty (Psalm 2:1-2; Acts 4:26)²

¹ MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, Revelation 11:15

² *ibid*

- (1) "They" are essentially part of Satan's kingdom (singular).
 - d) In John, Jesus acknowledged that Satan is the present ruler of the world!
 - (1) See John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11
 - e) Satan will rule over one kingdom consisting of a united fallen humanity governed by the Beast, who is under the direction of Anitchrist.
2. "...has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever."
- a) The joy of the prospect of the reign of the Lord (the Father) and His Christ is absolutely certain, that is proclaimed as if it has already happened!
 - (1) But, in reality it will happen only after the seven bowl judgments are poured out upon the earth (Rev. 16:17)
 - (a) "The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, **"It is done."**
 - b) The kingdom of the Lord and His Christ
 - (1) Typically in the NT the Lord is referring to Jesus.
 - (2) Here in Revelation it is referring to God the Father
 - (3) The Lord and His Christ emphasizes their **equality** of nature.
 - (4) This **kingdom**, then, includes both the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom.
 - (a) At the end, the millennial kingdom will merge with the eternal kingdom in which Christ will reign forever and ever!
- C. (11:16-17) The Response of Praise by the 24 elders seated on their thrones
- 1. They fell on their faces and worshiped God!
 - a) Their worship is representative of the raptured church in heaven!
 - (1) All of heaven has been waiting for Christ to take back the earth, which is rightfully His
 - 2. The crux of their worship: They exult in His attributes
 - a) Lord God Almighty: His Sovereignty
 - (1) Namely His sovereign omnipotent power"
 - (a) It is God whose rule and reign is irresistible!
 - b) "The One who is and who was"
 - (1) The Living God who has no beginning or end
 - c) He has taken His great power "and have begun to reign."
 - (1) They acknowledge the final permanence of God's reign.

3. As if it has already happened, but it is still future and can only be fulfilled when Christ reigns with universal power over the whole earth! (see again 11:15)
 - a) "...and of His Christ and He will reign for ever and ever."

III. (11:18) The Unrelenting Rage of the nations and the certainty of wrath against them

- A. "The nations were angry;"
 1. This reveals an at-the-core type of hostility; a burning resentment toward God.
 2. Regardless of the evidence that previous judgments were from God they conspire against God and His kindness and mercy!
 - a) Psalm 2 describes this so well: "Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain."
 - (1) They rebel against the Lord and His Christ: "The Kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One."
 - b) Romans 2:4: Even in wrath, God has been benevolent: "Or do you show contempt for the riches of God's kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance?"
 3. Application: As the children of God, who have the message of "LIFE", the world rages against the Gospel.
 - a) Don't shrink back. But join with Jesus: "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15:18-19
 - (1) **We were delivered out of the kingdom (singular) of Satan!**
 - (a) **"For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14**
- B. "...and Your wrath has come."
 1. The seventh trumpet is the signal for the final outpouring of God's wrath and judgment to follow.
- C. "The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your Name, both small and great..."
 1. The judgments are combined here. But later in Revelation we see them separate.
 - a) The elders don't distinguish between the judgments.
 - (1) Other examples of blending judgments:
 - (a) John 5:25-29; Acts 17:31; Acts 24:21
 - b) They are praising saying that it is fitting for judgment to begin now that the kingdom is under the rule and reign of our Lord and His Christ!
 2. The judgment of the "servants and prophets", "saints and those who reverence"
 - a) This would include both OT and NT believers.
 - (1) OT: Looked forward to Redemption through Christ
 - (2) NT: Those who believed and received the message.

- b) Rewarded for what each one has done in faith, according to His own labor
 - (1) See Revelation 22:12; I Cor. 3:8; Matt. 24:34-40; Rev.21:7;
- c) Kinds of rewards: Crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8); Crown of life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10); crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)
- 3. "Destroying those who destroy the earth"
 - a) All workers of sin and inquiry who defile the earth by their sin;
 - b) Those who pervert justice and governments
 - c) All who destroy society, morality, family, and the love of good.
 - d) Satan and his followers
- 4. Once God destroys those who have corrupted the earth, he will make a new...
 - a) Rev. 21:1: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,..."

IV. (11:19) The Temple in Heaven is opened

A. What John saw

- 1. The Temple in Heaven
- 2. The ark of **His** covenant
- 3. Flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm

B. What this means to the saints of God

- 1. The Temple in Heaven being opened reveals what is inside: blessing for believers
 - a) The ark of His covenant:
 - (1) A beautiful symbolic reminder of our redemption and the forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus, who is the propitiation for our sins!
 - (a) It was upon the ark, in the holy of holies, that the blood of atonement was sprinkled on the mercy seat.
 - (b) Because of the blood covered the mercy seat, the law that stood against us no longer condemns. Therefore, we have peace with God through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, through whom we have been justified!
 - (i) Romans 5:1,9
 - (2) We are reminded of our fellowship with God through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Col. 2:13b-14: "He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us; he took it away nailing it to the cross."

C. What this means to the rebel inhabitants of the earth: judgment on unbelievers

- 1. This vision of flashes of lightning, etc
 - a) Warn of the impending judgments of the seven bowls.
 - b) That the wrath of God is based upon the righteous law of God, which is contained in the ark.
 - (1) The law stands against every unbeliever

- (2) Without Christ, no one is free from the demand of perfect law keeping.
 - (3) Without Christ, everyone is crushed by the weight of the law
- 2. This vision warns people in Revelation as well as in the present to repent now!
 - a) Christ must save you.
 - b) Or, the law will condemn you.