

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Seventh Trumpet of Revelation, Pt 2

Revelation 11:15-19

Keywords: Revelation, prophecy, End Times, Kingdom of God, Seventh Trumpet

PowerPoint Presentation included: None

SermonAudio Blurb: Jesus came in His first advent declaring that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Yet at the end of His earthly ministry the disciples were still asking if that kingdom was to finally be unveiled. For the last two millennia we still wait for that event. In our passage today we see it finally being declared as taking place. This subject is filled with much misunderstanding and opinion. John describes that critical moment in history where the kingdom of this age is swallowed up into the Kingdom of God. This is seen in a thumbnail sense anticipating a later description that fills in the details.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read Revelation 11:14-19.
- B. We are now moving into the second half of the book of Revelation.
 - 1. Ch 1 was introductory.
 - 2. Chs 2-3 message to 7 churches of that time.
 - 3. Chs 4-5 vision of heaven and the preparation for the end.
 - 4. Chs 7-9 unfolding of the 7 seals and most of the 7 trumpets.
 - 5. Chs 10-11 brings us into a pause where key information is given and the final trumpet sounds.
 - 6. Chs 12-15 is another interlude that helps explain and unfold human history leading right up to the end.
- C. 11:15-19 is a key hinge passage where the whole book begins to make that key transition to the final events and the wonderful news of the victory of God and the making of all things new.
- D. What is helpful and important to remember is that until we get into chapter 16 we are looking at broad time frames that will ebb and flow from the past to the present to the future and back again.
 - 1. This passage is one of those.

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

2. It views what is, the kingdom of this age; with what is to come, the kingdom of God.
3. It gives us a broad overview of what occurs with the advent of the coming Kingdom of God and then we will see much of what is described in greater detail in the chapters to come.

II. The Kingdom of God Declared.

- A. The announcement (15).
 1. At the blowing of this final trumpet the events and actions that then occur stretch all the way through the rest of the book of Revelation.
 2. First comes the voices from heaven.
 - a. Angelic or believers is not made clear. What stands out is the anticipation.
 - b. They were waiting for this sound of this final trumpet and when it comes they immediately begin to cry out with joy over the truth that is behind the sounding of that trumpet.
 - c. What you have here is heaven declaring what has actually has been going on “behind the scenes” within human history.
 - d. Remember what I taught in Ephesians about real reality, that we only see half of the “orange.”
 - (1) This is something many understand in the abstract.
 - (2) But it is hard to grasp in any concrete sense. We simply lack eyes to see it and ears to hear it. We must somehow learn this by faith.
 - (3) 2 Kings 6:8-17.
 - (4) “For we wanted to come to you-- I, Paul, more than once-- and yet Satan thwarted us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:18)
 - e. What we will see over the next few weeks is what is really going on behind events, both big and small, that have occurred and will occur.
 3. The Kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of God.
 - a. Why the singular “world?”

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (1) Some actually try to make the kingdom here to refer to the Church. The point is that the Church is now being swallowed up and absorbed into the eternal Kingdom of God. Unfortunately this makes no sense.
- (2) The better understanding is that though there are a multitude of kingdoms from the perspective of mankind, there is and always has only been one. The kingdom that belongs to the god of this age, Satan.
 - (a) Remember last week how we saw that the good news/gospel that Jesus Christ came preaching was the gospel of the kingdom.
 - (b) With that in mind consider 2 Corinthians 4:3-5.
 - i) God of this world or age.
 - ii) Hiding the good news that Jesus is the Lord/King.
 - (c) In John 12:31 Satan is called the “ruler of this world.”
 - (d) Do you grasp the reality, the real reality, that apart from Jesus Christ you, like the rest of the world lies in the power of the evil one? (1 John 5:19)
 - (e) In addition to these points, there is also the reality that the Antichrist will establish himself over all of the world and bring all the kingdoms under his sway.
- (3) Here is this kingdom, manifesting itself in every land and in every heart since sin entered this world.
 - (a) A kingdom in rebellion.
 - (b) A kingdom in resistance.
 - (c) A kingdom that seeks to push away the true King.
 - (d) A kingdom filled with evil and deception.
 - (e) A kingdom that always ends in death.
 - (f) A kingdom under the judgment and wrath of God.
 - (g) A kingdom that promises the moon but delivers only heartache and eternal damnation.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (4) This kingdom that is of the seed/offspring of Satan has resisted and killed the people of God. Its time has come to be taken over and replaced by the True King
4. The kingdom of our Lord and His Christ..
 - a. This trumpet blast is not just noise, it is a sound of horror for one group and a sound of triumph and life for another.
 - b. It shall no longer be Satan's.
 - (1) First, he shall be bound for 1,000 years during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Second, he shall be cast into what is called the Lake of Fire for all eternity— to be forgotten and destroyed.
 - c. Today is not the time to lay out all that is entailed in this declaration. It is sufficient to note that this is where the end of everything we know begins.
 - (1) It is capturing the coming judgment against Satan.
 - (2) The binding of Satan.
 - (3) And establishing of Jesus' earthly reign.
 - (4) The release of Satan where he seeks to destroy the Lord.
 - (5) And the final judgment where all things are judged and all things are made new.
 - (6) All of this is captured in these few words.
5. He will reign forever.
 - a. This statement helps show what I mentioned last week on the complexity of the Kingdom of God.
 - b. On one hand God has and always will reign. But from a different aspect, He doesn't.
 - c. This is looking to a future point in time where the reign of God begins and continues on into all of eternity.
6. This phrase, “. . . the kingdom of God and of His Christ. . .” should remind us of Psalm 2 where the psalmist writes, “Why are the nations in an uproar

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

And the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!’ He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury” (Psalm 2:1-5).

7. What is key in our passage is the reaction we see in heaven to this trumpet sound.

a. Remember when in chapter 8 the Lord broke the 7th seal of the scroll there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

(1) A collective holding of breath if you will.

(2) An awareness of what was to come as the judgment and wrath of God began to roll for in ever-increasing volume.

b. But not now.

B. The response (16-18).

1. Worship.

a. The angelic beings are falling down and worshipping!

b. They are filled with awe and overcome with the glory of what has just happened.

(1) Night has turned to day.

(2) Death to life.

(3) Evil is destroyed.

(4) Satan is banished.

(5) God’s people are no longer victims and reviled. No, they are vindicated.

(6) As Paul say in Colossians 3 that when Christ is revealed in His glory, we too shall finally be revealed in that glory as well.

(7) What has always been by faith, now shall be sight.

c. And the angels simply worship.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- d. They worship because now they see the plan of God come together.
 - e. They worship for the very things they longed to understand and to know are now made plain.
2. Thanksgiving to the Lord (16).
- a. True thanksgiving comes from hearts that are humbled and rightly related to God.
 - (1) A proud heart never gives thanks, or only seldom, when things work out in our way.
 - (2) But for these angels, pride is not a point of stumbling. They hear the trumpet and they see the work of the Lord and thanksgiving pours from their mouths.
 - b. For many millennia the angels have watched and waited. They wondered and sought understanding.
 - (1) They marveled at the first Advent, where the Son took on the likeness of sinful flesh.
 - (2) They ministered and cared for Him after His temptations by Satan in the wilderness.
 - (3) They likely were straining to come down and deliver Him from the shame of the Cross.
 - (4) In amazement they saw Him die.
 - (5) In joy they saw the Father raise Him from death.
 - (6) And now, they rejoice and give thanks for all things are coming to pass.
 - c. Note briefly the details:
 - (1) He is the almighty.
 - (a) It means that all power truly and only belongs to Him.
 - (b) The reality is that nothing can ultimately resist Him nor hold Him back.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (c) He has faced the fulness of this rebellious kingdom and now He reigns.
- (2) Because He now reigns for eternity(17).
 - (a) In 1:4 it said of Jesus Christ, “who is and was and who is to come.”
 - (b) But notice the last part is no longer.
 - (c) I love the way it is rendered, “because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.”
 - i) The fact we are not filled with tears of yearning shows how hard it is to grasp the greatness of that statement.
 - ii) Everything is resolved in Jesus Christ. No more pain and no more suffering. No more evil done to you and no more done by you. It is finished!
- (3) The nations are confronted (18a).
 - (a) This idea of the rebellion of the nations is something you see throughout the bible.
 - (b) It is seen in Genesis 11 where the nations refused to scatter and fill the earth. They sought to be like God and so He caused them to speak various languages and scatter nonetheless.
 - (c) It is seen in the kingdoms that resisted God through the capturing of Lot and the rescue by Abraham.
 - (d) It is seen in the Egyptian empire hating and enslaving God’s people.
 - (e) It is seen in the succeeding empires, each rising and falling at the will of God and each doing so shaking their fist at Him and His will.
 - (f) Later in Revelation though we will see this explicitly described at the end, just prior to eternity. The

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

nations rise up once again and seek to destroy Christ. And then comes the final judgment.

- (4) The saints rewarded (18b).
 - (a) Here we see the goodness of God as He welcomes His people into the fulness of their rest.
 - (b) As it is described in the gospels, we entered into the joy of our Master.
 - (c) This is when we find our rewards.
 - i) A lot of questions arise on this point and this is right and good.
 - ii) But the bible is not verbose on what and how this occurs.
 - iii) We know that various rewards shall be given and also that there is the ability to actually lose out on some rewards.
 - iv) But the how and what is unknown. It is sufficient to know that it will come from our Father who loves us with an infinite love.
 - (d) He breaks this down into various groups that are worth noting.
 - i) The prophets.
 - a) They are called ‘servants.’
 - b) I think he has the Old Testament prophets in view here.
 - c) So often hated and reviled. They were persecuted and executed.
 - d) Yet they faithfully proclaimed the Word of God and the promise of the coming Christ, of whom they would never see.
 - ii) The saints.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- a) This captures the rest. All who believed the promise and good news of God.
 - b) They are saints because they are set apart in Jesus Christ for all eternity.
 - c) They are holy unto the Lord, something I think you and I can forget at times—the incredibly privileged position we have.
 - d) These other terms are simply other descriptions of the “saints.”
 - 1) To those who fear your Name.
 - 2) The great and the small.
 - e) None are missed and none are forgotten. From the great in faith to the one who constantly struggles and stumbles, all who were bought by the blood of Jesus are gathered together for their reward.
- iii) As the hymn says, “What a day of rejoicing that will be!”
- (5) God’s judgment is rendered (18c).
- (a) Those who hated Christ and hated and ignored His people, they shall be judged.
 - (b) The destroyers shall be destroyed.
 - (c) And all those who yawned and shrugged and spat and hated the people and things of God shall find themselves first bowing their knees and confessing with their tongues that Jesus is Lord.
 - i) Not to their salvation.
 - ii) But to their judgment and destruction.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- C. The heavenly temple responds (19).
1. What is happening in this verse?
 2. To put it simply, though the reality is anything but simple, it is the coming of the judgment of God.
 3. All that was just declared in the preceding verses is now unfolding from the very center of God's Temple in heaven.
 4. It is likely the same as what we will see later in 15:5-8, where the chronology of Revelation and its events are resumed and the seven bowls come into view.
 5. It is similar to Romans 1:18 where it speaks of the wrath of God which comes down out of heaven against all ungodliness.
 6. Heaven is not merely the place from which the grace of God comes to us but also His judgment and wrath.

III. Conclusion.

- A. In this passage we have the unveiling of the final victory of God.
- B. Over the next several weeks we will unravel it and expand on it, but the take away for this passage is that the battle is finally done. We now enter into the fullness of our salvation and adoption.
- C. We are at rest. No wonder all of heaven falls down and worships.

IV. Benediction/Doxology.

Small Group Questions

- **What are ways we see this age lying in the lap of Satan? Don't just go for the obvious ones, but think through the subtle ways our enemy works in and through humanity.**
- **Can you think of a time or two where you found yourself face-to-face with a situation where you saw the influence of Satan clearly and where you had to make a choice as to whom you were to serve?**

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- **How might Matthew 6:19-34 connect to the two kingdoms? What are ways we struggle to be honest before God in this area?**