

A SERIES ON REVELATION: is this the end?

Week 17 – the end is in sight

Transition: Chapter 11 continues the brief interlude (from the host of cataclysmic events in chapters 6-9) that began with chapter 10. In chapter 10, we saw a mighty angel swear that “*the mystery of God would be fulfilled*” with the blowing of the 7th trumpet. John is also told to eat a small scroll that was sweet to the taste but turned bitter in his stomach. In chapter 11, John was then told to “*measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there.*” In short, John was measuring the people of God to assure them of His protection through these tumultuous times. John is also given a vision of two witnesses/prophets who prophesy for 1260 days. They are eventually killed by the antichrist and then called up to heaven. The section ends with the people of Jerusalem glorifying God.

Context: With the start of 11:15, the story takes one more turn. The view shifts back to heaven from earth. This time we see some of heaven’s reaction to the blowing of the 7th and final trumpet. Heaven’s residents are clearly grateful that the mystery of God is about to be fulfilled, just as the mighty angel swore.

Opening Question:

- Name some things for which you are grateful to God.
- Is there a situation in your life for which you are still awaiting justice? How are you handling the wait?

Scripture/Storying: Revelation 11:15-19

Discipleship Questions:

- At the blowing of the 7th trumpet, the unnamed voices proclaim, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.” What all does that mean?
- At the blowing of the 7th trumpet, the elders respond by proclaiming their thankfulness to God. For what are they thankful? How does their list compare with the list you made earlier? What is your response to the contrast? (Assuming there is a contrast.)
- Read Psalm 2. Notice the similarity between the beginning of Revelation 11:18 and the beginning of Psalm 2:1. In what other ways are the two passages similar? What stands out to you about Psalm 2? How does it tie-in with the passage in Revelation 11?
- A big topic in our country today is justice. What is your understanding of justice? What does 11:18 communicate about justice? What are some appropriate reactions to anyone reading this verse?
- In what way(s) do you think God is going to reward His servants, the prophets and the saints? Does the prospect of a reward motivate you? If so, in what ways? If not, why not? What is a reward that you are proud of having earned?
- What do you think it means that God’s heavenly temple is opened, and that the ark of the covenant was seen?
- In what way(s) will this passage help you to faithfully follow Jesus this week?