



Αποκάλυψη

REVELATION

11:15-19

OUTLINE

- 📍 Main Point
- 📍 The Vision
- 📍 The Seventh Angel (v. 15a)
- 📍 The Announcement (v. 15b)
- 📍 Heavenly Response to the Announcement (v. 16)
- 📍 Praise for God's Power (v. 17)
- 📍 Praise for God's Judgment (v. 18)
- 📍 Opening of the Heavenly Temple (v. 19)
- 📍 Lessons for Us

MAIN POINT

- 📍 We are now seeing the “buzzer” for the “two minute warning”
 - 📍 Praise is given to God for His justice and power
 - 📍 See the opening of the Temple in Heaven, indicating that there is no barrier between us and fellowship with God
 - 📍 Everything is about to be wrapped up
- 📍 There will be an extended interlude until we get to the next series of judgments
 - 📍 Similar to **Chapters 7 and 10-11:14**
 - 📍 More information will be given to us that is important for our understanding of the Tribulation period
 - 📍 Will need to keep this context in mind to properly interpret the coming passages
- 📍 The praise we give for God
 - 📍 What do we praise God for
 - 📍 Only for the things we like, or for all His actions?
 - 📍 The necessity of God’s judgment

THE VISION



THE SEVENTH ANGEL (V. 15A)

- 👤 The final angel in this sequence of judgments
 - 👤 No immediate action on earth (see also **Revelation 8:2-5**)
 - 👤 Instead we see a heavenly scene
- 👤 Previously spoken of as the one that would declare the “two minute warning”
 - 👤 We are about to see the final acts that will usher in the Kingdom
 - 👤 Will enter into an extended interlude not to be resumed until **Chapter 16**
 - 👤 There is a lot of additional detail God is going to convey
- 👤 Continues the pattern and the “telescoping” view
 - 👤 The Seventh Seal contains the Seven Trumpets
 - 👤 The Seventh Trumpet contains the Seven Bowls
 - 👤 Not a recapitulation of what has come before

THE ANNOUNCEMENT (V. 15B)

👤 Not directly told who is speaking here

- 👤 Based on the context, it is likely that the broad multitude and set of persons we have seen introduced are all included

👤 Saying that the world, all in it, and those in it, will now be the direct kingdom of God

- 👤 This is what Satan offered in **Matthew 4:8-10**

👤 Satan offered a “shortcut”, but...

- 👤 Would place Jesus subservient to Satan
- 👤 Would not fix the issue of sin

👤 Note the duration of time

- 👤 Forever

- 👤 The 1,000 reign of Christ starts the Kingdom, but its final form takes shape after that period

👤 Note that this period is still in the future

- 👤 Cannot refer to a past time to John
- 👤 Could not refer to a present time, unless one does violence to the text

👤 Seeing this as a spiritual kingdom does not work

- 👤 The “kingdoms” spoken of clearly refer to literal, real-world kingdoms
- 👤 For the one to be a real kingdom and the other to be spiritual does not make logical sense or fit the text
- 👤 This is more explicit in the Greek
- 👤 There is a sense where the kingdom is “not of this world” (**John 18:36**) but that is not what is being spoken of here



👤 Recall that this is the whole point of **Revelation**... Showing John (and us) how all things will end and the Kingdom be established

HEAVENLY RESPONSE TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT (V. 16)









Worship from the elders

-  Last seen the Elders in **Revelation 7:13-14**

Earthly vs. Heavenly reactions






-  Worshiping God vs. celebrating death
-  Submission to God vs. rebellion against God

The position of worship


-  We see several positions of worship in Scripture
-  Standing (**Nehemiah 2:4**)
-  Prostrate (**Joshua 5:14**)
-  Hands raised (**1 Timothy 2:8**)
-  Eyes to Heaven (**John 17:1**)
-  Bowed head (**Nehemiah 8:6**)
-  The position of worship/prayer is less important than the position of the heart
-  We are commanded to always pray (**1 Thessalonians 5:17**)

PRAISE FOR GOD'S POWER (V. 17)



The eternity of God

-  God is outside of time
-  Transcendent, yet also intimate
-  Only He can see the end from the beginning (**Isaiah 46:10**)
-  Only He has the moral authority to define right and wrong and to judge
 -  All we can do is tell people what He has already said






The power of God

-  Not only can God see all and set the rules, but He has the power to enact justice
-  Recall what *axios* means

This is what we have been told to pray for (**Matthew 6:10**)

-  This is not a casual thing
-  We all like to fantasize about the Kingdom, but do we understand what it takes to get there?

Some attempts have been made to align this passage with the events which lead up to 70A.D.

-  Would have to see the “Church Age” start at that time
-  Would have to take this passage and surrounding passages in a very allegorical reading
-  Would have to render words meaningless and interpret in an arbitrary fashion
-  Would also have to assume that the Church has done a good job with the “Kingdom”... Which we manifestly have not
-  Would have to assume that the Church, and not God, is capable of bringing in the Kingdom

PRAISE FOR GOD'S JUDGMENT (V. 18)

📍 Passage is similar to Psalm 2

- 📍 Note again that people are not fighting God in ignorance
- 📍 They are actively, and knowingly defying Him

📍 The wrath of God vs. the wrath of Man

- 📍 God's wrath is holy and just
- 📍 Our wrath is often selfish, base, and unholy

📍 Everyone likes to praise God for His mercy and grace, but what about His judgment?

- 📍 Without judgment, mercy and grace mean nothing

📍 We should not mistake God's patience for acceptance of sin

- 📍 Sin will eventually be judged and all things made right
- 📍 But it will happen in His way and in His time
- 📍 Note that this follows the previous section which admits to God's total understanding and power




📍 Rewards and retributions

- 📍 God will, in fact, judge everyone... even us (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- 📍 Judged by our works
 - 📍 The just (1 Corinthians 3:12) judged for rewards
 - 📍 The unjust (Revelation 20:12) found wanting
- 📍 Do we actually live our lives like we will have to give an account?







📍 "Destroy them which destroy the earth" seems to encompass Babylon (c.f. Jeremiah 51:25; Revelation 19:2), the Beast, and the False Prophet (Thomas v2, p. 113)

OPENING OF THE HEAVENLY TEMPLE (V. 19)

The opening of the Temple




-  The logical conclusion of the song of praise for the establishment of the Kingdom
-  No impediments to fellowship with God
-  Think of it like a more complete and full fulfillment of **Matthew 27:51**

The Ark




-  Many differing views and traditions on where the Ark is and if this is the actual Ark
 -  Hidden by Jeremiah (**2 Maccabees 2:4-8**)
 -  Destroyed by Babylon (**2 Kings 25:9; Jeremiah 3:16**)
 -  Secreted away at some point (**1 Kings 14:26; 2 Chronicles 33:7**)
 -  The original in Heaven and only a replica lost (**Hebrews 9:23**)
-  Regardless, the appearance here shows that God's Covenant will be fulfilled and the Kingdom established

LESSONS FOR US




Things take place in God's time and in His ways

-  We all want this to take place right now
-  It is harder to keep “in the fight” and do what we are supposed to, than to seek an easy deliverance from toil
-  We still have a job to do here

We often praise God for His mercy and grace, but what about His judgment?

-  If we say we love God then we must love all of Him, not just a single one of His attributes
-  If there is no judgment, then what does that say about God's holiness?
-  If there was no judgment, then what would that say about the Kingdom and the Eternal State?

Recommendations for further study on the Ark and its fate/present location

-  Many ideas of where it is and how it got there, but there is more speculation than evidence in most cases
-  May be tangential, but useful for those who are serious about prophecy
-  Helps formulate clear indicators and warnings by distinguishing the signal from the noise