

Worship in Anticipation of the King (Message #26)

Revelation 11: 15-19

We have spent much time in the book of Revelation. I hope you have been enlightened and are enjoying our study thus far. Tonight we come to the half-way point in Revelation. It is here that we find the 7th trumpet being sounded, the 3rd woe that will bring the finality of God's judgment.

When the 7th trumpet sounds it will reveal the 7 vials or "bowl judgments." We read of the trumpet being sounded here in [V.15](#), but the events surrounding the trumpet aren't revealed until [Chp.15](#). The book of Revelation isn't written entirely in chronological order. Chapters [12-14](#) will deal with the Tribulation, but from a different perspective. In [Chps.6-11](#) the focus has been on the Lord and His judgment to claim possession of the earth. In [Chps.12-14](#) the focus will shift to the Antichrist, but it will deal with the same time period we've already studied. We have been looking at the Tribulation from God's perspective and next week we'll look at it as it pertains to Satan.

Our text tonight is once again centered in heaven. Verse [16](#) reveals the attitude and atmosphere found in heaven as the 7th trumpet sounds. It will be a time of worship and rejoicing. Let's look at this time of: [Worship in Anticipation of the King](#). There are 3 specific scenes revealed in these verses. First we see:

I. A Scene of Rejoicing ([15-17](#)) – Let me remind you that the 24 elders represent the redeemed of all the ages. As the 7th trumpet sounds, the elders fall to their faces and worship the Lord. They are rejoicing because Jesus has been triumphant over Satan. They are rejoicing over the Lord and His kingdom. Let's take a moment to consider the Lord's kingdom. It is:

A. A Prominent Kingdom ([15](#)) – [And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord."](#) Take a moment and consider the kingdoms that have ruled the world: the Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Romans, as well as the world powers of our day. Most of these have fallen and are no longer kingdoms of dominance.

- Each of these had one thing in common, a desire to rule the world. They were influenced by the god of this world, Satan himself. For centuries evil men, led by Satan, have ruled the world. They have denied the Lord and slaughtered those who followed Him. The

kingdoms of this world will not last! Jesus is coming again as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will set up His kingdom in righteousness and all will bow to Him!

B. A Providential Kingdom (15) – [He shall reign for ever and ever](#). Now think of the powerful rulers of the world: Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Caesar, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, Saddam Hussein, etc. These men conquered and ruled vast empires, but they all have one thing in common, they all died. Their reign ended as they drew their last breath. Our King died, but praise the Lord, He rose to die no more. We have no reason to fear. Our King shall reign forever. He will never lose His throne. Jesus will set up His throne and reign forever. [Ps.145:13 – Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations](#).

C. A Powerful Kingdom (17) – [Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned](#). The coming kingdom will be ruled by the [Lord God Almighty. Thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned](#). The kingdoms of earth are limited to men's ability. The power of a kingdom rests upon its ability to maintain order and control, and defend against invasion and attack.

- The kingdom of the Lord is built upon the power of His word! His kingdom doesn't rest on the frailties of men. He will one day defeat the powers of hell in great power. Satan and those who follow him will be judged and their sentence carried out in the lake of fire.
- There is no one who will be able to stand against the power of Almighty God. Even now, the god of this world operates under His sovereign power.

D. A Perpetual Kingdom (17) – The Lord is described as the [Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come](#). The Lord's kingdom is eternal, reaching all the way from eternity past into eternity future. There has never been a time when God wasn't and when He wasn't in control.

- The world would have us to believe that He is just a myth. They may even think that God has forsaken us and that Satan has gained the upper hand. The Lord reigned before Satan was created and He will continue to reign long after Satan is bound in the depths of hell. We serve the God of eternity!
- I firmly believe in the Lord's eternal existence, His eternal atonement through His precious blood, and my eternal salvation in eternal God! We will one day step into the eternal kingdom of God to spend the countless ages with Him. The troubles and afflictions we face down here are but fleeting seconds in the face of eternity. We can rejoice in the perpetual kingdom of God!

I. A Scene of Rejoicing (15-17)

II. A Scene of Recompense (18) – *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.* The scene of rejoicing turns its attention to a scene of recompense where men receive their just reward. All who have ever lived will stand before the Lord in judgment. Notice:

A. The Retribution of the Sinners (18a) – *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged.* Even in Tribulation the world remains angry and defiant toward God. They will oppose and reject the Lord's offer of salvation until the end. Rather than seeing themselves as they are, sinners in need of a holy God, they curse and deny Him.

- This verse reminds us of the Great White Throne Judgment, [Rev.20:11-15](#). Our world today is filled with those who reject Christ. They live as they please, indulging in sin, and expect to answer to no one.
- The Bible warns of the coming judgment for those who reject Christ. The Lord will have the final word in judgment. There won't be any arguments or accusations brought against the Lord. These will stand without defense as judgment is pronounced, resulting in eternal death, separation, and torment apart from God.
- Jesus died for all men, but those who deny Him will end up in hell. All whose names are not found in the Book of Life will stand accountable for their sin. What a terrible time to stand before God facing the penalty of sin. I'm glad that my sins are covered in the blood, never to be remembered!

B. The Reward of the Saints (18b) – *and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.* As the lost are judged for sin, the redeemed are rewarded for their service unto the Lord. The verse mentions *servants, prophets, saints, and them that fear they name, small and great*. No one will be left out.

- Your service down here may go unnoticed with little gratitude or encouragement, but Jesus hasn't forgotten! He will reward you for every deed you've done for His glory. Every sacrifice, every faithful deed, every prayer, every encouraging word, every expression of love, all remembered and rewarded by the Lord. [Rev.22:12](#) – *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

I. A Scene of Rejoicing (15-17)

II. A Scene of Recompense (18)

III. A Scene of Revelation (19) – *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.* The scene in heaven closes with a revelation of things to come. It reveals the reality for all mankind.

A. The Acceptance of the Redeemed (19a) – We see the *temple of God was opened in heaven*. This speaks of the acceptance of the redeemed. We will have access to the throne of God. In the original temple there was a veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. When Jesus died the veil was rent in twain, the separation is gone because of redeeming blood! We will be able to approach the throne and worship the Lord.

- Consider a lowly sinner, with nothing of value within ourselves, being able to enter the very presence of God! I certainly don't deserve it, but praise God I'm going to experience it.

B. The Assurance of the Jews (19b) – *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament.* Here we find yet another reminder that God isn't finished with His covenant people. The Ark of the Covenant was where God dwelt. It represented His presence, His power, and His promises. God is reminding Israel that He will keep His covenant with them and fulfill His plan.

C. The Affliction of the World (19c) – *and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.* The passage closes with a vivid reminder of coming judgment. Those who have rejected the Lord will face the horrors of the 7th trumpet.

- As each vial is poured out, the judgment intensifies. We serve a holy God. He is a God of mercy and love; One who is longsuffering, but His mercy will not last forever. He will judge sin. For those who choose to reject the Lord in Tribulation, the vials will be theirs.

Clearly this passage divides men into two categories, saved and lost. There is no middle ground. There is no purgatory or appeal from judgment. The choice we make in this life will determine our eternity. Right now each of us are in one of these categories. You have either been saved or you are still in your sin. Once we pass through the gates of death our destiny is sealed.

If you were to die right now, do you know for sure that you would be in that number rejoicing around God's throne? Or would you be in that number that will stand at the Great White Throne in judgment?

Jesus died for you! He gave His life that YOU might be saved! He loves you and wants you to enjoy the heaven that He is preparing. You can know for sure that you'll be in that number. Won't you come if the Lord is dealing with your heart this evening?