

The Book of Revelation
Revelation 11:15-19 (NIV)
“The Proclamation, The Praise, and The Presence of God”

Introduction

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying:

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small— and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

The Scriptures have long foretold of a time when God will bring to an end Satan’s dominion over the earth. It is important for us to understand that at the present time, as well as for ages past, the devil has been the ruler of this world. One need look no further than to those who lead the world today to see the various agendas of Satan being carried out by the governments of this earth. This is why the decree from heaven resounds with the words, **“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom or our LORD and of His Messiah” (Revelation 11:15).**

King Jesus will overthrow the governments of this world and begin to reign after the seventh trumpet, which includes the seven bowls of wrath that are within this final “trumpet judgment”. The Prophet Daniel spoke of Christ’s coming kingdom when he revealed the interpretation of the great King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. This dream was given to the Gentile monarch as a harbinger of the age to come when God’s eternal kingdom will utterly destroy the kingdoms of this world.

The end of the dream:

While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.
Daniel 2:34-35

Its interpretation of the dream:

“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands — a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.” **Daniel 2:44-45**

With the sounding of the seventh trumpet the final hammer strokes will begin to fall and complete the work of Christ to reclaim this fallen world as His inheritance. The eviction notice for the devil and all his followers will be discharged. The series of judgments known as “the bowl judgments” (**Revelation 15-16**) will culminate in the destruction of all forces who oppose the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby, usher in His millennial kingdom.

The elders (**vs. 16**) rejoice upon hearing this proclamation after the final trumpet sounds (**vs. 15**), because the prayers of the saints are finally being answered. **“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10 KJV)**. As well as, the prayers of the martyrs in **Revelation 6:9-10, “How long Sovereign LORD, holy and true, until You judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”** With the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the devil’s hold on earth will be forever broken, and its title deed will be fully transferred to its rightful owner. No wonder we find such enthusiastic worship as **Chapter 11** concludes with, the *Proclamation*, the *Praise*, and the *Presence of God*.

The Proclamation (vs. 15)

Upon the sounding of the seventh trumpet, loud voices proclaim the kingdom of the LORD has come. It is interesting to note that the Greek verb translated “has come” (**vs. 15**) describes a future event that holds such certainty it can be described as already taken place. For at the time of this proclamation the bowl judgments that will complete the overthrow of this world’s Satanic kingdoms are yet to occur. But as far as God is concerned the end result is already accomplished!

The prophets throughout history have warned of the great and terrible day of the Lord (**Joel 2:31**). And nothing will be able to prevent its coming. It is, and will be, as certain and final as death itself. Every Christian should take comfort in knowing that all the promises of God are kept. Jesus will reign. Satan will fall. And the reign of Christ will be everlasting. As someone once said, *God said it*. It believe it. *That settles it*.

The Praise (vs. 16-18)

Upon hearing the loud voices proclaim the kingdom has come, the elders get off their thrones and fall face down to worship. As we saw earlier, the judgments have not been poured out at this point, but the elders (the Church) worship as though it has already been completed. Though Jesus will not be officially crowned as King until after the battle of Armageddon in **Chapter 16**, the church worships upon the announcement of Him being crowned. We call this faith. It is the very fuel that a Believer runs on. We believe Jesus’ blood covers our sin, and we are saved. We believe in His resurrection, and that we will rise. We believe in His return, and He will reign. It should come as no surprise to us to see ourselves in **Chapter Eleven**, worshipping our God for something He is yet to do. That is why we are called believers. It is what we do!

In the latter part of the worship “song” (**vs. 17-18**), there is a line that says “the nations were angry”. This is a reference to **Psalm 2**, which speaks of the kings of earth taking their stand against God, and thereby, bringing His judgment down upon themselves. This Psalm goes on to say that God finds it laughable (**Psalm 2:4**) that mere men think that they can oppose the will of Almighty God. This is yet another wondrous example of the timeless truths of Scripture. For this Psalm, written over three thousand years ago, speaks clearly of what is to occur at the culmination of the Great Tribulation. The angry nations of this world will turn their fury toward The Almighty One, and He will laugh their foolishness! As the writer of Hebrews has said:

It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of The Living God. Hebrews 10:31

The arrogance of men has become astounding indeed, when any would think he could confound the plans and purposes of God. His purposes will be accomplished. Only a fool would stand against Him. This is why **Psalm 2:12** also says, **“Kiss His son, or He will be angry, and your way will lead to your destruction.”** In other words, my friends, the only way to survive is to find yourself in good standing with Jesus!

The song of the church goes on to say, **“The time has come for judging the dead, (which will occur in Chapter 20) and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small - and for destroying those who destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18b)**. This shows how God will deal with every aspect of His creation, both fallen and redeemed. First, the rebellious men of earth will die and face His judgment. Second, His people will be rewarded and shall reign with Christ. Third, the demonic forces, that have been wreaking havoc by destroying the planet, will be judged. God is Just and Sovereign. He will set all things right. For this, He has earned our worship.

The Presence of God (vs. 19)

The temple of heaven was opened and within His temple was seen the ark of the covenant (**vs. 19**). We learn of the ark of the covenant in *The Old Testament*, as a symbol of the presence of God Himself among His people. It would have been unthinkable in those days for the temple to be opened so that everyone could see the ark, for it was kept behind the veil in the Holy of Holies where only the high priest could see it. It should not be lost on us as Christians, that because of the finished work of Christ on the cross, the veil was torn from top to bottom, thus giving the Believer full, undeniable access to God the Father. The Christian need not fear seeing into the Holy of Holies. Jesus Christ makes us worthy to do so. Our Great High Priest has made us priests as well! We can now boldly approach the throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy (**Hebrews 4:16**).

It is also encouraging to take note of the 3 things that God had Moses place inside the ark; the ten commandments, Aarons staff that budded, and a jar of manna were all kept inside the ark (**Ex. 16:33; Ex. 25:16; Num. 17:10**). Let us look at them in detail. The Ten Commandments, written on stone tablets, are symbolic of the very word of God itself. Written in stone to endure forever. God's Word is the Believers very life. It gives us hope, encouragement, correction and guides our lives that we may live according to the will of God. **Psalm 119** is a Psalm in the center of your *Bible*, written about your *Bible*. What a fitting place to find the longest of the Psalms (176 verses), stressing the central importance of God's word in our lives. My favorite verse in all of scripture is **Psalm 119:165 “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” (KJV)**

The second item in the ark, Aaron's staff, is a symbol of God's calling. **Numbers 17** tells the story of when people began to question the authority of Aaron as the high priest. God instructed Aaron, and his would-be rivals, to lay their staffs in front of the tent of meeting. Whichever of the dead staffs budded and came to life would signify the one whom God had called. Aarons staff budded, and thereby, silenced the challenges of the other men, who thought they could call themselves into the priesthood. We must never forget that we have been made priests, because God has called us to Himself. We did not find Jesus. He found us!

Thirdly, the jar of manna represents the provision of God. When the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness with nothing to eat, God fed them every day with fresh manna. This sweet bread fell from heaven each day to give God's people just what they needed to survive. Think of how the manna is a picture of Christ Himself.

It was:

- 1) White - Representing the purity and holiness of Christ
- 2) Round - It had no beginning or end
- 3) Came from heaven - Just like Him
- 4) Gave the people what they needed to survive - Just like Him
- 5) You had to kneel to get it - Just like Him
- 6) There was enough for everyone - Just like Him
- 7) It would disappear if you missed your chance to gather it - Just like Him

So God has provided us with everything we need. These needs were all met in the person of Jesus Christ. It is He who taught us to pray **"Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."** Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Truth!!!