

The Book Of Revelation

Study 54

Revelation 11:15-19 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

¹⁷ saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

¹⁹ Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

The sounding of the seventh trumpet marks a significant milestone in the book of Revelation.

It sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His earthly millennial kingdom.

Revelation 10:7 expresses the finality of the seventh trumpet;

Revelation 10:7 (NKJV)

⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

That mystery is the full revelation of the consummation of God's plan.

It was prophesied by the Old Testament preachers, but its fullness was never revealed until the book of Revelation.

That the seven bowl judgments, which represent the final outpouring of God's wrath, are included within the seventh trumpet is evident from *chapter 15:1*;

Revelation 15:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete.

Revelation 16:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

Since both the seventh trumpet and the seven bowls are said to finish God's wrath, the bowls must be a part of the seventh trumpet judgment.

Now looking back we are reminded that the last three of the seven trumpet judgments are so horrific that they are referred to as woes.

Revelation 8:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

After the sounding of the 5th trumpet John wrote;

Revelation 9:12 (NKJV)

¹² One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.

Before the sounding of the 7th trumpet he added:

Revelation 11:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

So the seventh trumpet sets in motion the final consummation of God's redemptive plan for the present universe.

During its tenure will come the final fury of the Day of the Lord judgments:

Revelation 16:1-21 (NKJV)

¹ Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, "Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth."

² So the first went and poured out his bowl upon the earth, and a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image.

³ Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.

⁴ Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵ And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things.

⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due."

⁷ And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."

⁸ Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire.

⁹ And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

¹⁰ Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain.

¹¹ They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.

¹² Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

¹⁴ For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

¹⁵ "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

¹⁷ Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

¹⁸ And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

²⁰ Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

²¹ And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

And the final harvest of judgment on earth:

Revelation 11:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 16:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

And also the Lamb's defeat of the kings of the earth:

Revelation 17:12-18 (NKJV)

¹² The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

¹³ These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

¹⁴ These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

¹⁵ Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

This all culminating in the final, climactic triumph of Christ at Armageddon:

Revelation 19:11-21 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

¹⁶ And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷ Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,

¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."

¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him

who sat on the horse and against His army.

²⁰ *Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

²¹ *And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

The sounding of the seventh trumpet signals God's answer to the prayer:

Matthew 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

That answer sweeps through chapters 12-22 as God finishes His mighty work of reclaiming creation from the usurper, Satan.

This last trumpet calls for prolonged waves of judgment on the ungodly.

This blowing of the last trumpet parallels the trumpet of Joel:

Joel 2:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ *Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand:*

² *A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.*

The seventh trumpet not only announces consuming judgment on unbelievers, but also the coronation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament trumpets were frequently sounded at the coronation of a king.

During his attempted coup against his father David;

2 Samuel 15:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!'"*

At the coronation of David's true successor, Solomon:

1 Kings 1:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ *Then Zadok the priest took a horn of oil from the tabernacle and anointed Solomon. And they blew the horn, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!"*

Trumpets were sounded at the coronation of King Jehu;

2 Kings 9:13 (NKJV)

¹³ *Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"*

And again for King Joash:

2 Kings 11:12 (NKJV)

¹² *And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"*

2 Kings 11:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.*

The sounding of the seventh trumpet also marks the end of the interlude that follows the sixth trumpet;

Although the seventh trumpet sounds in chapter 11 verse 15, the judgments associated with it are not described until *chapter 15*. *Chapters 12-14* are a digression, taking readers back through the Tribulation to the point of the seventh trumpet by a different path.

They describe the Tribulation not from God's perspective, but from Satan's.

Chapters 4-11 focused on Christ's taking back what is rightfully His by means of the seal and trumpet judgments.

Chapters 12- 14 focus on the ultimate human usurper, the final Antichrist, whose career spans the same time period as the seal and trumpet judgments.

The scene as the seventh trumpet sounds unfolds in four stages:

**Praise for sovereignty,
Paroxysms of rage
Plan for judgment,
Promise of communion**

Revelation 11:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

¹⁶ *And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,*
¹⁷ *saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.*

PRAISE FOR SOVEREIGNTY

Though its effects on earth were delayed (as with the seventh seal; 8:2-5), there was an immediate response in heaven when **the seventh angel sounded** his trumpet.

Expressing exhilaration at what was about to take place, **there came loud voices in heaven saying,** "*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever,*"

That dramatic proclamation is obviously connected to the effects of the seventh trumpet.

There is unrestrained joy that the power of Satan is to be forever broken, and Jesus Christ is to reign supreme as King of Kings and Lord of lords.

With the defeat of the usurper, the question of sovereignty over the world will be forever settled.

What Jesus refused to take on Satan's terms;

Luke 4:5-8 (NKJV)

⁵ *Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.*

⁶ *And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.*

⁷ *Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."*

⁸ *And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "*

He will now take on His own terms. Heaven rejoices that the long rebellion of the world against God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ is about to end,

The setting up of Christ's long awaited kingdom is the apex of redemptive history.

Note the use here of the singular term **kingdom of the world** instead of the plural "kingdoms" introduces an important truth.

All the worlds diverse national, political, social, cultural, linguistic, and religious groups are in reality one kingdom under one king.

That king is known in Scripture by any names and titles, including the accuser (Rev 12:10), the adversary (1Pet 5:8), Beelzebub (Matt 12:24), Belial (2Cor 6:15), the dragon (Rev 12:3,7,9), the "evil one" (John 17:15), the god of this world (2Cor 4:4), the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2), the roaring lion (1Pet 5:8), the ruler of the demons (Mark 3:22), the ruler of this world (John 12:31), the serpent of old (Rev 12:1:9; 20:2), the tempter (1Thess 3:5), and, most commonly the devil (Matt 4:1) and Satan (1 Tim 5:15).

Though God scattered this kingdom at the tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9) Satan still rules over the pieces of that once united kingdom.

While God ordains human governments for the well-being of man

Romans 13:1 (NKJV)

¹ *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

Those same governments refuse to submit to Him or acknowledge His sovereignty

Acts 4:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ *The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.'*

They are essentially a part of Satan's kingdom.

There are those who have trouble with the statement of Satan being the ruler of this world as God is Sovereign. They cannot reconcile that fact. Yet Jesus affirmed that Satan, though a usurper and not the rightful king, is the present ruler of the world.

To those who blasphemously accused Him of being in league with Satan, Jesus asked rhetorically, *"If Satan cast our Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?"* (Matt 12:26)

Three times in John's gospel Jesus called Satan "the ruler of this world" (*John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11*)

As he did at Babel, Satan will rule in the future over a united fallen mankind in one visible kingdom under Antichrist's (the Beast of *13:1-4*) leadership. Satan will not relinquish his kingdom without a struggle.

In a desperate and doomed effort to maintain control of the world, God will allow him to overrun it with hordes of demons during the fifth and sixth trumpet judgments (*9:1-19*).

But his efforts will not keep the true King from retuning and establishing His earthly kingdom (*19:11-21; 20:1-3, 10*).

Jesus Christ will return to sit on the throne of His father David;

2 Samuel 7:12-16 (NKJV)

¹² *"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.*

¹³ *He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

¹⁴ *I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.*

¹⁵ *But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.*

¹⁶ *And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "*

He will take over the whole world from the satanically controlled people who now possess it. This is really the theme of Revelation, the triumph of God over Satan as evil is purged from the world and Christ becomes its holy ruler.