

The Book Of Revelation Study 55

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."

In our last study we found that Satan will not relinquish his kingdom without a struggle.

Yet his efforts will not stop the rightful King from coming and taking back that which belongs to Him.

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.

He will come and He will sit on David's throne and rule the world.

Now listen, the tense of the verb translated, "has become" is what Greek grammarians refer to as a proleptic aorist.

It describes a future event that is so certain that it can be spoken of as if it has already taken place.

The perspective of the verb tense looks to a point after the action of the seventh trumpet will have run its course. Though this event is future from the point of chronological progress reached in the series, it is so certain that the verb form used views it as an already accomplished fact;

Luke 19:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

The timeless heaven rejoices as if the long-anticipated day when Christ will establish His kingdom had already arrived, although some time on earth must elapse before that actually happens.

The Phrase **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** emphasizes two realities, *Kurios (Lord)* usually refers to Jesus throughout the New Testament, while in Revelation it more often refers to God the Father, thus emphasizing their equality of nature.

This phrase also describes the kingdom in its broadest sense, looking forward to divine rule over the creation and the new creation.

No differentiation is made between the earthly millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom, as for example Paul does:

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 (NKJV)

²⁴ *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.*

²⁵ *For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.*

²⁶ *The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

²⁷ *For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.*

²⁸ *Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.*

At the end of the thousand years, the millennial kingdom will merge with the eternal kingdom, in which Christ **will reign forever and ever.**

Once the reign of Christ begins, it will change form, but never end or be interrupted.

The glorious truth that the Lord Jesus Christ will one day rule the earth permeates the Scriptures.

In *Chapter 15* of *Revelation*;

Revelation 15:2-4 (NKJV)

² *And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.*

³ *They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"*

⁴ *Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested."*

That they sang the **"song of Moses"** (Ex 15:1-18) indicates that as far back as the Pentateuch Scripture anticipated the moment when the Lord Jesus Christ would become King of the world.

Psalms 2, a messianic passage whose imagery and language permeates this section of Revelation and predicts the coming earthly reign of Christ (*Psa 2:18; 121:5; 14:1; 16:14; 17:18; 19:15, 19*)

Psalms 2:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

⁷ "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

The prophets also looked forward to that time when the Messiah would establish His earthy reign. Isaiah writes:

Isaiah 2:2-3 (NKJV)

² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

³ Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Daniel wrote of that same day;

Daniel 2:34-35 (NKJV)

³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:44-45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold--the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The vaunted empires of world history (the statue) will be shattered by the Messiah's kingdom (the stone cut out without hands); they will crumble to dust and blow away, but His kingdom will last forever.

In another vision:

Daniel 7:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

And then in;

Daniel 7:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.'

Daniel 7:22 (NKJV)

²² until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

Daniel 7:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Looking forward to Messiah's kingdom Micah wrote,

Micah 4:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it.

² Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³ He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Summing up a lengthy discussion of the Day of the Lord and the coming of Christ's earthly kingdom Zechariah wrote;

Zechariah 14:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be-- "The Lord is one," And His name one.

When Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary he told her that He would someday be a great King over the earth;

Luke 1:31-33 (NKJV)

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The monumental moment in redemptive history anticipated in the Old Testament prophecies, in the announcement of Christ's birth, in the preview of Christ's second coming glory at the Transfiguration, in Christ's teaching and miracles, in the covenant promises to Israel, in the promise to believers that they will reign with Christ, in the promise to the twelve disciples that they would judge the twelve tribes of Israel, and in the promise of Jesus that He would return in glory will be imminent.

And that will cause all heaven to praise God for the wonder of His sovereign plan that Christ should reign.

Zeroing in on one particular group in heaven offering praise, John notes that **the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God.**

As representatives of the glorified, raptured church, these elders had been eagerly waiting for Christ to take back the earth from the usurper.

The joyous cry of praise is filled with gratitude and reflects their exhilaration that their prayers for the kingdom to come has been answered. (*Matt 6:10*)

Revelation 11:17 (NKJV)

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.

The elders praise focused on three of God's attributes.

The Almighty, - God's sovereign, omnipotent, irresistible power.

Who is, Who was, Who is to come – God's eternity.

Who has take His great power and begun to reign. – God's Sovereignty

Psalms 24:1 (NKJV)

¹ A Psalm of David. The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

Here Christ reigns in absolute power and authority over the earth and all who dwell there in.

All attempts to equate this glorious reign of Christ over the whole earth with any past event or with the church is utterly foreign and contradictory to the clear eschatological teaching of Scripture, including especially this passage.

There is no way this text can be fulfilled except by the universal reign of Jesus Christ over the whole earth just as the prophets had for so long predicted.

So again we hear the seventh trumpet sound and in it we see the unfolding of activity in four stages;

Praise for Sovereignty

Paroxysms of Rage

Plan for Judgment,

Promise of Communion

PAROXYSMS OF RAGE

Revelation 11:18a (NKJV)

¹⁸ The nations were angry"

The seventh trumpet vision reveals that, no longer afraid **the impenitent nations were** defiant and **enraged** at the prospect of Christ's kingdom being established over the whole earth.

The verb translated **were enraged** suggests a deep-seated, ongoing hostility.

This was not just a momentary emotional fit of temper but a settle burning resentment against God.

Eventually they will assemble armies to fight God;

Revelation 16:14 (NKJV)

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.

Revelation 16:16 (NKJV)

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

Revelation 20:7-9 (NKJV)

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

With no desire to repent of sin, angry resentment and hostility against heaven will drive the nations to gather for their destruction at Armageddon

Revelation 16:11 (NKJV)

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

Psalms 2:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.

⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Psalms 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Acts 4:24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things?

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

²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together

²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

²⁹ Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

The unbelieving world will reach the point of having hardened hearts toward God and His Christ.

Even under the threat of death and hell they will not repent. They instead will gather to fight, to do battle with the God of heaven. And note the spirit's of demons will gather them and lead them in this battle.

They will then be beyond the day of grace; there will be no salvation at Armageddon.

The world's last ditch effort to keep Christ from establishing His kingdom will, of course, fail, and they will be utterly destroyed:

Revelation 19:19-21 (NKJV)

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 unbelieving rejecters will have wasted their opportunity to repent at what they acknowledged as God's judgments. Instead they plunge into the depths of hostility and rejection and end up punished by God.