

“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!” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,” – Revelation 11:15-16

Overview:

So far, we have seen two of the three “woe” judgments of God's wrath. The first woe was the fifth trumpet judgment which was of scorpion/locusts – Rev. 9:1-12. The second woe was the sixth trumpet which was the Horsemen – four angels from the river Euphrates – Rev. 9:13-19. John is now told that the third woe, the seventh trumpet is coming quickly. Just after the sounding of the seventh trumpet, worship once again breaks out in heaven praising God.

Notice what the voices in heaven proclaim, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” From earth's perspective, they believe that the antichrist is reigning but from Heaven's perspective, this is a done deal. Earth's kingdoms have become the kingdoms of our Lord and Jesus shall reign forever. There are no maybes or possibilities about the final outcome.

The twenty-four elders who are sitting before God, fall down on their faces and worship God. This is the third time in Revelation that we have seen the twenty-four elders falling down in worship to God. Revelation 4:10-11 they worshiped God as “Creator”, in Revelation 5:8-9 they worshiped God as “Redeemer”, and here in Revelation 11:16-17 they worship God as “Judge and King”.

The default position of an unbelieving world that has rejected God's mercy is anger and rage. This is not only a time of wrath but it is a time of judgment. Judgment of the Godly dead, reward for God's prophets, saints, and those who fear God's name. It is also a time of judgment against the antichrist, false prophet, and Satan for what they have done to the earth. In Hebrews 8:5, Paul teaches that the earthly tabernacle was a copy or an image of heavenly things and now John sees God's temple open in heaven and he sees the ark of God's covenant. Even now during a time of wrath and judgment, the mercy of God is extended to the unbelieving world.

References:

Rev. 11:14 – First woe – Rev. 9:1-12; Second woe – Rev. 9:13-19; Third woe – Rev. 16

Rev. 11:15 – His Christ – Psalm 2:8-9; He shall reign – Romans 8:29, John 13:31-32, Philippians 2:9-11

Rev. 11:16 – Response of Worship – Magnifying God as: Creator – Rev. 5:10-11, Redeemer – Rev. 5:8-9, & Judge/King – Rev. 11:16-17

Rev. 11:16 – Response to Worship – The earth – Rev. 5:14; the martyrs – Rev. 7:11; multitude of heaven – Rev. 19:14

Rev. 11:18 – Nations were angry – Psalm 2:1-4; Time of the “righteous” dead - Rev. 20:4-5; Completion of the first resurrection – Rev. 20:6

Rev. 11:18 – Fear your name both small and great – Matthew 25:14-16, 20-23

Rev. 11:18 – Those who destroy the earth; Antichrist and False Prophet – Rev. 19:20; Their followers – Rev. 19:21; Dragon /Satan – Rev. 20:10

Rev. 11:19 – Temple of God – temples on earth replicated what was in heaven – Hebrews 8:5; The Ark, a place of mercy – Numbers 7:89; Place where God dwells – Psalm 80:1, 99-1, Isaiah 37:16

Rev. 11:19 – lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, & hail – Similar 7th seal – Rev. 8:5 & 7th bowl Rev. 16:18

Questions:

* When you read about God's wrath, what emotions/feelings do you experience?

* What does it mean to “fear God's name”?

* Take some time this week and pray for the lost people that you know. Ask God for their salvation.

Additional Study:

Rev. 11:17

* O Lord God Almighty - almighty (*pantokrator*) all powerful; (*panta*) pas – all; (*kratos*) – divine power, speaks of the power that belongs to God

Rev. 11:18

* Nations were angry (*orgizo*) – enraged, full of wrath

* Your wrath (*orge*) – indignation, a settled attitude of wrath has come

Rev. 19:21

* (*katoikountes*) – the ones dwelling on the earth, inhabitants, participle

* (*katoikeō*) – verbal root : Characteristics of these earth dwellers

Hebrews 8:5

* The copy (*hupodeigma*) – Example/model/shadow of the heavenly things