

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 11:15-19 we are shown 2 aspects of the final judgment brought about by the 7th trumpet.

- I. The result of the final judgment: God's plan is completed (v. 15).
 - A. The kingdom has transferred (v. 15 a, b).
 - B. The true King reigns forever (v. 15c):
 1. Because He is eternal (v. 17a).
 2. Because He is powerful (v. 17b).
 - a. To overcome and judge his enemies (v. 18a).
 - b. To reward his servants (v. 18b).
- II. The reason for the final judgment: God's character is displayed as He is faithful to His covenant to forgive His people's sin and bring them into His presence (v. 19).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 16, 2018

Passage: Revelation 11:15-19

Memory Passage: Revelation 11:15

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 11:15-19.** What one word describes what happens when the 7th trumpet sounds?
- (b) What actually happens on the earth to cause this worship after the 7th trumpet sounds (cf. 6:12-17, 10:7, 16:17-21)?
- (c) What is meant by the phrases “the kingdom of the world” and “the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ” (11:15)?
- (d) How are these two kingdoms the same? How are they different? How has the former “become” the latter (remember your study last week of 11:1-14 and the various OT passages, including Daniel 7)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 11:15-19.** Briefly summarize what you learned about the 24 elders from your study of chapters 4, 5, & 7.
- (b) Why is the 24 elders’ description of God’s existence different from their description in 4:8 (and of John’s and God’s in 1:4, 8) but the same as the angel with the 3rd bowl (16:5)?
- (c) **Read 1 Cor. 15:20-28 & Ps. 110.** How do these passages relate to and help you better understand Rev. 11:15-18?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 2:26-27, 11:15-19, 18:24-19:5, 19:11-21, 20:12-13, 22:12, & Ps. 2.** Explain how Psalm 2 helps you understand these Revelation passages, as well as how these Revelation passages reveal the ultimate fulfillment of Psalm 2.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 11:15-19.** To whom do “the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name” refer? Are they 3 different groups? 2 different groups? All the same group of people? Support your answer.
- (b) How do God’s actions in v. 18 (i.e. judging the dead and rewarding His people) inform your understanding of the timing of the events this part of John’s vision portrays?
- (c) Why do the temple and ark appear in this vision of the final judgment when Revelation 21:22 states there will be no temple in the new heavens and new earth? What does the ark symbolize in 11:19 (consider what the purpose of the ark was in the OT, the idea of God’s dwelling place in the NT, and the placement of this verse at the end of the final judgment)?
- (d) In his excellent commentary on Revelation, Greg Beale drew my attention (and now I draw yours) to Exodus 15:13-18. As you remember that the judgments brought about by the 7 trumpets are modeled on the 10 plagues, this OT referent is appropriate in our study of Revelation 11:15-19. Read the reference, study the 2 texts, and answer this question: Do you agree that Exodus 15:13-18 is a valid background to be considered in our study of Revelation 11:15-19? Why or why not?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 11:15-19.** Notice that the praise given by the 24 elders is characterized as giving thanks (v. 17) and that this thanks is given to God not only for rewarding His people but also for fully and finally crushing His enemies. How can you express thanksgiving to God for exercising His wrath and keep your heart free from sin (in v. 18, “rage” and “wrath” translate the same Greek root)? In what ways can you concretely thank God for exercising wrath as you also concretely love your enemies and pray for and seek their salvation? To phrase it differently, how can we seek God’s justice and forgiveness at the same time in our prayer life and our actions?
- (b) How do the truths taught about the final judgment in 11:15-19 help you live a joyful and obedient life as you live in this world in expectation of the next age?
- (c) A few questions from Beale’s “Shorter Commentary” (p. 239-40): “How often do we as Christians think about eternal life and heaven in terms of reward? What is the nature of our reward? Is the downfall of our persecutors the greatest reward we can look for? Should we look for that downfall as an end in itself? Does it not merely serve another purpose in terms of the revelation of God’s glory in the manifestation of His fulfilled rule over all creation?”

DATE: September 16, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 11:15-19

He Shall Reign Forever and Ever!