

## Message #29

## Revelation 11:15-19

**Revelation 11:14** says, “The second woe is past, behold, the third woe is coming quickly.” So the final three Trumpet Judgments are three “woe” judgments.

- 1) Trumpet Judgment #5 is “woe” judgment #1 (9:11, 12);
- 2) Trumpet Judgment #6 is “woe” judgment #2 (9:13; 11:14).
- 3) Trumpet Judgment #7 is “woe” judgment #3 (**11:15**).

**Now in verse 14, when we read “the third woe is coming quickly,” what we expect to see is an immediate implementation of wrath on earth. What we don’t expect to see is a major celebration in heaven.**

In view of the place where this sits, in God’s prophetic plan in Revelation, we suspect that one reason for this celebration is that the wrath of God, which has been targeting the world, is now going to specifically turn to Israel.

We may recall that the Great Tribulation is a time in which God pours out His wrath and judgment on a Christ rejecting, God mocking, Bible hating world. He bombards the world with wrath judgment. That part of it has taken place ever since chapter 6 in Revelation.

Now things are about to turn toward Israel. The Jewish people are going to become the target of God’s wrath and God’s re-gathering. At this point in heaven, people realize the chronology of this and therefore there is an anticipatory celebration outbreak.

What we see here is this:

**WHEN THE FINAL TRUMPET JUDGMENT IS ANNOUNCED, THERE WILL BE A TREMENDOUS WORSHIP SERVICE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE THRONE OF GOD.**

What a contrast this will be to what is happening on earth. On earth, people are terrified, but in heaven people are rejoicing. On earth, people are afraid of God, but in heaven people are praising God.

There are two specific observations to make concerning this seventh Trumpet Judgment:

**OBSERVATION #1** – The seventh trumpet judgment begins when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet. **11:15a**

Let us not forget that the seven trumpet judgments are all part of the seventh seal judgment. This seventh trumpet judgment will bring the judgments and wrath of God to a conclusion.

This seventh Trumpet Judgment contains the seven terrible bowl judgments, which lead to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

**The essence of where this judgment will eventually lead is found in Zechariah 13:8-14:11.**

Terrible persecution will break out against Israel as a prelude to the Second coming of Jesus Christ. We learn that only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Israel will survive this.

There are nearly 15 million Jewish people in the world today and if we base our calculations on that number, only 5 million of the 15 million will survive. This is all part of the seventh trumpet judgment.

What we learn here is that this judgment is announced and fully sanctioned in heaven at the Throne of God.

Dr. Charles Ryrie made an important statement about **verse 15**. He said, “The end is near enough now that the announcement of it can be made” (*Ryrie Study Bible*, NASV, p. 2028).

**OBSERVATION #2** – When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, a tremendous worship service takes place in heaven. **11:15b-19**

There are six prophetic worship facts that we see here:

**Worship Fact #1** - The worship service is loud. **11:15b**

This worship service in heaven will not be some quiet prayer meeting. This will feature “loud voices.” We may recall that when the seventh seal was initially opened, there was ½ hour of silence (8:1), but when the seventh trumpet judgment opens, it will feature loud worship.

Loud does not mean out of control. In fact, the adjective “loud” (mega) in Greek means these voices are loud in the sense of 1) Size; 2) Intensity; 3) Rank (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 281).

So this is a high ranked, heavenly ranked, intense loud worship service with booming voices. It would not be beyond the possibility of being heard by people on earth. In fact, in this very chapter in Revelation 11:12 we believe the “loud voice” is heard on earth.

Later, in this very scene, there will be roaring thunder that will be heard on earth so it is very possible that what is taking place at this worship service could be heard too.

**Worship Fact #2** - The worship service is in heaven. **11:15c**

This worship service is specifically being held in heaven. In Greek, the text literally reads “in the heaven” (en tw ouranw). What this means is that this worship service is taking place at the throne of God.

So while people are living in fear on earth, there is a worship service being conducted in heaven and my suspicion is people on earth can hear it.

**Worship Fact #3** - The worship service anticipates Christ's Kingdom. **11:15d**

Now it is clear that this worship service is about the Kingdom that is about to be established on earth by Jesus Christ. The voices cry out "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ and He will reign forever and ever."

Notice that Jesus Christ is identified as "His Christ." Jesus Christ is God's only Jewish Messiah. The proper noun "Christ" is clearly defined in John 1:41 - "We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ). So the noun Christ is a noun that means Messiah. Jesus Christ is the Lord and He is God's Messiah for Israel.

Here is one time when the King James Bible slightly differs in its translation. The King James Bible reads "the **kingdoms** (*plural*) of this world are become the **kingdoms** (*plural*) of our Lord." Here is one place where both the Textus Receptus, which is Erasmus Greek Text, and the English translation are wrong.

Erasmus did not have access to much of the book of Revelation in Greek Manuscripts, so he translated many passages into Greek from the Latin Vulgate. But as near as I can determine, the Latin Vulgate uses the noun "kingdom" singular, not plural. The vast majority of Greek manuscripts do not support the plural kingdoms. Our conclusion is Erasmus made a mistake and King James English Bibles have included this mistake ever since 1611.

The Greek text uses an articular singular noun "the kingdom" (th basileia). When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He told them to pray to God that His "Kingdom" (singular) would come (Matt. 6:10). When Isaiah predicted that a Divine child would be born who would take over the world, he predicted He would sit on the throne of David and reign over His "Kingdom" (singular) (Is. 9:6-7). When the Apostle Paul spoke of the end, he said there will come a moment "when He hands over the Kingdom to the God and Father" (I Cor. 15:24).

The emphasis of this scene is that Jesus Christ is on the verge of taking control of the entire world. He is on the verge of establishing God's Kingdom on this earth that is presently under the power of Satan.

We may remember that when Jesus Christ was here on earth, Satan offered Him all his kingdoms if He would worship him (Matt. 4:8-9). This temptation was trying to get Jesus Christ to bypass the cross.

What happens here in heaven is a worship service that anticipates Jesus Christ coming back to earth and taking it over and establishing a complete righteous kingdom. When Paul presented his message in Athens, he predicted that God has "fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness." Heaven realizes the day is near and the Kingdom is about to Come.

**Worship Fact #4** - The worship service features twenty-four elders. **11:16-18**

The twenty-four elders have been very much tuned in to the eschatological plan of God all throughout everything in the book. They are obviously emotionally moved by the thought that the end is near.

As we have gone through this book in Revelation, we cannot help but be impressed with how many times these elders are involved in worshipping God. They worship Him as Creator (4:10); they worship Him as Redeemer (5:8, 14) and as the One who offers salvation (7:11).

The holiest and most Biblical leaders are those who worship the God of the Bible and are moved to fall down and kneel down before Him. They realize the magnitude of what is happening here. They fell on their faces to worship God and there are certain realities about this worship:

**(Reality #1)** - They give thanks to God. **11:17a**

There are two ways they identify God:

**Way #1** - They identify God as the Lord God the Almighty. **11:17b**

The title “Lord God, the Almighty” occurs seven times in Revelation: 1:8; 4:8; **11:17**; 15:3; 16:7; 19:6; 21:22. The title “God the Almighty” occurs two times in Revelation: 16:14; 19:15.

The emphasis of these titles is that God has all might and power as Sovereign God and can do whatever He wants with any one, at any time in any way. Contextually, He has power to literally take over the world and establish His kingdom on earth.

**Way #2** - They identify God as the God who has eternality. **11:17c**

The phrase “who are” and “who were” emphasizes the fact that God is eternal. God has existed throughout all of time.

**(Reality #2)** - They thank God because He has taken His great power and begun to reign.  
**11:17b**

This final Trumpet Judgment announces that the Kingdom reign is on the verge of happening, even though at this point it is still approximately 3 ½ years away. This is the final judgment before that will lead to the reign and it is viewed here as already being underway.

**(Reality #3)** - They thank God because God is pouring out His wrath judgment on godless nations. **11:18a**

Political powers and nations do not love God and they do not love the word of God. In fact, at this point in the Tribulation godless powers have taken over the nations for 42 months (11:2).

They rejoiced at the death of God's prophets who were proclaiming God's word (11:9) and when we come to this text, we learn they hate God and they are enraged against God (11:18). This is the scene on earth in the nations of the world. But the scene is very different in heaven. God is being praised and worshipped and thanked because He is pouring out His wrath on these godless nations. The Divine Justice of God is now pouring out all the wrath stored up against the nations of the world.

In this Grace Age, God has been very good to the nations. He has allowed them to exist in the very place of their existence. He has provided for people who do not know Him, love Him or worship Him. He has offered eternal salvation to every sinner in every nation. Instead of these nations seeking to be right with God, they hate God and are enraged at the thought of God.

The truth is most who are in sin hate the thought of God. They hate the thought of being controlled by God. Most want to be their own god. They hate the thought of coming judgment even though they deserve it and know it.

At this point in the Tribulation, people will praise God for it.

**(Reality #4)** - They thank God because God is about to judge the dead. **11:18b**

The reference to "time for the dead to be judged" is a reference to the fact that it is time to judge all unbelievers. This not only refers to those who are dead in their relationship with God, but also those who are physically dead.

**(Reality #5)** - They thank God because God is about to reward the saints. **11:18c**

There are three classes of believers who are named here who will be rewarded:

- 1) Bond servants
- 2) Prophets
- 3) Saints.

All of these three feared the Lord and feared His name from all walks of life - small and great.

When Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom on earth, these will be honored and rewarded and they are praising God for that.

**(Reality #6)** - They thank God because God is about to destroy those who destroyed the earth.  
**11:18d**

God is going to destroy those who destroyed the earth by turning people away from Him.

**Worship Fact #5** - The worship service features the Temple of God. **11:19a**

At this point in the Tribulation, the earthly Temple in Jerusalem is about to be desecrated, but the heavenly Temple is dedicated and is a holy place and is the scene of tremendous worship.

We suspect that this will be visible to those on this earth. They will see the Temple and the Ark so critical to Israel and realize the program is about to focus on her.

**Worship Fact #6** - The worship service features cosmological heavenly signs. **11:19b**

God will once again send heavenly signs such as lightning and sounds of thunder and an earthquake and great hailstorm.

Now we, on occasion, have seen these things so we must assume that they will be at an unprecedented level.

When a new organization or company is about to take over an existing company, there are indications that big change is coming.

That is what this worship scene is all about. God is about to take over the world. Jesus Christ is on the verge of returning and even though there are some final details that need to be worked out, it is soon to happen and there is joy and worship in heaven over that fact.