

## THE SEVENTH TRUMPET

### Chapter 11:14-19

Following the opening of the seventh seal, the seven trumpets are foretold. After the first four trumpets, John records an announcement relating to the next three trumpets, **Rev. 8:13** I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe ... Three woes, three trumpets. ... The sounding of the fifth trumpet is the first 'woe', **9:12** One woe is past **19:12** ... *the smoke arising out of the abyss, the locusts, the ensuing pain*, and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter. The sounding of the sixth trumpet is the second 'woe', **11:14** The second woe is past *L... the two witnesses, and the opposition to them* ... and the sounding of the seventh trumpet is introduced, behold, the third woe *cometh quickly [without delay]* (11:14).

The sounding of the seventh trumpet marks a significant milestone in the Book of Revelation for it sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It relates to the intensive waves of God's judgment on the ungodly.

Although the seventh trumpet sounds in Rev. 11:15, the judgments associated with it are not described until chapter fifteen. ... Chapters 12-14 describe Satan's activities through the ultimate human usurper, the Beast, the Antichrist.

When the seventh trumpet sounds, its effects on earth were delayed while in Heaven, there was an immediate response of praise, **15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. ... Before the powerful antics of Satan and the Antichrist are unleashed, there is unrestrained joy because the future earthly reign of Christ has been settled and is inevitable. As far as Heaven is concerned, *already* the conclusion is assured to God's glory.

To gain a clearer perspective, the more correct translation of v.15 is, The kingdom *[singular]* of this world *[is]* become the kingdom *[singular]* of our Lord, and of his Christ. The idea is there are two kingdoms, - the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Behind every earthly kingdom which has ever ruled, there lies a single source of authority, in opposition to God, which will ultimately manifest itself in the reign of *the* Antichrist. In his first epistle John wrote, **I Jn. 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. ... <sup>22</sup> ... He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. ... **I Jn. 4:3** And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ... **II Jn. 1:7** many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. In the final days of the last times, the antichristian kingdom will become subsumed under the banner and influence and authority of *the* Antichrist ... and *his* kingdom will confront like never before the Kingdom of God.

The world's governments are already in essence under one king, **II Cor. 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not ... **Jn. 12:31: 14:30; 16:11** the prince of this world. He is not a rightful king, but a usurper, **Mt. 4:9** And *[Satan]* saith unto him *[Jesus]*, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. He has already intimated he wants to take God's position, **Is. 14:14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. He tried it in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3), and at the Tower of Babel (Gen. 11) but his most prolific attempt will come in a visible kingdom under Antichrist in the last of the last days (Rev. 13).

However, God has already decreed how it will be, The kingdom of this world *[has]* become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ. God has already decided He will rout out the Antichrist and his armies and people, and it is as if it has been already done! The establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth will overcome the kingdom of Satan with its hostile ungodly powers ... and God's Kingdom will stretch from the beginning of the Millennium into the New Heaven and New Earth. Christ will be Ruler over all, and His enemies will be eternally vanquished.

And the twenty-four elders who were watching this spectacle arise from their seats, fall on their knees with their faces to the ground, and they worship God, <sup>17</sup> Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. <sup>18</sup> And the nations were angry *[enraged ... with a deep-seated ongoing hostility]*, and thy wrath is come, and the time *[καιρός, the season]* of the dead, that they should be judged *[identified and condemned]*, and that thou shouldest give reward *[μισθός, payment for faithful service]* unto thy servants the prophets *[in the Old Testament]*, and to the saints *[in the New Testament, and onwards]*, and them that fear *[reverence]* thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy *[corrupt]* the earth. ... The coming of God's wrath is so sure it can be spoken of as if it has already happened. He has allowed Satanically-led powers to infiltrate and exercise great authority over their people, but He is showing how it is only 'loaned' to them for He ultimately shall strip and defeat them when Christ returns to this earth in the Second Coming. In God's will, it is as good as already done!

Sadly, there will be no worldwide repentance or salvation because the nations were *[continually]* angry (v.18). They will not turn to God, and He will hand them over to their wickedness (cf. Rom. 1:18ff.). They refuse to even consider it! ... **Ps. 2:1** Why do the heathen rage *[why are they in such a rage and an uproar]*, and the people imagine a vain *[worthless]* thing? *[In spite of all they have, they are not happy]* <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set *[elevate]* themselves, and the rulers take counsel *[they join]* together, against the LORD, and against his anointed *[Messiah]* ... <sup>4</sup> He that sitteth *[dwells, abides]* in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have *[... He looks at ...]* them in derision. ...

And because there is no repentance, there can be no salvation, and because there can no salvation, thy wrath is come. For God's Kingdom to be established, the sin and hostility of the nations must be dealt with. For grace to reign, sin must be removed, **Rom. 5:20** where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: <sup>21</sup> That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. And not only those who are living will be judged, but the dead will be raised, and judgment held to determine who will enter God's eternal Kingdom, and who will be excluded, **Dan. 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ... **Rev. 11:18** ... the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

At this part of the vision, John witnesses the temple of God being opened in Heaven. This is symbolic language for, of course, there is no physical temple in Glory, <sup>21:22</sup> for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. Nevertheless, this temple of God ... opened in heaven (11:19) heralds the coming of the Kingdom of when God will dwell among His people, <sup>21:2</sup> the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> ... Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

This scene in Heaven which immediately precedes the awfulness of the third woe, what an encouragement it is to God's people He is in control, and He will keep those who are His, "All His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own". .. What is described has not happened yet, but it is as certain as if it already has for God has no clock in Heaven, and all He decrees is as if it has already taken place!

In His temple John sees the ark of his testament [*covenant*], reminding him, - the old prisoner on the island of Patmos, - how God keeps all His promises ... from His covenant with Abraham (Gen. 12) through to the New Covenant (Jer. 31-33), it will be fulfilled in unbroken fellowship, - in all its glory, - when God will dwell with His people on earth, and into the new heaven and new earth. And such will be the express and manifestation of the presence of God's power and majesty, lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail (v.19; cf. 4:5).

Previously the ark was inaccessible to many, but through the blood of Christ its doors have been swung wide open to all who are His! The introductory message of this seventh trumpet is that Jesus Christ is the sovereign King, and that one day, - He will remove Satan's claim to this earth, <sup>15</sup> The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. At that time, He will bring all the covenant blessings to the redeemed, but eternal judgment to those who have not received Him.