

49. The Book of Revelation—11:11-18

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(8-4-21)

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Now, as we come to Revelation 11—let me say one more time that—*Israel* is in view not the Church.

The *place* is Jerusalem—the *time* is the first half of the Tribulation Period (Chapters 10-14 are a flashback).

Revelation 11:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ² But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. ³ And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. ⁶ These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. ⁷ When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. ⁹ Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. ¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

I believe that after the Antichrist slaughters the Two Witnesses (Moses and Elijah)—he goes directly to the Temple and sets his image up in the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshipped as God.

Matthew 24:15, 21 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "Therefore when you see the '*abomination of desolation*,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)...²¹ For then there will be **great tribulation**, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

When the Antichrist sets up his image in the Holy of Holies in the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem—it will officially begin the last half of the 70th week of Daniel which the Bible calls "Great Tribulation"—containing the most severe judgments of God.

But it will also start the countdown (1260 days) till the return of Jesus Christ to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

Revelation 11:11-12 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Can you picture this scene—CNN, CBS, ABC and all the networks of the world filming their dead bodies lying in the street while the whole world celebrates—but then after three and a half days they stand up and ascend into heaven!

This will mark the beginning of the end as the final and most devastating judgments from God are about to be poured out!

Revelation 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The literal Greek is somewhat ambiguous—it says, “Seven thousand names of men were killed in the earthquake”—what exactly does that mean?

J. Vernon McGee said—“This is an idiom to indicate that these were no ordinary men—they were “men of prominence”. In other words, it seems that these will be a collection of prominent leaders from all over the world who supported the Antichrist in his rise to power as leader of the one-world government.

I believe that these “men of prominence” will be some of Antichrist’s most ardent supporters and as a reward for their loyalty—he will then give them prominent positions in his new government. We don’t know why all of these dignitaries are going to be in Jerusalem when this earthquake hits—possibly they will be there for some kind of political summit.

Revelation 11:13 (NKJV)

¹³ In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

One commentator—

“The rest” must refer to inhabitants of Jerusalem, Jews who will come to faith in Christ. Supporting that interpretation is the fact that giving glory to the God of heaven is a mark of genuine repentance in Revelation and elsewhere in Scripture (Revelation 4:9; 14:7; 16:9; 19:7; Luke 17:18–19; Romans 4:20). This passage, then, describes the reality of the salvation of Jews in Jerusalem, as God fulfills His pledge of blessing for Israel (Romans 11:4–5, 26).”

Revelation 11:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

The second ‘woe’ (a term of extreme judgment in the Bible) belongs to the sixth trumpet judgments as recorded in Revelation 9:13-20.

- Remember, Revelation 10:1-11:13 has been a recap and an amplification of the 7th Seal which began the 7-Trumpet Judgments (8:1-2).
- As we have already said, Revelation is structured around 3-sets of judgments—The 7-Seal Judgments; the 7-Trumpet Judgments; and the 7-Bowl Judgments.
- The first 6 seal judgments start at the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation Period and take us into the final 3-½ years.
- The seventh seal began the seven trumpet judgments—the second ‘woe’ belongs to the sixth trumpet.

Revelation 11:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

So again, the second ‘**woe**’ speaks of the *sixth* trumpet judgment and the third ‘**woe**’ is the *seventh* trumpet which introduces the 7-Bowl Judgments as recorded in Chapter 16—the final and most severe judgements of all!

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ **Then the seventh angel sounded** [his trumpet—i.e., the seventh trumpet judgment]: **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!"**

These “*loud voices*” are probably angelic heralds making this announcement.

Now, the question on our minds is—how can the statement be made in verse 15 that, “**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ?**”

I mean, we still have the 7-Bowl Judgments yet to follow in Chapter 16 and Jesus doesn’t come back to the earth to establish His Kingdom until Chapter 19.

So, then what does the statement, “**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ**” mean?

Listen, the seven bowl judgments, which represent the final outpouring of God’s wrath, are included within the seventh trumpet and even though they haven’t happened yet and won’t until ch.16—in the program of God it is a “*done deal*”.

To fully understand this, you need to know that this is what is called a “*proleptic statement*”. In other words, it is an event so certain in its coming that it is spoken of in the past tense—as if it has already taken place!

Another example of a proleptic statement in Scripture would be—

Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**.

Think of it this way—at the headquarters of a successful political campaign on election night, there is joy, even though it will be a while until their candidate is actually installed into office—the same is true here. Even though Jesus won’t return to the earth for a little while to be ‘installed’ or coronated as King and Ruler over all the earth—His victory has been sealed and is now being celebrated!

Satan tried to get Jesus to “by-pass” the cross by offering Him the world’s kingdoms, but He refused the offer (Matthew 4:8–10).

Instead, He died on the cross, arose, and returned victoriously to heaven where the Father gave Him His inheritance (Psalm 2:4–9).

He will come again to take possession of that inheritance by judging the Antichrist and his followers before establishing His Kingdom where He will reign from Jerusalem over the whole earth.

It should be noted that although the seventh trumpet is the last in the sequence of the seven trumpet judgments (Revelation 8:7-9:20, 11:15)—it is not to be equated or confused with the “*last trumpet*” which Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 15:52—

1 Corinthians 15:52 (NKJV)

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Harry Ironside says that the *last trumpet* was a figure of speech that came from the Roman military, when they were breaking camp—the **first trumpet** meant "*strike the tents and prepare to leave*"; the **second trumpet** meant "*fall into line*"; and the **third and last trumpet** meant "*march away*."

So Ironside believes that *last trumpet* Paul speaks of is—the Christian's "marching orders" at the Rapture.

The "last trumpet" of 1 Corinthians 15:52 corresponds with the trumpet of 1 Thessalonians 4—

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Both 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17—are Scriptures that have the Rapture of the Church in view.

The Rapture is God 'evacuating' His people off of the earth in preparation for His wrath being poured out upon this rebellious, Christ rejecting world. (2 Peter 2:9)

It is because some confuse the *seventh* and *final* trumpet of the Tribulation Period here in Revelation 11 with the '*last trumpet*' of 1 Corinthians 15:52 which is associated with the Rapture of the Church—because they conflate the two they believe here is where the Rapture takes place (the Mid-Trib. Rapture view).

But as indicated in Revelation—the seventh trumpet covers an extended period of time, thus distinguishing it from the instantaneous ("in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye") event of the "last trumpet" of 1 Corinthians 15:52.

Instead of sounding and instantaneously leading to the Rapture of the Church which the "last trumpet" (1 Corinthians 15:52) does—the seventh trumpet judgment of Revelation 11:15 calls for prolonged waves of judgment on the ungodly.

Revelation 11:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ **And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,**

The twenty-four elders (that represent the Church—Chapter 4) left their own thrones and prostrated themselves in worship before God's throne.

They give thanks for three special blessings: that Christ *reigns* supremely (Revelation 11:17), that He *judges* righteously (Revelation 11:18), and that He *rewards* graciously (Revelation 11:18).

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 Greek is—"and have begun to reign").

In other words, even before Jesus physically comes back to the earth to reign—He is already beginning to reign by judging the Antichrist, his followers, and his kingdom.

At this point He is preparing the world for His coming and His Kingdom by beginning to rid the earth of the usurpers.

Revelation 11:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

In Revelation 11:18, we have a "table of contents" for the remainder of the Book of Revelation.

These events do not take place the instant the seventh angel blows his trumpet—it simply signals the beginning of the process—the setting in motion of the events God had ordained would take place as planned in rapid fire succession (7-Bowl Judgments) leading up to Jesus' return.

Verse 18a—"The nations were angry..." → why?

Because they don't want God or His Christ reigning over them, making the rules and telling them how they are to live in their little new age, man-made utopia. They are rebels and rebels want to be God and not bow to any other God.

They want to do their own thing and live according to their own rules—their 'anthem' will no doubt be William Henley's classic poem for all rebels 'Invictus'—"It matters not how straight the gate, how charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate. I am the captain of my soul."

The verb translated "were angry" (verse 18) suggests—"a deep-seated, ongoing hostility".

This was not just a momentary emotional fit of temper but an ongoing burning resentment against God that has been manifested in the heart of fallen man since the Garden of Eden (a desire to be God and be in control).

One author sums it up well—

"They want to worship and serve the creature instead of the Creator (Rom. 1:25). Like adolescent children, the nations want to cast off all restraint; and God will permit them to do so. The result will be another "Babylon" (Revelation 17–18), man's last attempt to build his utopia—a "heaven on earth."

Note the change in attitude shown by the nations of the world. In Revelation 11:2, the nation's ruthlessly take over Jerusalem. In Revelation 11:9, they rejoice at the death of the two witnesses. But now they are angry; their arrogance and joy did not last very long. This belligerent attitude finally will cause the nations to unite to fight God at the great battle of Armageddon."

Psalms 2:1-3 (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."

Revelation 11:18a (NKJV)

¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,

There are two Greek words for 'wrath or anger': **thumos** (from which we get the word 'thermonuclear'), which means "an explosion of rage or passionate anger," and **orge**, (used here in verse 18)—which means "a slow building of wrath (like a volcano slowly building in pressure) that eventually reaches a climax and breaks forth or explodes onto the scene".

Listen, God is not a divine ‘hot-head’ who flies into a rage suddenly at the “*drop of a hat.*”

God’s anger is not an outburst of temper—it is holy indignation against sin that has been building and building over time (sometimes over centuries) which He graciously has restrained to give the people of this world time repent—

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

However, the ‘*cup of His indignation*’ is someday going to be full, and when it is—He will pour it out on the inhabitants of the earth full strength.

Romans 2:3-6 (NKJV)

³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who “*will render to each one according to his deeds...*” (Comment)

The divine judgments people will experience during the Tribulation should cause them to turn from their sins, repent, and submit to God.

But most of them will be like Pharaoh, who kept hardening and hardening his heart, reference:

- Exodus 8:15, and verses 19 and 32
- Exodus 9:7 and 34, and
- 1 Samuel 6:6

This was until God finally and judicially cemented his heart in that hardened condition (Exodus 10:1; 11:10), bringing the judgment of God upon him and all of Egypt (a type of the world)—as will happen to many living during the Tribulation Period:

2 Thessalonians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.

The unbelieving world will apparently reach that point at the final outpouring of God’s wrath during the events of the seventh trumpet (the 7-Bowl Judgments—Revelation 16:9, 11).

Their rage and hostility toward God will reach a fever pitch, and they will gather to fight against Him in battle on the plain of Megiddo:

Revelation 16:14, 16 (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... ¹⁶ And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

At this point, these people (‘earth-dwellers’) will have so hardened the hearts toward God and so opened themselves up to demons—that they will be beyond all hope of ever being saved.

By the time Armageddon happens all grace to be saved will be gone, the day of grace will have ended for these people and absolutely none of them will be saved—there will be no salvation at Armageddon.

The world’s desperate, last-ditch effort to keep Jesus from establishing His Kingdom will 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.

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