

THE BOOK OF REVELATION
"Kingdom of Heaven on Earth"
Revelation 11:13-18

Introduction

1. The Great Tribulation, following the Rapture of the Church (body of Christ) was introduced earlier (6:1). This period is the same as the 70th week of Daniel (9:27).

2. Within the 70th week of Daniel, there are two distinct "halves." The first half (3-1/2 years; 42 months; 1260 days) is somewhat favorable to the Jewish nation. It is the time of the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3-7a).

3. When the two witnesses complete their testimony (11:7a) the Antichrist (Beast) ascends from the abyss against them. This event initiates the second half (3-1/2 years, 42 months, 1260 days) of the 70th week of Daniel. The witnesses are overcome and killed (v. 7). Their bodies rot in the streets of Jerusalem (v. 7) and the earth dwellers rejoice (vv. 9, 10). God intervenes and raptures His witnesses (vv. 11, 12).

4. At this unusual event "in that very hour" four concomitants occur: 1) A great earthquake "becomes" (cf. 6:12; 8:5; 16:18; Mt. 22:54; 28:2). 2) A tenth part of Jerusalem "fall" (cf. Ex. 9:14:20). 3) A killing of 7000 "names of men" (Greek text) indicating definitive judgment (cf. 1 Kings 19:18). 4) A remnant ("the rest") "became" terrified (). 5) A glory to the God of heaven given. Mark He is in "heaven" and there is no repentance.

5. The Book of Revelation provides evidence for God's rightful title deed to the earth. Until that claim is acknowledged, more judgment will come. Thus the first "woe (9:12), the second "woe" (here) and the third "woe" to come (vv. 15 - 18) which brings complete victory to Messiah Jesus.

6. Consider how this victory comes. Here are the ways:

1. PROCLAMATION -- Seventh Trumpet v. 15

a. Its Sound

As with previous trumpets, there was a blast () and attendant accompaniment (cf. 8:7, 8, 10, 12; 9:1, 13). With this blast "became" great voices in the heaven. What happens is not secret. The effects are world-wide. Note that angels speak, not sing.

b. Its Message

1) Kingdom possessed. This is a "world" () one. It now has "become" that of our Lord (Jehovah) and His Christ (Messiah). Note two persons of Godhead mentioned.

2) Kingdom perpetuates. The antecedent is the Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah). It is He who will reign forever and ever (cf. Dan. 2:44; 2 Pet. 1:11).

Note: This is the "kingdom of the heavens" which John the Baptist and the Lord announced (Mt. 3:2; 4:17) and for which reason our Lord came but was rejected (Mt. 23:37-39). It is the fulfillment of the disciple's prayer (Mt. 6:10).

2. ACCLAMATION -- Twenty-four Elders vv. 16-18

a. Their Situation v. 16

It has been stated earlier that these elders denote the full complement of the Church (cf. 4:1). Their "sitting" on their "thrones" indicates that they are face to face () with God in heaven. There is no "partial rapture" for the 24 elders are present. They performed two

acts: 1) They fell on their faces (), natural face, James 1:23). 2) They worshipped God () which means to do obeisance or reverence. Here is true heavenly "worship." This is grateful adoration and exultant thanks to God. The long delay of the kingdom is over. It has come (Acts 1:6). What an amazing scene. Hallelujah!

b. Their Exultation v. 17

1) To whom Addressed

Like the angels, the elders "speak" and render united (we) thanksgiving to a) the Lord Jehovah (); b) God the Elohim () and c) the Almighty One ().

2) To whom Described

There is enough MSS (manuscript) evidence to accept the KJV statement "Who is, and who was, and who is coming" (cf. 1:4, 8). The identity of our Lord is secure.

3) To whom Attributed

The answer can only be God! About Him two spectacular statements are made which are cause () for the acclamation of the 24 elders.

a) His great Power It is "thy" () power. It is great (). It has been taken (perfect). Hence it is His now and forever!

b) His great Rule The ingressive form of the aorist verb avers the Lord "began to reign." Once He starts, He never relinquishes His suzerainty.

c. Their Explanation v. 18

The elders give bold statements, all of which lead up to the final end of things.

1) About non believers

a) Nations are angry The aorist passive () states the nations being overcome with anger. Why? Because of God's avowed purpose to take over (cf. Ps. 2; 53; Joel 3:9-13; Zech. 14:1-4). In the end, every knee will bow to Messiah (Phil. 2:10, 11).

b) Nations get wrath God's wrath (cognate with the verb "angry") against sin is in view (Acts 17:31; Ro. 2:8, 9; 3:5, 6). It is a litmus test of one's doctrine to believe in God whose love, in justice, hates sin.

c) Nations warrant death The season () for the dead (unbelievers) to be judged (passive) has come. It is the Great White Throne judgment (20:11-15). The grave does not cover over evil men from the Lord's sight. This is the ultimate hope of a world torn by injustice. Eternal death will catch up to rebellious humanity.

d) Nations suffer destruction The infamous confederation under the Antichrist will be brought to an end. At His coming, those who have wrought destruction on the earth will be destroyed. This is the final ecological cleanup (Dan. 11:45). It will take the Messiah Jesus to rid the world of evil. Certainly no effort of man will succeed.

2) About believers

Rewards! They are coming. Praise God the faithful will be compensated -- over yonder. Four groups are delineated as a series of four definite articles suggest () -- four times here). These include: 1) Prophets (O.T.). b) Saints (N.T. and Tribulation). c) Spiritual (those who fear the Lord). d) Social (all class levels, small and great).

Conclusion The seventh trumpet sounds to wind up world affairs. Messiah Jesus takes control. Justice is meted out to non believers while the righteous are rewarded. The future is as certain as the Scriptures themselves. To prepare for eternity takes a step of faith. Simply this means to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from your sin. You believe because He died for you. Do it now!