

Revelation 11: The Third Woe and the Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:14–18 | Sunday, February 19 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

The second woe is past and the third is coming quickly. Hal lines the woes up with the trumpets — the fifth, the sixth, and now the seventh, which contains the seven last judgments he calls the seven golden vial judgments. The seventh trumpet announces that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. Hal reads that as the moment Jesus finally implements the title deed of the earth, lost by Adam and won back at the cross. He stops on the Greek of verse 17, where he says the verbs of being are plural, and takes that as showing the takeover is the work of all three members of the Trinity. Then verse 18, with its list of who is judged and rewarded, sends him through the whole outline: the Church age as a great parenthesis begun at Pentecost, the judgment seat of Christ where rewards are determined, the Old Testament saints raised at the Second Coming, and the great white throne where only unbelievers stand.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 11:14 — The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly

Revelation 11:15 — The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever

Revelation 11:17 — “We give thanks, O Lord God, the almighty, who are, who were” — Hal’s point about the plural verbs

Revelation 11:18 — The nations enraged; the time for the dead to be judged and for the bond-servants, the prophets and the saints to be rewarded

Psalms 2 — Why are the nations in an uproar — the kings of the earth take their stand against the Lord and against his anointed

Acts 1 — “Will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” — and the promise of power when the Holy Spirit has come

1 Corinthians 3 — Gold, silver and precious stones or wood, hay and stubble — every man’s work tried as by fire

Daniel 12:1 — Michael the great prince; a time of distress such as never occurred, and many who sleep in the dust awaking

Matthew 25 — The separation of the sheep and the goats — what Hal calls the judgment of the Gentiles

KEY TERMS

The third woe — the seventh trumpet, which contains the seven last judgments Hal calls the seven golden vial judgments

Woe — when God says it, Hal says, it means something beyond belief and horror is about to happen

The title deed of the earth — lost to Satan by Adam, who as God's representative obeyed Satan; won back by Jesus at the cross, and only here implemented

The twenty-four elders — those who worship and give thanks that God has taken his great power and begun to reign

Pentecost — Greek for fifty; when the Holy Spirit was first sent to take up permanent residence in every believer

The great parenthesis — the Church age — the secret God kept in the Old Testament, running until the seven years still owed to Israel

The judgment seat of Christ — a judgment of rewards, not of condemnation; only believers are there, and it determines what each receives

The great white throne — the judgment where only unbelievers stand, and where a person's fate has already been determined

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. How does Hal line up the three woes?

2. What does the word woe carry, in Hal's reading?

3. What do the loud voices in heaven announce at the seventh trumpet?

4. What does Hal say is actually happening at this announcement?

5. What does Hal draw out of the Greek in verse 17?

6. What prayer does Hal say this fulfils, and what qualification does he add?

7. Where else has the raging of the nations been written, and what is said there?

8. What does Hal say Pentecost means, and what happened then?

9. What does Hal say the Church is, and what is the story he uses to make the point?

10. What is a carnal christian, in Hal's use?

11. How does Hal distinguish the judgment seat of Christ from the great white throne?

12. Which resurrection and judgment does Hal say Daniel 12:1 is describing?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. The announcement in verse 15 comes long before the events that carry it out. What does it do to you that God can declare something finished and then take his time enforcing it?

2. Hal says the point of the judgment seat of Christ is not whether you belong there but what survives the fire. What are you building with?

3. "The sanctuaries are chewing the gum." If the Church is people rather than a building, what changes about how you treat the people you meet on Sunday?

4. Hal describes a believer who is genuinely saved but with the Holy Spirit not in control. What does that look like from the inside, and how would you know?

5. He says the Church began with a miracle and will end with one. What does that framing do to the ordinary stretch in between, where you actually live?

6. Psalms 2 has the nations raging and God laughing. Where do you need that picture at the moment?

MEMORY VERSE

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he will reign forever and ever."

— Revelation 11:15, as Hal reads it in this message