Revelation 11:15-19

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read Revelation 11:15-19.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

15Then the seventh angel sounded;

and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;

and He will reign forever and ever.”

16And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17saying,

“We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were,

because You have taken Your great power

and have begun to reign.

18“And the nations were enraged,

and Your wrath came,

and the time came

for the dead to be judged,

and the time

to reward Your bond-servants

the prophets

and the saints

and those who fear Your name,

the small

and the great,

and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

19And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened;

and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple,

and there were flashes of lightning

and sounds

and peals of thunder

and an earthquake

and a great hailstorm.

1. What is the 7th angel sounding? What has been the context leading up to this angel in John’s vision?
2. Who are the loud voices in heaven?
3. What transfer of power is described in verse 15? Which kingdom has replaced which? Who rules each kingdom? What marks the new kingdom?
4. What do we know from Scripture about the kingdom of the world? Investigate some or all the following passages such as Matthew 4:8-9, 12:26; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 1:20-21, 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13; 1 John 2:17.
5. What do we know from Scripture about the kingdom of God? Investigate some of the following passages: Daniel 2:44, 7:13-14,18; Matthew 5:3-10, 6:10, 25:34; Mark 1:15; Luke 1:33, 11:20, 17:21, 21:31, 22:18; John 3:3-5, 18:36; Romans 14:17;1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15:24; 2 Timothy 4:18.

* Day 2

Read Revelation 11:15-19 again.

1. Who are the 24 elders (look back at previous notes and Revelation 4 if needed)? Where did we last see them in Revelation?
2. How do the elders respond to the angel’s trumpet and the heavenly host’s announcement of God’s established kingdom?
3. Why do the elders thank God?
4. Compare how God is described in verse 17 with Revelation 1:8 and 4:8. What is missing from the previous descriptions here in 11:17? Why?
5. How did the nations respond to God’s established kingdom? How did God respond in turn to them?
6. How do these two details connect what is being described here to the rest of Revelation?
7. What three “times” come once God has asserted His rule and unleashed His wrath?
8. Who is rewarded in verse 18? Who is destroyed?
9. Read Psalm 2. How does this psalm anticipate the future John is witnessing here in Revelation 11?

* Day 3

Read Revelation 11:15-19 again.

1. What three things happen in verse 19? How is verse 19 connected to verses 15-18?
2. Throughout Revelation and Scripture (especially the Old Testament), what has the temple, the ark of the covenant, and great storms with earthquakes signified?
3. How or why is there a temple and ark in heaven? Consider Hebrews 8:5 in your answer.
4. How does Revelation 11:19 fit together with Revelation 21:22 where it says there will be no temple, and Jeremiah 3:16 where it says that the ark of the covenant will not be remembered or made again?
5. What is the significance of God’s heavenly temple being opened so that the ark is able to be seen?
6. If this passage is a future praise of God’s future acts, how would it have equipped the churches John was writing to back in the 1st century, and how does it shape our lives today? (Hint: note how the elders praise God using past-tense verbs, even though, at this point in Revelation, they are still anticipating His imminent reign)
7. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, praise God for His coming rule on earth through Christ. Pray that His kingdom would come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Consider the lost who will one day face God’s wrath and be destroyed, and how you can share with them the salvation we have through Jesus our Mediator.