

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
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## *The Seventh Trumpet of Revelation*

### **Revelation 11:15-19**

**Keywords:** Revelation, prophecy, End Times, Kingdom of God, Seventh Trumpet

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** None

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Jesus came in His first advent declaring that the Kingdom of God was at hand. Yet at the end of His earthly ministry the disciples were still asking if that kingdom was to finally be unveiled. For the last two millennia we still wait for that event. In our passage today we see it finally being declared as taking place. This subject is filled with much misunderstanding and opinion. In this introductory message I attempt to give a broad sense of what is meant by the “kingdom of God” and help set up the importance of this specific passage.

#### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Read Revelation 11:14-19.
- B. We are now moving into the second half of the book of Revelation.
  - 1. Ch 1 was introductory.
  - 2. Chs 2-3 message to 7 churches of that time.
  - 3. Chs 4-5 vision of heaven and the preparation for the end.
  - 4. Chs 7-9 unfolding of the 7 seals and most of the 7 trumpets.
  - 5. Chs 10-11 brings us into a pause where key information is given and the final trumpet sounds.
  - 6. Chs 12-15 is another interlude that helps explain and unfold human history leading right up to the end.
- C. 11:15-19 is a key hinge passage where the whole book begins to make that key transition to the final events and the wonderful news of the victory of God and the making of all things new.
- D. We are introduced to a key idea in verse 15 — “kingdom.”
  - 1. Notice first the sounding of the trumpet, this the final, seventh trumpet. What follows is a result of the trumpet sounding.
  - 2. Second, notice heavenly voices proclaiming that one kingdom has now become a different kingdom.
    - a. It belongs to the Father and Son.

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- b. And then speaks of them in a unified manner as “He” with regarding to reigning.
  3. So, at the time of the sounding of the trumpet a massive change occurs in all of reality. The kingdom of this world is now God’s.
- E. The challenge in all of this is what it all means.
1. For some here you have a good grasp of this doctrine.
  2. Others, not so much.
  3. Yet it is an incredibly important doctrine that captures the entire flow of the bible.
    - a. Genesis 1 set the tone with the all-encompassing declaration that “in the beginning. . . .”
    - b. And Revelation 22 gives us the wonderful message that in eternity that God “will reign forever and ever.”
  4. The Kingdom of God is the foundation of the “story” of the bible.
    - a. Creation (Genesis 1-2). God is King over all of creation.
    - b. Fall (Genesis 3). Mankind rebels against the King and sin/death enters into our reality.
    - c. Promise (Genesis 3:15 - Malachi). The promise that God will establish His rule over His creation again and destroy our real enemies.
    - d. Redemption (Gospels and Letters). Jesus, the King, enters this age and through His death and resurrection sets into motion the unfolding of God’s Kingdom.
    - e. Restoration (Revelation). Jesus returns as King to rule in truth and righteousness and this then merges into the eternal kingdom.
- F. The Kingdom of God in the bible.
1. It is never mentioned in the Old Testament.
  2. Yet the very first message of the gospels by John the Baptist is, “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”
    - a. Presumption that they knew what this meant.
    - b. Presumption that there was an anticipation for it.

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- c. Presumption that there was a proper response to the announcing of it.
- 3. Though it is never defined in any specificity, Jesus gives us a several helpful illustrations that help us get our heads around it. Matthew 13 is a helpful place to look.
  - a. The Kingdom of God is the gospel and Satan seeks to suppress it by snatching its message away (parable of the soils).
  - b. The Kingdom of God is such that in the beginning there will be present both true and false citizens of it (parable of the tare and wheat).
  - c. The Kingdom of God was designed to start very small and ultimately overwhelms all other kingdoms (parable of the mustard seed).
  - d. The Kingdom of God is such that it inexorably exerts its power and reality until it overcomes all things (parable of the leaven).
- G. Today I want to give a broad, very broad message on the nature of the Kingdom of God so that next Sunday we can appreciate the glory and importance of what Revelation 11 is telling us.

## **II. The Kingdom of God.**

- A. John 18:36.
  - 1. The trial leading to the crucifixion.
  - 2. Peter has denied knowing Jesus three times.
  - 3. Pilate is the judge and is confronting Jesus and at the core of the challenge is whether Jesus is claiming to be the King of the Jews.
  - 4. It is here that Jesus makes a very bold but also important claim in vs 36.
    - a. This idea of “world” here is speaking of an age.
    - b. This world is fallen and broken and sinful. It is under the power of the god of this age, Satan. Sin and death are the great powers under which all things sit.
    - c. This world, or age, is described as passing away.
    - d. And into this age God sent His Son.

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5. Here we see a sharp demarcation between two kingdoms, that which is of this world and that which belongs to Jesus which is not of this world/age
  - a. The kingdom of this world, of , which represents the ‘old’ and the kingdom of God (also called the Kingdom of our Lord, Christ, and heaven).
    - (1) Colossians 1:12-14.
    - (2) The language and wisdom that we speak is foolishness to this world. Listen to how Paul says it in 1 Corinthians 2:6-8.
    - (3) When we share the gospel we are preaching about this new kingdom and the king of the kingdom, Jesus Christ. Our message is described by Jesus Himself in Acts 26:18.

## B. Three quick points on the Kingdom of God.

1. It is complex.
  - a. Anyone who tries to lay it out to you in just a few words is likely making serious errors. It captures the fulness of the message of the Scripture and therefore it covers a massive amount of information.
  - b. There is a need to keep things in balance and this is not always easy.
    - (1) sometimes the bible will speak of the kingdom as always existing and other times it has a specific beginning.
    - (2) Sometimes it is seen as something purely in the future and other times it exists now.
    - (3) Sometimes the bible describes this world as being under the domain of Satan and yet it is also described as belonging fully to the Lord.
    - (4) Consider these two ideas: 8. The kingdom is said to be among the Jews (Luke 17:21), yet Jesus told his disciples to pray that it would come (Matthew 6:11).
2. There are different *aspects* to the Kingdom of God.
  - a. At times it is seen as a universal kingdom.

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- (1) This is the idea of the sovereignty of God over all things.
- (2) Here we see the bible repeatedly saying things such as:
  - (a) For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations. (Psalm 22:28)
  - (b) But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. (Psalm 115:3)
- b. There is what is often called the “ mediatorial kingdom.”
  - (1) This is the idea that God rules over this world through divinely appointed humans.
  - (2) Example of this is King David.
- c. Finally, there is an aspect that we see often in the New Testament, the spiritual kingdom.
  - (1) This is primarily a redemptive one.
  - (2) It is the aspect of the Kingdom of God where God is drawing people to Himself. They are people who now claim Jesus as “Lord.”

## **III. Conclusion.**

- A. The people who belong to His kingdom.
  1. It is succinctly seen in Romans 1:1-6.
  2. Kingdom citizens are not men and women of power and wisdom. They are not people of greatness in the eyes of man.
    - a. At the point of Christ’s ministry on earth they were some poor fishermen, hated tax collectors, and former prostitutes.
    - b. Just as now, men and women who all have a past. What the past is, is of little concern, there is a past for all.
    - c. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
      - (1) Note how counter-cultural this passage is. Not just now, but throughout history.

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- (2) But grasp how it is not designed to be a statement on how this age is to be, but how those who are citizens of the Kingdom of God are to be.
    - (3) And how this occurs, through Jesus Christ.
  3. There were those who were good and fitting for the Kingdom in the eyes of man; but they are found wanting when compared to the glorious perfections and holiness of our Lord and God.
    - a. In pride they reject the gospel. For they are not “sick and needy.”
    - b. And in brokenness and need the weak and the filthy and the sinners are brought to the King and in His death and resurrection they find life and a new kingdom.
- B. To be a citizen of this new Kingdom has certain consequences and realities attached to it.
  1. First, you must see that Christ is the Truth and that what He speaks is truth. There is a positive and negative aspect to this.
    - a. The negative is that you must see all other things claiming to be truth as false because their source is not Christ.
      - (1) No longer is the wisdom of this world your wisdom, but you become a child of the King and you are to grow in wisdom and knowledge of him.
      - (2) James 3:13-17 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.
    - b. The positive is that you must live as if who and what Jesus Christ is, is in fact true!

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- c. This is why Paul tells us to not allow ourselves to be conformed to this age but be transformed, living out the proper and good will of God. How? By renewing our minds daily.
- 2. Second, it means that you follow Christ, not yourself.
  - a. Jesus said over and over, “follow Me.”
  - b. Jesus said to those who said they believed in Him, John 8:31 . . . . If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
  - c. 1 Peter 2:20-22 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God. 21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, 22 who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;
  - d. If He is king, then we cannot pursue our own agenda, rather it must be His.
    - (1) Not out of resentment.
    - (2) Not out of resignation.
    - (3) Not fatalistically.
    - (4) But charging forth into a world that is at odds with God’s kingdom and revealing it for what it is— Ephesians 5:1-11
  - e. Third, if our King is not of this world, then we cannot be of it either.
    - (1) We cannot look to the government for our salvation.
    - (2) We cannot look to man’s ways to accomplish God’s kingdom work.
    - (3) We need to ask if our lives truly are exhibiting Him as our King.
- C. This, beloved, is at the heart of the gospel.
  - 1. God has faithfully kept His promise to make all things right.

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2. God has faithfully sent His Son to be the One who conquers the enemies that cannot be conquered.
3. Jesus shall return and establish His promised Kingdom.
4. All of creation shall be renewed and cleansed and never again shall sin, death or Satan be named or remembered.

D. So the call of the gospel is to come, believe, bow, and follow Jesus the King.

## IV. Benediction/Doxology.

**To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

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## Small Group Questions

- **What did you learn in this sermon that you did not know before?**
- **What are some consequences to belonging to a different kingdom right now? Why is it important to maintain close relationships with other believers in light of that reality?**
- **Where do you find the greatest struggle for yourself in the fact you live in one age/kingdom but you belong to another? Turn this into a prayer to God for wisdom, discernment and endurance to be found faithful in resisting the spirit of this age.**