

“The 7th Trumpet”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ — Part 18
Revelation 11:14-19

1. What is the significance of the seventh trumpet?

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."
Revelation 11:14-15

- The sounding of the 7th trumpet marks a significant milestone in the book of Revelation.
- The sounding of the 7th trumpet sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sounding of the 7th trumpet sets in motion the establishment of the earthly Millennial Kingdom.
- The sounding of the 7th trumpet ushers in the violent bowl judgments. Revelation 10:7 expresses the finality of the 7th trumpet.

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.
Revelation 10:7 (NASB)

- “*kingdom of the world*” - introduces an important truth.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1:13-14

2. Why do the 12 Elders burst forth in worship?

And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Revelation 11:16-18

- “*Have begun to reign*” - signifies the permanence of God’s sovereign rule. There is no way this text can be fulfilled, except by the universal reign of Christ over the whole world.
- “*The nations were angry*” - The defiance of the nations at the prospect of Christ establishing His kingdom suggests the deep-seated, ongoing hostility against God’s commands and control. There is no desire to repent of sin.

- “The time has come for judging” - reference to all future judgments
- “The time has come for rewarding” - the reward promised is the inheritance of the kingdom both millennial and eternal.
- “Those who *destroy the earth*” - does not mean environmentally but rather, those who pollute the earth with their sin.

3. What is the significance of the temple opened?

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm. Revelation 11:19

- “Heaven was opened” - In the midst of judgment God throws open the Holy of Holies and draws believers into His presence.
- The ark of His covenant - The ark symbolizes God's communion with the redeemed because it was there that the blood was offered to atone for sin. His covenant is a covenant of eternal salvation.
- Flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm-- These are symbols of God's majesty and judgment.
- Heaven is the source of blessing for believers and judgment on unbelievers.

Life Response: The message of the 7th trumpet is that Jesus is the Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords. He will take the rule of the earth away from Satan and the earth's human rulers. When He returns, He will bring blessing to the redeemed and eternal judgment to those who reject Him.

So how are we to respond?

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming... So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him... Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... 2 Peter 3:11-12, 14, 17-18

Never forget, if you have accepted Christ as Savior, you have direct access to God.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16