

Things to Come

#16 The Seventh Trumpet

(Rev. 11:15-19, 12: 1-17)

I. Introduction

There are three interludes in the book of Revelation:

- A. The Interlude is over.
- B. The judgments associated with the 7th trumpet don't actually occur until chapter 15. These 5 verses set the stage for chapters 12, 13, and 14. Those three chapters actually step back chronologically and describe the Tribulation from Satan's perspective. They focus on the Antichrist. (Chapters 4-11 focus on the Tribulation from God's perspective.)
- C. This trumpet announces the coming consummation of God's redemptive plan: various judgments, the final battle at Armageddon, the millennial kingdom, the crowning of King Jesus and the new heaven and new earth.
- D. Notice that John does not distinguish between the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom.
- E. It is time for the third Woe.

II. The Seventh Trumpet

- A. "Has begun" or "Have begun to reign" –this is a Greek tense that describes a future event that is so certain to happen that it is spoken of as if it already has happened.
- B. "Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ"-this is the merging of the millennial kingdom and the eternal kingdom.

Starting with the song of Moses (Ex. 15:1-18), the OT writers anticipated this coming kingdom. (See Ps. 2, Isa. 2:2-3, Dan. 2:34-35, Micah 4:1-3, Zech. 14:9)
- C. "Kingdom of the world"- referring to Satan's world

Jesus called Satan the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11)
- D. The 24 elders worship God. They humble themselves, give thanks, acknowledge His nature (almighty and all powerful) and note that He has "begun to reign."
- E. The "nations were enraged"-this is a deep seated resentment against God
- F. The "coming" wrath-this is that same Greek tense that describes a coming event as if it were already a fact. See Isa. 24:17-23. This judgment is referring to all the coming judgments, not one in particular.

- G. There will be rewards for the prophets and the saints (those who fear God's name).
- H. Note the reference to the "ark"-it symbolizes God communing with the redeemed. In essence, God is throwing open the Holy of Holies and allowing believers into His presence.

III. The Woman and the Dragon (Rev. 12:1-17)

A. The Woman: Israel

Special note: There are 4 symbolic women identified in Revelation. Jezebel (2:20) – false teacher, Harlot (17:1-7) – Apostate church, Israel (12:1-17), Bride of the Lamb (19:7-8) – Church.

See Isa. 9:6, 54:1-6, Ezek. 16:8-14 and Hos. 2:19-20

1. The 12 Stars are the tribes of Israel (Gen. 37:9-11)
2. She represents the community of believers
3. She is in the throes of painful childbirth (See Isa. 26:17)

B. The Child: The Messiah-Jesus Christ (see Ps. 2:9 quoted in 12:5, 2:27 and 19:15)

1. Or, the child may indeed represent all of the believers
2. The Flight into the desert: A way to preserve the Jewish believers during the tribulation.

C. The Dragon: A manifestation of the Evil Triumvirate (vs. 9 and 20:2-3)

1. Note the similar description for the beast from the sea (chapter 13) and the beast in chapter 17.
2. "Seven heads, 10 horns and seven crowns"
 - 7 heads and 7 crowns: They speak of completion. They may refer to the 7 world empires (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greece, Rome and the antichrist's future reign)
 - 10 horns: a 10 nation confederacy that rules under the antichrist.
 - Thought: "...A symbolic sense of the whole impression rather than of its parts." It is a picture of the fullness of evil.

D. Michael and his angels

The dragon's defeat is associated with the finished work of the cross. (See vs. 11)

Christ will destroy the works of Satan: Acts 10:38, II Tim. 1:10, I John 3:8

IV. So What?

In light of all the coming judgment and the culmination of the earth and life we know, "What sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?" II Pet. 3:11

