

SECTION 34

Text 11:15-19

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there followed great voices in heaven, and they said,

The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever.

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

We give thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast; because thou hast taken thy great power, and didst reign. 18 And the nations were wroth, and thy wrath came, and the time of the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to thy servants the prophets and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, the small and the great; and to destroy them that destroy the earth.

19 And there was opened the temple of God that is in heaven; and there was seen in his temple the ark, of his covenant; and there followed lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Initial Questions 11:15-19

1. Who announced that the "kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord" - vs. 15?
2. At what other previous point does John mention the 24 elders?
3. How did the nations react to God's intervention - vs. 18? Why?
4. Was the Temple of God mentioned in vs. 19 located in Jerusalem?

The Seventh Trumpet-blast, or The Third Woe
Chapter 11:15-19

Verse 15

In contrast to the silence in heaven which followed the opening of the seventh seal, great voices are speaking as the seventh trumpet is sounded. What were the voices saying? "The kingdom of the world became (*egeneto* - 2nd aor. ind. - became in a single act - now!) the kingdom (this noun not in

text but implied by grammatical structure) of our Lord, and of His Christ; and he shall reign unto the ages of the ages." Here we note the title Lord applied to God the Father. This term is applied without reservation to Jesus Christ. This is a direct assertion of His deity. (See appendix at end of column on *The Titles for Christ in The Revelation*.)

Verse 16

We are once more in the throne room of heaven. The twenty-four Elders which were about the throne "worshipped God." The victory had won and God is being praised.

Verse 17

The twenty-four Elders are praising God—"because you have taken (*eilēphos* - perfect tense - ind. - action involved in the taking of the power is complete - effect still exists) great power to yourself, and did reign (*ebasileusas* - 1st aor. ind. - the reign was immediate - now!).

Verse 18

How does the world respond to God's reign? "The nations were wrathful (*ōrgisthēsan* - 1st aor. passive - indicative) and your wrath came (*elthen* - 2nd aor. ind. came in a single act!) and the time of the dead to be judged (*krithēnoi* - 1st aor. inf. passive) and to give the reward to your slaves the prophets, and to the saints, and to the ones fearing your name, to the small and great, and to destroy the ones destroying the earth." This verse makes it very apparent that God is going to judge the dead too. Everyone will stand before the judgment throne and give an account of every word and deed. "Be not deceived; God is mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7, 1901 R.V.) Social status, level of education, I.Q., wealth, etc., will all be to no avail in that hour of judgment.

Verse 19

"The sanctuary (*naos* - does not mean Temple in the sense of the entire physical structure) of God was opened in heaven, and was seen in his sanctuary the ark of his covenant, and lightnings and voices, thunders, an earthquake and a great hail occurred." (See 8:5 - for same symbolism after the opening of the seventh seal.)

The Kingdom of God has come after the sounding of the seventh trumpet (11:15ff). The materials contained in the seven

trumpets section appear to cover the same ground as the seven seals - only evil and God's judgment are more intense.

Note: The imagery of the Jewish place of worship is often used in *The Revelation*. For a description of the Herodian Temple, which stood during the life and ministry of our Lord, and was destroyed by the Roman in 70 A.D. - see Josephus, *Jewish Wars*, V. 5. 1-7, Loeb Classics, Harvard University Press; and *The Mishnah*, translated by Herbert Danby, Oxford University Press, Fifth Edition: Kodashim (Things Holy) section on *Middoth*, pp. 589-598.

Review Questions - Chapter 11

1. Read Zechariah 2:1ff and compare with vs. 1.
2. What were God's two faithful witnesses doing - vs. 3?
3. What does the first class conditional of vs. 5 mean?
4. Discuss how Moses and Elijah could be called prototypes of the two witnesses - vs. 6.
5. Does vs. 7 imply that it often appears as though evil will prevail over God's righteousness? Discuss the problem of evil and the ultimate victory of Christ - as revealed in *The Revelation*.
6. Were the two witnesses significantly successful (vs. 8-9-10?) in their preaching of God's Word?
7. How did the non-Christian world respond to the death of God's witnesses - vs. 11?
8. Does vs. 13 specifically state that many non-Christians were converted in view of the phrase - "gave glory to the God of heaven"?
9. What is the meaning of the phrase "the kingdom (note that this is singular, not plural as in King James Version) of world became the kingdom of our Lord, and his Christ" - vs. 15?
10. How does the sinful world respond to God's reign - vs. 18?

SECTION 35

Text 12:1-6

And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman arrayed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars; 2 and she was with child; and she crieth out, travailing in birth, and in pain to be delivered. 3 And there was seen another sign of heaven: and behold, a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his heads seven diadems. 4 And his tail draweth the third part of the stars of

heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon standeth before the woman that is about to be delivered, that when she is delivered he may devour her child. 5 And she was delivered of a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and unto his throne. 6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Initial Questions 12:1-6

1. What was the great sign (*semeion* - one of the N.T. words for miracle) - vs. 1?
2. What does the symbolism of vs. 2 imply?
3. Does the sign of vs. 3 imply supernatural power for the great red dragon?
4. Who could possibly fulfill the imagery of vs. 5?
5. Discuss the fact that the two witnesses of chp. 11 prophesied 42 months (or 1260 days) and the fact that the woman was hid away for 1260 days - vs. 6?

The Woman with Child, and the Great Blood Red Dragon Beginning of Part Two - Chapters 12-22

Verse 1

The first eleven chapters make up the first half of the book of Revelation. Beginning with this chapter (12) we are entering the second half of the book (chp. 12-22). The trials and triumphs of the Church of Christ are the central theme of this section of The Revelation. Dr. McDowell states the basic issue briefly, simply, and succinctly in these words—

"God's sovereignty over the world in Jesus Christ has been proclaimed. By the series of visions under the breaking of the seals of the scroll, John has shown how that sovereignty stands as an established fact over against the problems of history which seem to deny it. But now it remains to portray the manner in which this rule of God has been projected into history and how its projection precipitates the inevitable conflict with the Caesars. The story of Revelation from this point on is the story of the conflict between the sovereignty of God in Jesus Christ and the pretended sovereignty of Satan expressed through the rulers of Rome." (Edward A. McDowell, *The Meaning and Message of The Book of Revelation*, Broadman Press, Nashville, 1951, p. 129.