



– an uncluttered approach –

SIMPLIFYING

REVELATION

- We've seen those who are able to stand in judgment (ch. 7).
- And we've seen God's effort to bring the wicked to repentance (ch. 8-9), but they did not repent.
- The 7th trumpet is coming shortly, and with it, the judgment...
- But first, a brief interlude is found (10:1-11:14) in which the work of God's people while they await the judgment is discussed.

IMAGE OF WHO SENT HIM

- ❖ A rainbow on his head (4:3)
- ❖ Face shone like the sun (1:16)
- ❖ Feet like pillars of fire (1:15)

IMAGE CONVEYING HIS POWER

- ❖ A little book – God’s message
- ❖ On the land & sea – universal
- ❖ Voice of a lion’s roar!!

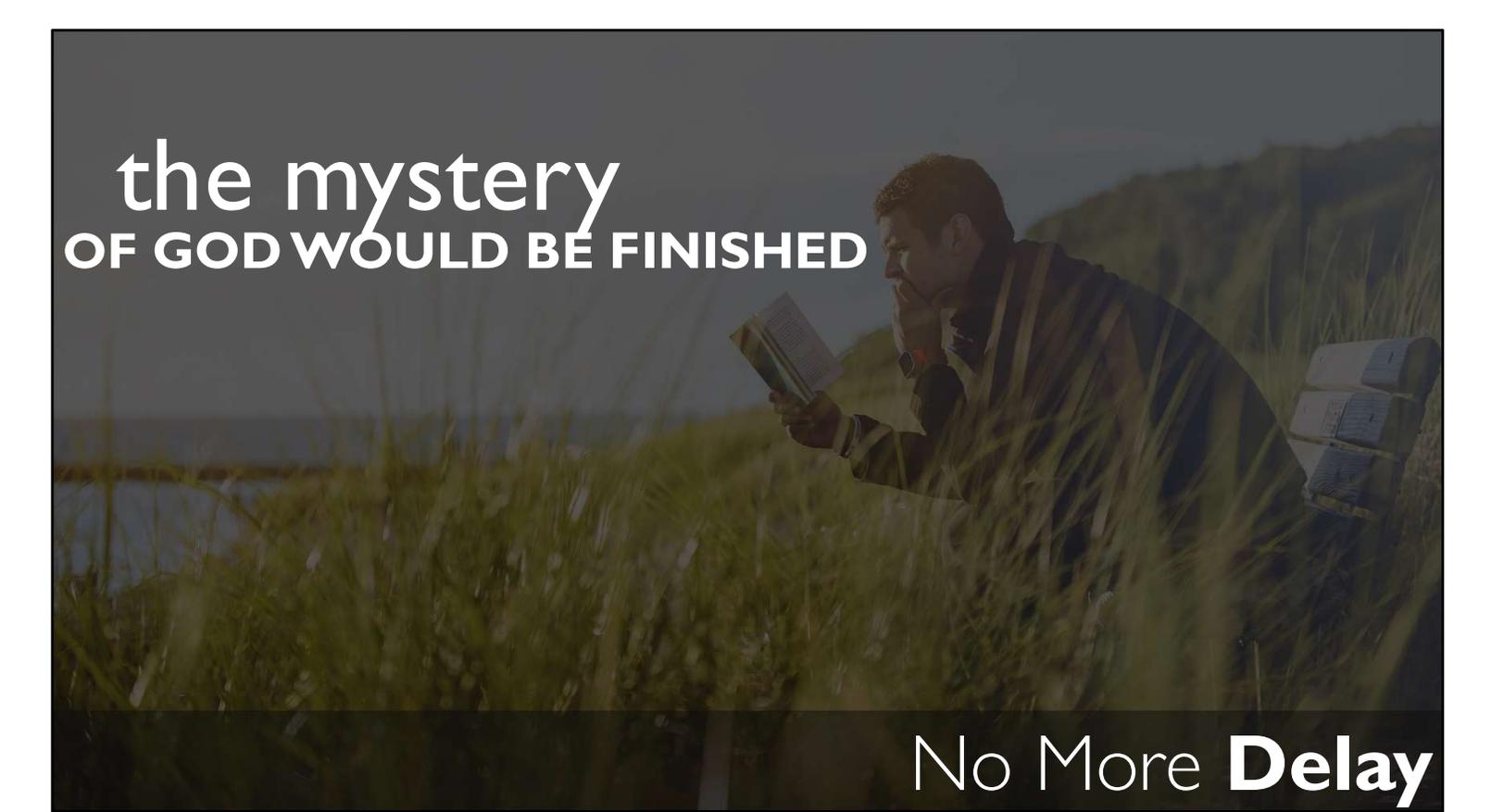
...I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.’ (10:4)

A MIGHTY ANGEL



- Another angel appeared to John – described as a mighty angel...
- 3 things are mentioned concerning the angel which call to our mind God & the Lamb – those who sent him...
 - The **RAINBOW** on his head – Rev 4:3 (the throne of God)
 - His **FACE SHONE** like the sun – Rev 1:16 (as the Christ did)
 - His **FEET LIKE PILLARS** of fire – Rev 1:15 (as was the Christ)
- 3 things are mentioned which bear witness to **THE ANGEL’S MIGHT**...
 - The **LITTLE BOOK** – he bears a message from God;
 - Foot on the **SEA & THE LAND** – a universal message;
 - **LION’S VOICE** – what’s more powerful than a lion’s roar!!

- What is significant about the roar? This image is used several times in Scripture.
 - By it, God leads His people (Hosea 11:10), warns the wicked (Jeremiah 25:30), and executes judgement (Joel 3:16).
 - In response to the roar of the angel's voice, "seven thunders uttered their voice" (10:3)
 - We don't know what was uttered – John was told NOT TO RECORD it (Revelation 10:4).
 - It is a secret thing which belongs to God and not to us (Deut 29:29).



the mystery OF GOD WOULD BE FINISHED

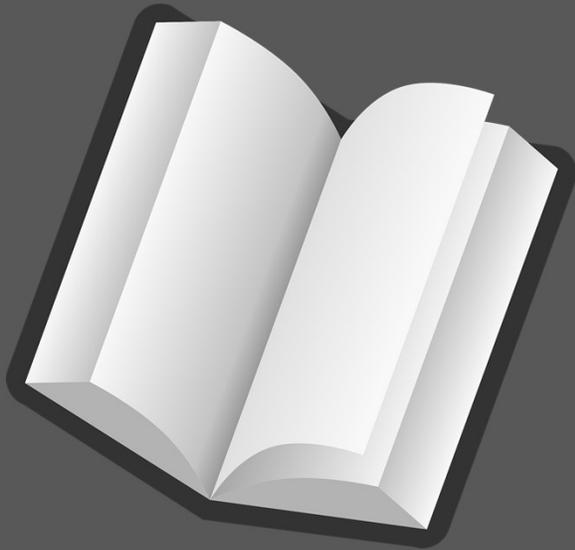
No More **Delay**

- Revelation 10:5-7 – No more delay.
- The mighty angel vowed there should be no more delay (v 6). The seventh trumpet is eminent. The judgment is at hand.
 - God has been longsuffering (ch. 8-9; cf. 2 Peter 3:9), but He has given sufficient warning.
 - This is part of the justice of God we see – He always gives warning about impending judgments:
 - Noah was *“a preacher of righteousness”* to his contemporaries (2 Peter 2:5)
 - The men of Sodom said of Lot, *“This one can in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge...”* (Genesis 19:9)
 - Moses was sent to Pharaoh time and again (Exodus 4-11)

- Eli's house were warned about their wickedness (1 Samuel 2:27-36)
- National Israel (Leviticus 26)
- Nineveh (Jonah 1-4) – *“yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be destroyed.”*
- The eternal judgment (Matthew 12:36-37; 24:36-25:47; Ecclesiastes 11:8; Acts 17:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; etc.).
- The judgment does not come without ample warning & admonitions to repent.
- **V 7** – *“...the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.”*
 - The mystery of God is not the judgment.
 - It is the redemption of those who come to the Lord.
 - Ephesians 1:9-10, *“...having made known to us the mystery of His will ... that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ...”*
 - Ephesians 3:3,6, *“...He made known to me the mystery ... that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel...”*

- Ephesians 3:9-10, *“...to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery ... that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church...”*
- Colossians 1:26-27, *“...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”*

cf. Jeremiah 15:16 / Ezekiel 2-3



take it &
eat it &



BITTER & SWEET

- 10:8-11 – the little book.
- V 2 told us the angel had “a little book” in his hand.
 - It was not sealed like the scroll of 5:1.
 - It was “open in his hand” (10:2).
- V 8 – a voice from heaven instructed John to take the book from the angel standing on the sea and on the earth.
- V 9 – he was instructed to **TAKE IT & EAT IT.**
 - This figure of eating a book is also found in **JEREMIAH 15 & EZEKIEL 2-3.**
 - In each case, it represents the experiences of God’s servants in bearing the word of God.
 - Jeremiah 15:16, “Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.”

- Ezekiel 3:1, “Son of man, eat what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.”
- John is told it would be both **BITTER & SWEET**.
 - Again, we see this in Ezekiel:
 - Ezekiel 3:3, “...I ate, and it was in my mouth like honey in sweetness.”
 - The word of God was sweet to the prophet, but then he took it to the rebellious nation,
 - Ezekiel 3:14, “...the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.”
- 10:11 – John is told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”
 - John had experienced the bitter sweet work of preaching the gospel – he would do so again.
 - This is the experience of all who take the word of God to those who are outside of God’s grace.
 - The message is sweet tasting to His people,

but the rejection of such a wonderful message by those who refuse to obey turns the stomach.



- Bear with me in ch. 11 – John is building a case in this chapter. We need to see the parts and then look at it as a whole...
- 11:1 – He is given a measuring tool, and told to rise and measure **3 THINGS** – the temple, the altar & those who worship there.
 - All 3 find their origin in the Old Testament.
 - All 3 are used to represent the kingdom of God – the church.
 - The church is described as the temple (1 Cor 3:16-17; Eph 2:21; etc.)
 - The altar is the place of sacrifice, we are called to be living sacrifices (Ro 12:1-2)
 - The worshipers, in the OT were distinct from the temple & the altar, but in the NT, all 3 images refer

to the Lord's people.

- This act of measuring is found in Zechariah 2:1-5. There it is identified with God's protection for His people.
- A 4th image is added – the outside court (v 2).
 - It is not measured. It is given to the Gentiles.
 - If what is measured are the faithful of God who have His seal upon them, then these who “tread the holy city underfoot” are the unfaithful, the wicked.
 - The word “Gentiles” is used accommodatively, not as a means of segregating Jewish & Gentile believers.

42 *trampled*
MONTHS

two witnesses prophesy
1260 DAYS

two witnesses deceased
3 ½ DAYS



- 11:2b – the holy city is trampled for 42 months.
 - Physical Jerusalem is called the holy city (Nehemiah 11:1; Isaiah 52:1; Matthew 4:5; etc.), but this is not about physical Jerusalem.
 - It is likely the city had already been destroyed before the book was written.
 - And even if it was still standing, this letter was to the churches in Asia, not Judea.
 - The holy city is a 4th description for the church (cf. Heb 12:22-23).
 - This is speaking about persecution against the church.
 - The 42 months are not literal, but are part of an image.
 - The 42 months (11:2), the **1260 DAYS** (11:3) and the **3 ½ DAYS** (11:9, 11) are all the same image.

- 42 months is 1260 days, which is 3 ½ years. Note, the units (days, months, years are not vital to the image – the numbers are).
- The 42 months are the time the Gentiles trample the city (the wicked persecute the church).
- The 1260 days are the time the Lord's witnesses prophesy.
- The 3 ½ days are the time the witnesses are dead.
- Recall, 3 ½ (half of 7, complete, whole, divine #) is used to speak of hardship for God's people, trials.
- The events are concurrent.
- Let's talk about these last 2 events...

2 witnesses

TWO OLIVE BRANCHES
TWO LAMP STANDS

These are the **two anointed ones**, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth. (ZECHARIAH 4:14)



- While the temple (church) is being trampled (persecuted) by the Gentiles (unfaithful), they are busy spreading the word.
- We'll address who the two witnesses are in a bit, but first notice the other images used in the text:
 - 11:4 – they are pictured as **TWO OLIVE BRANCHES** and two lampstands.
 - The lampstand image has already been used to represent God's people (1:12-13, 20). The churches are lampstands.
 - A common source of oil in antiquity, used to light a lamp, was the olive tree.
 - Both the fuel and the lamp itself are used to picture the two witnesses.
 - In Zechariah 4:2-6, 11-14, we find a similar image.

There, the lampstand is identified as “the word of the LORD” (v 6), and the olive trees are “two anointed {holy} ones” (v 14).

- 11:5 – the Lord endowed the prophets with protection!
 - Of course this is an image – they have not been nor will there ever be two fire-breathing prophets.
 - However, consider the comfort derived from the image in light of God’s words to Jeremiah:
 - *“Because you speak this word, behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them”* (Jeremiah 5:14).
 - God’s word is powerful, and a source of confidence for His people in the midst of trials.
- 11:6 – some other powers are ascribed to these prophets. Do you recognize them?
 - *“power to shut heaven, so no rain falls”* – Elijah (1 Ki 17; Jms 5:17-18)
 - *“power over waters to turn them to*

blood” – Moses (Ex 7:19ff)

- *“power...to strike the earth with all plagues”* – Moses.
- They are not literally shutting up heaven, turning water to blood or invoking plagues.
- They are endowed with power from God, just as Moses (whom the Law came through) and Elijah (the great prophet) received power from God to accomplish the tasks God gave them to do.
- So, who are the two witnesses? Several suggestions and theories exist:
 - The OT prophets & NT apostles;
 - The Spirit of God & His prophets;
 - The OT & NT covenants.
- Each of these may have some merit, the most likely explanation is that which is found in **ZECHARIAH 4** – these are God’s people. The two prophets represent God’s people speaking God’s word.
- Why does the image use 2?
 - Why not 3 or 7 or 1,000?
 - Solomon spoke of the strength of two (Ecclesiastes 4:9-11), with the third cord

added being God.

- The Law required two witnesses to authenticate testimony (Deut 17:6; 19:5).
- Jesus sent His disciples out two by two (Mk 6:7; Lk 10:1)



THE TWO WITNESSES **ARE KILLED**

- 11:7-8 – after their work is complete [note, though opposed – God’s work will be accomplished], the two witnesses are killed.
 - We know nothing about the beast mentioned, except that it came from the bottomless pit.
 - There is a beast later (ch. 13) which rises up from the sea; and
 - There is another beast (ch. 13) which rises up from the earth.
 - This one is the beast that rose up from the bottomless pit.
 - There’s no reason to think this beast is either of the others.
 - Whatever this beast is, it is opposed to God’s people & their work.

- Three cities are identified as the place where their dead bodies lay.
 - Obviously it's not literal – 2 bodies, 3 cities.
 - God's people have been put to death in many places; these three are representative of anywhere they are oppressed and killed.
 - **SODOM** – where Lot was “*oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*” (2 Peter 2:7).
 - **EGYPT** – where Moses was sent to relieve “*the oppression of My people*” (Exodus 3:7-8).
 - **JERUSALEM** – where the Lord was oppressed and put to death.
- V 9-10 – the wicked won't allow their bodies to be put into graves for 3 ½ days and rejoice over their defeat & death.
 - It wasn't uncommon in days of antiquity to leave the bodies of criminals out as a warning to others. Christianity (dubbed atheism by the Romans) was a crime in the mind of many Roman rulers.
 - The same had happened to physical

Jerusalem in the time of Babylon:

Ps 79:1-2, "O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; they have laid Jerusalem in heaps. The dead bodies of Your servants they have given as food for the birds of the heavens, the flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth."

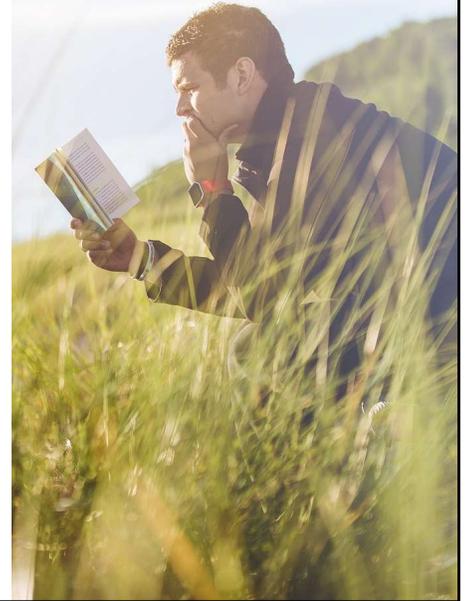
- Not only did the wicked rejoice – they gave gifts to one another (picturing how happy they were to be rid of the Christian's influence among them).
 - Think of the riotous celebration of the religious leaders at the death of Jesus:
 - *"...the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned."* (Lk 23:48)
 - Jesus had warned, *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world ... therefore the world hates you."* (Jn 15:18-19)
- There are times when it seems the wicked

have won, and from the description of the text here, this certainly has that appearance.

THE TWO WITNESSES
ARE RAISED

...he who believes in Me, **though he may die**, he shall live. (JOHN 11:25)

*...the rest were afraid
and gave glory to the
God of heaven.*



- v 11-12 – the two witnesses are raised!
 - After 3 ½ days, though the enemies of God believed they were victorious, God raised the prophets (v 11).
 - They are received into heaven in the sight of their enemies (v 12).
 - It is likely this doesn't represent a physical resurrection, but the spiritual victory of the saints.
 - The cause of God's people is vindicated through the resurrection, ascension and reign of Christ.
 - **JESUS PROMISED**, "he who believed in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (Jn 11:25)
- V 13 – a judgment is brought upon the city (the wicked) in the form of an earthquake.
 - Again, the longsuffering of God is evident. 1/10th of the city is destroyed, not the whole.

- The number killed (7000) indicates the source of the judgment (both 7 and 1000 representing completion and perfection).
- V 13b – **THE REST “WERE AFRAID AND GAVE GLORY TO GOD”**.
 - That’s what God was looking for, right?
 - Unfortunately, it was likely a momentary calling on God, due to the circumstances.
 - It isn’t uncommon for people to do so (remember the spiritual interest that followed 9/11, but is quickly died out)
 - Ch. 8-9 was intended to provoke repentance, and despite the various plagues, they did not repent.
 - This is more of a “pew, glad it wasn’t us. Better appease God for a bit”.
- V 14 – the second woe has not past; one woe remains.
 - The 1st woe was after the 5th trumpet – extreme hardship (locusts).
 - The 2nd woe was after the wicked rejoice over the death of Christians.
 - The final woe comes with judgment.

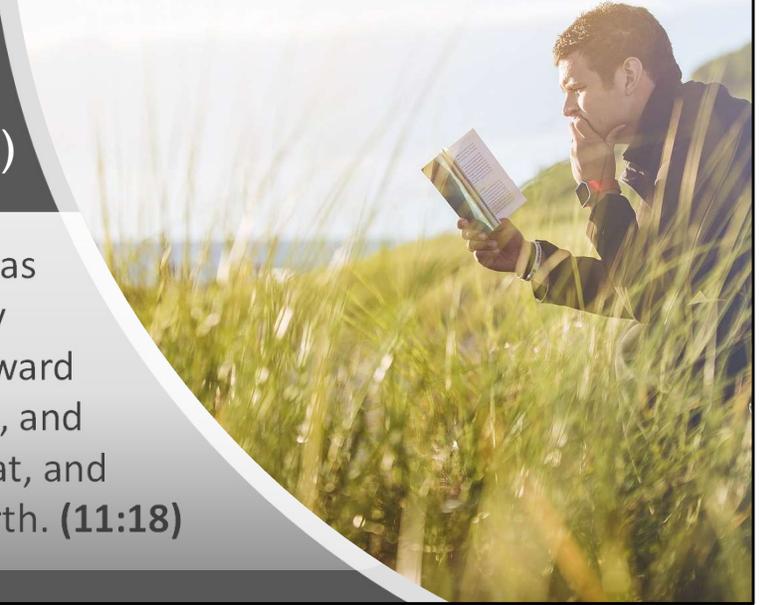
THE 7th TRUMPET | TIME FOR JUDGMENT

the **kingdoms**

become the Lord's

(1 CORINTHIANS 15; ISAIAH 45:23;
ROMANS 14:11; PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11)

The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth. (11:18)



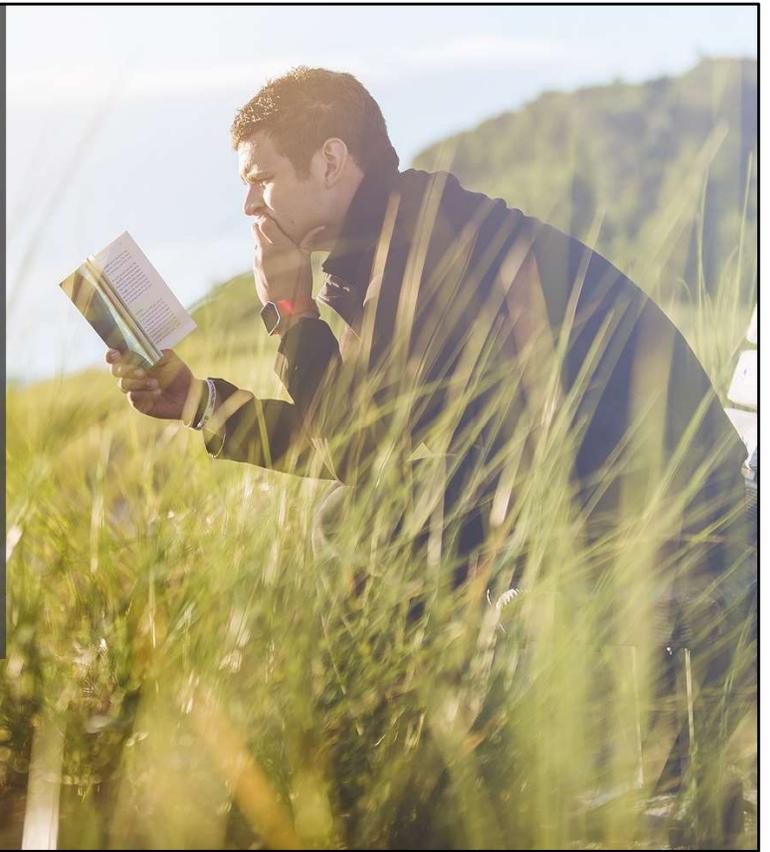
- V 15-19 – the 7th trumpet, time for judgment
- Recall when the 7th seal was opened, there was silence (8:1-2), and then the trumpets were introduced.
 - Manifold troubles were about to be unleashed because of man's wickedness.
 - Now, the 7th trumpet is reached. Again, there is a great noise, but this time, it is the sound of victory from heaven.
 - What appeared to be a victory for Satan is in fact triumph for God's people.
- V 15 – the kingdoms of the world becoming the Lord's is not about the beginning of His kingdom (ie. Daniel 2:44), but **ABOUT THE END OF THIS LIFE** – the judgment.
 - It is the time when the kingdom is turned over to the Father (1 Cor 15)

- It is the time when “...every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess...” (Isa 45:23; Ro 14:11; Php 2:10-11).
- V 16-18 – again John sees the throne room.
 - This is where we began this sequence back in ch. 4-5.
 - The 24 elders are worshipping & acknowledging the power of God, His right to **EXECUTE JUDGMENT** & to reward His people.
- V 19 – the temple of God is opened in heaven.
 - This is not the temple of God upon the earth (measured in 11:1-2), but those who worshiped in that temple are now rewarded and glorified.
 - The temple is open to receive the righteous, but for the unrighteous, judgment awaits (lightning, noises, thunderings, earthquakes & great hail).

Next week...

- ❖ War Broke Out
In Heaven
- ❖ A look at the enemy
and his devices

REVELATION 12-13



A new set of signs picturing a war in heaven.
Satan attacks God's people, seeks to destroy the Messiah;
Satan is pictured imitating & mocking the things of God (ch. 13)