

The 7th Trumpet & The 3rd Interlude!

Revelation 11:15-12:17

Half time is over, the 7 Seal judgements and 6 of 7 Trumpet judgements are complete. We have moved into the second 3 ½ years of the 7-year tribulation.

In our outline we are at:

B. The Tribulation Revelation 6:1-18:24

1. Seal & Trumpet Judgements Revelation 6:1-11:19

And under this point we are at:

(ix) 7th Trumpet Revelation 11:15-19

This point is the final point under the first point under the section on the Tribulation here in Revelation.

Revelation 11:15, “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 Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

There is the declaration we have all been waiting for, Jesus is declared ruler of the world. The transition of leadership is about to begin.

Now, this 7th trumpet should not be confused with the last trumpet that we find in:

1 Cor. 15:51-52, “Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

At this trumpet the church will be caught up in a single moment to be with the Lord. The 7th Trumpet judgement begins a period of time called the Great Tribulation in which we will see the 7 bowl judgements poured out on the earth.

The 7th trumpet is an answer to a part of the Lord’s prayer.

Matthew 6:10, “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

So, this declaration is made and how do the elders respond?

Revelation 11:16-18, “And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 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. 18 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 people who revere your name, both great and small—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

Again, the elders return to worshipping God. God has allowed humanity to follow their own wills even to our own detriment. Even in the very last line we see that God’s judgement has come down on us, sinful man, whose sin has destroyed the earth. Then we read this:

Revelation 11:19, “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 severe hailstorm.”

Did you see that? The ark of the covenant is in God’s temple in heaven. How is Indiana Jones going to get the ark when it’s there?

Is this really the ark of the covenant? Check this out:

Hebrews 8:5, “They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

The tabernacle on earth was only a shadow, a copy of what is in heaven. The ark from earth didn’t get beamed up to heaven. At one point the ark had gotten taken from the tabernacle and was left in a field to hang out with the cows & sheep.

The prophet Joel writes about this same moment in time in:

Joel 2:1-2, “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand—2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as

never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.”

Over and over, we see how Scripture is consistent in telling this one story. Books written 1000's of years apart line up perfectly. The Bible is a book we can trust because of this consistency.

So, the 7th trumpet is blown, lightning, thunder, an earthquake and hail punctuate its blowing. The 7 bowl judgements are released...but we won't get to them until 4 chapters from now. It's time for the 3rd interlude.

2. Prophecies Revelation 12:1-14:20

(The 3rd interlude) These 3 chapters recap what is going on from Satan's vantage point.

a. The Woman Revelation 12:1-6

Revelation 12:1-6, “A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. 2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. 3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. 4 Its

tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. 5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. 6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.”

John is telling us this in almost a parable type style and like the disciples we need to ask what he means.

The first character here to look at is the dragon, who is the devil, Satan. This is confirmed in verse 9. Here it says his tail wipes out 1/3 of the stars in the sky, heaven, and sends them to earth. Again, we know that they are not actual stars as a single star would melt everything.

The stars here are the angels that followed Lucifer and were cast out of heaven. That's 1/3 of all angels who fell.

John tells us that this dragon has 7 crowns and 10 horns. The 7 crowns are the 7 kingdoms which ruled

over Israel. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medeo-Persia, Greece, Rome and the future kingdom led by Anti-Christ.

The 10 horns are the 10 regional rulers under Anti-Christ.

The child is Jesus. As you look at verse 5 you see that He will rule, future tense. Then you see that He is taken to heaven to the throne of God which we know happened in Acts 1.

As we move into verse 6, we move from Jesus' ascension to a future time during the tribulation. This helps us understand who the woman is.

Some may think the woman is Mary, Jesus' mother but remember this is more of a parable in style.

In verse 1 we are told that the woman has a crown of 12 stars. I believe each of these stars represent a tribe of Israel and that the woman is Israel. She will be safe in the wilderness for 1,260 days, that is 3 ½ years. Since we are at the midpoint of the tribulation which aligns with the woman being Israel as we see in:

Matthew 24:15-22, "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

22 "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened."

Here we have an alignment of Daniel, Matthew and John's Revelation describing this fleeing to the wilderness or mountains as Matthew describes.

Paul also describes this event in the context of how God will fulfill His promise when we read in:

Romans 11:25-27, "I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may

not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, 26 and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written:

“The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

Remember, a mystery in Scripture is a yet to be revealed truth. In the very end there will be a turning back to God within Israel.

This brings us to the next point:

b. War in Heaven Revelation 12:7-12

First, we see the battle in heaven.

Revelation 12:7-8, “Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.”

We know that Satan still had access to heaven because we saw him approach God when discussing Job. But that is about to end. Satan, in desperation

tries to take heaven by force and Michael leads the angels in battle against him.

Revelation 12:9, “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”

This, as we said earlier, confirms the identity of the dragon as Satan. As a result of their lose in this battle Satan no longer has access to the throne room of God as the accuser of the human race.

At the end of any good war there is the victory celebration.

Revelation 12:10-12, “Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and

the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”

Now that Satan has been cast to earth, we see this:

c. War on Earth Revelation 12:13-17

(i) Satan Chases the woman vs.13-14

Revelation 12:13-14, “When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach.”

Wings in Scripture typically means strength or God’s protection as it does here. The woman, Israel, is protected by God for 3 ½ years. This infuriates Satan even more.

(ii) Satan Tries to Flood the Israelites. Vs. 15-16

Revelation 12:15-16, “Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. 16 But

the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.”

Once again Satan tries to imitate God, this time by trying to send a flood, but again he fails.

(iii) Satan Attacks all Believers vs. 17

Revelation 12:17, “Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God’s commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.”

Next week Pastor Mike will continue through this interlude teaching us about the beast in chapter 13.

How does any of this affect your life? Seriously, how do dragons, a child and a woman affect your life?

Because in this story God is fulfilling His promise to Israel and to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Now, you have to ask, “Why is God fulfilling His promise important to me?” Because that is all we have between an eternity heaven or in hell.