

“The Seventh Trumpet: Recovery of the Kingdom”
Revelation 11:15-19

Last Sunday: The Ministry, Martyrdom, and Resurrection of the Two Witnesses

If God is sovereign and He will save whom He will save, why be a witness (evangelize)?

1. Because He commands it
2. Because it is the means to the end
3. Because it is the highest of privileges (Rom. 10:15)

Two components to being a witness in Acts 14:21-22, “When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples (**evangelism**) they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,²² strengthening the souls of the disciples (**discipleship**) encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

*Making disciples is made up of evangelizing unbelievers and strengthening believers (Mt. 28)

Today: The Seventh Trumpet: Recovery of the Kingdom as the Lord recovers the earth, rewards His saints, and destroys the wicked.

OUTLINE:

11:15, The Announcement: the kingdom of the world is recovered by the Lord

11:16-18, The Response: the worship of God by the twenty-four elders

11:19, The Opening: the Heavenly Temple and the judgment of God

“Confronting the Problem of Evil in the World” by Dr. Joe Rigney

Two kinds of evil (tragedy):

- Man-initiated: school shootings, abortion, terrorism, adultery, rape, rebellion, etc.
 - Nature-initiated: tornados, fires, drought, earthquakes, etc.
1. Did God know **THIS** tragedy was going to happen? (What does the BIBLE say?)
 2. Is God really sovereign over **ALL** things?
 - a. Salvation? God sovereignly gives salvation, yet man is still responsible to believe.
 - b. Disability? Ex. 4:11, “Then the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?’”
 - c. Disaster? Amos 3:6, “Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?”
 - d. Sin? Gen. 50:20, “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”
 - e. Seemingly small things?

Rigney writes that ultimately God is the author of the book of our lives...“Reflecting upon authors and their stories helps bring clarity to God’s sovereignty and the reality of evil.” This occurs in at least three ways:

1. God is the author, we are the characters (Ps. 139:16).
2. Consider evil in the world as narrative tension in the story of our lives.

3. God is the divine author, yet He is also the divine character.

What is the Seventh Trumpet according to the four views?

1. Preterist (**past**): A declaration that the whole earth is under the conscious rule of Christ—spiritually at Pentecost and physically, as the Jerusalem Temple was destroyed.
2. Historicist (**timeline**): A declaration that the apostate church has been defeated by the forces and gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): A declaration of the triumph of Christ after the judgment from heaven's point of view.
4. Futurist (**future**): A declaration that the whole earth is under the conscious reign of Christ—so certain in the future that it is noted as occurring at present (Rom. 8:30).

11:17-18/ Six reasons to give thanks to God:

1. Taken your great power – bringing all of creation under His feet
2. Begun to reign – beginning to establish His reign on the earth
3. Your wrath came – how terrible it will be for those who do not receive Christ
4. Time for the dead to be judged – The Dead? Probably unbelievers
5. Rewarding your servants (the prophets and saints who fear Your name; the small and the great) – Common theme?
6. Destroying the destroyers of the earth – Environmentalists?

11:19/ When was that Ark of the Covenant possibly taken?

1. **Shishak** invaded Jerusalem in the reign of Rehoboam, he took the ark (1 Kgs 14)
 2. **Manasseh** removed all of the biblical furniture (including the ark) from the temple and brought in his own wicked forms of worship (2 Chr. 33).
 3. **Nebuchadnezzar** burned down the temple, melted the ark, deported the Jews (2 Kgs. 25).
- *Jewish tradition: Jeremiah took the ark and hid it in Mount Nebo. Prophecy: it remains hidden until “God finally gathers His people together and shows mercy to them” (2 Macc 2:7).

Three encouragements:

1. Rewards await us in heaven, so get after it! **Mt. 6:19-21** “Do not lay up for yourself...”
2. Evil (tragedy) is real and it can hurt you, yet God uses all things to shape us into Christ's image.
3. God has written your book, so embrace it. He is not sharing writing responsibilities.

John Calvin, “We are told of the resurrection of the blessed, but meantime we are involved in ***corruption***; we are declared to be just, and ***sin*** dwells within us; we hear that we are blessed, but meantime we are overwhelmed by ***untold miseries***; we are promised an abundance of all good things, but we are often ***hungry and thirsty***; God proclaims that He will come to us immediately, but seems to be ***deaf to our cries*** . . . Faith is therefore rightly called the substance of things which are still the objects of hope.”