

REVELATION: Lesson 108

Chapter 11:15-19, The Lord Takes His Great Power to Reign / Preview of the 2nd Advent / The Temple

28 September 2020

Vs 15 In this verse the Lord Jesus Christ takes possession of the kingdoms of this world. That means the kingdoms are not yet His today.

Matthew 4:4-9 The Devil has possession of the kingdoms today. He offered to let Jesus have the kingdoms as a sort of powerless constitutional monarch, but Jesus refused. When Christ takes possession, He will rule with full power and authority.

Matthew 28:16-20 All power is given unto Jesus Christ in heaven and earth, but He hasn't taken possession of the earthly nations yet.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 The Devil continues to be the "**god of this world**" until Jesus takes possession. The kingdoms of this world BECOME the kingdoms of our Lord in Revelation 11:15 when He exercises the right and power given him in His resurrection. Until then, the Devil will continue to blind men's minds.

Practical: What kind of authority do you give Christ in your life? Who is making the decisions?

16-17 The elders in Heaven thank the Lord Jesus for TAKING His great power and beginning His reign on Earth. This happens at the END of the Tribulation at His Second Advent.

Overview of Events Occurring During the Second Advent:

1. **Vs 15:** the announcement. It is time for Jesus to come and take possession of the kingdoms of this world.
2. **Vss 16-17:** The Church rejoices and worships God when they hear this announcement.
3. **Vs 18:** The nations are angry. They don't want to give up their individual rule.
4. **Vs 18:** Thy wrath is come (Armageddon, destruction at Christ's 2nd Advent).
5. **Vs 18:** Jesus Christ judges the dead (unsaved). The Judgment of the nations (Mat 25, Joel 3).
6. **Vs 18:** Rewards are given to the Lord's "**servants the prophets**" (Hebrew believing remnant) and "**to the saints**" (New Testament Church).
 - The Lord divides the Promised Land among the twelve Hebrews tribes.
 - Some Church Age saints are given authority to reign over 1, 5, or 10 cities (Luke 19:12-27).
7. **Vs 18:** The Lord destroys "**them which destroy the earth.**" (Enemy armies, the Beast, goat nations, satanic host).

This passage outlines the entire conclusion of the Tribulation (Revelation 14-20).

Vs 19 The temple of God in Heaven.

1. There is a true temple in Heaven.

Hebrews 8:1-5 This is the “**true tabernacle...which the Lord pitched, and not man**. It cannot refer to any tabernacle or temple on Earth erected by men.

The tabernacle which Moses made was patterned after “**heavenly things**” (vs 4). It was to be a picture of what the Lord Jesus would be doing in Heaven on our behalf as our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 9:19-24 The sprinkling of animal blood was a figure (vs 24) of the better sacrifice (vs 23) in Heaven. The tabernacle and all the vessels pictured the true articles in Heaven.

2. John saw the temple opened. Inside he saw the ark.

- The fact that the ark is now in Heaven reveals that the Lord’s grace, mercy, and salvation cannot be found in any earthly temple. It is found with the Great High Priest in Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - For by grace are ye saved through faith (Eph 2:8).
 - Not by any material thing.
 - Not by baptism.
 - Not by sacraments.
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3. The ark’s pattern was given to Israel (earthly), not to the Church (heavenly).

- If you trust in religious objects for your salvation, you’ll die and go to Hell.
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4. When the times of the Gentiles began, the Ark of the Covenant disappeared.

- The sight of the Ark in Heaven means that the Lord is about to end the times of the Gentiles.
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5. The Ark (the place of God’s dwelling in the Holy of Holies) is seen in Revelation 11 in connection with God’s judgment (lightnings, thunderings, an earthquake).

- This judgment is in response to the gross idolatry practiced by the children of Israel (Exod 34:10, 32:34). God intends to break his people of the spirit of idolatry.
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6. The judgment of God upon Israel will prompt all other nations to come to battle against them.

7. God will act in judgment from His temple in Heaven. (Rev 15:5-8).

8. John was shown a rainbow (Rev 4:3) to reassure him that God’s covenant with Earth would not fail.

- he is shown the Ark of the Covenant to reassure him that God’s promises made to the fathers shall not fail.
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The glimpse of the Ark in God’s temple provides this hope: the God that promised judgment when we sinned also promised to reconciliation when the chastening was over (Heb 12:6, 13:5).