



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

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ALPHA AND OMEGA

We have seen the judgment of God exacted upon the world in a way in which we have not seen since the great flood in Genesis. The culmination of God's wrath on a Godless world has been playing out for several chapters in this Revelation of Jesus Christ. It's so important that the book is entitled, A "Revelation of Jesus Christ". We mentioned that the Greek word: apokalupsis (phonetic) which simply means and uncovering or unveiling. The spiritual realm has been veiled from human eyes. I Corinthians 2:14 reminds us that the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God... because they are spiritually discerned. All around us there is a very real realm of the spirit, with angels, demons, and the unseen forces of God at work, because we are born of flesh, this world is often veiled from our view. Genesis 3:24 (read) tells us that after God drove man out of the garden, he placed angels and a flaming sword that turned in all directions East of the Garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life. There is no Biblical account that God ever removed this angel and sword preventing human eyes from both seeing and entering the garden. The location today would be somewhere in Iraq. Just as human eyes are veiled from seeing the garden, we are veiled from seeing Jesus in His current form and place. John, however, got this "revelation of Jesus Christ". We now move towards the seventh trumpet being sounded. Many scholars adhere to the notion that the seventh trumpet is the one that is mentioned in I Corinthians 15:52 and I Thessalonians 4:16 (READ). However, at closer glance this cannot be the case for the following reasons. None of the accompanying results of the trump of God which heralds the return of Christ to rapture the church are found in Revelation 11:15-18. In I Cor., the last trumpet sounds and 1) dead saints are raised, 2) living saints are changed; in I Thess.: the trumpet sounds and: 1) voice of archangel shouts, 2) Christ descends from heaven, 3) dead saints raised, 4) living saints caught up, 5) resurrected and raptured saints meet Christ in the air and in Revelation: the seventh trumpet sounds and: 1) the world kingdom becomes Christ's kingdom, 2) God takes His power and begins to reign, 3) God's wrath comes, 4) the dead are judged and 5) the prophets and saints are rewarded. The Revelation account of the blowing of the seventh trumpet has a completely different set of outcomes of the ones mentioned in Corinthians and Thessalonians.



Let's remember that Paul wrote I Thessalonians around 50 AD and I Corinthians around 55 AD. John had his visions and wrote Revelation around 96 AD. Paul would not have been aware of seven trumpet judgments. Paul could not be referring to the seventh trumpet because it had not even been written about yet. John could not be referring to the "last trumpet" that Paul spoke of because he made not mention of saints being raptured, etc. Why is this important? This clears up the conversation about whether or not the church has been raptured and rescued from the earth before the seven-year Tribulation time.

When the seventh angel sounded the trumpet in Rev. 11:15 loud voices in heaven proclaimed, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah and he will reign for ever and ever. This is popularized by the beautiful composition of Handel's Messiah! The twenty four elders who we spoke of earlier in our series, fall on their faces and proclaim: The might of God who is eternal (is and who was), He has begun to reign. Let's pause. The fact that God is on the throne and in charge, he has allowed the free choice of man (to sin) to rule and reign in this fallen world. But now he has taken the reigns of the earthly realm as He already has done in the spiritual realm. Vs. 18 speaks that the wrath of God has come (another word for judgment). The dead are about to be judged. This is significant. Read Hebrews 9:27. Although centuries of humanity have felt that they have "gotten away" with their sin and refusal to accept God's plan of salvation, judgment has NOW come! Not only judgment for the wicked, but rewarding of God's servants the prophets and all those who revere His name (both great and small). And finally destruction for those who destroy the earth. The next verse is yet another reminder that this is a "unveiling" of the unseen realm of the Spirit. Vs. 19 says that God's temple in heaven (there is a real temple) and within it was seen the ark of his covenant. (Read Deut. 10:2) The Ark of the Covenant contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments, (God's righteous standards). This open door to the ark reminds us that we can come to Him if we believe, and receive mercy and grace, but the same symbol shows judgment against unbelievers. (Don't view this as just the actual item, but look at the key word...covenant. His promise!!!!)The ark also represents God's holiness which is what constitutes His great wrath about to be poured out. He must satisfy His holiness. And with that opening came flashes of lightening, thunder, earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

Questions for Reflection:

- 1) How is the seventh trumpet of Revelation different from Paul's accounts in Corinthians and Thessalonians?
- 2) How does this difference add clarity to the stance that the church will NOT be a part of the Great Tribulation?
- 3) How is God all powerful and sovereign yet He allows so much evil in the world?
- 4) How does Rev. Chapter 11 show God's final solution to the world's evil?
- 5) What does the reign of Christ mean for all of His prophets and followers?
- 6) How does the knowledge of what God is going to do bring conviction for you as it relates to telling others about Jesus?