

The third woe begins with the seventh trumpet blast. <sup>15</sup> *Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."* Revelation 11:15 There are differing opinions on the content of the seventh trumpet. Some say that this song is the seventh trumpet. They conclude that the final judgment has come which is the end of Satan's authority in the earth and the conclusion of God's plan. Commentators differ on whether the following chapters are included in that judgment or if it is looking back at what leads up to this song of praise.

My opinion is that the song of praise as a look ahead to the conclusion of what the seventh trumpet ushers in, which is the quick sequential bowls of wrath and the fall of Babylon the great, which is the world's systems based on idolatry. The scene of the song then, from my understanding, is acknowledgment of the conclusion of what the seventh trumpet brings. It is a forward look at heaven's declaration that Jesus now reigns over the world. The time of mankind's governments is coming to an end. Daniel's vision of the great rock striking the image of a man and becoming a mountain that fills the whole earth will imminently come to pass. The eternal reign will have begun (Daniel 2:44,45<sup>i</sup>).

We are not told from whom those loud voices come. The next verse mentions the elders so perhaps it is from them. The living beings' voices shake the threshold of the temple so it may include those four creatures (Isaiah 6:3,4<sup>ii</sup>). It could come from all who are before the throne as they foresee the glorious conclusion about to unfold.

The loud proclamation is that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ. Satan offered the kingdoms of this world to Jesus during the temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4:5-7<sup>iii</sup>). Adam forfeited his lordship over the earth when he sinned. If Jesus had succumbed to the temptation, the world would be a very different place. There would be no hope of eternal salvation. Our short lives may have been easier, but our eternity would still be judged, which would mean temporary relief for eternal suffering. Jesus was compassionate, but He knew the ultimate victory for mankind could only be obtained through the cross.

It is the same temptation we face. We can have what may be a more enjoyable life here and now by going our own way. A number of famous musicians admit to making that deal with the devil and became quite famous. But the cost is more than they could imagine. Jesus would not be tempted by fame or fortune, but He was certainly moved by the suffering in the world. Thankfully, He chose what was best for our eternal benefit. That is why here in this verse He receives the kingdom of the world in the right time and the right way.

*He shall reign forever and ever.* Is "He" the Lord or His Christ. It is not clear, but I think that is intentional because the two are one (John 10:30<sup>iv</sup>). Prophecies speak of a descendant of David reigning on David's throne forever (Isaiah 9:7<sup>v</sup>). The expression of reigning forever and ever comes from the Song of Moses. The Egyptian army had just been drowned in the Red Sea. Because that event foreshadowed God's victory over all who would harm His children at the blowing of the seventh trumpet, Moses concluded his song by saying <sup>18</sup> *"The LORD will reign forever and ever."* Exodus 15:18

Jesus will be our eternal king. But His heart is to always do the Father's will (John 5:19<sup>vi</sup>). Forever and ever is a way to say eternally. This is the "happily ever after" that

man longs for. It is the good King who always seeks the good of His people and always has the right counsel. Chapter seven told us <sup>15</sup> *“Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* Revelation 7:15-17

This is the fulfillment of the Daniel 7 prediction. <sup>13</sup> *“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. <sup>14</sup> And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14 <sup>27</sup> And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”* Daniel 7:27 The failed kingdoms of man with their corruption and injustice that end in the war on the saints will be replaced by God’s eternal kingdom with Christ as King!

<sup>16</sup> *And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying, “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.* Revelation 11:16,17 The elders, who have been on their thrones, now fall on their faces and worship God for finally beginning His reign over the earth. Wrath will be justly poured out and all the dead will be judged, and the saints rewarded, small and great. No wonder the elders worship. And we should look ahead too and know that this is coming. The time is not quite yet, but it is nearing. By faith we can say that it is written, and it will be done. Yes, we still have the suffering that is a part of this fallen earthly realm, but Jesus is coming!

We should notice that the elders do not utter the same expression we read in chapter one. There we read of the God who is and who was and who is to come (1:4<sup>vii</sup>, 8<sup>viii</sup>). That reference to God is to His existence outside time. That is why His predictions always come to pass. When He says He will deliver His people it will happen. When Jeremiah predicted 70 years of captivity, the Jews were in captivity for 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11<sup>ix</sup>). The God who is to come told Jeremiah to say that. The fact that He transcends time but is right with us in the present is also implied by the name the elders use, Lord God Almighty. That is the name the prophets used when declaring His Word. (Jeremiah and Amos proclaimed in the name of YHWH Elohim Saba which is in essence the same.)

Instead of the phrase “who is to come” in this passage the elders say, “you have taken your great power and begun to reign.” There is no more “is to come” for the eternal reign will have become a present reality. A similar change is seen in 16:5<sup>x</sup>, but instead of “begun to reign” it reads “for you brought these judgments.” Thus, we can read into “who is to come” as the God who will reign forever and judge all mankind. When God exercises His power to judge mankind and reign on the earth we will be living in the eternal now. Beale sums it up like this: *Though God has reigned throughout history, the final kingdom is the reign that he will consummate on earth together with his Son and his people by completely subduing all opposition.*<sup>xi</sup>

*“You have taken your great power...”* All power comes from God. It is parceled out according to His will. There is no power that does not come from Him. If devils or man think they can prevail against God, they do not realize that He is the source of the little power they have. The elders are declaring that God is taking back His great power. The power He gave to man to rule the earth is no longer available to them. God is taking over. Man’s great mistake is to believe their power is from their own greatness and that it will last. We forget the declaration in God’s Word that proclaims that the rich man will fade away in the midst of his pursuits (James 1:11<sup>xii</sup>). The psalmist wrote that he had seen the wicked, ruthless man spreading himself like a green laurel tree, but he passed away, and behold, he was no more (Psalm 37:34,35<sup>xiii</sup>). When God takes His great power and begins to reign, there is nothing man or demons can do. There is no contest!

*<sup>18</sup> The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”* Revelation 11:18 Another translation for the end of verses 17 and the beginning of 18 would be that “you began to reign, and the nations became enraged.” If that is the case, then we would read it as God exerting His authority over the earth is resisted by the nations. People often ask why God does not stop all the pain and suffering in the world? Why does God let evil continue? One reason is the nations would rebel. The time for God to insist is coming. Meanwhile, we want to be our own lords. Mankind does not want to God to reign.

This verse begins with language from Psalm two. *<sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. <sup>5</sup> Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, <sup>6</sup> “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”* Psalm 2:1-6 It could be the cliff notes for the rest of Revelation. When God takes back His power and begins to reign by exercising judgment and rewarding His servants, the nations will be out of their minds with rage. We see it on a small scale even now. If you declare something from God’s Word that is contrary to the dogma the world embraces, look out! Suggest that mankind will be punished for refusing to accept Jesus, and you will be labeled with all kinds of names. Politicians who have faith are usually put into a corner with gotcha questions about believing the Bible. It will only get worse as time goes on.

God’s wrath came. We will read about that in the bowls of wrath in chapter 16. They come in rapid succession with devastating blows to the whole earth. Twice in that chapter we will read that the people refuse to repent (16:9<sup>xiv</sup>, 11<sup>xv</sup>). In fact, in their rage they curse God (16:21<sup>xvi</sup>)!

*“Time for the dead to be judged...”* The final judgment comes at the end of this age (Daniel 12:2). This is described in more detail in chapter 20:12. *<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.* We also see it in Daniel 7:10 *A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.* The dead include both believers and the worldly.

The judgment is of two types. God's servants are judged as to the greatness of their reward. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 <sup>12</sup> *Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—* <sup>13</sup> *each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.* <sup>14</sup> *If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.* <sup>15</sup> *If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.* What we did at the leading of the Holy Spirit will survive. Works with the wrong motives will not survive the fire, even though they might appear outwardly to be good. There will be those who claim they cast out demons and did mighty works in Jesus' name who will be told they are workers of iniquity who Christ has never known (Matthew 7:22-24<sup>xvii</sup>). There will be others whom He will invite into a kingdom prepared for them, <sup>35</sup> *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,* <sup>36</sup> *I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.* Matthew 25:35-36 We cannot fathom the rewards that God has for those who are found faithful. It is enough to say that every good gift comes from God (James 1:17<sup>xviii</sup>). Jesus described it as faithful investors of what He had entrusted to them receiving authority over cities (Luke 19:16,17<sup>xix</sup>).

Those servants who receive rewards are called "the prophets and saints and those who fear your name." Each expression can be descriptive of any child of God. A prophet is one who speaks God's Word. A saint is one who has been redeemed, whose sins have been forgiven, and those who fear God's name are all who have sincerely repented and want to live to please God. I hope that describes everyone here today.

I especially appreciate the addition of "*both small and great.*" Being faithful with a few gifts is the same as being faithful with many gifts, for it is faithfulness that is rewarded (Matthew 25:23<sup>xx</sup>). You cannot be too small for God to use. Remember the little boy with the few loaves and fish (John 6:9<sup>xxi</sup>). I think God likes to take the weak to show His strength and patience (1 Timothy 1:16<sup>xxii</sup>). Then He gets all the glory. Our confidence must be in Him, not in ourselves. If you think you are too small for God to use, you are looking at yourself instead of God and thereby denying His power. It is about what you let Him do with what has been given you. This concept also showed up in Jesus' parables. Contrary to what some teach, we do not all have the same gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11<sup>xxiii</sup>; Hebrews 2:4<sup>xxiv</sup>). We need to recognize our unique gifts and how God would have us use them so that we can be found faithful. As we use our gifts at the Spirit's leading, we lay up treasure in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21<sup>xxv</sup>).

The words "judgment" and "reward" in this passage are similar to the word recompense. In this case reward has a positive connotation. It can have a negative connotation of receiving justice for the evil one has done as we see in the last line of this verse, *for destroying the destroyers of the earth.* Beale believes that destroyers of the earth are those who persecuted the saints. The main reason for his conclusion is the language of LXX Jeremiah 28:25 matches this expression. In that passage God told Babylon He was against them, calling them a destroying mountain that destroyed the whole earth. Babylon became a symbol of the world's anti-Christ systems (18:25-19:5<sup>xxvi</sup>).

I do not think this is a verse for the save the planet folks. The earth is under a curse because of sin (Genesis 3:17,18<sup>xxvii</sup>). We see in the Old Testament and in contemporary



accounts that nature languishes under greedy and violent people while places that experience revival also experience a more verdant land. Our American ancestors related drought and severe floods to God's judgments and would call a prayer meeting to repent. Most people today just blame it on climate change. Those who help the Antichrist destroy believers will themselves be destroyed by God. By that I do not mean they cease to exist. We will see their destiny later in the book.

*<sup>19</sup> Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.* Revelation 11:19 God takes back all power and reigns. The dead are judged, and the saints are rewarded. *Then* God's temple in heaven is opened, and the ark of His covenant was seen. This is the heavenly reality of the earthly shadow (Hebrews 8:5<sup>xxviii</sup>). The ark of the covenant is the throne of God. In other words, God manifestly dwells among His people. We will see in the description of the heavenly city in the last chapter, *<sup>22</sup> And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.* Revelation 21:22 Is that a contradiction? One might argue that this is a different time, but chapter 20 repeats what we have just read (20:11-14<sup>xxix</sup> note the great and the small terms). This is an apocalyptic metaphor. The access to the heavenly ark of the covenant implies what 21:22 declares. God and the Lamb are manifestly present with the redeemed. That is the implication of the cubical dimension of the heavenly city (21:16<sup>xxx</sup>). **Our faith will be right before our eyes. We will look into the face of our Savior.**

This is not just a description of a scene, but rather it is the wonderful promise of being present with Jesus, and the Father whom I assume will then be manifest as the Shekinah, the Presence. Revelation 21 tells us there is no need for the sun or moon for the glory of God is the light and the Lamb is the lamp (21:23<sup>xxxi</sup>). That may also be an apocalyptic way to say that we will all be totally clear as to all truth and godliness.

The High Priest of Israel was only allowed to go before the Ark of the Covenant once a year. First, he had to go through an elaborate cleansing ritual. Then he offered sacrifices for Himself and for the nation. Then he filled the Most Holy place with the smoke from the altar of incense. Finally with fear and trepidation he would enter to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the lid (atonement cover/mercy seat) of the ark between our holy God, whose presence was manifested as an orb of light, and the Law inside the ark that condemns us. Since Jesus died for us, we are told in Hebrews we can confidently enter and present our requests to God because we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ (Hebrews 4:16<sup>xxxii</sup>). But what this verse is pointing to is that we will physically stand before Jesus and God's manifest presence in our glorified bodies. The Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah knew what an indescribable blessing this promise is. We should try to grasp the wonder of it.

Sometimes people ask me how we will all be able to be in Jesus' presence and speak with Him at the same time. We do that now by faith. I do not think we can comprehend a timeless realm. But if there is no time in the age to come, certainly it will be possible. He will never tell you to make an in person appointment! Hallelujah!

The last sentence describing God's presence with thunder and lightning and an earthquake is repeated several times in Revelation (4:5<sup>xxxiii</sup>; 8:5<sup>xxxiv</sup>; 16:18<sup>xxxv</sup>). Three out of the four point to the consummation of the age. Every usage points back to Exodus 19:16<sup>xxxvi</sup> when God descended on Sinai.

This seems to be the conclusion of the tribulation, though the wrapping up including the vials of wrath and the fall of Babylon the great follow. This reminds me of the way the gospels are written. Jesus three and a half years of ministry take up only about half of each gospel, and then the Passion Week takes up the second half of each gospel. In our passage for today we jump to the conclusion, like reading the last page of a novel. The following chapter will go back to the Old Testament saints, the birth of Christ, and Satan's ongoing war with the saints, which is followed by the final outpouring of God's wrath on man's rebellion against His goodness. The book concludes with the heavenly kingdom.

What should we take from this scene of the last days? What did the readers take from it? Certainly, they should have been encouraged that God is sovereign and His will is carried out in the earth. The world may think it is victorious when it kills us, but it is only sealing our final victory. Justice will be dealt out to those who hate God. He will deal with them both in this life and at the Great White Throne of Judgment (Revelation 20:11,12<sup>xxxvii</sup>). The world may appear to be getting away with their abuse of believers today, but judgment is coming. It came for Rome, Russia, and for Isis. China, Nigeria, Iran, and North Africa seem to be getting away with it for now, but judgment will come. And in the end, Jesus will reign. We will receive our reward for remaining faithful unto death (2:10<sup>xxxviii</sup>), the crown of life (2:10<sup>xxxix</sup>). Being faithful unto death means more than being willing to die for Jesus. It is living for Him each day (Matthew 16:24<sup>xl</sup>) The temptation in our culture is not of execution but the idolatry of comfort, acceptance, and pleasure.

Staying faithful to Jesus to the end has been the message to each generation since it was written. But to the last generation it may give specific time periods and details that will help them endure the very worst of times. Let it encourage us to persevere today as we cling to the promises.

Questions:

- 1 What is the declaration of the seventh trumpet?
- 2 How did Daniel describe this in Daniel 2?
- 3 Who reigns forever and ever?
- 4 How did Daniel describe it in Daniel 7?
- 5 Why was the elders' reference to God different from chapter 1?
- 6 What are the implications of "you have taken your great power"?
- 7 Compare verse 18 with Psalm 2.
- 8 What are the two kinds of rewards/judgments?
- 9 What does the metaphor of seeing the ark mean? How do we know?
- 10 What should take from this?

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<sup>i</sup> **Daniel 2:44-45 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup> And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, <sup>45</sup> just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

<sup>ii</sup> **Isaiah 6:3-4 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

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iii **Luke 4:5-7 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup> and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

iv **John 10:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one.”

v **Isaiah 9:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

vi **John 5:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

vii **Revelation 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

viii **Revelation 1:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

ix **Jeremiah 25:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

x **Revelation 16:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.

<sup>xi</sup> G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 613.

xii **James 1:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

xiii **Psalms 37:34-35 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off. <sup>35</sup> I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.

xiv **Revelation 16:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

xv **Revelation 16:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

xvi **Revelation 16:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

xvii **Matthew 7:22-23 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

xviii **James 1:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

xix **Luke 19:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ <sup>17</sup> And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’

xx **Matthew 25:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

xxi **John 6:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?”

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<sup>xxii</sup> **1 Timothy 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

<sup>xxiii</sup> **1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

<sup>xxiv</sup> **Hebrews 2:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

<sup>xxv</sup> **Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>xxvi</sup> **Revelation 18:24 19:5(ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."<sup>1</sup> After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,<sup>2</sup> for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."<sup>3</sup> Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."<sup>4</sup> And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"<sup>5</sup> And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."

<sup>xxvii</sup> **Genesis 3:17-18 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>xxviii</sup> **Hebrews 8:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain."

<sup>xxix</sup> **Revelation 20:11-14 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.<sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

<sup>xxx</sup> **Revelation 21:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

<sup>xxxi</sup> **Revelation 21:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

<sup>xxxii</sup> **Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> **Revelation 4:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

<sup>xxxiv</sup> **Revelation 8:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

<sup>xxxv</sup> **Revelation 16:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.



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<sup>xxxvi</sup> **Exodus 19:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> **Revelation 20:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> **Revelation 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>xxxix</sup> **Revelation 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>xl</sup> **Matthew 16:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.