

Rev. 11:15-19 “Total Triumph”

For the Children: When dad or mum say, “This is your final warning!” you know what this means. Hopefully they keep their word, and there are unpleasant consequences if you do not listen. So you know that the word “final” means just that – no second chances, no more opportunity to disobey. There is only one proper response to such a final warning, and that is obedience. The Lord also gives a “final warning” about the day of judgement. The time to turn to the Lord Jesus and obey God’s Word is NOW. After Jesus returns, there will be no second chances, only terrible consequences for rejecting Him. **Questions:** What are the consequences of rejecting the Lord Jesus? What awaits those who have believed in Him? How should this affect the way we speak to those who do not know Him?

Introduction:

First Point: The Final Judgement

- 1) The Greatest Woe: The 3rd woe = the 7th trumpet – a warning of the greatest woe, the final judgement. See Rev. 6 on the terror of that day. That this is about that day is seen in the reference to the whole world (v. 15), the eternal kingdom, the judgement of the dead (v. 18), the removal of all opposition to God and the reward for all the saints. The trumpet is warning sinners of this terrifying finality
- 2) The Destroyer Destroyed: The Lord is just in visiting His anger upon those enraged by His Son (see Ps. 2) and destroying those who have tried to destroy God’s world/people
- 3) The Ark’s Appearance: The ark of the covenant appears in the vision with the signs of judgement upon the whole world – just as the ark once circled around Jericho before the walls collapsed on the 7th day when the 7th trumpet-blast sounded (Josh. 6)
- 4) Thanks & Praise: This, too, is an answer to the martyrs’ and saints’ cry of “How long?” The 24 elders i.e. the church responds with thanks and praise – for God’s power and Lordship over history, which guarantee that He will fulfill His promises & plan

Second Point: The Final Reward

- 1) For All the Saints: When the dead are judged God’s people will receive a gracious reward. That the reward is for all the saints is seen in the parallel use of the terms “prophets” (i.e. the “two witnesses/prophets = the witnessing church), “bond-servants,” “saints,” the “great and small,” “those who fear Your Name.” The reward has been described so far as life, a new name, a share in Christ’s rule, fellowship with God in His presence, salvation & vindication, eternal joy and peace, the end of all pain
- 2) The Temple and the Ark: The presence of God is symbolized by the entry of the ark into the heavenly temple, accompanied by signs of God’s power and holiness. The mercy seat reminds us that this is only achieved through Christ’s blood. His presence is our greatest reward

The Final Kingdom

- 1) Before the End: Some see things getting better before Christ returns (Post-Mill); some see a time of unprecedented tribulation (Pre-Mill. and many A-Mill.). This vision does envision the whole world as hostile to Christ. But this is a picture of the entire time between Christ’s 2 comings, with God’s work of saving many and the church’s witness running simultaneously
- 2) The Beginning Reign: God has never ceased to reign over all the world and over Satan. But at the end, all opposition will be collapsed, so that God’s reign is universally accepted. Those who are hostile, including Satan, will be removed to hell. See 1 Cor. 15:24-28. Thus the consummation of the Kingdom of God is both woe (for the wicked) and joy (for God’s people). We should already rejoice in anticipation – and pray and work for this day

Conclusion:

