

The Final Act

Revelation 11:15-19

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- The structure of a Three-Act Play
- Revelation 4--22 as a Three-Act Play
 - **ACT ONE: The stage is set**
 - **Scene One:** In heaven, introducing main characters
 - God the Father-- Revelation 4:3
 - Twenty-four elders
 - Revelation 4:4-- *"were twenty four thrones, and on the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads."*
 - Angelic beings, the four living creatures
 - Revelation 4:8-- *"holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come"*
 - Revelation 4:11-- *"worthy, O LORD, to receive glory and honor and power; For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."*
 - **Scene Two:** Introduction of the Lamb, the Lion of Judah, who is worthy to receive the sealed scroll, the title-deed to the kingdoms of the world, along with the plan of how to reclaim what is rightfully His.
 - Revelation 5:8-10-- *"Now, when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...and they sang a new song, saying, 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.'"*
 - **Scene Three:** Jesus Christ beings to open the sealed scroll one seal at time revealing...
 - Another major player: The Antichrist who makes a covenant with Israel of peace and protection.
 - The breaking of the first six seal brings bloodshed and war, famine, disease, and death, killing one- fourth of the world's population.
 - The Antichrist and the Ecumenical church wage war against those who became Christ-followers after the rapture occurs.
 - Two witnesses, perhaps Moses and Elijah, come on the scene and perhaps through their ministry, 144,000 Jewish men accept Jesus as Messiah and are sent out as evangelists throughout the world.
 - ACT ONE, Scene Three ends with the cry of the martyrs.
 - Revelation 6:10-- *"How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*
 - **ACTS TWO: The Drama Intensifies and Conflict Builds**
 - **Scene One:** Satan loses the war in heaven, is permanently banished, and is cast to earth.
 - Satan indwells the Antichrist, turning him into the "beast" of Revelation 13
 - The Antichrist breaks His covenant with Israel, desecrates the temple, claims to be God, and demands that everyone worship him.
 - The Antichrist seeks to annihilate the Jews, but God supernaturally protects and provides for them.

- The Antichrist and the false prophet seek world domination, and set up their economic program requiring anyone who wants to buy or sell to receive his mark-- 666.
- The gospel continues to be preached by the two witnesses and 144,000, and many are calling upon the name of the Lord in order to be saved,
- The opening of the sixth sealed judgment produces great fear among the earth-dwellers. --
 - Revelation 6:15-17-- *"The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand!'"*
- **Scene Two: The "Day of the Lord"**
 - Begins with 30 minutes of silence in heaven
 - Seven angels with Seven Trumpet
 - First Four Trumpets create havoc on the earth's environment. One-third of the earth will be scorched; one-third of the sea turned to blood; one-third of the fresh water supply poisoned; and one-third of the heavenly bodies disturbed, causing massive disruptions in weather patterns and tides.
 - When the Fifth Trumpet sounds, all hell breaks loose as the earth is flooded with demons who torment the earth-dwellers for five months. Death however takes a hiatus.
 - With the sounding of the Sixth Trumpet, death returns with a vengeance. One-third of the world's population dies.
 - The Antichrist blames the two witnesses for all of the carnage, and murders them in the streets of Jerusalem, only for God to raise them from the dead and take them to heaven.
 - Another great earthquake sobers to the crowd and reminds them that God is not finished. Judgment is coming!
 - As the curtain falls to ACT TWO, John needs an intermission, a reprieve, a breather to gain a fresh perspective, God's perspective, on what he has witness to this point. The Final Act is about to begin! At the end of the intermission, John is once again ready to finish writing the book of Revelation, and to warn of the final coming judgment.

The FINAL ACT

- Revelation 11:15-19-- *"Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.' Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail."*

A. The SUMMARY of the FINAL ACT, Scene One

1. The sounding of the seventh trumpet sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom here on earth.
 - Revelation 10:7-- *"but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets."*
 - Revelation 15:1-- *"Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete."*
 - Revelation 16:1-- *"Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels, 'Go and pour out the bowls of the wrath of God on the earth.'"*

2. The last three trumpet judgments are so horrific they are referred to as “woes”
 - Revelation 8:13-- *“an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, ‘Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!’”*
 - a. The first “woe” , the fifth trumpet, that unleashes demons from the abyss who torment men for five months.
 - Revelation 9:12 -- *“One woe is past. Behold, still two more woes are coming after these things.”*
 - b. The second “woe”, the sixth trumpet, when death returns with a vengeance.
 - Revelation 11:14-- *“The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.”*
 - c. The third “woe”, the seventh trumpet, the final outpouring of God’s wrath upon mankind
 - 1) The pouring out of the seven bowl judgments
 - 2) Includes the final harvest of judgment on earth, the Lamb’s defeat of the kings of the earth (Rev. 17:12-18), culminating in the final climatic triumph of Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 19:11-21)
3. The seventh trumpet answers the prayers of the martyrs
 - Revelation 6:10-- *“How long, O Lord, holy and true until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth!”*
 - Matthew 6:10-- *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”*
4. The Final Act, First Scene will end with the Antichrist and the false prophet cast alive into the lake of fire.

B. The SOUNDING of the Seventh Trumpet

- Revelation 11:15-- *“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”*
1. **The RESOUNDING CRY in heaven:** *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”*
 - a. Presently, the kingdoms of this world are under the control of Satan, the “ruler” of this world.
 - b. *“The kingdoms of this world have become”*-- the tense of the verb “have become” is a proleptic aorist, which describes a future event so certain that it can be spoken of as already happening.
 - c. What wrongfully belongs to Satan now, will one day with certainty belong to *“our Lord and of His Christ.”*
 - 1) *“our Lord”* refers to God the Father
 - 2) Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever, first in His kingdom here on earth for 1,000 years, and then in the eternal kingdom.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:24-28-- *“Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For ‘He has put all things under His feet.’ But when He says ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.”*
 - a) As revealed to the Old Testament prophets
 - Psalm 2:6-9--*‘Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.’ “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”*

- Daniel 2:34-35-- *"You (that is, King Nebuchadnezzar) watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."*
- Daniel 2:44-45-- *"And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."*
- Daniel 7:13-14-- *"One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then 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 the one which shall not be destroyed."*
- Daniel 7:18-- *"But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever."*

b) As revealed to Mary before Jesus' conception

- Luke 1:31-33-- *"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

c) As revealed in Jesus' earthly life and ministry

2. The RESPONSIVE WORSHIP in Heaven

- Revelation 11:16-18-- *"And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.'"*

a. Praising God for His PERSON: WHO HE IS

- 1) The "Almighty"-- He can do anything that is the object of His power.
- 2) The Eternal and Unchanging God-- *"the One who is, and who was, and who is to come."*
- 3) The Sovereign God-- *"Because You have taken Your great power and reigned"*
 - Psalm 24:1-- *"The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein"*

b. Praise God for His PLAN

- Revelation 11:18-- *"The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."*

1) **"Your wrath has come"**--another proleptic aorist-- Judgment of the unbeliever is certain.

- Isaiah 26:20-21-- *"Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; the earth will also disclose her blood, and will no more cover her slain."*

2) *“the time of the dead, when they shall be judged”*

a) *“A time to reward your servants...”*

- Revelation 22:12-- *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”*

b) *“A time to destroy those who destroy the earth”*-- the unbelievers, Antichrist, Satan

3. **The REASSURING VIEW from Heaven**

- Revelation 11:19-- *“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”*

a. The ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament, hidden behind the veil, viewed only by the High Priest once a year on the day of Atonement

b. The Heavenly ark of the Covenant is seen by all believers. We now have access into the very presence of God through the death of Jesus Christ.

- Hebrews 9:11-12-- *“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.”*
- Hebrews 10:19-22-- *“Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”*

c. As a result we are assured of God’s presence, comfort, and aid.

- Hebrews 4:16-- *“Come boldly before the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need.”*

d. We are also reminded by the sights and sounds of *“Lightning, noises, thundering, an earthquake, and great hail”* that our God will judge this world.

- Hebrews 12:29-- *“For our God is a consuming fire!”*
- Hebrews 10:31-- *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*

e. In light of this sobering truth, *“what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness!”* (2 Peter 3:11b)