

The Voice of Truth # 505

God's Reckoning Day

In our last study in Revelation, we gave you the first message on the sounding of the seventh trumpet judgment. We read Revelation 11:15, which summarized what is to take place under the seventh trumpet. As we did not complete that 18th verse, let's read the scripture again, beginning at Revelation 11:15.

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

When the seventh angel sounded, we are told there were great voices in heaven. Those voices were crying out, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.** The first thought I want to call your attention to here is, just suppose today that the more than a hundred nations which are members of the UN Assembly were all subordinated to the Lord Jesus Christ, and everyone crowned him as Lord and as King, and honored him as the Son of God, the slain lamb, God's sin offering, the world's Redeemer. What a different world we would have today. Just suppose that every local government in all these nations, including our own city

government here in New Orleans, would honor Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Walk into our city halls and see every official praising the Lord for redemption; then walk into every place of business, and every owner and manager and clerk were praising the Lord for redemption from sin. Go out upon the highways and byways, out to the humblest home, and find men and women praising the Lord for redemption. Just suppose the whole world in every phase of life were praising the Lord for redemption, singing that new song, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Wouldn't we have a world worth living in? Brother, that's the way it's going to be one of these days.

The next thought I call your attention to is that the cry, here of the voices from heaven, is **the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ**. Yet this prophecy is future, but they're speaking as if it were already a reality. They said the kingdoms of this world **are** become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ. One day this will come to pass. Let's read it like this: The kingdoms, that is, the sovereignty of the world, the constituted order on the earth, is become our Lords and His Christ. In other words, when the seventh angel sounds the trumpet, there will come to pass, under the mighty sovereign hand of the Lord God of heaven, a complete change, a radical change in the government of the world. The Lord Jesus Christ in all of his sovereignty will take over the complete order of the world and become King of kings and Lord of lords, and will rule as the sovereign one, uniting the whole world into one kingdom of which Christ is the head. This is the answer to that prayer that Christians have prayed ever since Christ uttered the words, **Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven**.

But oh, what judgments are yet to fall upon this Christless, godless, satanically controlled world to break the dominion of Satan and the power of sin before Christ will move in to take over as our ruling king. You know, friends, the dominion of Satan and the power of sin must be broken in every individual life before Christ can move in to live. It will be broken in your life before Christ ever comes in.

The next thought that we call your attention to is, we see today that all earthly governments, principalities, and powers from the beginning unto the present

moment are represented in the scriptures as wild beasts, birds of prey, having no lawful owner or sovereign. And the world today is full of destructive savagery, uncleanness, and our governments are built on greed and gain and lies and falsehoods; and the kingdoms of this world are just one madhouse of sin and pleasure and self-gratification. This is borne out in the fact that every government, even today, is represented by some wild beast, or bird of prey. Our own country is the eagle, England is the lion, Russia is the bear, China is the dragon, and so on. This would be an interesting study to take every nation and see what their symbol, or coat of arms, means.

But listen, hold it, but one day all of this is to be overthrown, completely crushed beneath the feet of our blessed Lord, and he will sit enthroned as king of kings on David's throne in Jerusalem and his coat of arms will be **holiness unto the Lord**. My friends, to think about that the great dominion of Britain, of Russia, of China, of the United States and so on, shall be broken and crushed under the feet of our ruling Lord. You say, Brother Sheldon, you've gone crazy. No, sir. I'm preaching God's Word.

Let me call your attention to another thought I see here. That is, it is folly and fanaticism for men to talk of Christian states and governments in the world. I grant you, there may be Christian men concerned in their administration and some Christian ideas may sometimes influence their political policies, but earthly nations and governments themselves are not Christian and by the nature of things, cannot be Christian; because every government of the world is the product of a devastated, depraved mind which is full of wild, rebel, savage passions and ungodly lusts. The best planned institutions or governments are always disappointing to the individual or individuals who planned them or framed them. What would the founding fathers of our own nation today say if they could come back and view our country as it is now? How disappointed they would be. This is true throughout the entire world; Men have labored and sacrificed and bled and died to achieve a world order, where men would be free, for which the race has sighed and cried for ages. But they wake up to find that the old man is still sick, and they have just merely turned him in his bed. In our present day, people are looking and laboring for a union of nations shaped to popular rule and compact by common laws, interest and creed, in which all the world will be under

one political head. But get it, hold it, when this is achieved, and it will be, the result will only be a more terrible beast than any that the world has ever known, because it will be the Antichrist with the names of blasphemy indelibly imprinted upon his entire person. He will be the very embodiment of hell, godless and Christless, because he'll be Satan's son, the lie, just the opposite of what Christ is. Now that's coming to pass. Let me tell you something, friends, all your revolutions and reforms and progress of liberal ideas, the overturning of all the old creeds; the setting aside of the Bible, God's holy book; the redemption of the world without Christ, and the exalting of self and passion in the place of the Son of God with all the glittering ideals you may bring to bear to reconstruct a great society are but the lap of Satan's bosom in which this world lies; and all your so-called new philosophies are but the inspirations of the foul breath of Satan. I wish I could describe this world situation as I see it and feel it without Christ.

Take our religion; a revival without Christ is but the foul breath of Satan. Take all of our political revolutions to make this world a better place for man to live. Without Christ they are but the breath of an eternal hell, breathing its blasphemies and corruptions and lies and falsehoods, because it is all the product of a depraved heart and mind that is controlled entirely by the god of this world, Satan. We have lost, because we have lost the Christ. We are going down under the judgment of a sin-avenging God, because we have turned away from the Lord Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, the world's Redeemer, and the only sin offering God has provided for fallen man.

So, we see the world today waxing worse and worse, and it will until the last trumpet sounds. This seventh trumpet is the last trumpet, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord.

Now, with these thoughts in mind, let me call your attention to something else I see here, before we go any further, and that is, there shall be a new order. There shall be a new order. This order will not be developed here below by the depraved minds of men, but will be enforced by power from above when our Lord shall break through it. The sounding of the last trumpet, when God is King and the sovereignty has been given to His Son, Jesus Christ, when God causes the final trumpet to sound, He breaks in upon this world with His almightiness and

enforces His rightful dominion. We have a picture here given by Daniel when he saw another kingdom, not of this world, which breaks in pieces and consumes all other kingdoms, and he says, this kingdom stands forever. Here in Revelation 11:15, **and he shall reign forever and forever**, which literally means from ages to ages. The laws governing this new kingdom can never be changed. And the true anointed one, the Lord Jesus Christ, reigns on earth in an empire of sinless, deathless life and peace forever and forever. Here let every child of God shout, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. The Lord God omnipotent reigneth. He must reign. He will reign. Our Lord is coming back.

Then here in the 18th verse, where we closed our last study, he sums up four things which will happen when the final trumpet sounds. The nations were angry, and thy wrath is come. Second, the things, there are three more things he states here will take place, and we want to call your attention to today. First, the time of the dead, that they should be judged. Second, that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants, the prophets, and to the saints and them that fear thy name, small and great. And then third, and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth. These things will take place in connection to the great change in the government of the world.

One of the things that the 4 and 20 elders were thankful for is the destruction of the earth's destroyers. We will take these up beginning with the last one: **And shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth**. The redeemed church in heaven, represented by the 4 and 20 elders, fell upon their faces and announced, in thanksgiving, that the destruction of the earth's destroyers would be one of Jehovah's first acts in setting up his kingdom here on earth. Remember one thing, that what men and governments sow, that shall they also reap, and the governments that are cursed to the earth, will be accursed. The word here 'destroyers' of the earth, means those who have spoiled, corrupted, ruined, and made away with, killed and destroyed. This describes the acts of the usurpers, liars, tyrants, persecutors and murderers who are in control of the governments of the world today and at that time they shall be utterly put out of the way. God shall destroy them. As we look upon the world's surface today, and see men in power who are destroying the nations of the earth by their immorality, brutality, sadism, wickedness, blasphemy, atheism; their murderous spirit shall utterly be

put down by the Lord God of heaven. The wicked may flourish, but they shall be destroyed. Peter describes this great day of the Lord as the perdition of ungodly men.

My friend, we are approaching the day when iniquity is ripening. The day in which the seventh trumpet or the final trumpet shall be sounded, wickedness and the confederation of the nations shall be found ripened to the full in iniquity. The day the Lord is speaking of here is the day when the Prince of Hell, known as the Antichrist, shall personally himself be at the head of the governments of the world. He will speak with authority through the heads of the nations. He will set up his own religion, toward which we are fast heading now. He'll make his own laws, control his own trade and enforce the worship of himself as God. On the other hand, he'll put to death all who disagree with him. He'll fill the world with the worst of blasphemies and will compel all that will live to receive the mark of the Antichrist in their foreheads. If you live, if you are living then, to live, you're going to have to receive that mark. All the nations of the earth will have organically joined themselves with him and recognized him as having all authority and power. My friends, we are heading rapidly to that end now. The rulers of the nations of the earth are types of the Antichrist in their wickedness, in their control of their governments under wicked hands. We are living in perilous times. The dark clouds of man's hatred against God's Christ and the spiritual Christianity are gathering fast, but praise be unto him as that day approaches, we know that His soon coming will overthrow the kingdoms of this world, and they will become His kingdom by the right to rule. He'll take over by destroying those who destroy the earth. Won't it be a great day when the maddened nations shall suddenly be dashed in pieces as a vessel of clay struck with a rod of iron? Won't it be a great day when the armies of this world will be slain by the blast of Jehovah as he slew the Assyrian army of Sennacherib? Won't it be a great day when the great beast, the Antichrist and the deceiver shall be cast alive in the lake of fire? Won't it be a great day when all Babylon with all of her idolatry and wickedness shall fall and the church of the firstborn shall be made to shout, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, Won't it be a great day when the dragon, that old serpent called Satan, shall be seized by a lone angel and shut up in the bottomless pit? Won't it be a great day when death and the grave shall cease to be, the last enemy put under the feet of the Son of God? Won't it be a great day when all the wicked rulers of the earth

who have destroyed God's beautiful earth shall be destroyed? Oh, glorious day! Oh, wonderful day, when this old weary world shall be taken over by the Son of God, and He shall send His holy angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all that offend, and which do iniquity, who shall not bow their knees unto the Son of God, and cast them into the furnace of fire. O glorious day, when our blessed Lord will come to reign! Our cry is, Come Lord Jesus, come! Has not this old world trampled thy holy name under their feet long enough? Have not the rulers of the old earth blasphemed thy precious name long enough? Has not rebellious men rejected thine offered plan of redemption through thy shed blood long enough? Have not thy saints suffered under the hands of wicked man long enough? So our prayer is, Lord Jesus, come quickly. May every saint on earth fall on our faces crying in thanksgiving for our redemption, as we have never given thanks before, because our Lord will destroy them that destroy the earth.

We just as well make up our minds, friends, to recognize this great fact, everybody's not going to be saved. Wicked, reprobate men will not have the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The wicked rulers of the earth will not have the gospel. They hate it; They hate the Christ of the living God. But praise be unto our God, who is the sovereign one, He will destroy them.

Now, let's notice another thing that will take place when the final trumpet is blown and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and that is, the judgment of the dead. The dead referred to here, are the wicked dead, or the unbelievers.

Let me call your attention to this scene: The four and twenty elders give thanks for the judgment of the dead. Let me tell you something, friends, when wicked men die, as well as believers, that's not the end. As a man dies, so the judgment finds him. It's appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment. When the wicked die and their bodies go back to the dust, it is not the end of them. They're going to reappear again. They're going to be raised from the dead. We'll go into this more in detail when we come to the resurrection of the damned in the closing part of the 20th chapter, which takes place when the final trumpet sounds, and John sees the small and great stand before God. He beholds the sea giving up the dead, which are in it. He sees death and hell all standing before the

great white throne. They who have committed suicide, thinking thereby they have ended all, they'll live again. Not one individual of the whole human race, from Adam to the last man, can escape it. Yes, we find here that the time of the dead to be judged is in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, or the sounding of the last trumpet. My friends, the judgment is coming. The judgment of the dead, the judgment of the nations. You can't get around it. Gods provided one hope, that's Christ, who died for sinners. Will you turn to Him?