

Wednesday in the Word  
Digging Deeper  
October 12, 2022  
The Third Woe Cometh

Revelation 11:14-19 KJVS

[14] The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. [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. [16] And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, [17] 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. [18] 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. [19] 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.

[14] The three woes are the three last of the seven trumpets. Woe to those who remain to receive these horrible punishments. Freedom in Christ is only a "yes" away for all sinners but unrepentant evildoers will receive what they arrogantly deserve. Confer 16:9 and 11.

[15] Unlike the silence in 8:1 which anticipated the dread to follow, there is now rejoicing. Why? Because this last woe will usher in the kingdom and the reign of the Lord and His Christ. The significance of the number 7 cannot be understated. What does it represent? Divine fullness. This will end the process of God's wrath. The details and explanations of these last days will continue for our education, not finally written for us until chapter 21. See 20:15. This 15th verse closes with "for ever and ever" What other words could be more refreshing? We all yearn for the day when we rest in Christ "for ever and ever" What awaits you in that eternal rest?

[16] These poor Elders! They fall out of their seats and on their faces once again! Compare 7:11. Do they have achy knees or bloody noses? Hardly. They thrive in resurrected immortal bodies. See 21:3-4. What is better than true worship? That which takes place in the full presence of Almighty God. Describe a time of beautiful worship.

[17] The highest form of worship may well be thanksgiving. Why? "which art, and wast, and art to come" confer; Hebrews 1:8, 1 Timothy 6:16, Isaiah 44:6, 46:10, Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13, Psalm 90:2. "taken to thee" God finally reclaims His rightful place. What is being stated here anticipates chapter 21.

[18] The nations are already angry. It's no surprise that there is now a pandemic of hatred. This headline from the Washington Post; *Americans are living in a big 'anger incubator.'* *Experts have tips for regulating our rage.* Anger wants a target. Christ, His word and His people are often the focus of this hot headedness. Standing for godly principles like the value of life or the sanctity of marriage brings attack from those who hate righteousness. Godly judgement will punish evil and reward faithfulness. Revelation 21:7-8. Note God's love for His creation. He told us to populate and have dominion over the earth. Genesis 1:26. Not to destroy it. Instead we consume and waste. Ezekiel 16:49, Proverbs 13:23, Numbers 35:33.

[19] Much speculation has surrounded the whereabouts of the Ark of the Covenant. From catacombs and passageways beneath the ransacked temple to a cave in Ethiopia and in other interesting guesswork. Could God have spirited it away to heaven as He did with Elijah and Enoch? Here the temple appears in heaven and the Ark is visible within. But along with it are all the symbols of judgement. As the mercy seat upon the Ark yearns to forgive, unrepentant man will not accept such an offer. May we pray even now for our unsaved loved ones. One ray of God's Light will wash away the deepest darkness. Isaiah 9:2.