Revelation Twenty-Two **10/18/2026**

Hymns: 12 I'll Fly Away 1 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
8 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture: Psalm 24
Big idea: God's Heavenly Temple

Today, we're continuing our welcome break from the waves of judgment upon the earth. But before we do, let's get our bearings by briefly recapping what we've covered in the book of Revelation so far (including those waves of judgment):

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is just that. The apostle John describes events centered around Jesus Christ as He is in glory. The account includes letters from Jesus to seven representative churches encouraging, instructing, and correcting them. Jesus then calls John in the spirit to the place of God's throne in heaven where he sees cherubim, other angels, elders, God the Father, and God the Son.

John describes Jesus as the only one worthy to take a seven-sealed scroll from God the Father and begin to open it. Each seal unleashed a judgment. The first four represented by the white, red, black, and pale horses signifying respectively the conquering Antichrist, war, famine, and death of one-fourth of man and beast. Many who trust the LORD during this time called the Tribulation will be martyred as highlighted with the opening of the fifth seal. The sixth seal unleashed chaos in heaven and earth as God pours out His wrath.

Opening the seventh seal kicks off the trumpet judgments. The first four trumpet judgments include – devastating destruction of one-third of sea life, water purity, ships, sun, moon, and stars. The fifth and sixth trumpets unleash demons from the earth which torment and then kill one-third of mankind.

In chapter ten we took a break from the judgments as the apostle John returned to earth and received a commission to pen the second half of the book of Revelation.

Last time, John sized up the new temple in Jerusalem. We met the LORD's two witnesses and saw lots of citations of the number three-and-a-half. We left the two witnesses
dead and
on display for three-and-a-half *days*.

In the interest of time, we will back up and read a couple of verses abbreviated to start and then jump into our in-depth study directly from there.

Revelation 11

[8] And their
***dead bodies** shall **lie in the street** of the great city* [Jerusalem], ...
[9] And [people everywhere] *shall see their*
***dead bodies** three [and a half] days ..., and shall not [allow] their*
***dead bodies** to be put in graves.*
[10] And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

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Okay, lets slow down now and see what we can learn from the rest of this chapter.

Revelation 11

[10] And they that dwell upon the earth

By this point, the godly people have left the scene in the rapture of the church, died a natural death, or have been martyred. The earth is consumed with wicked people although a righteous remnant will still be there. What will wicked people do when they see these two witnesses dead?

shall rejoice over them,
and make merry,
and shall send gifts one to another;

Strange as it may seem, we saw this same behavior after the 9/11/2001 destruction of the World Trade Towers in New York, and more recently after the 10/7/2023 Hamas invasion of Israel. Why did they rejoice to see these two witnesses dead?

because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Recall from Revelation 11:6, they could stop the rain during their three-and-a-half years of ministry and bring plagues to the earth – as Elijah and Moses did in Israel and Egypt respectively.

[11] And after three days and an half

Here we have a time marker and another reference to three-and-a-half – this time days.

the Spirit of life from God entered into them,

While Satan is the minister of **death** and **destruction**, the Spirit of **life** comes from God.

and they stood upon their feet;

How similar this will be to when Jesus brought Lazarus back to life after a similar duration of death. But here we have a difference. Lazarus eventually died again.

and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Just when the forces of evil believed they had won, God turns things around – as He did with the crucifixion of Jesus. It satisfied Satan for only a few days, but then he saw Jesus conquer the grave
and rise from the dead.

[12] And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither.

Recall Revelation 4:1, the Bridegroom called His Bride home to heaven in the rapture of the church. Here these two witnesses are called home with these same words – likely from the same source.

And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud;

The two witnesses obeyed the call and demonstrated they had their new perfected bodies

by rising into the atmosphere and through the clouds.

and their enemies beheld them.

These evil people watched and witnessed another miracle but did not turn to God in repentance.

[13] And the same hour

Here's another time marker. What else happened?

there [was] a great earthquake,

God shook the earth as he did when Jesus rose from the dead.

*and the **tenth part** of the city fell,*

This time the earthquake killed one **tenth** of the city.

and in the earthquake were slain ... seven thousand [men]:

From this we can calculate back to estimate how many total will be killed and what will be the total population of the city. Assume each man had a wife and two children – making the number of people killed 28,000. That would mean Jerusalem will have a population of 280 thousand.

and the remnant were af[raid],

Who is this remnant? They likely would be the Jews who fled from the Antichrist during this time, perhaps the 144,000 sealed Jews included, along with new believers in Christ not yet martyred.

and gave glory to the God of heaven.

They witnessed a miracle as God again demonstrated His power over death.

[14] The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Here we have another time marker.

Revelation 8:13 gave us the preview of the three woes. Let's recap that.

> *[13] Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabit*[ants] *of the earth by reason of the other voices of the **trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound**!*
>
> At that point, we had three woes pronounced on earth dwellers and correlated to the remaining three trumpets. Then the first of those trumpets proceeded immediately with the hideous locust-like demonic creatures from the bottomless pit that came to torment men on the earth.

Revelation 9:12 gave us the end of that first trumpet of woe (the fifth trumpet).

> *[12] One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.*
>
> At that point, the first woe ended and the second trumpet of woe (the sixth trumpet) proceeded immediately. Four demons from the river

Euphrates were loosed to kill one third of mankind using 200 million demon horses with riders.

[15] And the seventh angel sounded;

This marks the the last of the trumpets and the start of the third and last woe.

and there were great voices in heaven,

Whose are these voices? We're not told, but a good guess could be those four creatures by the throne of God that represented all of His creation.

saying, The kingdoms of this world

That would be the nations or governments controlling the world.

[have] *become the kingdoms of our Lord,*

From the fall of Adam until this point, man had forfeited his rulership of the earth to Satan. Recall the offer that Satan made to Jesus during his forty days of testing in the wilderness:

Luke 4

[5] And the devil, taking him [Jesus] *up into an high mountain,* sh[o]wed ... *him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.*
[6] And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give [you],
and the glory of them:
for that is delivered unto me;
and to whomsoever I will
I give it.
[7] If [you] *therefore wil*[l] *worship me,*
all shall be [yours].

Jesus rejected Satan's offer but did not deny he could make it.

Jesus also called Satan
the prince of this world:
John 12

[31] Now is the judgment of this world:
now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

But God remains the ultimate authority over all of creation:

Psalm 24

[1] The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof;
the world,
and they that dwell therein.

So is [?] the reference to *Lord* in our verse

referring to God the Father or the Son? The next snippet makes that clear:

*and of **his** Christ;*

Lord in our verse refers to God the Father. The *his* makes that clear as *his* could not be referring to *Christ* – otherwise, it would be saying *Christ's Christ*.

and he

Which *he*? Is this the Father or Son?

shall reign for ever and ever.

And where will he reign?

Luke 1

*[32] He shall be great, and shall be called the **Son of the Highest**: and the Lord **God shall give unto him the throne** of his father David:*
[33] And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

So Luke gives us the answer. God the Father gives the throne of David to the Son of God – Jesus Christ.

[16] And the four and twenty elders,

Recall the twenty-four elders represent the church.

*which **sat** before God on their **seats**,*

Recall the elders started out seated around the throne of God (Revelation 4:4). They remain around the throne, but spend a lot of time on their faces worshiping God and the Lamb (Revelation 4:10; 5:8, 14; 19:4). But here they have returned to their seats. But wait...

fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Here they are again on their faces worshiping God.

[17] Saying, We give [you] *thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which* [is], *and was*[], *and* [is] *to come;*

This sound of praise acknowledges that God is almighty and eternal – always existing.

because [y]*ou ha*[ve] *taken to* [you
your] *great power,*
and ha[ve] *reigned.*

[18] And the nations were angry,
and [your] *wrath*
is come,
and the time ... that [the dead] be judged,
and that [y]*ou should*[] *... reward ...*

[your] *servants the prophets,*

and ... the saints,
and them that fear [your] *name, small and great;*
and should[] *destroy them which destroy the earth.*
The elders recite here that this time of wrath is against the evil ones of the earth, but this also is a time of reward for those who serve Him.

[19] And the temple of God
Recall this chapter started with John sizing up the new temple in Jerusalem. Is this the temple being referenced here?

was opened in heaven,
No. Clearly we have **two temples**.
One is on the earth in Jerusalem,
and one now is revealed to John at this time in heaven.

and there was seen in his temple
John will describe what he sees and hears.

the ark of his testament:
What is the *ark of his testament*?
It is the Ark of the Covenant.

What do we know about it?

1. Wooden box about four feet by two feet by two feet overlaid with gold and with rings on the side through which wooden poles covered with gold slid in and were carried by priests (Exodus 25:17-22).
2. Crossed the Jordan River ahead of the Israelites (Joshua 3:13).
3. Circled Jericho as part of the ritual that ended with the walls coming down (Joshua 6:6-7, 11-13).
4. Taken by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11).
5. Their false god Dagon fell down before it (2 Samuel 5:1-5).
6. Returned by the Philistines to stop plagues against them (2 Samuel 6).
7. Uzzah died for mishandling it (2 Samuel 6:6-7).
8. David brought it to its place in the tabernacle in Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:16-17).
9. Solomon put it in the Holy of Holies of the temple which he built (2 Chronicles 5:7)
10. Josiah restored it to its place in the temple (2 Chronicles 35:3).
11. Babylon destroyed the temple and took the contents and metals (2 Kings 25:8-15).

But from there the Bible gives no specific account of the disposition of the Ark of the Covenant. At this point, the record loses track of the Ark. Speculation has it in:

1. Ethiopia.

2. Beneath or near the Temple Mount.
3. Mount Sinai.
4. Taken by the Babylonians since it was a thing of gold (II Kings 25:15).

Just as suddenly and mysteriously, the Ark reappears here. Did God move it to heaven? We have already seen the Altar of Incense before the throne there. Could He have moved both the Altar and Ark from earth? Is there another explanation? Yes. The Bible tells us that God gave the **pattern** for these items from **objects in heaven**.

Exodus 25

> *[40]* [God speaking to Moses] *And look that* [y]*ou make them* [these sacred objects] *after* ***their pattern****, which was* sh[o]wed [to you] *in the mount* [Sinai].

Hebrews 8

> *[5] Who* [priests on earth] *serve* [as] ***the example and shadow of heavenly things****,*
> *as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See,* [God says]*, that* [you] *make all things according to* ***the pattern*** sh[o]wed *to* [you] *in the mount.*

That means there are two sets of temple objects – one on earth and one in heaven.

and there were
lightnings,
and voices,
and thunderings,
and an earthquake,
and great hail.

We saw similar language in Revelation 8:5 when the angel threw the censer to the earth and also will see it again in Revelation 16:18 on the earth. This passage likely refers to things happening on the earth.

Application

As with these two witnesses, we who know the LORD will be going to heaven in new and perfected bodies. We've witnessed a few glimpses of objects that will be there. It's good to remember we who know Him will someday be there as well.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen (Revelation 22:21).

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