

What Happens When a Church Worships | Part 5

Lesson 7

Revelation 8-11

March 19, 2023

Crucial Elements of Worship

INTRODUCTION

God frequently reminds His people throughout scripture of (1) their predecessors' captivity in Egypt and the events that led to their release and (2) their escape through the shriveled Red Sea and 40 years of adversity in the wilderness. Subtle phrases in the referenced chapters of Revelation are evidence of this retelling.

In one sense, God is presenting a "wake-up call" to motivate a positive response from the Israelites for God's faithfulness and forgiveness. But does Revelation remain a wake-up call? His people have had reminders more than once. Is it premature or fair to say they have lost their opportunity?

It should be remembered that Revelation was not only written for seven churches in first century Asia Minor but also for whomever reads the book in this age, which begs the question: are twenty-first century readers ignoring God's wake-up calls?

Memory verse: "The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever'"

—Revelation 11:15

Pray, and read Revelation chapters 8-11. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1. How do the angels introduce the approach of various calamities? (Revelation 8:5, 7-8, 10, 12)
2. What creatures dominate the narrative of Revelation 9:3-11?
3. How is the angel of Revelation 10:1 different from the angels of chapters 8 and 9?
4. What are the tasks and powers of the two witnesses? (Revelation 11:3-6)
5. What is discovered in God's temple in heaven? (Revelation 11:19)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Several passages of Revelation chapter 8 correspond to those in Exodus:
 - Revelation 8:8 to Exodus 7:17;
 - Revelation 8:11 to Exodus 15:23; and
 - Revelation 8:12 to Exodus 10:21-23.Which pivotal event in Israel's history is recalled in these verses?

2. The locusts of Revelation 9:3-11 are similar in appearance to the horses and riders of Revelation 9:17-19, suggesting they may also be similar in character. What do these two groups represent?

3. What message was hidden in the angel's request that the apostle John eat the "little scroll" (Revelation 10:10-11)? (Ezekiel 3:1-4, 37:4, 9)

4. Revelation 11:3-6 is teeming with imagery. The two witnesses are described as “olive trees” (longevity) and “lamp stands”, which may represent the church (see Revelation 1:20). They “stand before the Lord of the earth”, suggesting an honored role in God’s kingdom. How does the foregoing description of these witnesses justify their abilities in verses 5 and 6?

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. In chapters 8 and 9 of Revelation, God’s angels cause disasters to strike the earth in portions of one-thirds; in 9:15 the angels kill one-third of mankind. Further ahead in 12:4, the red dragon’s tail sweeps one-third of the stars onto the earth. The dragon’s mimicry of the angels’ mayhem in one-third segments suggests God is being ridiculed. What evidence do you see today that indicates Satan is mocking God?

