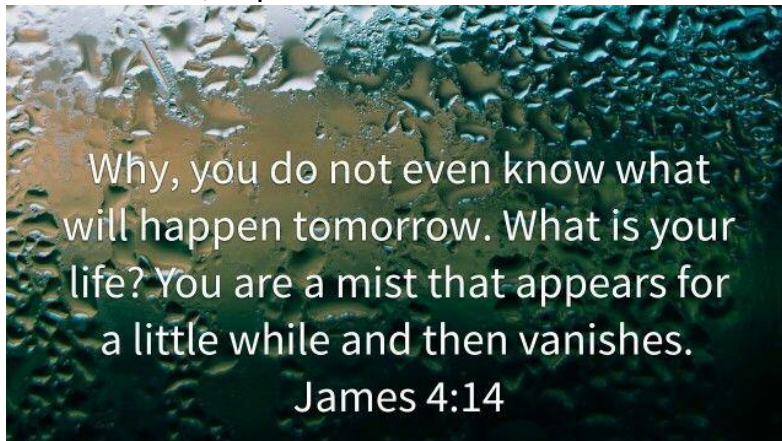




Coffee/Question:



We all make plans... for today, tomorrow, next month, next year. But the truth, expressed in James 4:14 is that we...



... **“do not even know what will happen tomorrow.”**

As we look at our world, and the things happening politically, ecologically, economically, socially... it is the same... we don't know what will happen.

And yet, dear follower of Jesus, while we don't know "what will happen tomorrow," the passage we are going to study today... reveals to us... how... this present time will end.

God has purposefully revealed this truth which is the hope of his people in order to fill our hearts with courage; and to motivate us to not give up, but to confidently persevere.

I need to remind you that in the beginning God created...



...two realms – heaven and earth, the unseen and seen – and these two were united.

But as it had happened in heaven, so it happened on the earth. There was a great rupture caused by sin and the fallout was catastrophic. The passage we are studying this morning reveals the future moment when God will have completely undone what was ruined by humanity and the fallen angels.

Let's work our way through our passage, verse by verse.

**v.15a** – The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said...

The loud voices which John heard... were not filled with sorrow, but with exuberant joy.

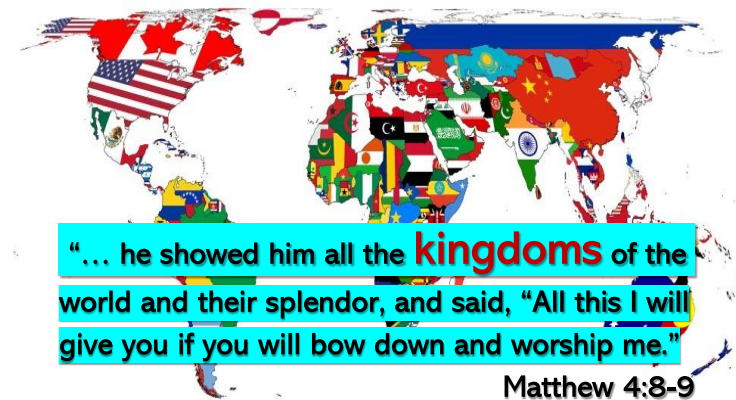
What was the source of heaven's joy at this moment?

**v.15b** – The kingdom of the world...



At present the earth is divided into 195 nations, kingdoms, and monarchies.

When the devil tempted Jesus, Matthew's gospel says...



The devil offered Jesus the kingdoms (plural) of the world.

What then is the significance in Revelation 11 of “kingdom” being singular, rather than plural?

Why didn't the loud voices in heaven say, “The kingdoms of the world...?”

To be able to answer this question we need to know from what perspective this statement is being made.

**v.15b** – The kingdom of the world...has become...

The tense of the verb is... past perfect.

It is describing, from the perspective of the future... an action that is completed.

**v.15b** – The kingdom of the world... has become... the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus ascended to the Father's home where...

**God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Philippians 2:9-11**

There at the Father's right hand, Jesus presently rules over heaven and earth, but he does so...

**"Rule in the midst of your enemies!"**  
Psalm 110:2

This is why in this present time, as Hebrews 2:8 identifies...

**"Rule in the midst of your enemies!"**  
Psalm 110:2

**"...we do not see everything subject to [Jesus]."**

**Hebrews 2:8**

But when the seventh trumpet sounds.... at that moment... this will change.... the kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ.

The kingdom of the world... the realm of humanity... will once more be aligned with, centered in, and inseparably connected to the realm of heaven, the kingdom of God.

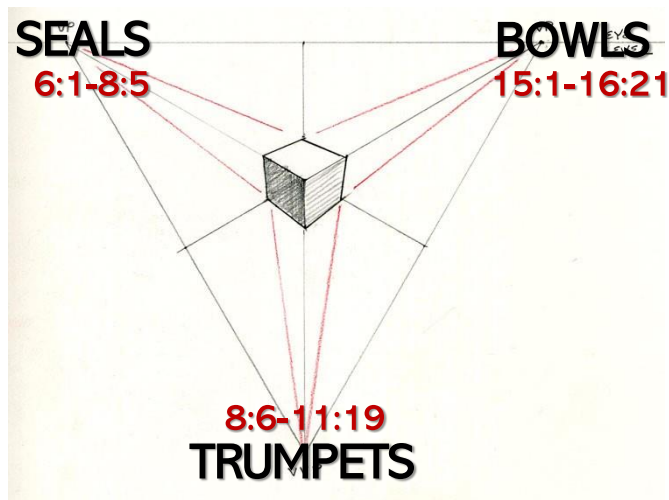
And when it is, praise will erupt in heaven... as it will among the people of God. The war will be over.

The great rupture and its consequences will have been reversed.

On that day, it will be clearly seen by all... that the reason the Father chose to have the Son rule in the midst of his enemies was in order to bring to repentance and save... all who had been chosen before the creation of the world, a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language.

If Revelation 11 reveals to us how this present time ends... and it does... why are there eleven more chapters in the book of Revelation?

I need to remind you of an interpretive principle which we have already identified.



The vision of the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls are not sequential visions. Remember - the book of Revelation is not a timeline of the future.

The three visions are in the words of Tom Wright, **“three different angles of perspective on the same... single... great reality.”** p.103

What is this single great reality?

It is what Tim Keller calls God's Great Reversal –



...which is...

...the salvation of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam and Eve;  
...the rescue of creation from its bondage to decay;  
...the exile of sin, death and evil to a place where they can no longer corrupt, and  
...the making new of everything.

The reason the book of Revelation is not complete here in chapter 11, is because there is yet another angle of vision we must see – that of the bowls.

**v.16 – And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God...**

I remind you of who the twenty-four elders are – Tom Wright, Darryl Johnson, GK Beale, and others believe the elders are angelic beings, who represent the church of Jesus.

I remind you of the significance of the number 24.

In the OT era there were... twelve patriarchs.

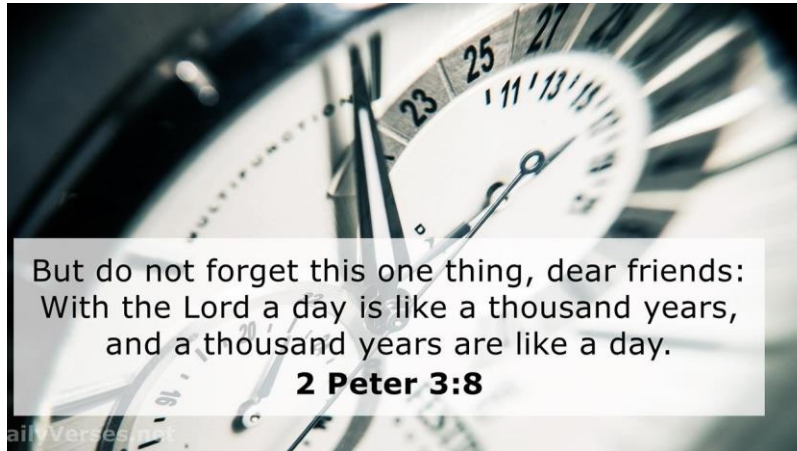
Twelve of the twenty-four elders represent the church before the incarnation of Jesus.

In the NT era there were... twelve apostles.

Twelve of the twenty-four elders represent the church after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Beale, p.102; DJ, p.139.

As the seventh trumpet sounds and the kingdom of the world becomes the kingdom of our Lord and Christ, these angelic beings worship God.

We are not told... much... of how time passes in eternity.  
Peter's second letter says, 3:8...



Here's what we do know regarding the twenty-four elders... this scene in Revelation 11 has been a moment long anticipated.

The twenty-four elders knew that before the creation Christ had been chosen. They had been eyewitnesses to the following...

- In the fullness of time Christ was sent into the world.
- Christ taught and healed and announced God's good news.
- Christ died... and his death divided human history.
- Christ was buried.
- Christ rose from the dead... bringing the future into the present.
- Christ ascended to the throne of God.
- Since then, Christ has ruled, waiting for the Father's second fulness of time... when the kingdom of this world become his kingdom.

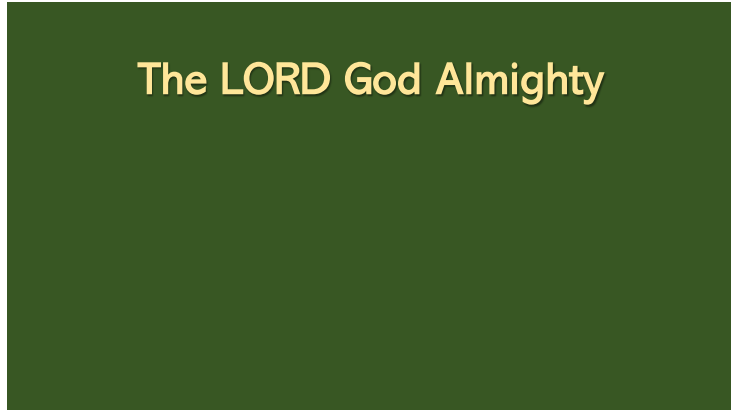
But his moment... described in Revelation 11... has just happened.

As had been their practice... they responded to God and to what he had done... with worship that expressed their gratitude; that proclaimed the worthiness of God; that praised his stunning attributes!

The Spirit of God in showing this scene from the future to the reader wants us to hear the gratitude of heaven for what God has done.

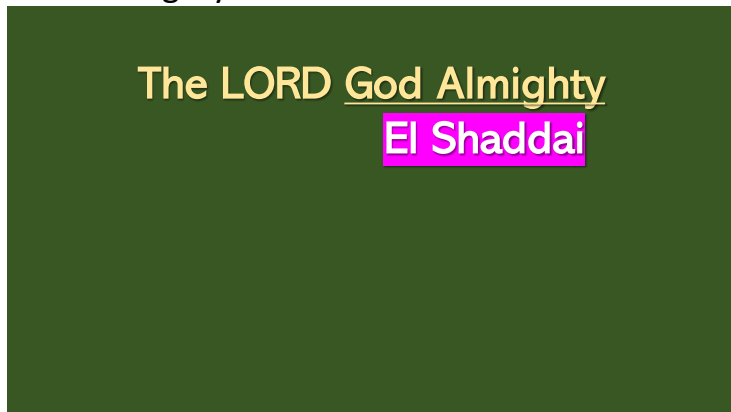
- The twenty-four elders give thanks to God for who he is...  
... the Lord God Almighty  
... the One who is and who was...

**What does it mean to speak of God as the Lord God Almighty?**



gotquestions.org explains...

"God Almighty" in Hebrew is...



... El Shaddai which means "God, the All-powerful One..."

We are first introduced to this name in Genesis 17:1, when God appeared to Abram and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless."

God has revealed in the Scripture other names and attributes of himself.



He is the Almighty ([Genesis 49:25](#)),  
the Creator of heaven and earth ([Genesis 14:19](#)),  
the Builder of everything ([Hebrews 3:4](#)),  
the King of heaven ([Daniel 4:37](#)),  
the God of all mankind ([Jeremiah 32:27](#)),  
the Eternal King. ([Jeremiah 10:10](#)).

He is the only God ([Jude 1:25](#)),  
the Eternal God ([Genesis 21:33](#)),  
the Everlasting God ([Isaiah 40:28](#)), and  
the Maker of all things ([Ecclesiastes 11:5](#))....  
who spoke the Universe into existence  
([Genesis 1:3](#)).

He is able to do more than we can ask or  
even imagine ([Ephesians 3:20](#)).  
His power is unlimited.  
He can do anything He wants, whenever He  
wants ([Psalm 115:3](#))...

The identity of God as Almighty makes known to us that he is above all things...  
without limitation.

In Exodus 6:2-3, God said to Moses,

“I am the LORD.  
I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and Jacob  
as God Almighty,  
but by my name the LORD,  
I did not make myself known to them.”

Exodus 6:2-3

<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-Almighty.html>

The word “LORD” in Hebrew is “Yahweh”...

The <u>LORD</u>	<u>God Almighty</u>
<u>Yahweh</u>	<u>El Shaddai</u>

...which means “I am.”

In making known his name God reveals that he possesses an underived existence.

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/305-lord-and-lord-whats-the-difference>

When put together ... Lord God Almighty... we are reminded that the eternal I AM, is the God without limitations... and through Jesus Christ he is our Father.

**“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was.”**

In Revelation 1:8 John heard the Lord God say,

I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
who is and  
who was and  
who is to come,  
the Almighty.

Revelation 1:8

In Revelation 4:8 the four living creatures praise God saying,

Holy, holy, holy is  
the Lord God Almighty,  
who was,  
and is,  
and is to come.

Revelation 4:8

Here in Revelation 11, we hear the twenty-four elders giving thanks to the Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was...

Why has the phrase... “who is to come”...been dropped?

Gerhard Krodel explains...

This last phrase has been dropped because in the scene the reader sees...God has come... and has established his kingdom with finality. p.230.

GK Beale writes ...

The perspective of this scene is that God no longer merely controls events of the world but has come and defeated the spiritual and physical powers which held the kingdom of the world in their sway. p.237

**v.18** – how are we to understand this verse and what is said by the elders?

The kingdom of the world cannot become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ... apart from God exercising his wrath.

The wrath of God is not just the church’s hope.  
It is also the hope of the creation.

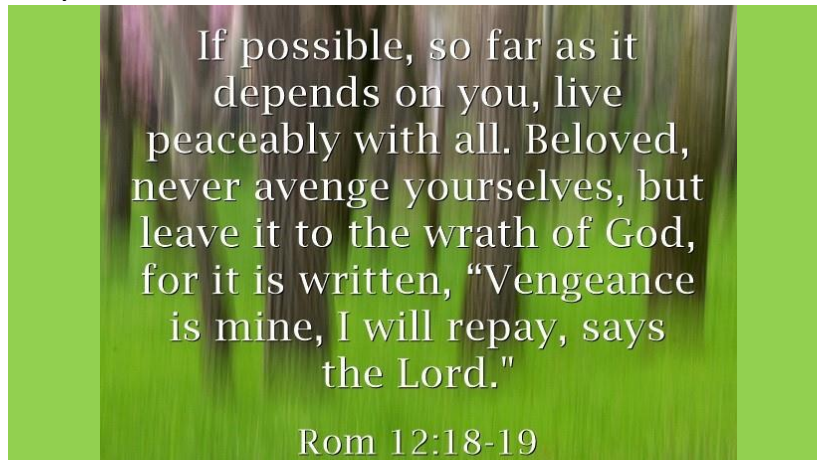
Tom Wright says...

God comes with wrath in order to rescue his people and his creation from...  
“the forces of anti-matter, of anti-creation, of anti-life. God’s wrath brings about the death of death.”

Tom Wright

p.105

Do you remember the instruction from Romans 12:18-19?



What God is being thanked for in Revelation 11:18... is him doing what his people have waited for him to do.

They had entrusted to God their circumstances, including the wrong they had suffered for his name’s sake... knowing that on the last day God would justly make everything right.

This scene ... the song of thanks sung by the twenty-four elders confirms that those who hope in the LORD will not be disappointed.

God is faithful.

He never fails to do what he has promised.

**v.19 - what is the significance of this scene?**

First we need to take note of...the...

- flashes of lightning
- rumblings
- peals of thunder
- an earthquake
- a great hailstorm

We've already seen a similar scene at the end of the seals vision, **Revelation 8:5**. We will see this one more time at the end of the bowls vision, **Revelation 16:18**.

GK Beale writes that this phenomenon is always an indicator of final judgment. p.238.

Because the trumpet judgements are modelled on the plagues of Exodus, various commentators believe it is of great significance that the final scene in this chapter is the opening of God's temple and the sight of the ark of the covenant.

This is intended to point the reader back to Exodus 15:13, 17-18... to the song of Moses sung after the nation was rescued from Egypt.

In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling...

You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance – the place, O LORD, your hands established.

The LORD will reign for ever and ever.

Exodus 15:13, 17-18

This song assures that when God makes all things new, his people will live in his presence and enjoy his fellowship... forever and ever.

God is faithful.

What he says he will do.

That is what seeing the end of the story confirms for us who are stilling living in the middle of it.

You can count on it... you can build your life on it... you can die with this hope... there will be a new beginning.

### **The Blessing**

Romans 15:13