

**Revelation 11: 15-19; "Loud Voices in Heaven", Sermon # 84 in the series**  
**- "The Faithful and True Witness", Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall**  
**on January 6th, 2008, in the Afternoon Worship Service.**

With this sermon we have now reached the half-way point in our study through the Book of Revelation. And having had a few weeks to think about how I would like to conduct the rest of the study through the book, I have come to the conclusion that I personally need to slow down and do a lot of reading and thinking about the remaining chapters of the Book before I preach sermons on them. And so what I am intending to do is to continue to preach one sermon a month from this book and then preach the rest of the afternoon sermons in the months ahead, from the book of 1st Thessalonians; which book I will start preaching from this next week. I believe that our study in 1st Thessalonians will compliment our study in the book of Revelation, and vice-versa. So this afternoon let us set the stage for our journey through the rest of this book. These verses in Chapter 11 are speaking of the sounding of the 7th angel. I have told you before that the sounding of each of these first six angels was the sounding forth to the Church of Jesus Christ, an announcement of spiritual difficulties and spiritual plagues which would come upon the Church during the 2nd and the 3rd major time periods of Church History; the 2nd period being the time of the rise of the Antichristian powers which took place from 323 A.D. to 756 A.D. And then the third time period being from 756 A.D. to the time of the end of the 1260 day's (which are really years) prophecy. The 7th trumpet is the announcement of something very, very good to the Church and something very devastating to the Antichristian powers. It is the announcement that at the end of the 3rd time period that a great change will take place in regard to the progress and furtherance of the kingdom of Christ upon the earth. "The kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

I have explained to you in the past the distinction which I fear is either missed or not accepted by A-Millennialists and Pre-Millennialists. The distinction is that although Christ is reigning presently in heaven and over all the earth and has authority over all flesh, that not all things are subjected to Him yet. Hebrews 2: 8 says, "You have put all things in subjection under his feet." "For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him." "But now we do not yet see all things put under him." Amillennialists see clearly that Christ is presently reigning in heaven and has authority as Lord and Christ over all the earth, but they fail to see that His Church is yet to be given dominion spiritually over the nations as well. Even though His kingdom is not of this world, many nations and kingdoms are still hostile to His kingdom's spiritual advance and the gospel being received by them. But Daniel 7: 27 says, speaking of an event and a time yet future, "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High."

Premillennialists, on the other hand, fail to see Christ presently reigning in heaven and over all the earth and they think that it will be impossible for the Church to reign upon the earth spiritually without Christ's second coming taking place. But when Christ comes the 2nd time, literally and physically, then shall come the resurrection of the dead and the last judgment. There will be no room for a Millennium after Christ's Second Coming. So the Millennium must come before Christ's Second Coming, and we are not in it yet. The distinction that needs to be understood by the Amillennial camp is that there are a number of spiritual "comings" of Christ, times of great revival of Christ's cause and kingdom, at various points in the history of the Church. These not only revive Christ's cause but they also bring judgment upon the systematic oppositions raised up by Satan. These times of great revival come only from God, but they empower the Church to have greater success in seeing the gospel go forward and spread to more and more people. The greatest of these will be the Millennium, which is yet to come. The distinction that needs to be understood by the Premillennial camp is that there is only 1 personal physical coming of our Lord; not more than one. These distinctions I have explained before in my sermons on the 4 major views of the Book.

The 7th angel's announcement is that of God taking up His great power and bringing about this very thing; Christ's kingdom coming to reign upon the earth. We have not come to this point yet in human history or in the history of the Church. But it will come at a set time. This is indicated in Psalm 102: 12 and following. "But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and the remembrance of Your name to all generations." "You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes the set time, has come." "For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, and show favor to her dust." "So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Your glory." "For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory." This is not the Second coming when the words, "He shall appear in His glory" are mentioned. There will not be any need to build up Zion after Christ returns in His Second Coming. That will be the end of the world, and the end of all gospel preaching. Eternity will commence from that point. When He appears we believers shall be changed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

So this afternoon I would like to briefly give you the overview, in a nutshell, which is given to us in verses 15-19 of the 4th time period of Church History, the time period of the Millennium; the time period of the triumph of the saints and the Church reigning upon the earth; the time period when a great revolution will take place among all the nations of the earth to receive the reign of Christ. Let us listen to the loud voices in heaven and what they are saying. We will look first at what the voices declare. Then 2ndly, we will look at what the voices give thanks for. And then, 3rd, we will look at the things God will do to bring about this state of the Church's spiritual reign.

**1st- Let's look at what the voices in heaven declare.** (verse 15)

The voices in heaven represent the united voices of all the true and faithful witnesses of Christ who have ever lived; all those who have spoken, and preached,

and lived to the Glory of God and as witnesses of Christ. They are presently in heaven awaiting this final and everlasting triumph. They are not only alive as the spirits of righteous men made perfect, they are declaring victory for the cause of Christ among the nations of the World. They speak of what they lived for, what they looked forward to, while they lived and labored for the cause of Christ, the saints in both Old Testament and New. The triumph of this 4th time period of Church History is the culmination of all the prayers and tears and faithful labors of all the generations that went before its beginning, and will be the glory of all the generations which will live during the Millennium until the Lord returns. This is the voice of loud rejoicing. "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever! It is mentioned as having come at the beginning of this 3rd time period so that the suffering saints who would lay down their lives to oppose the great Antichristian darkness, would be strengthened to persevere and endure to the end. At the beginning of this time period that is being spoken of here, Christ's glory will appear; the light of His glory will be made exceedingly more evident. The pouring out of the Spirit from on high will accomplish great things among the nations which the World has not yet seen.

God will stretch out His hand, first of all, to show favor to His ancient people the Jews. This ancient people of God, beloved for the sake of the Fathers are still under a partial hardening in our day. But this partial hardening will be lifted in that day, and the Spirit will be poured out on them. Listen to Ezekiel 39: 27 and following. "when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer." "And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel." This has not happened yet, but they have begun to be gathered to their land. Then if you turn over to Isaiah 60, you will see that many Gentile nations shall be impacted in accordance with the working of the Spirit of God, to also come to the light of Christ, through their witness in that day. "Arise, shine; for your light has come!" "And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." "For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you,." "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." There shall be many other nations which shall come to behold the glory and salvation of Christ because of light being given to the Jews to save them as a nation. "Nations will come your light..." Verses 4 and 5 are speaking of the same thing and the same time. Seeing from the New Testament writings of Paul that Christ died to make Jews and Gentiles into one new man, the Church; the Jews will be brought into the Church of Jesus Christ. They will come to see Christ as their Lord and glory in Him. Many other Gentiles shall come to Christ as well through the witness of the Jews. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar and your daughters shall be nursed at your side." (That is, the

Church's side) "Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you." The "sea" in prophetic language here is the picture of many peoples, even as the waters are interpreted in Revelation 17: 15 as "peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues." The Church in that day, with its recent influx of great numbers of converted Jews, shall rejoice greatly; their hearts shall swell with joy to see so many amongst the nations converted to their Messiah. How the heart of our King Jesus shall rejoice to see the fruit of all of His sufferings in the great accessions and conversions of the many who shall be added to His Church in that day. How great shall be the glory of the latter days of the Church.

**Now, let us look secondly at what the voices in heaven give thanks to God for.** (Verses 16-18)

"And the twenty four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned." "The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth." These verses appear, at first sight to be referring to the last judgment, and there is certainly a sense in which we could very appropriately say that all who have been on the side of Christ and truth shall be rewarded and everyone who destroyed Christ's Church will be destroyed forever on that great Day. This shall most certainly take place at the last judgment. But once again, there is a nearer reference at hand. Turn with me to Daniel Chapter 7. Here we find a prophetic vision of the very times that we are studying in this passage. In verses 1-8 the 4 world monarchies are mentioned and described; the fourth beast which is Rome, which has 10 horns, which are the 10 kingdoms of the Western Roman Empire. Verse 8 says, "I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots." "And there in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words." Without going into elaborate explanation at this point, suffice it to say that this is the Roman Antichrist. Now comes a description of the judgment which would come upon this horn which grows up from the fourth beast. Verse 9 - "I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool." "His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him." "A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him." "The court was seated, and the books were opened." "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame." "As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time." This is not the last judgment if these who are mentioned are not all immediately

judged and consigned to hell. But look down at verse 21 and 22. "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom." This judgment is of the Antichristian powers and will result in the saints coming into possession of the kingdom. Verse 27 explains this. "Then the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High." That is the Millennium. That is what the voices in heaven, the thousands and ten thousands who are ministering to God and Christ there, are giving thanks for.

**And then 3rdly- Let's briefly look at the things that God will do to bring this blessed state of things about.** (Verse 19)

"Then the temple of God was opened in heaven and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple." "And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail." The temple of God being opened in heaven means that all the concerns of the true Church of all New Testament generations who labored in their day for a true and pure worship of God in accordance with His blessed Word; this goal related to the Great Commission of Christ, found in Matthew 28: 18-20 will be established. What Christ died to establish in a greater world wide sense, in relation to pure worship and sound doctrinal practice, and a gospel witness will come about. The worship of God and Christ will be brought to a higher state and level than they ever have been before. It will be the kingdom of heaven coming down to earth and the prayer of the Lord's prayer will be answered, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." The ark of the covenant being seen in the temple is a picture of Christ's person and work being clearly seen, understood, and taught in and by the Church of that day. The presence and power of Christ will be known and felt and understood in a more powerful way in that day, so that men who come and attend the worship of God will say, "God is among us, of a truth." This spiritual revolution will not need the return of the Charismatic gifts which were given to the Early Church. The light shining upon the truth of God's Word will simply be increased to many times its current level of power. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord."

The lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and hail that we read about here, are all symbolic of the judgments of God upon the false Antichristian system. They were literal physical judgments upon Egypt in the time of Israel's exodus. Here they represent God's shaking of these false systems of paganism, Papal Romanism, and Mohammedanism. The earthquake especially is symbolic of a great revolution and change in the world with regard to the recognition of what is true and false. God will shake the nations with the truth, and strike terror into the hearts of those who hold to what is false. He will bring down what is false to the place of destruction. Haggai 2: 21 and 22. It will take the exertion of God's power to bring this about. Our fight, as Christians, is not with flesh and blood. Our fight is with the spiritual forces in the heavenly places, who deceive men into thinking that God's

Word is not true. Let us be those who pray much for this time of the Millennium to come, for it will be the precursor to the Return of our Lord and King Himself at the close of that golden age which is rightly called, "The Latter Day Glory". Psalm 72, verse 15 and following says, "And He (that is Christ) shall live; and the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; prayer also will be made for Him continually, (that is for His Kingdom and Causes' advance) and daily He shall be praised." "There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, on the top of mountains; its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; and those of the city(that is, the Church of Jesus Christ) shall flourish like grass of the earth." "His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun." "And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed." "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only does wondrous things!" "And blessed be His name forever!" "And let the whole earth be filled with His glory." "Amen and Amen."