

Nov 14, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

It's encouraging to hear about highly skilled people, or of anyone, who recognize they need Him—because, honestly, we all do

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

We need You and Your wisdom and power, God, for decisions, skill, work, relationships—all of our life

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth
(Ps 121:2 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 14, 2021)

Series: Celebrating God

UNIT 3: Visions of Praise

NEXT WEEK

**Marriage of the Lamb
(Rev 19:1-8)**

God of Power Revelation 11:15-19

Lesson Background and Introduction

The central part of Revelation concerns three sets of seven events initiated in Heaven: the opening of seals (Revelation 6:1–17; 8:1–5), the sounding of trumpets (8:6–9), and the pouring out of bowls of judgment (16:1–21). Today's lesson details the climax of the second of these three sets of events. The immediate context for today's passage is that of seven angels who were ready to sound seven trumpets (Revelation 8:6). Israel's center of worship, the temple, had been destroyed about 25 years before John wrote Revelation. But some 40 years before that destruction, the Jerusalem temple's importance had been superseded by Jesus' death and resurrection (Matthew 27:50-51; Hebrews 8:1-10:22). That resulted in a new understanding of "temple" (see 1 Corinthians 3:16–17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21). John's vision saw an even better reality to come—that of God's heavenly temple where worship continues into eternity. For the original audience that had experienced persecution, perhaps even being unable to worship communally, how encouraging this coming reality must have been! Today's passage invites us to anticipate a future where the kingdom of God is fully established everywhere, where injustice no longer prevails, and where we worship God for eternity.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Jesus Will Reign - John observed the sounding of the seventh trumpet. Loud voices cry out, "Jesus reigns forever and ever!" John heard the praise ring out in heaven as if these truths have already come to pass. With absolute certainty, Jesus will eventually return to reign over all the kingdoms of this world. His authority and superiority last throughout all eternity. How can there be gratitude and joy when these events are still pending? One scholar points to the occasion of a new politician winning the race on election night. Though the candidate "wins" on election night, the actual swearing-in to office and taking on of governmental responsibilities does not happen until several months later. Jesus died on the Cross, then returned victoriously to heaven where He now reigns with the Father. But one day in the future, Jesus will reign over all the nations with a rod of iron.

Seeming Defeat, Promised Victory - John watched as the elders prostrated themselves in worship in God's throne room. They explicitly give thanks for what is bound to come to pass. At the time John wrote, the church on earth appeared to be defeated. Rome held its knee on the neck of the church, and persecuting Christians was the rule of the day. After John's vision, he wrote Revelation to encourage the congregations. He reminded them that Jesus is still the conquering King, and God's children are a kingdom of priests, reigning with the Savior (Rev. 1:5-6). The events listed in Revelation will unfold in time. The heathen nations rage because they want to go their way, do their own thing, and take their stand against God (Ps. 2:1-3). The world desires to possess this kind of authority, yet the reality will be that God and Jesus rule supreme.

Rejoicing in the Temple - The eleventh chapter in Revelation began with the opening of the temple on earth, and the ark, symbolizing God's presence. In the temple, the veil hid the ark, God's glory the Holy of Holies. These events cause rejoicing, a heavenly song because of the accomplishment of God's purposes in the world, the final judgment. Just imagine the suffering saints in John's time hearing the encouraging words referring to Jesus' glory to be revealed. These facts should also cause the church of today to be thankful for Christ's eternal reign.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Power to Reign (Rev 11:15-17)

Reigning over His Kingdom (15)

- A kingdom that God sets up (Dan 2:44)
- A kingdom where righteousness is supreme (Heb 1:8)
- A kingdom that God rules over (1 Chron 29:11)
- A kingdom that is a matter of power (1 Cor 4:20)
- A kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb 12:28)

Reigning that is worthy of worship (16)

- Worship to bring glory to God's name (Ps 86:9-10)
- Worship our God and Maker (Ps 95:6-7)
- Worship and serve God only (Matt 4:10)
- Worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:24)

Reigning for eternity (17)

- A kingdom where God's authority never ends (Luke 1:32-33)
- A kingdom that endures because all other kingdoms will end (1 Cor 15:24-28)
- A kingdom that endures because it is eternal (2 Peter 1:11)
- A kingdom that endures because God established it (Isa 9:7)
- A kingdom that endures because of God's authority (Dan 7:14)
- A kingdom that endures because all rulers will obey God (Dan 7:27)

Power to Judge (Rev 11:18-19)

Judging of the nations (18)

- A judgment where people are separated like sheep from goats (Matt 25:31-33)
- A judgment that will bring everything to light (1 Cor 4:5)
- A judgment that judges men's secrets (Rom 2:16)
- A judgment that all will stand before (Rom 14:10)
- A judgment that judges what was done in the body (2 Cor 5:10)
- A judgment that is destined for man (Heb 9:27)

Judging for entrance into heaven (19)

- A judgment to test the quality of works (1 Cor 3:10-15)
- A judgment of testing and refining (Jer 9:7)
- A judgment of affliction (Isa 48:10)
- A judgment that purifies (Dan 11:35)
- A judgment that God judges with grace (Rom 11:4-6)