

# REVELATION

ALL • THINGS • NEW

## UPSTATE GROUP MEMBER GUIDE

Week 6 – February 12-18 – *Revelation 8:6-11:19*



FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE  
UPSTATE CHURCH

# SCRIPTURE

Take this time to study the Bible together. Remember, the goal is not just to convey information, but to help people in your group learn to read the Bible for themselves.

## THE POINT

**God is judge and we must respond.**

### **Revelation 11:15-19**

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying,

“We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
who is and who was,  
for you have taken your great power  
and begun to reign.  
18 The nations raged,  
but your wrath came,  
and the time for the dead to be judged,  
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,  
and those who fear your name,  
both small and great,  
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”

19 Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings,[c]peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Revelation 11:15–19.

# STUDY NOTES

The seventh angel blows his trumpet. Remember what this meant. Go back to Revelation 10:7 and note that when the seventh angel blew his trumpet then all that the prophets had spoken concerning this event would be fulfilled. This angel was seen in Daniel 12:7 saying that the shattering of the power of the holy people was going to come. The angel in Revelation 11:6-7 says there is no more delay. The shattering of the power of the holy people would take place when the seventh angel sounds the trumpet. The seventh trumpet now sounds. This pictures of the fall of the city of Jerusalem, the judgment against the physical Jewish nation.

The final judgment of the Jewish nation shows the continuing establishment of Christ's kingdom as Christ conquers all of his enemies. The enemies of Christ's kingdom have been defeated. Every enemy is being subjected under the feet of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:25) Notice verse 18: The nations rage, but your wrath has come. Time for judgment and time for reward for those who are God's servants. This imagery recalls Psalm 2:2 where the nations rage against God's anointed. However, Christ rules over the earth and subjects the nations.

Verse 19 concludes the woe and it is an important image. God has judged. There are flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. These are images that God has brought final judgment on the nation. God's temple is seen in heaven, not on the earth. This relates to what we studied in our previous lesson in Hebrews 12:26-28. The things shaken had to be removed so that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Though the physical temple was destroyed, the true temple of God remains in heaven. The true people of God remain. Further, the ark of the covenant is seen in heaven, not on earth. The ark of the covenant represented God's presence and favor in the Old Testament. Josephus records that the ark of the covenant was not in the second temple (Wars V. 219). The ark had been lost when the Babylonians invaded in 586 BC. God's presence was never again pictured with the physical nation or the physical temple in Jerusalem, though the temple had been rebuilt in 516 BC and was beautified and expanded by Herod at the beginning of the first century. The ark of the covenant is pictured within the heavenly temple. God's presence and favor is with his people, not the physical Jewish nation. God has destroyed another nation that stood in opposition to the people of God.

As you lead your group in discussion be sure everyone understands that we respond to the judgment of God by:

### **1) REPENTING**

As we stand in awe of God and humbly come to the understanding that He is holy and we are not, our first step is repentance. Repentance starts with the acknowledgement of sin in our lives and truly recognizing that God is Lord and we are not. Let us see what sin actually is, rebellion against the Lord's authority and law, and we appeal to God's mercy as we turn from it.

### **2) PRAYING**

In response to confession of sin and recognition of God's sovereignty, another proper response is to pray. This isn't the kind of prayer one prays to ask God to do things from your checklist, but instead, a prayer of thanksgiving and worship. As we see in the passage, the twenty-four elders fall on their faces and worship. Do we live with this type of posture and response to God? How is our prayer life?

Let us make being in the presence of the Most High through prayer be a priority to lead us in worshiping Him.

### **3) SHARING**

The natural response to God's mercy is for us to share with others the gift of salvation. God's power and grace are too beautiful not to share. The most selfish thing any follower of Christ could do is to not share the gospel with those who need Him. Are we keeping the good news to ourselves out of fear or a reluctance to be a little uncomfortable?

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [here](#).

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How does knowing that God is Judge change the way we live our daily lives? Should it change how we interact with others? How and why?
- What does true repentance really look like? Would you say repentance is hard to do? Why or why not?
- As the seventh trumpet sounds in Revelation 11:15 John once more sees a picture of heaven. How would you describe the impact of the seventh trumpet? Consider verse 18 especially. Compare the title of God given in Revelation 11:17 to 4:8. What is different? Why?
- Re-read the words of the elders in Revelation 11:17-18. What are some key observations about their prayer?
- What rewards do you already experience in your life as a result of your faith in Christ?
- Where in our lives could we see God's judgment as preventing us from pleasure, and how can we transform that into viewing God's judgment as life-giving?