

He Reigns

Revelation 11:15-17

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A. Now and Forever (vs. 15):

1. Arose – Out of nowhere loud sound voices dominated the air.
 - a) The seventh angel sounded his trumpet (11:15). Unidentified voices in heaven make an announcement following the seventh and final trumpet. God has at last established his rule on earth. The answer to the prayer of Jesus and the saints throughout church history—“your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10)—is now finally answered. This eternal kingdom is ruled by both the Lord and his Christ, who ascended to the throne following his victory over death (Rev. 3:21; 5:5).
2. Tell, speak – The very loud confident voices, who are in heaven, and can see all that the Lord plans to do, no matter how much evil satan is about to unleash on the world, they continually proclaim what the Lord is going to do (this is critically because of how dominate and destructive satan was in destroying the two witnesses and how powerfully evil he is going to be from chapter 12-13).
3. The Kingdom of the world – satan is stated in scripture as the evil, wicked one who powerfully rules the world so that it in a very organized manner opposes everything the Lord wants to accomplish. The Lord will take it over and remove all power and authority from satan beginning in chapter 16 of revelation.
4. Become – The Lord God with all authority and power brought into existence, despite all that satan does and will do, His own kingdom that reigns above satan. He establishes His kingdom without any need of help from anyone.
 - a) The message is one of judgment on those who reject the persevering witness of Christians and who persecute them. This message, secondarily included in the introduction of ch. 10, is now the central focus. The judgment is the first explicit answer to the saints’ prayer for vindication and retribution against their antagonists (in development of 6:9–11; 8:3–5; 9:13). This explicitly expresses what the trumpets imply. We have argued that the events of 11:1–13 occur during the same time as the first six trumpets (see pp. 108–51 and 520–22 above).¹
5. Kingdom of our Lord – The Lord can establish His kingdom because He has all authority, dominates all that takes place on earth, reigns as a divine king sitting on His throne at the right hand of God. Even as King, He desires to have a relationship with us and this is why John is inspired to say Lord. This is because He sustains His covenant with us no matter what satan does (the temple is measured off before satan’s activities become more destructive).

¹ Beale, G. K. (1999). [*The book of Revelation: a commentary on the Greek text*](#) (p. 556). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.

- a) Although Judaism acknowledged God's present rule over the earth, it also awaited and celebrated his future rule unchallenged over all humanity, and it usually acknowledged Israel's rule over the nations on his behalf. In Jewish sources, this rule would be inaugurated at the very end of the age.²
6. His Christ – He is also the anointed One who reigns on earth and in Heaven. The same person who lived on earth has risen and remains the anointed One.
 7. Reign – The Lord's kingdom executes its royal authority with supernatural power over all the earth. There is no power or person that can withstand the supernatural nature of the power of the kingdom of the anointed One.
 8. Reign – Satan in chapter 12 verse 10-11 will go to heaven to fight against God but will be cast down forever. This is because the supernatural power of the Lord, the anointed One, reigns mighty above all forces.
 9. Forever and ever – Despite the fact the earth is influenced by Satan from eternity past, the present age, and the age to come the Lord still executes His agenda for the universe.
 10. Forever and ever – Satan is active and aggressively doing all that he desires but nothing he does can ever erase what the Lord plans to accomplish. It is all incorporated into how He plans to execute His purposes. What Satan does works for our good (Romans 8:28).

B. Every Knee/From the Top (vs. 16):

1. Throne – Although the twenty-four elders achieved a place of honor and authority by being placed on thrones in heaven (4:10-11), when the seventh angel sounded out the seventh trumpet with Christ's supernatural kingdom powerfully established over all the earth, they immediately respond to the power and authority of the Lord who is the Christ.
2. Before God – The twenty elders would be quick to recognize all that is taking place because their thrones are in the very presence of the Lord God.
3. Before God – The twenty-four elders' full exposure to the supreme sovereign supernatural nature of God, would cause them to immediately revere God when they are made aware of the coming judgment—devastating judgments of God.
4. Fell on their faces – All twenty-four elders threw themselves to the ground with their faces to the ground at the sound of the seventh trumpet from the seventh angel. They demonstrated complete reverence and honor for all they knew of God's power and might.
 - a) The twenty-four elders around God's throne fall down and worship him in response to the heavenly proclamation of v 15 (see on 4:4 for identification of the elders). They thank him for consummating the kingdom. That this is the completed form of the kingdom is apparent from v 18, where it is said that all the enemies of God have received their final defeat and judgment.³

² Keener, C. S. (2014). *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Second Edition, p. 751). IVP Academic: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press.

³ Beale, G. K. (1999). *The book of Revelation: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 612). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.

C. Let Us Celebrate (vs. 16c-17):

1. Worshipped God – The twenty-four elders, by falling on their faces, publicly demonstrated reverent devotion and honor for the power and might of God while manifesting an attitude of joy and thanksgiving for His gracious nature and His timely justice upon evil.
2. Say – The purpose of the twenty-four elders’ worship to the Lord God was to continually and repetitively, like the seventh angel, verbally communicate what their thoughts were of how great and mighty God always was and is.
3. Give thanks – The twenty-four elders were continuously praising God, gratefully expressing how glorious He is and how indebted they are to Him for all He has done.
4. O Lord God, Almighty – The elders had respect for who God is as they worship Him is crystalized by the way they described Him. They described Him as the one who has all authority and does not violate His covenant with His people while he reigns supreme over the universe. He reigns not just as Lord, He makes decisions not just as the one who is sovereign but He is also Almighty because He is the ‘all powerful One’ (Rev. 19:6), the One ‘who was and is and will be’ (Reve. 4:8) is in control of all things, commands all things and rules over all.
 - a) This means that the last part of the triadic name for God is not merely a general reference to his sovereignty over the future but specifically speaks of the end time, when God will break into world history and end it by overthrowing all opposition to his people and setting up his eternal kingdom. Though this had not yet happened in John’s time, the seventh seal vision showed him what would happen at the end.⁴
5. Who are and were; I am - When the elders said ‘who are and were’ they are seeking to communicate that the Lord God, Almighty, is “the One who is, the One who has been, and the One who is coming.’ He always was, is, and will forever be.
 - a) The God who transcends time guides the entire course of history because he not only stands as sovereign over its beginning and end, but is also in its midst, invisibly guiding it (see on 1:4, 8). The addition of the title κύριε ὁ θεὸς ὁ παντοκράτωρ (“Lord God Almighty”) enforces this idea, since it is repeatedly used in the prophets to refer to God as the one who sovereignly directs his people’s history (see further on 1:8).⁵
6. Your great power – The Lord God Almighty has the supernatural ability to overcome all obstacles no matter the power or ability of any opposing force.
7. And have begun to reign – Because of the nature and ability of the Lord God, Almighty who has supernatural power over all the earth, and He established Himself as the only one who is superior overall, there is no need to stress over the damage evil can inflict on our lives.
8. And have begun to reign – The Lord’s power, status and powerful justice should make us all be at peace when trouble comes because no matter, we may encounter we can give Him thanks in all things (1 Thessalonians 5:16-19).

⁴ Beale, G. K. (1999). [The book of Revelation: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (p. 613). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.

⁵ Beale, G. K. (1999). [The book of Revelation: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (pp. 612–613). W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press.