

Revelation 11:15-19

Chapter 10 **Interlude** (in the action of the 7 Trumpet judgments; 7 Thunder Jgmts sealed; **PREACH** Revelation 10:5-7 “Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven, ⁶and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things in it, and the earth and the things in it, and the sea and the things in it, that there will no longer be a delay, ⁷but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets.”

****Mystery:** Jewish Messiah Promised; God incarnated; Jesus rejected; Resurrected; Ascended; **LORD**

1. **O.T.** =God’s Covenant people; Jews=elect; rescued; LAW; Temple-prov; prop (**Messiah promised**)
2. **1st Century** = Jesus came to earth, lived, ministered, died, resurec, ascended (**Messiah came/rejec**)
3. **N.T.** =Jew’s partial hardening; age of Gentiles: Rom. 1:16; age of Grace; **Church** age; Evangelism (**Messiah crowned** Head of the Church; His Body, His Bride)
4. At the end of this world; last days/**End Times** -7 yr of Tribulation =God uses to purge; judg; **Jews** (**Messiah Expected**)
5. **After** the 7year Tribulation, (**Messiah returns**) = 2nd Coming/**LORD** of Earth; Jews saved-**1000yrs**
*Christ is finally exalted and glorified ON this earth as He already is in Heaven!

-John 17:24 “Father, I desire that these disciples, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” Now the WHOLE world (the lost; the damned; the demons; Universe; all creation will get to see what Heaven experiences each moment)...that **JESUS IS LORD** of ALL!!!

Revelation 11 **-Scene: In Heaven (universal declaration by the Father to the world)

Vs 15 Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ [Messiah: Anointed One]; and He will reign forever and ever.” This is the most true expression of history; that Jesus of Nazareth IS the Messiah; the Son of God and Son of Man -fully God/Fully man; **Truly...**
-Do YOU believe that? Has that truth shaped your life? Has that reality formed your foundation? Your future? Your Hope? Your security? Your identity? Your eternity?? =There is nothing else!!

*This is the declaration that this earth, this world, your world, the entire universe now and forever belongs to Jesus. From that point on...Jesus would be taking out evil and bringing all sin and rebellion into alignment with His holy Person; with eternal justice & judgment; with Jesus being the righteous Judge and Executioner. God steps off the throne and gets involved: **BOWLS**

-This is the declaration that satan is done (2 Cor. 4:4); evil is being stamped out (John 12:31); the beginning of Rev. 20 -the defeat of the unholy trinity; AND the process begin to make all things new as Jesus crushes the devil and the rebellious world to USHER in His Kingdom (where heaven and earth will meet = the Millennial Kingdom)

Vs. 16 And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying, “We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, battle of Armageddon -Rev 16

and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints [God's people] and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, Heaven/His presence is their reward
-and to destroy those who destroy the earth." Earth Judg. -wrath/ death /Et. Judg. -Hell/2nd death

¹⁹ And the temple of God which is **in heaven** was opened; strange that we see a temple in Heaven. *All the Temples: **Eden**, (**Tabernacle**); 1. Solomon's Temple, 2. Rebuilt Temple (Zerubbabel's/Ezra), 3. Herod's Temple, 4.[our bodies as Believers 'spiritual Temple'], 5. the End-times Temple, =becomes the 6. the Millennial Temple, 7. **Heavenly Temple** (eternal)

The Temple in Heaven: (*Now*)

-Psalm 11:4 "The Lord is in His holy Temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven"

Rev. 15:5 "After these things I looked, and the ^[d]temple of the tabernacle of testimony in heaven was opened"

-Heb. 8:1-2 "Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a minister ^[a]in the sanctuary and ^[b]in the true ^[c]tabernacle, which the Lord set up, not man."

-Heb. 9:24 "For Christ did not enter a holy place made by hands, a *mere* copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;"

BUT in the final consummation of ALL things, the new heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem (the eternal, holy city – our final home)

In this New Jerusalem (NO Temple):

Rev. 21:22-24 "I saw no ^[a]temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it." The final vision of our new home is not with God on His throne in the Temple ...but with us, close by, and us living in the midst of His glory. His light. His Truth. And us and our family will bring our joyous veneration, our awe-filled praise & glory-filled lives into His presence for Worship and Work for eternity. **We get the fullness of God with us!**

¹⁹ And the temple of God which is in heaven was **opened**; For the Lord's elect, there is no more barrier between God's presence and God's people. The Temple is open to His people. The holy of Holies sits in the midst of His covenant people. He is ever-present with His children. Where God dwells in unapproachable light, in His shekinah glory – we have been invited in to dwell with Him!

and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple,

Exodus 25:21-22 "Then you shall put the atoning cover on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you. [10 commandments: the testimony of covenant] ²² **There I will meet with you**; and from above the atoning cover, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about ^[a]every commandment that I will give you for the sons of Israel." -this is the very spot in the Holy of Holies in the earthly Temple, in Solomon's Temple where the very presence, the very Spirit of God would dwell over the Ark of the covenant, over the mercy seat, the atoning cover – God's presence dwelled and hovered over the very spot on earth where He allowed the atonement – the blood wrought, blood spilled area sacrifice where His wrath would be temporarily satisfied,

where He would forgive sinful man, and allow them to continue to live as forgiven, grace-receivers who in their gratitude would freely worship God & glorify Him!

-Even from the very beginning of the covenant – **something innocent had to die because of man's sin**. In the Holy of holies, God prepared an ark to be the vessel of that sacrifice, the very receptacle of that holy offering; and the only place God could dwell on the earth.

The place of atonement was the home for God. This was the only place comfortable where God would want to stay -among sinful humanity, among His own rebellious people. At the **mercy seat**;

What does that mean?

-God dwelled with sinful man only through the atonement, where man's sin was covered by the unblemished blood of an innocent animal (something had to die to cover for man's sin & eventual death)

-God kept His covenant with man only through the atonement (man could never keep his end of the covenant, so God kept it for him through the atoning sacrifice. The innocent died to cover for man in order to keep man alive and NOT face the immediate wrath of God.

-Do you see the Gospel parallel?

1. We Meet God Only Through Atoning Blood

Just as Israel could not approach the Mercy Seat without blood, we cannot approach God apart from Christ -from Christ's blood.

Salvation is not earned through morality, religion, or effort. **It comes only through the blood of Jesus.**

2. God's Justice and Mercy Are Perfectly United in Christ

The Mercy Seat shows that God is not *merely* loving or merely just.

At the cross: God's holy, righteous Justice is satisfied. And Mercy is given. His Wrath is absorbed And His Grace is poured out

-Romans 3:26 says God is both: "**Just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**"

3. Believers Now Have Direct Access to God

Under the old covenant: Only one priest Once per year With fear and trembling of possibly dying **BUT** Now through Christ: Every believer, At any moment, With bold confidence & He bids us come

4. Jesus Covers the Law That Condemned Us

Inside the Ark was the law that proved Israel guilty. Our lives are the same as theirs =guilty

-Every command of God reveals our failure, fall from grace, and just punishment earned. Death!

**But Christ's blood covers the record of our guilt.

-Colossians 2:14 says: "**Jesus canceled the record of debt that stood against us.**"

=The law that condemned us has been **covered by grace.**

5. God Still Desires to Meet With His People

The heart of Exodus 25:22 is **relational**. God says: "**There I will meet with you.**"

-The entire Tabernacle system was about **God dwelling with His people.**

That desire reaches its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus: -John 1:14 "**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**" Where heaven and earth met; And it will be **fully** realized in eternity:

"**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.**" (Revelation 21:3)

A Powerful Reflection

Imagine standing outside the Temple in ancient Israel. Inside the Holy of Holies sits the Ark. Above it is the Mercy Seat. Above that, the invisible **glory of God's presence**.

Between you and that presence is: a thick veil, an impenetrable divine holiness; the very weight of your sin. You cannot enter. You can NEVER enter. You are on the outside. Guilty. Unworthy. Judged. Defeated....But on the cross, Jesus cried: **"It is finished."** And the veil tore.

The way into the presence of God opened forever. The Mercy Seat is no longer hidden.

It now stands **at the foot of the cross** opened forever in heaven where Jesus says...**come to me**

-In the Ark of the Covenant, now opened, **now on display in heaven as a memorial of His mercy,**

God's covenant **faithfulness** is on display as a God who has rescued, a God who has made atonement, a God who has been satisfied by the Lamb's sacrifice, a God who has ever-been faithful to His covenant promises to His people.

To the Jewish people, the remnant, those who bend the knee to Messiah Jesus -God demonstrates that He is a Promise-keeper, and merciful God of loving-kindness who brought about the restoration of Israel and God's glory in His covenant remnant for all the world to see that God alone is the One true God and a covenant-keeper to the very end of the age. God has made good on His prophecies, promises, and covenants to Israel (then and now, and forever).

And what is the heavenly response to this this eternal reality of God's covenant faithfulness on eternal display for His utter glory and exaltation????

and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm. -The universe clapped and applauded and showered the world with power, awe, and appropriate praise.

-What is your response to His covenant faithfulness? How is your life different? How will you praise Him now? This week? From now on?

The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat

In Exodus 25, God commanded Israel to construct the Ark. On top of the Ark was the **Mercy Seat (atonement cover)** made of pure gold. At each end stood two cherubim facing one another with wings overshadowing the cover.

The structure looked like this: Cherub — Mercy Seat — Cherub

It was the place where the **atoning blood of the innocent, pure, sacrificial lamb was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement**. It was there that God then said: "There I will meet with you." (Exodus 25:22) The space **between the cherubim above the Mercy Seat** represented the place where God's holy presence dwelt.

Now Look at the Resurrection Scene In John 20:11-12, Mary Magdalene looks into the tomb of Jesus. John writes that she saw: "two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet." = Angel — Empty Place — Angel

But now the **body of Jesus had been lying where the Mercy Seat would symbolically be.**

The place where Jesus' body had rested becomes the **true Mercy Seat**, the **blood of Christ had been poured out once for all.**

**Jesus Himself* is the place where atonement happens. Not a golden lid. Not an altar. A person.

Community Group questions

1. In Exodus 25:21–22, God says, *“There I will meet with you.”* In Revelation 11:19, John sees God's heavenly temple opened. **What do these passages reveal about God's desire throughout Scripture to dwell with His people?**
2. The Mercy Seat represented the place where sacrificial blood covered the law that condemned Israel. **How does understanding the Mercy Seat deepen our appreciation of what Jesus accomplished through His sacrifice?**
3. In Revelation 11:19, the Ark of the Covenant appears in the heavenly temple. **Why do you think God reveals the Ark at this moment in the vision when His kingdom is being proclaimed? What does this say about His faithfulness to His covenant promises?**
4. Both passages (Rev. 11 and Ex. 25) reveal a God who is perfectly holy yet merciful through atonement. **Why is it important that God does not ignore sin but instead provides a way for justice and mercy to meet through Christ?**
5. Revelation 11:15 declares that the kingdoms of the world have become the kingdom of the Lord and His Christ. **How should the certainty of Christ's ultimate reign shape the way we live in a world that often seems chaotic or unjust?**
6. Under the Old Covenant only the high priest could approach the Mercy Seat once a year. Because of Jesus, believers now have direct access to God. **How does knowing you can approach God freely through Christ affect your prayer life and relationship with Him?**
7. In Revelation 11:16–17 the elders fall down and worship God for His power and reign. **How should reflecting on God's mercy, Christ's atonement, and the future victory of His kingdom shape the way we worship and live today?**