

Final Countdown: The Book Of Revelation
“Bittersweet” #15
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
November 15, 2020

Big Idea: God extends His mercy with a final countdown before He judges the World.

1. We Know The Big Picture, But We Don't Know Every Detail

Then I saw **another mighty angel** coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a **rainbow** above his head; **his face was like the sun**, and his **legs** were like **fiery pillars**. He planted his **right foot on the sea** and his **left foot on the land**, and he gave a loud shout like the **roar of a lion**. When he shouted, the voices of the **seven thunders spoke**. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "**Seal up** what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "**There will be no more delay!**"

Revelation 10:1-6 (NIV)

2. God's Divine Plan Will Be Accomplished

But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."

Revelation 10:7 (NIV)

"Remember the former things, those of long ago; **I am God, and there is no other**; I am God, and there is none like me. **I make known the end from the beginning**, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do." **Isaiah 46:9-11 (NIV)**

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, **take the scroll** that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "**Take it and eat it**. It will turn your **stomach sour**, but in your mouth it will be as **sweet as honey**." I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and **ate it**. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must **prophesy again** about many peoples, nations, languages and kings." **Revelation 10:8-11 (NIV)**

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and **measure the temple** of God and the **altar**, and count the **worshippers** there. But **exclude the outer court**; do not measure it, because it has been given to the **Gentiles**. They will **trample** on the holy city for **42 months**." **Revelation 11:1-2 (NIV)**

"The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him." **Daniel 9:27 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

“From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.” **Daniel 12:11 (NLT2)**

“The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.”
Matthew 24:15 (NLT2)

3. Even In The Worst Of Rebellion God Extends His Mercy

And I will give power to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for **1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.** These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** that stand before the Lord of the earth. **If anyone tries to harm them, fire** comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have **power to shut up the sky** so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have **power to turn the waters into blood** and to strike the earth with every kind of **plague** as often as they want.” **Revelation 11:1-6 (NIV)**

Now when they have **finished their testimony**, the **beast** that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and **kill them**. Their bodies will lie in the street of the **great city**, which is **figuratively** called **Sodom and Egypt**, where also their **Lord was crucified.** **For three and a half days** men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and **refuse them burial**. **The inhabitants** of the earth will gloat over them and will **celebrate by sending each other gifts**, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. **Revelation 11:7-10 (NIV)**

But **after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them**, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, **"Come up here."** And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a **severe earthquake** and **a tenth of the city collapsed**. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the **survivors** were terrified and **gave glory to the God of heaven**. **Revelation 11:7-13 (NIV)**

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. **The seventh angel sounded his trumpet**, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: **"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever."** And the **twenty-four elders**, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and **worshiped God**, saying: **"We give thanks** to you, **Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was**, because you have taken your great power and have **begun to reign.**" The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Then **God's temple in heaven** was opened, and within his temple was seen the **ark of his covenant**. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.” **Revelation 11:14-19 (NIV)**

➤ **When will I decide to live for Him?**

My next right step, I will:

- Accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior
- Sign up for Partnership Class Nov. 22, 10:45 am-12:30 pm, lunch included
- Invite someone to church or join a watch party on Sunday
- Join our Zoom Bible Study on the Book of Revelation-Tuesdays 6:30 pm

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it under 12 minutes.]

Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honor your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourage you to live like Jesus?

Review the Remember Verse “**Blessed** is the one who **reads** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.” **Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**

How has God blessed you so far in this study of God’s Word?

Icebreaker: What has been the greatest three years of your life?
 Why do they stand out to you?

Bittersweet

Read Revelation 10:1-6

1. We Know The Big Picture, But We Don’t Know Every Detail

Describe the angel who announces the coming trumpet. In what ways does this contrast with traditional views of angels?

What can we learn from this passage since John is forbidden to record the words of the seven trumpets?

What purposes did the disasters of the first six trumpets serve?

During our studies we have seen God holding back His wrath until His timing is right. What is your response to Revelation 10:6?

2. God’s Divine Plan Will Be Accomplished

Read Revelation 10:7-11

What is the mystery of God?

Romans 11:25-36

Romans 16:25-27

Ephesians 1:9-14

What does eating the small scroll symbolize?
What is bitter about the gospel?
What is sweet?

Who is John's prophecy directed towards? Verse 11

3. Even In The Worst Of Rebellion God Extends His Mercy

Read Revelation 11:1-6

What is measured and protected?

Read Revelation 11:3-14

Who are the two indestructible witnesses?
What happens if someone tries to attack them?

What is their message?

What is the response of the people who oppose them when they die?

Read Revelation 7:9-10

Why do we need to remember all that is going on during this great tribulation?

When they are resurrected?

What do you learn from this passage about being a witness?

What has been toughest about living out your faith at work?

At school?

At home?

Why is there such difficulty?

How have you felt especially empowered by God in the last six months?

What do you learn about God's plan and purpose?

Read Revelation 11:15-19

What does the seventh trumpet herald?

How is the second coming a good news/ bad news?

What does this tell you about God's power?

What will you pray about this week?

Close in prayer.