

Revelation 11:15 A Heavenly Perspective

It was an October afternoon in 1982, Badger Stadium in Madison, Wisconsin, was packed.

More than 60,000 die-hard University of Wisconsin supporters were watching their football team take on the Michigan State Spartans.

But It soon became obvious that Mich. State had the better team that day.

What **seemed odd, however,** as the score became more and more lopsided, there would be **these random bursts of applause and shouts of joy** from the Wisconsin fans.

How could they cheer when their team was losing so badly?

It turns out that seventy miles away the Milwaukee Brewers were beating the St. Louis Cardinals in game three of the 1982 World Series.

Many of the fans in the stands were listening to the World series on portable radios--**and responding to something other than their immediate circumstances.**

Other than what was right in front of them.

Now what those fans were doing that day is what the Bible encourages us as believers to do every day. -

2 Corinthians 4:18

“We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

The word look in that Passage is Skopeo in the greek
A)We get our word Scope – like Rifle scope or telescope from this word.

B)It means to Fix your eyes on something – **to Zero in on like a Rifle scope.**

1)Make it your focus – Contemplate.

C)So Paul is saying- We are not to **fix our eyes** upon, **zero in on or contemplate** that which is seen,

1)because those things are temporary.

D)No, we are to **fix our eyes on and Zero in** on that which is that which is **not seen** – because that is eternal.

That we like that crowd in Badger stadium watching that football game:

A) would learn to go through life responding to something other than our immediate circumstances

B)I know that is easier said than done- what we are talking about today is not easy.

1)**But it is so vitally important** – If this can become more a part of our mindset – it will affect everything.

C)Our Priorities will be affected, the way we treat others is affected, - outlook toward jobs, kids, our church

1)Our relationships- everything

D)We will find ourselves taking many things – a lot less seriously, viewing life in light of ETERNITY!

King David – realized the need to have this type of mindset – Saw it in our Bible reading this week

A)Psalm 39 NLT

B)Setting – All this stuff is swirling around David – Psalm 39:1-5

I said to myself, "I will watch what I do and not sin in what I say. I will hold my tongue when the ungodly are around me."

Probably dealing with People talking about him

2 But as I stood there in silence—not even speaking of good things— the turmoil within me grew worse.

3 The more I thought about it, the hotter I got, igniting a fire of words:

Ever do that – going into a situation where you say – I am going to hold my tongue and not say a word.

You get in the situation and it gets the better of you and you end up saying things you regret? –

Happens to the best of us. It happened to David..

But Notice his response:

4 "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered— how fleeting my life is.

Translation: Lord help me to remember –what really matters is not what is happening right in front of me.

5 You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath."

This life is a short walk in the Parketernity!

A)**Prelude – Eternity is the real story.**

B)David saw the need to remember that Eternity is what matters.

1)He needed to look at life from a Heavenly perspective – and Eternal perspective.

C)What does all this have to do with our study in the book of Revelation?

We see a great example of that in our text this morning – Revelation ch.11:15

A)Now before we look at our text – let me set the scene of what is happening here in Ch.11

B)Ch.11 Brings us to the midway point of the tribulation. - First 3 1/2 yrs past

1)Division – **Anti-Christ and Israel. Peace/ War**

C)Ch.11 singles the Change!

1)The best way to understand these chapters dealing with the tribulation is to see them as a Chronological flow of Judgments.

It starts with the Seal Judgments in Ch.6 – Again reminder – everything is originating from Heaven.

A)Seals are opened – Antichrist comes on the scene – followed by death destruction and famine

B)Bad time on planet earth !

C)After the seal judgments come the trumpet judgments in ch. 8 -9

D)Which are followed by the Bowl judgments in Ch.15-16

But in the midst of that Chronological flow we have what are called Parenthetical Chapters.

A)Parenthetical simply means that something is put in Parenthesis/Give some detail of what was going on

B)Example – Great Marriage retreat – Jon Courson Taught 4 sessions – Friday Prayer – Sat am Confession Sat. pm Parents Sun am The word

C)**Parenthesis:** Now on Sat am I was blessed to spend a couple of hours with Jon over breakfast and we talked about

That is what these Parenthetical chapters are about – a break in the flow – give us some detail of the time.

A)A parenthesis in the story –to add some detail

So in Ch. 7 Parenthetical Ch. Given detail about the 144,000 as well as about those martyred during trib

A)Flow of Judgments picks up again in Ch. 8-9 the **seventh seal is opened – the trumpet Judgments start**

B)Then we have another set of Parenthetical ch.s in ch.10-11 –

1)Given Detail and insight things happening both on earth and in heaven during the first 3/12 yrs of trib

C)In Chapter 11 we are given insight into two men identified as the two witnesses. {**JASON briefly**}

1)These two – **Probably Moses and Elijah** – preach and are given special powers.

D)Great side note: All during the Trib – God is giving pp opportunity to be saved.

1)144,000 Jewish evangelist / Ch.14 Angel

And here in Ch. 11 these two called the two witnesses

A)V.3 Power to prophesy 1,260 days – Jewish calendar was a **360 day calendar** = 31/2 yrs

B)**V.4 Two olive trees – lampstands** – Olive oil was symbolic of the HS

1)They are given a special anointing – of the HS to be witnesses for the Lord. { **shine as Lights**

C) And they are given special protection v.5 – Fire proceeds from mouth – { Come in handy J }

1) V.6 Special power over the earth

D) So for three and half yrs they are there in **Jerusalem prophesying – Proclaiming Jesus –**

1) Protected by God – until v.7 their testimony was finished –

E) God had an appointed time for their service.

Invincible until their service was thru!

Interesting side note: Our days are numbered – we all have an appointed time for living / service

A) How are you using yours.

B) **Well, their appointed time was done** – They did their job – God allows the anti-Christ to kill them.

C) **V.8-10 Crazy thing happens** – People party in the streets of Jerusalem – 31/2 days – bodies lay there

1) Giving gifts to one another – and the world is watching and celebrating - via Satellite tv

But after 31/2 days **V. 11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. {Yea} 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.**

13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

A) So Ch.11 gives us some details of this crazy scene happening at the 31/2 year mark of the Tribulation

B) Reaction on earth – but then we see the Reaction of those in heaven.

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: {His Trumpet}

A) This is where the Mid-trib camp tries to say Rev 11 is where the church – is raptured / at the 7th Trumpet

B) Which is Followed by - Celebration in Heaven v.15-19/ Church is there.

C) They Say/see, here is the last trumpet and we know According to 1Cor 15:51-58 that at the last trumpet - rapture takes place:

1) So This is last trumpet in Rev 11

D) They need to take a Closer Look – See What 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 are referring to is the last trumpet of God.

E) Called that in 1 Thess. THE **TRUMPET OF GOD.**

1) 1 Cor 15 and 1 Thess 4 are describing - Last trumpet of God - **gathering His church!**

This is an angel's Trumpet so it doesn't work - pic

Back to our text:

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" **16** And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

There is great rejoicing in Heaven – but I want you to notice something about V.15 again.

A) And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!*"

B) Here at the midway point of the tribulation is when all this crazy stuff is happening on earth.

1)The reaction of those in Heaven is "*The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord*

C)But think about this - Jesus has not yet returned – He has not yet laid claim to planet earth – but their reaction is as if it is a done deal.

This is what they call a PROLEPTIC PHRASE – It describes a future event that is so certain that it can be spoken of as if it had already taken place.

A)The Bible is full of statements like this: Always connected to the promise of God.

B)Ex. Isaiah 53:5

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

C)Now Isa. wrote this 100s of yrs before Christ was even born/ but He wrote it in the past tense Because it was as Certain as if it had already happened

D)Revelation 13:8 Lamb slain from before....world.

Another Ex. In Romans 8:30

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Paul makes the statement that we have been
Glorified ? (You don't look Glorified to Me)

A)But that Reality is so Certain that it is used
Proleptically – Done deal.

B)That is the perspective of those who are in Heaven
– they see **it as a done deal**.

C)In the Midst of the Tribulation – Chaos on the
earth – instead of seeing what is right in front

D)Those in the Presence of God see Him in His glory
1)They see **He is faithful and all powerful – just and
true are His ways. They Rejoice**

E)**In His presence is fullness of Joy!** – Joy is different
from happiness –

1)Happiness is based on happenings –
Joy is a peace – knowing that God is in control.

F)So they are rejoicing because they are clued into
what is happening down the Road –
**the Kingdoms of the earth Have become the
Kingdoms of our Lord.**

Listen, you are going to be either Proleptic in your
outlook or You are Spiritually Dyslexic in outlook:
Whatdo I mean ?

A)Proleptic are those who speak w/ a certainty : who
Believe in the Promise of God.

B)*I Know that God is working even in the middle of
my personal Tribulation.*

C) I believe the promises: **“I will never leave you nor
forsake you.”** Deut. 31:6,8 Joshua 1:5, Hebrews 13:5

Jer 29:11

**“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,
says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to
give you a future and a hope.”**

C)Now isn't that a promise that is given to Israel?

1)Yes but these promises have application to us in Christ

2 Cor. 1;20 ²⁰*For all the promises of God in Him[
JESUS] are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God
through us.*

A)All the promises - **7,487 promises made from God
to man**

B) About Health & Happiness / Peace & Prosperity /
Freedom/ security

1)Yes – certain – Amen – Done deal. **Yes.... In Christ**

C)If you are a believer in Jesus – Placed In Christ.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

A) God is working all things out for His good – ultimately our good. TRUST HIM!

B) Those in Heaven are looking at the world in Chaos – but are believing – God is working –

1) He is at work in this mess – bringing all things together – so the Kingdoms HAVE BECOME....

C) Well they can see Him – but I can't! –

1) **“Thomas you believe.. seen.. Blessed are those who will come after you – believe even though not seen.”**

When I am embracing – those promises in the midst of my tribulation time – Jesus is faithful – He is going to see me through –

A) That is speaking Proleptically ! God Loves to See that

B) But many are not Proleptic in their thinking – but they are dyslexic.

C) Everything is just Backward **“ I don't know what is going on – I don't understand what is happening it makes no sense to me”**

D) It is the Eyore Mentality/ ***I don't know where God is in this – I don't know what He is doing***

1) ***What is the use of Praying – why even Worship – Woe is me – Life is a Mess***

I have definitely had my Eyore moments – But I want to be more like Tigger.

A) (One sees light... Tunnel / other thinks it's train)

B) Pastor Rob, that sounds a little like Positive confession to me - I thought that is wrong

C) Positive confession that says- **I don't need to take my child to the doctor – Jesus heal – wrong – dum**

1) Not everyone gets healed.

D) Positive confession that says – I am believing God for New Car – house – million dollars –

1) That is Idolatrous – Jesus said: **Foxes have holes birds of the air nests – no place to lay my head**

E) Jesus never promised – Healthy and wealthy

But there are a lot of things – He did promise and a lot of things He told us about the future.

A) About our lives – and why we are here – purpose And what He is doing.

B) He wants us to grab a hold of those things and believe that He is faithful – He is in control.

Philippians 4:19

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

C) Supply needs – not your wants – Difference

Heaven is Proleptic Even in the Middle of the Tribulation it is so certain He is Coming / He is at Work / He is doing what He said He would do!!!

- A) Philippians 1: 6** *“Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*
- B) So in the Midst of whatever Situation that person says – *God in His Faithfulness is doing a Work & He will be faithful to bring it to Completion***
- C) Those who are Proleptic – rejoice in times of Trial – those who are not, don’t!**
1)they complain / moan / grumble

James 1:2-4

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

- D)See James is telling us that the mature person realizes that there is something bigger going on.**
1)Difficulties are producing something.

- E)Ultimate goal – Make you more like Jesus**
1)So I can rejoice not for my suffering – Not God I thank you for my suffering – But I can rejoice IN MY SUFFERING – BECAUSE producing

It is seeing that God is not just the Author of the Story – He is the Hero

- A)As the Hero of the story – He invades the Mess humanity has made of His world – Saves – rescues**
- B)Now once again – I know that is easier –said than done- Pray we would get more consistent.**
- D) Three suggestions: - Be on our way!**

#1 Our Minds need to be Renewed - Grab a hold of what Paul said in Colossians 3

Col 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, {Since - fact} seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Since you have been raised with Christ – Life is in Him
Seek those things above- Set your mind {includes affections on heavenly things / Eternal things

The Word for mind that Paul uses in v.2 – speaks of the actual Content of ones thoughts not just the thinking Process

In other words – Paul is suggesting that our Minds need to be reprogrammed

C) Think of it in this way – I have a computer / but the use of my computer is going to depend upon the Software programs in my Computer

D)Graphic program is not going to help me do a budget and track my finances.

E) So A Change is needed to accommodate the desired outcome

That is exactly what Paul is saying here

A)We need to program our minds towards the things above so that all the output of our lives reflects Eternal perspective.

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

B)Our mind is renewed by the word –

C)Start memorizing the promises of God!

#2 Make little reminders for yourself – Eternity is what is important. { **NOT OF THIS WORLD**

John 14: Cure for troubled hearts – “Let not your hearts be troubled – you believe in God.....I go I will come again – Receive you –

Remember – Everything is moving toward that reality! {Live in light of that!}

A)Too heavenly minded to be any earthly good.

B)Not any earthly good until you are heavenly minded.

C)Best workers – Heavenly reward – good witness

1)Most focused – Not about the pay check – it is about a sphere of influence. – Kingdom

Jesus’ Parable: Business man – went away – Do business until I come – Luke 19

CONNECTED TO

Matthew 25 – Parable of the talents

Rewarded in ETERNITY for what we do with what we have been given in this life

A)Society says live for the moment – kids biggest problem.

B)The Bible says – this life is a moment – live in light of eternity.

C)We believe this – embrace this – **we teach our kids** to pursue their goals in light of big picture.

D)Not just making a living – but whatever you end up doing – **you are a missionary.**

E)Imaginary tags – **Temporal vs Eternal**

Now don't get me wrong – I am not saying – we shouldn't enjoy life here. –

A)God made this world for us to enjoy.

B)So often – life on planet earth is a bitter pill to swallow.

1)Full of heart ache – pain – heart break – Sin

C)But even at it's best – This life is – the icing on the cake – not the substance.

D)It is the chocolate chip in the Chocolate chip cookie

1)I want the cookie

It is the cone in the ice cream cone!

A)Go down to Rite aid – best chocolate chip ice cream around – 100's

B)Never stood in line and seen someone – order just the cone.

C)If you are living life without Christ – **enjoyable moments – all they are – moments**

1)Eternity is at stake and you need Jesus

D)He is what you are longing for – Open heart today!