Our God Who Reigns Forever

Revelation 11:15

Our Awesome God

In two years, two important events will occur that will be significant for most of us here, if not, for all of us. What am I referring to? In the same year, 2028, presidential elections will be held in the Philippines and here in the US. There will be a transfer of power once again, for better or for worse. Who will you vote for? Don't tell me. But be careful who you pray for. Just saying.

And what I'm saying is that no matter who you vote for, they cannot solve your problems. They can even worsen them. And that's how it has been throughout human history. There have been thousands of transfers of power and yet there hasn't been any kind of power that has been successful during its reign. Even Gen. George Washington, who was almost revered because he led a successful revolution against the British, some people wanted him to be a king of the US, was widely disliked before he ended his second term as president. An article in The Washington Post in 2020 appeared and it's titled, "Everyone loved George Washington, until he became president". The writer said:

"When the great Gen. George Washington left his comfortable retirement at Mount Vernon to become the first president of the United States, well-wishers threw flowers at his feet. For hundreds of miles, as he made his way to the temporary capital in New York City, thousands of people followed alongside with blessings, toasts and cheers. Once he was in New York, there was a fireworks show.

"Seven years later, toward the end of his second term, he was so disliked that the House voted against adjourning for 30 minutes to wish him well on his birthday."

Then the article enumerated the reasons why. So, if the great George Washington failed as a president what more could we expect from lesser mortals?

My point is, our hopes cannot be pinned on one leader or any ruler who we think can wield a magic wand and turn everything in our lives wonderful. Our hope is in the one whose reign will be enormously different.

That's our subject today. I'm going to talk about the fact that our hope for today and in the future lies in the reign of our coming King, the Lord Jesus. I've entitled this message, "Our God Who Reigns Forever" based on Revelation 11:15. This is the last message in our 6-part series called "Our Awesome God".

Just a heads-up. Next week, we have a guest speaker. He spoke here before. He is one of the pastors at Immanuel Bible Church. Pastor JJ Engelbrecht. Bel and I and Ally will be going to Chicago next weekend to attend a wedding. So, please behave yourselves.

Ok. Let's read, Revelation 11:15:

"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 Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Now, to understand the weight of this verse, we have to look at what's happening prior to this verse. As we know, the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation. Jesus gave him visions about what were going to take place in the future. At this point in John's vision, the world is in absolute chaos. Six trumpets have already sounded, bringing intense warnings and judgments—ecological collapse, spiritual warfare, and social upheaval. The nations are described as "angry" in verse 18 and everyone on earth is holding their breath, wondering if the next sound will be the one that finally ends it all.

But then, the announcement was not about utter destruction, but complete restoration. Isn't that what we're all waiting for? This world, as we know, is an

absolute mess. There are wars, there are calamities, there are economic woes, political wranglings and what-have-you. Plus the fact each one of us faces personal problems, in our families, our relationships, at work, in school, our health, and what-have-you. I'm not trying to be so negative but that's reality. If you don't have problems, you haven't lived long enough. We know problems have solutions but some problems don't seem to go away. But let me tell you folks, there will come a time when all the pain and suffering will go away. It is because of the coming reign of our King Jesus. Which this verse we're looking at explicitly declares. This is our hope, folks. And the Bible is true, it never lies, it never gives us fake news. Many people avoid Revelation because it feels like a horror movie, but for the believer, it is actually a manual for hope for a few reasons.

This morning, I'd like to share with you three reasons why you can have firm hope in the future based on this verse.

The first reason is that there is

1. The Assurance of a "Done Deal".

Our text starts with the seventh angel blowing a trumpet. In biblical tradition, trumpets were the "Breaking News" alerts of the ancient world, signaling that something big—a king's rule, a war, or a party—was starting. Then it continues "there were loud voices in heaven". You can compare it to the deafening sound you'll hear in a stadium when a team wins the Super Bowl. You hear people screaming at the top of their lungs, "We are the champions!" In this verse, it refers to the unified, celestial roar in the heavens declaring the transfer of power from the world's kingdom to God's kingdom.

The Bible tells us in 2 Cor. 4:4 that Satan is the god of this world and that's the reason why the world is in chaos. Does that mean that God is not in control and his power is limited? Not at all! God is always in control. But God has given Satan the permission to do his thing in the world since Adam and Eve sinned. In effect, Satan

had challenged the authority of God. He was saying, "The people you created worship you because you have given them paradise. But they're not really loyal to you. I will tempt them and see how they will turn their backs on you." That's what happened at the Garden of Eden. Our first parents fell but many of their descendants starting with Abel down to Noah and all the way to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Moses and David and up to our time, countless people have become true followers of God. So, God allowed Satan to rule in this world to prove to him that there are people who love God and worship him not because of good things in their lives but despite the bad things that happen in their lives. And, of course, the prime example of this is Job.

God has a timetable to end the reign of Satan. And that end time is coming soon. At least, from our perspective. Because from God's perspective, it's already happened. It's a done deal. There is no doubt that it will ever happen.

You see, the loud voices in heaven said that "the kingdom of the world has become". The phrase "has become" in Greek grammar is often called a "prophetic past" tense. It describes a future event with such absolute certainty that it is spoken of as if it already happened centuries ago. This is similar to Isaiah 53:5 where the prophet says Christ "*was* pierced for our transgressions" 700 years before it happened. It also echoes Romans 8:30 where Paul says those "he justified, he also glorified." So, those events two events occur at the same time.

God is not bound by time. He is already at the destination point where we are going. So, our text just tells us the breaking news that what was prophesied has already taken place. That should give us assurance of hope in a hopeless world. That should give us confidence that the battles we are fighting have already been won. As Romans 8:37 says, *"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us"*. This verse emphasizes that we have overwhelming

victory through Christ, meaning we are not just conquerors but are granted victory even before facing challenges.

Imagine watching a championship game on your TV. Then, your wife asks you, well actually tells you, to throw the trash. What do you do? You throw it because your marriage is more important than the game, right? Happy wife, happy life. Then, because you are in a hurry, you trip and the trash scatters all over your back yard. You have to clean it because your neighbor sees you. Time passes by and when you are done and you come back to your house, the game is done and your team wins. You celebrate, despite the fact you miss a good portion of it. But you watch the replay on YouTube because you still want to see how they win. What you see is that your team fumbles the football. Will you panic? Will you feel disappointed? No, you might even chuckle. Why? Because you've seen the end. The fumble is just a scene in a story that is already over.

So, whatever unpleasant is happening in your life right now, it's just a fumble. In the end, victory is yours. We can be hopeful today because we aren't fighting *for* victory; we are fighting *from* a victory that is already settled in the archives of heaven.

The second reason we have hope for the future from our text is that it shows who

2. The Arrival of the Rightful Owner

Notice our text says the "kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah". It's not the kingdoms of the world. It is singular. This indicates that all the fragmented, messy systems of man—politics, economics, and every "ism" that has ever failed us—are ultimately under one rebellious spirit. As I've mentioned earlier, this rebellious spirit is Satan, the god of the world who influences so many systems, many institutions, many people in the world. He does this with the help of his minions, the demons. We are, in fact, caught in a spiritual

battle between good and evil. Ephesians 6:11-12 says, *"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

The Devil and his demons are at work, influencing us through the music we hear, the videos we see, the movies we watch, the books we read, and so many other things. And hoping that we too might fall and betray Jesus. The Bible says in 1 Peter 5:8, *"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."*

That's why I like to tell our young people here, "Maintain your spiritual integrity by being discerning about what you see and hear." I know Taylor Swift's songs are catchy and danceable like Opalite and stuff. But she has many songs that are full of curse words and mature themes such as sex, violence and death. One mother said in a forum that she fears for her daughter because of the dark content of Swift's songs.

Another singer that many youngsters are following is Bad Bunny. Man, he's really bad. His famous song "Titi Me Pregunto" is about a guy who sleeps around with women and continues to do it despite warnings from his aunt. Many of his songs, in fact, contain cursing and sex and drug use. And you know why he chose Bad Bunny as his name? Do you know what a rabbit is known for? For multiplying fast. That's the essence of his famous song. Bad, Bad Bunny.

So, with these kinds of songs dominating the airwaves, is it any wonder we're seeing moral decay in our society today?

But, of course, this is all happening because Satan knows that his time is short. He is using everything at his arsenal to prevent people from knowing Jesus and to trip up all who know Jesus. So, what do we need to do?

We need to be vigilant and to keep in mind that the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah is replacing the old evil kingdom of the devil. The devil's kingdom will be booted out. This was also prophesied by Daniel about 700 years before John wrote Revelation. In Daniel 2:44, he says,

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Imagine you bought a beautiful historic home, but squatters moved in while you were away. They've trashed the place and claim they own it. You don't show up to "ask" for it back; you show up with the Deed. I own this place and you need to get out.

Revelation 11:15 is God showing the Deed to the universe. This gives us hope because it means injustice has an expiration date. Your HR department might be slow or your government might be chaotic, but these "squatters"—sin, death, and decay—have been served an eviction notice. God will soon reclaim what is his because he is the rightful owner.

Which leads us to the third reason

3. The Ascendance of the King Who is Faithful Forever

Our text reaches its crescendo with the phrase: *"And He will reign forever and ever."* In a world where everything has an expiration date—from the milk in your fridge to the battery in your phone—this is the ultimate anchor for our hope.

You see, in our current experience, human history feels like a GPS that is constantly shouting, "Recalculating!" We have a great decade, then a market crash. We have a period of peace, then a new conflict. We have a medical breakthrough, then a new virus. We are constantly adjusting to the "new normal" because human leadership is inherently fragile and temporary.

Contrast our "recalculating" world with Hebrews 13:8: *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* He is the only leader who doesn't have a "learning curve." He doesn't need to pivot his platform or poll the public to see which way the wind is blowing. His reign is a straight line of perfect justice and perfect mercy. So, hope for the future isn't just about *what* is coming; it's about the *character* of the One who is coming. Because He never changes, your future is "weather-proof."

Sometimes, we live as if our current problems are eternal. When you are in the middle of a chronic illness, a stagnant career, or a season of grief, it feels like that is the "new king" of your life. But Revelation 11:15 puts a "term limit" on trouble.

Think of the most annoying, long-winded meeting you've ever sat through. You keep looking at the clock, wondering if it will ever end. Then, someone leans over and whispers, *"The CEO just cancelled the rest of the afternoon."* Suddenly, the boring meeting doesn't bother you. Why? Because the "end" has been announced.

Revelation 11:15 is the announcement that the "meeting" of earthly suffering is over. 2 Corinthians 4:17 says, *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*

The most practical reason this gives us hope is that it allows us to finally resign from the throne**.** Most of our daily anxiety comes from our attempts to be the "King" of our own tiny, stressful kingdoms. We stay up at night trying to control our reputations, manage our kids' futures, and secure our own legacies.

It's like you're on a massive cruise ship in the middle of a storm. You don't run up to the bridge, shove the captain aside, and try to steer the ship yourself. You'd crash it in seconds! You stay in the lounge, trust the captain's credentials, and wait for the storm to pass.

Psalm 146:3-5 warns us: *"Do not trust in princes, in mortal man, in whom there is no salvation... Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God."*

Folks, when we realize that *Jesus* will reign "forever and ever," we realize we don't have to. We can stop "steering the ship." We can sleep because the One in charge never slumbers nor sleep as Psalm 121:4 tells us.

Now, in the original language, the phrase "for ever and ever" is literally, "unto the ages of the ages." It's an idiom for mathematical infinity**.** It means that a gazillion years from now, His reign will be just as fresh, just as stable, and just as good as the day the seventh trumpet sounded.

This is why we can be hopeful. If our future is tied to a Kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28), then nothing that happens in this "shaky" world can truly bankrupt us. We are heirs to an eternal fortune, living in a temporary tent.

As you head back into the "kingdom of the world" this week—to the traffic, the emails, and the shenanigans of life—do it with a bit of a smirk. Not because life is easy, but because you know the secret: The outcome is fixed.

Folks, hope isn't "wishful thinking." Hope is certainty regarding the future that changes how you live in the present.

Matthew 6:33 tells us to "seek first His kingdom." That means we stop panicking about the temporary news cycles and start investing in the eternal one.

And let me remind you, we can be the most hopeful people on the planet because we've read the final chapter.

The trumpet is going to sound, the King is taking back the keys, and the transfer of power is already a done deal. Live with hope, breathe easy, and remember: The King is on the throne, and His term never ends.

But hope isn't real until you put your hope in the one who has given you hope. You may say that this is all so good, the fact that Jesus is going to reign

forever and you could put your hope in that. The big question is, is Jesus really reigning in your heart? Have you put your hope in Jesus completely? That he is just not your Savior but your Lord as well? Because what good is envisioning a time when every tear is wiped from your eyes and death and crying and mourning are no more when you yourself are not there to relish that moment?

Jesus Christ came and died because he wants you to be there. He loves you more than you'll ever know. Knowing Jesus just doesn't mean knowing he died and resurrected. It means accepting him in heart as your Lord and Savior. I grew up a religious person. I know my Bible. In my mind, I know Jesus died and rose again. But until I turned over my life to him, I wasn't really saved. The Bible says in John 1:12, "*Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* Receiving him and believing in him with all your heart is all you need to be saved to be with Jesus in his kingdom. You don't need to be a good person, you don't need to perform rites and rituals required by you religion. All this cannot save you because of your sins. No matter how much we scrub ourselves off these sins by performing good works, they won't go away. Only the blood of Jesus on the cross saves us from our sins. He has forgiven our sins by his death on the cross. The Bible says God demonstrates his love for us that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. All you need, therefore, is to repent of your sins, and surrender your life to Jesus. You can do that right now if you haven't done it in your life. The Bible says now is the day of salvation.