

Revelation 11:15-21—God’s Kingdom Proclaimed

Revision

Last week we studied Revelation 11:1-14, which tells the story of the two very special messengers from God. We saw how God will allow the antichrist to rise to power and then confirm a covenant with Israel, which includes the rebuilding of the Jewish temple on the temple mount. This signing of the seven year peace treaty marks the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation (Daniel 9:27). He will have the power and authority to be able to represent the whole world and promise seven years of peace between Israel and the rest of the world, so much so that Israel will be able to rebuild their Jewish Temple on the temple mount, right next to the Muslim Dome of the Rock! We saw that, as a part of God’s plan for the ages, the antichrist, the false messiah, the man whom the world will listen to and trust, will be allowed by God to deceive the world and the nation of Israel, as he promises a false peace. Then, at the mid-point or middle of the seven year Tribulation period, he will break his promises and desecrate or defile the Jewish temple by sacrificing a pig and setting up an image of himself in the Holy of Holies and declaring that he is god. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 can be applied to this time in the future.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 NKJV

³ For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

Now, if you haven’t noticed, just in the last few months, miracles have happened. Muslim nations that hated Israel have made peace with Israel and this is both unexpected and unheard of. There is a general turning of many the muslim nations towards Israel. To me this is a sign that we are very close to the end. Here’s a quote from wikipedia:

Israel maintains full diplomatic relations with two of its Arab neighbours, Egypt and Jordan, after signing peace treaties in 1979 and 1994 respectively. In 2020, Israel signed agreements establishing diplomatic relations with four Arab League countries, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan and Morocco.

Think about it like this. From when the nation of Israel was formed in May 14, 1948, it took 31 years before Egypt became the first Arab nation to normalise relations with Israel. 15 years later, Jordan followed suit in 1994. Then another 25 years go by. But this year, in 2020, 72 years since the nation of Israel was born in 1948, four more countries have diplomatic relations with Israel, nations who hated Israel, and there are several more on the horizon. That’s four nations in one year. Something is happening. Muslim nations are turning to Israel, when they should, according to their own religion, be destroying Israel. This can only be attributed to a work of God, as He steers the hearts of the leaders of these countries to make decisions that lead to prophetic events taking place. As we saw last week, the arabs making peace with Israel is a necessary precursor to allow the antichrist, the false man of peace, to allow Israel to build their temple on the temple mount next to the Muslim Dome of the Rock.

We also saw, that to counter this deception, when the antichrist, this so-called man of peace, the man who seems to have the answers to all the worlds problems, who appears to have the good of all mankind at heart, when he signs or confirms the peace treaty, God sends two very special prophets, the two witnesses, who are able to do signs and wonders and warn the world, and especially Israel, about the evil nature and intent of this deceitful world dictator. They proclaim God’s truth for the first half of the Tribulation, or 3 1/2 years before God allows the antichrist to kill them. Then they lie rotting on the ground for 3 1/2 days before God resurrected them and, in the hearing and sight of the whole world, calls them up to Heaven.

As we continue in Revelation 11, we see that God's kingdom, Jesus Millennial or 1,000 year rule on earth is announced. It's stated as a fact, as though Jesus were already reigning on the earth, when as yet there are still seven plagues to be poured out on the earth. Let's read:

Revelation 11:15-21 NKJV

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.

Revelation 11:15 NKJV

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!"

Then the seventh angel sounded... Who are these angels who are blowing trumpets? Firstly we need to go back a little and remember what happens during the tribulation. Overall, during the 7 year Tribulation period there will be three sets of seven judgments or plagues.

Three sets of seven judgements or plagues:

1. Seven Seal Judgements (Revelation 6 - Jesus opens the seals on the scroll)
2. Seven Trumpet Judgements (Revelation 8 - 9 - Seven angels blow seven trumpets which announce each successive judgement)
3. Seven Bowl Judgements (Revelation 16 - the last seven judgements before Christ returns)

The first set of seven are called the "seal judgements" which we studied in Revelation chapter six. Why are they called "seal judgements"? Well, in Revelation chapter 5 Jesus takes the scroll, the title deed of the earth, from the Father. This scroll was sealed with seven seals. As Jesus undoes each seal there is a judgement. So what's so special about this scroll? Where did it come from? Why does it have seven seals, and what does it have to do with Jesus reclaiming the earth for Himself?

Well, in the bible, property ownership was represented by a scroll or title deed. It was a double sided scroll, and sealed with seven seals. Here's a quote from Jon Courson to explain how it works:

“Initially, a title (or property) deed would be written only on the smooth side and sealed with a single seal (Jeremiah 32:6–29). But if the owner became unable to meet his financial obligations, he would have to relinquish or give up his title deed—upon the other side of which would be written his debts and upon which would be placed seven seals. If at any time during the ensuing seven years he could pay off his debts, the seals would be broken and the title deed returned.”

Adam was initially given dominion of the earth, which means that he, representing all of mankind, had possession of the title deed of the earth. But then Adam forfeited it to Satan when he sinned or rebelled against God. This explains why Paul called Satan the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) and why Jesus referred to him as the prince of this world (John 12:31). This meant that Satan now had dominion or ownership of the earth, and our debts, our sins, were written on the back side of the scroll and it was sealed with seven seals.

Satan was then in possession of the title deed of the earth. We saw this when Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth when he tempted Jesus. However, the worse part of all this is that because Satan had dominion or ownership of the earth, it meant that he also owned us. The eternal destiny of all mankind was linked to Satan — that is Hell, which is eternal separation from God because of our sin and rebellion against God.

But God had a plan from eternity past. Jesus purchased or redeemed us back to Himself by His blood, His sacrifice on our behalf on the cross. Jesus bought the Earth and all the people on it back from Satan. He paid the sin debt that was written on the back of the scroll. Now everybody has a choice, repent and turn from your sin and follow Jesus and spend eternity with Him, or, continue to serve Satan and spend eternity in hell, separated from God.

So, now the question is, if Jesus has defeated Satan and bought back the title deed of the earth when He died on the cross for the sins of the whole world, why isn't He ruling and reigning on the earth right now? Why is He allowing all this evil, pain and suffering to continue? Why hasn't He already removed the seven seals and claimed the earth for His own?

We all know that when Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished,” He meant that the price was paid, our sin debt was paid in full, and the victory over sin and death was final and complete. Satan has no more hold over us. So again, why hasn't Jesus come back to claim what is rightfully His? The reason is that God wants to give us more time to repent. The longer Jesus waits to come back and claim what is rightfully His, the more people will be born and have the chance to respond to His love. Consider:

2 Peter 3:9 NLT paraphrase

⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

So now, in Revelation chapter 6, the time has come for Jesus to start the process of claiming back the earth for Himself. It will take 7 years. Why seven years? Again because God gives more time for more people to be saved. Consider just how gracious, patient and merciful God is. But also consider that there will come a day when His patience will come to an end. As the scriptures say in:

Hebrews 3:7-13 NLT paraphrase

⁷ That is why the Holy Spirit says, “**Today when you hear his voice,**

⁸ **don’t harden your hearts** as Israel did when they rebelled,

when they tested me in the wilderness.

⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said, ‘Their hearts always turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath: ‘They will never enter my place of rest.’ ”

¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. **Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.** ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will **be deceived by sin and hardened against God.**

This is important. The more a person rejects God’s message, the harder their heart becomes, and they eventually come to that place of no return. As it says in Genesis 6:3, God gave the pre-flood world 120 years to repent, and after that judgement by the flood:

Genesis 6:3 NKJV

And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”

Now 120 years is a long time to give people to repent, yet nobody did. Only Noah and his family were faithful to God. Only they chose to enter into the ark of salvation. Only they were saved from judgement. God already knew the outcome but still gave them the opportunity. How gracious is our God.

So when we get to Revelation chapter 6, it like God is saying “times up”, but I’ll give you seven more years. Fortunately, many will respond to the gospel and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. So let’s see how the events in the 7 year Tribulation play out:

Revelation 6 - The Seal Judgements

1. The antichrist is revealed and comes to power (The start of the Tribulation).
2. He promises peace but the result is war, a world war.
3. The world war causes famine and disease.
4. As a result of the war, famine and disease and wild beasts a quarter of the world’s population is killed.
5. During this time there is a massive persecution of the tribulation saints, those who believe during the tribulation. *Many are martyred or killed for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony.*
6. There is a massive earthquake and other cosmic disturbances *and the people of the earth recognise that these judgements are from God, and they fear God’s judgements and God’s presence.*
7. The seventh seal judgement (Revelation 8:1) marks the start of the seven trumpet judgements in Revelation 8 - 9.

Keep in mind that all these are in chronological order, each one follows the other. So let’s have a look at the next set of judgements, the trumpet judgements:

The first six trumpet judgements are:

1. One third of all trees destroyed, and all the grass and crops

2. One third of all the seas or oceans destroyed (turned to blood)
3. One third of all the fresh water sources destroyed (or poisoned)
4. One third of all the heavens dimmed/stop shining (sun, moon and stars)
5. The demon locusts from the Bottomless Pit cause torment for 5 months
6. The four angels from the Euphrates river and their demonic army of 200,000,000 that kill 1/3 of the remaining people on the earth.

Today we come to the seventh trumpet judgement, which is similar to the seventh seal judgement in that it's not a judgement in and of itself, but rather introduces the next set of seven judgements, in this case the seven bowl judgements. Let's read the verse again:

***Revelation 11:15 NKJV**

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!"

There is something we need to understand about the trumpet judgements. They are broken into two groups; the first four trumpet judgements, then the last three trumpet judgements. The first four are really bad, worse than the seal judgements, but the last three include demonic entities and cause pain and suffering beyond imagination. In other words things go from bad with the seal judgements, to really bad with the first four trumpet judgements, then terrible beyond imagination for the last three trumpet judgements. As we go through the tribulation, we see that the judgements just continue to get worse and worse until finally, at the end, just before Jesus comes back, half of the earth's population is dead (4 billion people dead), and the ecology or the planet utterly destroyed. The first four trumpet judgements are all thirds, ...

First four trumpet judgements - thirds

1. One third of all trees destroyed, and all the grass and crops
2. One third of all the seas or oceans destroyed (turned to blood)
3. One third of all the fresh water sources destroyed or poisoned
4. One third of all the heavens dimmed/stop shining (sun, moon and stars)

As I said before, these are all bad, but the next ones are really bad. So much so that God sends angels to warn people about how bad it will be.

Revelation 8:13 NKJV

¹³ And I looked, and I heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!"

Revelation 8:13 NLT

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard a single eagle crying loudly as it flew through the air, "Terror, terror, terror to all who belong to this world because of what will happen when the last three angels blow their trumpets."

We saw previously that the fifth and sixth trumpet judgements were absolutely terrible:

The fifth and sixth trumpet judgements:

5. The Locusts from the Bottomless Pit that cause torment for 5 months
6. The four angels from the Euphrates river and their demonic army of 200,000,000 that kill 1/3 of the remaining people on the earth.

Basically, the people want to worship demons, so God allows some demons limited freedom to hurt people, which is their desire. But what do people do after this clear demonstration of pure demonic evil? They keep on worshipping demons. They refuse to repent. Why? Because the unregenerate, unredeemed, heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; (Jeremiah 17:9)

And now, we see the seventh angel blow his trumpet, which ushers in the incredibly severe and destructive bowl judgements. This is the last of the three woes or terrors. But before we see the bowl judgements unleashed on the earth, there is a special announcement from Heaven.

Revelation 11:15 NKJV

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!”

This announcement is going to have a number of parenthetical chapters between it and its actual implementation. In the flow of the book, this is the statement that tells us that Jesus is finally going to take the title deed to the earth and reclaim the earth. It's only here that we learn that Jesus will actually implement the victory that He won over sin on the cross.

The seventh trumpet sounds and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord. How does this work? It doesn't seem to make sense. We are only partway through the tribulation and this announcement makes it sound like Jesus has already come back, yet there are still seven judgments to come (together the remaining seven Bowl judgements make up the “third woe”).

Well, here is the answer. We have to understand a little about the Greek language in use when the New Testament was written.

The verb translated “**have become**” is in the aorist active indicative tense, which **means** the kingdoms of this world **are becoming** the kingdoms of our Lord. It is what is referred to as a proleptic statement. That is, it is an event so certain that it is spoken of as if it has already taken place.

How can God be so sure? Because He not only knows the future, but He also plans and determines the future. God is in control. He the God who has His hand on everything, who is in control of everything. He is God Almighty (Gk: *pantokrator*).

There are other examples of this in the bible. In Isaiah 53:5, we read:

Isaiah 53:5

“He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities.”

Who is this referring to? Jesus. Had this already happened when Isaiah penned these words? No. But Isaiah wrote it in the **past tense** because it was as certain as if it had already happened.

What kind of statement is this again? A **proleptic statement**.

Proleptic comes from the word: Prolepsis—Definition: the representation or assumption of a future act or development as if presently existing or accomplished.

Application: How can we apply proleptic thinking to our lives.

Romans 8:23 NLT paraphrase

²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

Here it shows what attitude we should have towards suffering and persecution—eager hope of eternity with Jesus. We should be thinking of ourselves as already glorified, sharing eternity with Jesus. We should be living in anticipation of the good we will experience as a part of God's Kingdom. We know that the suffering we endure down here will someday finish, and, that when we look back on our lives from the viewpoint of eternity, we will have no regrets, because God promises to use the temporary hardships we experience for our eternal good.

If we have this attitude, then we will not give up. Think of a woman in the midst of childbirth. She is screaming in agony, yet is willing to endure the pain. In fact she chose to experience this pain when she decided to get pregnant. Why? Because she knows that there is a baby in her womb, and she loves that baby more than she dislikes her pain. In fact, she embraces her pain, because without the painful experience of child birth, she would never experience being a mum. She is living in anticipation of a future event. She has a proleptic attitude.

This should be the same for the Christian. When we come to Christ, we should already be aware that it will be a hard road to walk, that we will only enter the kingdom through many tribulations. Like the woman choosing to get pregnant despite knowing how difficult the childbirth will be, so it is for the person who chooses to follow Jesus. They must understand that the narrow road they are choosing is difficult and there are few who find it. Then when the hard times do come, they are expected, and the purpose of those trials is known, appreciated, and embraced. We look past the hard times to the maturity, love and glory we will experience and share with Jesus.

So, how do you and I speak or think? Those who are spiritually dyslexic say, "I can't make sense of what's going on. Everything's backward. Why even worship? What's the point of praying? Just look at how messed up everything is right now!"

On the other hand, those who are spiritually proleptic say, "Even in the middle of my tribulation, the midst of my difficulty, the centre of my pain, I know God is on the throne and He is good."

Here is a story that illustrates this:

"A baby girl was born thirty-one days prematurely to Matt and Cyndy McCollum, missionaries in Honduras. Little Maria Nicole stopped breathing and began to turn blue. Since the tiny airport at La Ceiba was closed, it was doubtful whether she would survive. But I was so blessed talking with Matt's dad, Jerry, the next morning because before he even knew the outcome, he said, "Certain members of Cyndy's family who aren't interested in the things of God are now praying and seeking Him about this situation. And the health care official in Honduras has rededicated her life to Christ watching Matt and Cyndy go through this trial. Great things are happening."

Jerry could have said, "My kids are serving God, and this is what He does?" Instead, he was proleptic."

Consider how this next example is different: (is an example of proleptic/anticipatory thinking or just a reaction to an event after the event has come to pass):

It was after they made it through the Red Sea on dry ground that Miriam led the multitude—who moments before had wanted to kill Moses—in worship (Exodus 15:20).

While praise is always fitting, how much better if they had praised God before the Red Sea parted (proleptic thinking)

Revelation 11:16-17 NKJV

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.**

In these verses we see the continuation of this anticipatory or proleptic thinking and speaking.

v 17 **We give You thanks:** This thanksgiving isn't to thank God that He has *already* done this; but that the hour has come for it to take place, and that these things are permanently set in motion.

Application (Jon Courson):

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord. Such is the language of heaven. If you want heaven in your heart or home, speak proleptically as you praise God prolifically.

v 17 **The One who is and who was and who is to come,**

Here we have further evidence of the trinity. The verbs for being are plural.

Should read, ...**who are (not who is), and who were (not who was)**. These state of being verbs, **are** and **were**, are plural. This is the first time, that in an announcement of taking action, that it makes it clear that all three members of the Trinity are going to be active in the takeover of planet earth.

v 17 **Because You have taken Your great power and reigned:** This fulfills the Lord's prayer — “Your kingdom come, Your will be done...”

Actually, the Lord's prayer is dispensationally out of place. It refers to the end of the Tribulation period. As the church, we should instead be praying for the rapture to come. “Your rapture come, Your will be done.”

Consider who Jesus was talking to when He gave the Lord's prayer. He was speaking to the Jews only. It wasn't until much later in the gospels, after the Jews rejected Him, that Jesus turned to the gentiles. Remember, even when the gentiles would come to Him, He would say, “It's not right to take the children's bread and give it to the little puppies.” Jesus would not go and minister to the gentiles, because He had come to fulfil all the promises of the Old Testament, which were given to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And what they were promised, was an earthly kingdom over which He would reign (The Millennial or 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus Christ). And so, He told them, in that context of time, pray like this or after this manner... “Thy will be done, Thy Kingdom come.”

Then look at Acts 1:6-8

Revelation 11:18

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.”

v 18 **The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come:** God’s punishment matches the crime; there is nothing arbitrary about it. The nations are **angry** with God and He responds with **wrath**. It’s only fair that those that **destroy** the earth are themselves destroyed.

Why are **The nations angry?** They are angry because God comes to rule. The world wants anything *but* the reign of God. As it says in a parable of Jesus, *We will not have this man to reign over us* (Luke 19:14).

The world will accept any kind of religion, but surrendering your will to God is intolerable to the nations of this world. Why?

John 3:18-21 NLT paraphrase

18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in Him. But anyone who does not believe in Him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. **19** And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. **20** All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. **21** But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.”

v 18 **And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great:** Always remember that there is a reward for our obedience motivated by a thankful heart for what God has already done for us. All believers will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ, the Bema Seat, the judgement of rewards. All the things we did for ourselves will be burnt up, and all the things we did out of love for the Lord will be rewarded. Keep your eyes on that day so you won’t be ashamed. You want to be able to say like Paul in:

2 Timothy 4:7-8 NLT paraphrase

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. **8** And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

Are you eagerly looking for to being with Jesus, to being in His physical presence, or are you consumed by the cares, distractions, and worries of this life? Remember these quotes:

Only one life, will so be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last. (C.T. Studd)

At any moment, we are as close to God as we choose to be... (John Stott)

Revelation 11:19 NKJV

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.

v 19 **The temple of God... in heaven:** The Jewish tabernacle and the temple on earth were models or copies of the original one in heaven. The book of Hebrews tells us that it was in the real temple in heaven that Jesus applied His blood on the real ark of the covenant to provide remission or forgiveness for our sins.

v 19 **The ark of His covenant was seen in His temple:** Notice that it is called the **ark of His covenant**. Remember that a covenant is a promise. To those reading this in John's day, this would have reminded them of the Ark of the covenant in the Old Testament, which was the earthly representation of God's throne or God's presence, where the shekinah glory of God dwelt above the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. It would have reminded them of God's continual presence and His faithfulness to keep His promises.

Application: For us today, we need to be reminded that God is still on the throne, that He is still in control, even though it doesn't feel like it and it doesn't look like it. Our hearts may be broken, our bank account empty, our reputation ruined, but these are only temporary issues. Always remember that God is a covenant or promise keeping God. What He says He will do. So even though we may not understand why things happen the way they do, trust God to keep His promises. He will always come through.

v 19 **And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail:** The great and awesome phenomenon at the opening of the temple and the revelation of the ark show that the presence of the Lord is *there*; it reminds us of how God revealed Himself at Mount Sinai when Moses received the 10 commandments (Exodus 19:16–19).

To close I would like to read some verses from the Psalms. I hope that you will notice the anticipatory or proleptic thinking and attitude of David as he was going through hard times, and how it affected the way he lived his life.

Psalm 62 NLT paraphrase

A Calm Resolve to Wait for the Salvation of God

To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

¹ I wait quietly before God,
for my victory comes from him.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will never be shaken.

³ So many enemies against one man—
all of them trying to kill me.

To them I'm just a broken-down wall
or a tottering fence.

⁴ They plan to topple me from my high position.
They delight in telling lies about me.

They praise me to my face
but curse me in their hearts.

⁵ Let all that I am wait quietly before God,
for my hope is in him.
⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken.
⁷ My victory and honour come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.
⁸ O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him,
for God is our refuge.
⁹ Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.
If you weigh them on the scales,
together they are lighter than a breath of air.
¹⁰ Don't make your living by extortion
or put your hope in stealing.
And if your wealth increases,
don't make it the centre of your life.
¹¹ God has spoken plainly,
and I have heard it many times:
Power, O God, belongs to you;
¹² unfailing love, O Lord, is yours.
Surely you repay all people
according to what they have done.

Psalm 37:23-25a NLT paraphrase

²³ The Lord directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives.
²⁴ Though they stumble, they will never fall,
for the Lord holds them by the hand.

²⁵ Once I was young, and now I am old.
Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned...