

## Revelation 11:15

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The Bible is full of God's promises made to many people at many times in many places under many circumstances. However, they all lead back to one promise that is repeated and built on and expanded throughout the Bible.

When God created the world and placed Adam and Eve in the garden, He set them up to rule over the rest of creation. Almost immediately, they surrendered that position to the serpent and became slaves to sin. Just a few verses later in **Genesis 3:15**, God made the first promise—that a descendant of Eve would defeat sin and reestablish the reign that God had originally set up in the garden.

In **Genesis 12**, God expands the details of this promise and makes it clear that this descendant of Eve will come through the line of Abram and Sarai even though they were already old and unable to have children. He gives even more details in **Genesis 15, 17, and 18**—this promised son will be a king and be given a kingdom. He will reestablish God's rule on earth.

In **2 Samuel 7:8-17**, God expands on this promise again. He says that this coming son will be a descendant of David, the king, and that he will reign on David's throne forever. Just two generations later, David's kingdom was divided. Eventually, Israel (in the north) was conquered by Assyria, and Judah (in the south) was conquered by Babylon. This creates a huge problem. How can God keep his promise? How can David's descendant rule on his throne forever if there is no kingdom or king or throne?

When it seems like all hope is lost, God responds through Isaiah. **Isaiah 11:1-5** promises that David's throne will be renewed in the future and one of his descendants will reign. In **Daniel 7:13-14**, God reiterates this promise. He will not only reign but reign with authority and glory over an eternal kingdom.

When we get to the New Testament, we find out that this long-promised descendant will be named Jesus. In **Luke 1:30-33**, God tells Mary that her son, Jesus, will be great, will be called the Son of the Most High, will be given the throne of his father, David, and will reign forever over a kingdom with no end! John the Baptist and Jesus both preach, "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand." The kingdom is at hand because the King is at hand!

This is great news! God has kept his promise! Jesus has defeated sin and is reigning right now over an eternal kingdom just like God promised, and we—His people—get to be His subjects! However, it doesn't always look like it. Often in this world, it seems like sin is still in power. We see deception and immorality and conflict and aggression and evil and death all around us.

But, we have another promise from God—or a further expansion of the original promise. In **Revelation 11:15** God tells us what is to come. What God has been working toward for thousands of years will be brought to completion! Jesus's reign will become comprehensive and visible.

***"The kingdom of the world (sin and evil) [will] become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he will reign forever and ever!"***

As we look back and reflect on Jesus's coming (advent) let's also look forward to the coming day when His reign will be made manifest here among us on the New Heavens and New Earth! We can have confidence and be assured that God will keep His promises!