

# Revelation 11

## I. The Measuring 11:1-2

- A. The purpose of measuring
  - 1. Ezek 40:3; 42:20 - Measuring of the temple to separate the holy from the profane
  - 2. Zech 2:1-5 - Measured for protection and preservation
- B. Not the entire temple complex is measured, but only the sanctuary and altar
  - 1. Temple (*naos* "sanctuary", is used, not *heiron* "temple")
    - a. This word is often used in a spiritual sense for the people of God - 1 Cor 3:16-17
    - b. It is not literally the temple, it was already destroyed at the time this was written
  - 2. Only to measure the sanctuary
    - a. The outer court will be trampled
      - It will be dominated and desolated Lk 21:24
    - b. God protects his people (sanctuary)
    - c. Reminiscent of Ezek 40-43
      - 1) The new temple is measured after the old is destroyed
      - 2) This shows that God has not forgotten them
  - 3. Trampled for 42 months
    - a. This is 3 1/2 years - Half of 7, its apocalyptic meaning is an incomplete amount of time looking forward to completion
    - b. 1260 Days conveys the same meaning as it is also 3 1/2 years.
    - c. 3 1/2 is often associated with hardship and trials



## II. The Two Witnesses 11:3-13

- A. Section begins with "and" which indicates that this is a continuation of the same vision
- B. During troubled times, God does not keep his people hidden. They are portrayed here as the 2 witnesses



1. "2" Witnesses - The apocalyptic meaning of 2 is companionship or strength.
2. Prophesied for 1260 days, 3 1/2 years. A temporary time of hardship
3. Wearing of sackcloth
  - a. Clothing used for mourning
  - b. Standard prophetic Clothing - Is 20:2
4. Two olive trees and two lampstands
  - a. Zech 4:2-3, 11-14 - 2 anointed ones
    - 1) Refers to Zerubbabel and Jeshua
    - 2) They led in the first return from captivity - Hag 1:1
    - 3) Zerubbabel and Zechariah provoked Zerubbabel and Jeshua to finish rebuilding temple - Ezra 5:1-2
  - b. Like Zerubbabel and Joshua, the 2 witnesses were commissioned and empowered by God
5. God protects them until they finish their testimony  
After they finish, the beast kills them
6. So, after the temple is measured, witnesses step out boldly to testify to a city dominated by the world
  - a. Salt that never leaves the salt shaker is useless
  - b. The church has something more important to do than merely survive!
  - c. The church's function here is to speak the word of God
7. Evil's triumph over the witnesses is short and fleeting

- a. Bodies lie in the street of the "great city"



- 1) Figuratively called Sodom - Judged and destroyed due to immorality
- 2) Figuratively called Egypt - Judged and defeated due to Tyranny of Pharaoh
- 3) Place where their Lord was crucified - Jerusalem, judged and destroyed due to blind disobedience and rejection of Christ
- 4) What these cities all have in common is their fate as a result of wickedness, oppression, and disobedience

- b. Reaction of many people
  - 1) Gawk and dead bodies and refuse them burial  
This was considered the ultimate indignity
  - 2) They will gloat and celebrate
- c. It is short lived - 3 1/2 days
  - 1) They come back to life
  - 2) Voice from Heaven calls them up to Heaven
  - 3) They ascend to Heaven
- d. God's judgment
  - 1) Severe earthquake
  - 2) 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the City Collapses
  - 3) 7,000 were killed
  - 4) Survivors were terrified and gave glory to God
    - a) Probably not conversion
    - b) Even Nebuchadnezzar gave glory to God but was not a true convert

- Dan 2:47; 3:28; 4:1-37



### C. Lessons from the vision of the 2 witnesses

- 1. Principles
  - a. God has given you authority to speak his word
  - b. People may hate you
  - c. God will protect you (measured for protection)
  - d. People may kill you
  - e. God will reward you
- 2. Challenges to God's people during hardship
  - a. Ingest God's word (10:1-11)
  - b. Self-examination to "measure up" (11:1-2)
  - c. Preach and teach, regardless of what the consequences might be (11:3-12)

## III. The Seventh Trumpet 11:15-19

- A. This angel has been poised and ready for two chapters to blow the last trumpet
  - 1. This does **not** teach the following
    - a. God has not reigned (Chap 4-5)
    - b. God's kingdom will be established in a future age
      - 1) 1:9
      - 2) Mt 3:2; 4:17

- 3) Mk 9:1
- 4) Acts 2:34

2. What this does teach

- a. All resistance to the Kingdom will end
- b. All will acknowledge God's sovereignty (Rom 14:11)

B. v.17 - "Who is to come"

- 1. These words are added by the KJV and NKJV
  - a. It is not in the oldest manuscripts,  $\aleph$ , A, C, or p<sup>47</sup>
  - b. The oldest manuscript containing "who is to come" is 051, which is dated in the 11<sup>th</sup> century
  - c. It is also contained in the "Clementine Vulgate, 1592."
  - d. A Coptic translation from the 9<sup>th</sup> century also contains it
  - e. Only the following church fathers quoted with this:
    - 1) Tychonius - late 4<sup>th</sup> century
    - 2) Andrew - late 5<sup>th</sup> century
    - 3) Beatus - lat 8<sup>th</sup> century
    - 4) Explanation - Likely a misquote originating from 1:8
- 2. Unlike 1:8 which reads "who is and who was and who is to come..." this verse reads, "who is and who was."
  - a. This indicates that the Lord is present and reigning
  - b. This is the final trumpet
- 3. God has begun to reign - This is his **heavenly** kingdom, the consummation of his reign which began with the ministry of Christ

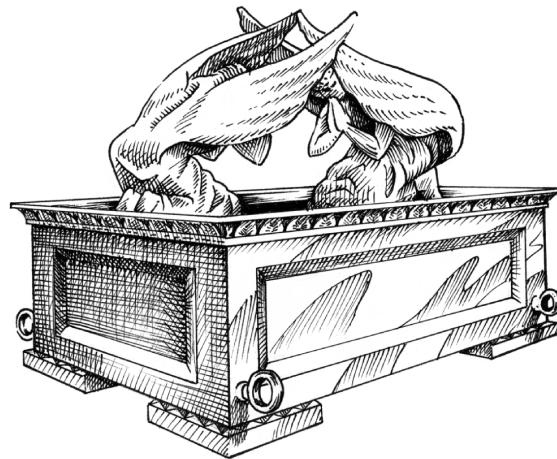
C. Reward and punishment

- 1. God's wrath has come and judged the dead
  - a. Destroys those who destroy the earth
  - b. "Destroy" is "diaphthreipho" - To destroy, spoil, ruin
    - 1) Synonymn is "apollumi" - ruin/destroy, Mt 9:17
    - 2) Examples of other uses of the word
      - a) 1 Tim 6:5 - "depraved" mind
      - b) Acts 2:27 - Undergo "decay"
      - c) 2 Cor 4:16 - Outward man is "decaying"
      - d) Lk 12:33 - nor moth "destroys" or "ruins"
      - e) Rev 8:9
      - f) Rev 11:18
- 2. God rewards his faithful ones
  - a. Lists them as

- 1) Servants
- 2) Prophets
- 3) Saints
- 4) Those who reverence God's name
- 5) Small and great

- b. Not naming a list of different people to exclude other types of faithful Christians, but just a list to describe Christians. This is meant to be inclusive of all faithful Christians

3. The Temple is "opened" in Heaven
  - a. It is open to all of God's people, not just Levites
  - b. Lightning, rumblings, etc. - Representative of God's glory, justice and power
  - c. This is comfort for the afflicted and judgment for unbelievers
  - d. Ark of the covenant is seen, a reminder that God is faithful to the promise and covenant he made



#### IV. Conclusion of the first half

- A. This concludes the first half of Revelation.
- B. The first half concentrated on the readers' struggle with Rome
- C. The second half shows behind the scenes of the struggle