

Revelation 11

Measuring the Temple • The Two Witnesses • The Third Woe
• The 7th Trumpet • The Final Opening of the 7th Seal

INTRODUCTION:

MEASURING THE TEMPLE

Verses 1-2

A. This is similar to Ezekiel's measuring of the glorified Temple in Ezekiel chapters 40-48.

1. All of Ezekiel's measuring was essentially "to make a separation distinction] between that which was holy and that which was common" (ASV), or "to make a separation between the sanctuary and the profane place" (KJV, **Ezekiel 42:20**).
2. The angel tells John to measure the temple, the altar, and worshippers, but not the court of the Gentiles for it is given them to tread under foot the holy city for 42 months.
 - a. Some quick math and we understand that 42 months, times 30 days in a month, would equal 1,260 days, and 42 months would also equal 3½ years. And this equals times time and half a time (see Rev. 12:14 and Daniel 12:7). We know this because of Revelation 12:6 and 12:14 and 13:5.
3. This temple, of course, was also symbolic—a part of John's vision.
 - a. The physical temple had been totally destroyed by Titus of Rome in AD 70.
 - b. **Again the idea was to draw a distinction between God's people (the holy) and the sinners (the profane). THERE IS A DIFFERENCE.**

THE TREADING DOWN OF THE HOLY CITY

B. The "holy city" would be the church that God is protecting but the heathen trample it under foot for 42 months (or 1,260 days or 3½ years).

1. Notice this is the same period of time that the two witnesses prophesy—1,260 days (remember, these numbers are symbolic).
2. **So, the church would continue, but would be persecuted during this time.**
 - a. The woman in chapter 12 flees to the wilderness where God protects and nourishes her for 1,260 days (Revelation 12:6)—also a symbol of God's protection of the church.
 - b. The Sea Beast has authority to blaspheme for 42 months or the same period of time the woman is protected (Rev. 13:5).
 - c. While the evil one is working against the church, God is protecting the church from destruction. The church will win.

- d. This woman was again nourished by God for times, time and half a time or 3½ years (Revelation 12:14). See also Daniel 7:25; 12:7.
- e. **The 3½ number is an incomplete or indefinite time, which here would stand as a symbol for the time of persecution which would come and go.**
- f. Whenever it would come, the church would be nourished and protected. **This protection does not mean there would be no suffering or death, but rather that the Christians would be preserved, sealed, and saved eternally.**

THE TWO WITNESSES

Verse 3

- A. Here are two witnesses (two represents strength, power, and confirmation).
 - 1. God often sent witnesses in pairs:
 - a. Moses and Aaron.
 - b. Elijah and Elisha.
 - c. The disciples two by two (Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1).
 - 2. Two witnesses often affirmed God's endorsement of a matter (Matthew 18:16,19,20; John 8:17; 11 Corinthians 13:1).

Verse 4

- A. The figure for the two witnesses as olive trees is taken from Zechariah's vision of a golden lampstand with a bowl on top with seven lamps and two olive flees beside it (Zechariah 4:1-6).
 - 1. **The lesson from this is that God's word will go forth not by might or power but by "My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).**

Verse 5

- A. These were real (but not literal) fire breathing creatures who were able to destroy their enemies.

Verse 6

- A. **The two witnesses are identified as Elijah and Moses. Symbolic of God's messengers still preaching, or the church continuing to preach the Gospel.**

Verse 7 - The Beast (Dragon) finally kills the two witnesses.

Verse 8 - THE GREAT CITY—BABYLON

- A. It is not the "holy city" or the "new Jerusalem," as neither of these is called "great." (See Rev. 21:10 where the New Jerusalem is called holy. Note:

1. The King James version does call the Bride new Jerusalem the great city in this passage, but this is a mistranslation.
2. Check the Greek and other translations to see that the Bride is the holy city.)
3. By contrast, the great city is Babylon, “the world city,” and is ten times referred to as great (Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:5, 18; 18:2, 10,16,18, 19,21).
4. “Babylon” (the great city) is described as:
 - a. Symbolic of Sodom because of its depravity.
 - b. Symbolic of Egypt because of the bondage of sin it held over the world.
 - c. Symbolic of Jerusalem because it rejected truth and persecuted the Savior.
5. More about this city in chapters 16 and 17

Verses 9-11

- A. So, putting all this together, we have:
1. Two witnesses representing God’s messengers (preachers—the church) who are slain by the Beast (Dragon) and their corpses lie in the Street for 3½ days.
 2. The heathen rejoice over this killing of God’s servants. They have a party and exchange gifts in celebration.
 3. BUT, after 3½ days, the witnesses’ breath of life returned from God; they stood on their feet; and great fear came upon all who saw them. **The church keeps going!**

Verses 12-14

- A. Next, these two witnesses who were dead, now live again, and ascend into Heaven in a cloud.
1. Obviously the message here is VICTORY for God’s cause.
 2. Remember, this didn’t literally happen, but was **a vision or symbol of victory for the preaching of the Gospel.**
 3. In that same hour there was a great earthquake and partial judgment fell on the city that persecuted the work of God.
 - a. Only a tenth of the city was affected and 7,000 people killed.
 - b. Significant, but not all.
- B. This was the end of the second woe or sixth trumpet.
- A. Next comes the third woe and the seventh trumpet, which finally concludes the opening of the seven seals that began in chapter 6.

SEVENTH SEAL - SEVENTH TRUMPET - THIRD WOE - FINAL WARNING!

Verse 15 -

- A. The kingdom of the Lord overcomes the kingdom of the world, and Christ reigns forever and ever! (not for just a 1,000 years, Revelation 20:6, 7).

Verses 16-17

- A. The 24 elders who sat before God at the Throne, worshipped God, and praised Him for His power and reigning—indeed, Christians reign in life through Jesus. **Romans 5:17** - For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Verse 19

- A. God destroys those who hurt His people.
1. Judgment falls from the Throne upon those who have not served Him.
 2. The ark of the covenant symbolized the fact that God keeps His promises!
 3. In other words, stick a fork in the enemy, he's done!
- B. In the above verses we see the seventh angel sounding (blowing of the seventh trumpet) which completes the breaking of the seventh seal—the mystery of God is finished (Revelation 10:7).
- C. **THE FIRST HALF OF THE BOOK IS FINISHED** and we see that:
1. Evil will be judged.
 2. The righteous will be saved.
 3. Judgment falls on Rome.
 4. Christ is victorious.
 5. Christ truly was reigning then, is reigning now, and has since He arose.
 6. He has ALL authority (Matthew 28:18).
- D. Christians who remain faithful to death are sealed by the Lord.
1. Will they be hurt, have pain, and die? Yes, many will, but they are all sealed—preserved to be with God forever.
 2. Evil cannot win, righteousness cannot lose.

REVIEW

CHAPTERS 1-11- GOD IS ON THE THRONE - BE FAITHFUL. VICTORY IN JESUS!

- A. Summary: Picture of the outer struggle between the church and the Roman Empire.

1. In **chapter 1** is the introduction and key to the book—a revelation of Jesus Christ given in signs, concerning what would shortly come to pass. The time was at hand!
2. **Chapters 2-5** have greetings to the seven churches with personal remarks and commands.
 - a. They were in persecution at that time and also in the kingdom!
 - b. John wrote, while a prisoner, encouraging them to be faithful, win the battle, and receive the victory crown by staying faithful to Jesus.
 - c. The Throne scene illustrates that God is in charge and on the Throne.
4. In **chapter 6** Jesus opens six seals.
 - a. The first, a white horse with the rider conquering (Jesus conquered with the Gospel).
 - b. The second, a red horse—persecution, war, and death to some.
 - c. The third, a black horse—discrimination in the sale of food during a time of plenty.
 - d. The fourth, a pale horse—death and Hades. After one becomes a Christian, he is persecuted, discriminated against, and dies. This is only the fourth seal
 - e. The fifth seal—these Christians endured, as their souls under the altar of God before the Throne in Heaven asking “How long?” before God will deal with the enemy.
 - f. The sixth seal—God says take a white robe and wait awhile, judgment is coming.
5. In **chapter 7** we see that God has His angels seal His servants to protect them before judgment falls..
 - a. Those who die, get their white robes and go to be before the Throne and before the Lamb.
 - b. They praise God who is sitting on the Throne!
6. In **chapters 8-11** the seventh seal is opened, which involves the blowing of seven trumpets as warning of partial judgment.
 - a. **Then, judgment is announced and falls on the earth.**
 - b. **The enemy is defeated. The church is victorious and marches onward.**
 - c. **THE SEVEN SEALED BOOK IS OPENED—THE MYSTERY IS REVEALED.**