

## Revelation 11

The parenthetical vision, which began in 10:1, continues in vv. 1-14. (See Revelation 10 lesson)

**What was John given (v. 1)?** A reed to be used as a measuring rod. **What were his instructions?** Measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers. This is evidently the temple that the Jews will build in Jerusalem probably during the first half (three and a half years) of the Tribulation (Matthew 24:15-16; 2 Thessalonians 2:4). When Jesus Christ returns at the Second Coming, He will build a new, millennial temple that will replace this Tribulation temple (Ezekiel 40).<sup>1</sup>

Measuring communicates ownership, protection, and preservation. It shows that God owns the temple, He knows its every dimension and He is in charge of it.

**Who were the worshippers?** Godly Jews (perhaps the 144,000).

**What was not to be measured (v. 2)?** The outer court (of the Gentiles). **Why not measure it?** Not measuring it signifies exclusion from God's favor because of their trampling of the holy city.

**What is the "holy city" (v. 2)?** Earthly Jerusalem **Who will trample on the holy city?** Hostile, unbelieving Gentiles **For how long?** 42 months or 3½ years.

**Who were the two witnesses (v. 3)?** God did not reveal the identity of His two witnesses. Many believe they will be "Moses" and "Elijah", since these men were prophets and performed the kinds of miracles these witnesses will perform (v. 6). Others believe they will be resurrected "Enoch" and "Elijah," since God took these men to heaven without dying.<sup>2</sup> Who they are must not be terribly important, or we would have been told exactly who they are.

**What power is given to the two witnesses?** They will prophesy, i.e. convey messages from God to the people. **For how long?** Their ministry will last 1,260 days" (i.e., 42 months or three and a half years). This period of the prophets' witness and the trampling of the holy city (v. 2) ..... both correspond to the period known as the "Great Tribulation" (i.e. the final 3½ years of the Tribulation), a time when Anti-Semitism will peak.

**What are the two witnesses compared to (v. 4)?** The two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. Zechariah 4:2-14.

**What power do they have to deal with those who seek to harm them (v. 5)?** Fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. **What other miraculous powers do they have (v. 6)?** Power over nature and disease. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

**Who opposes the witnesses?** The beast that comes up from the Abyss.....the Antichrist....a man who is empowered by Satan. **When did the beast attack (v. 7)?** When the two witnesses have finished their testimony. **What is the significance of that statement?** Their ministry will not be cut short. In spite of the fact that they have been ministering in Jerusalem where the Antichrist reigned, they were protected. They were immortal until they fully accomplished their task.

Application: We cannot be taken off of this earth until we "finish our testimony." The devil does not have power over our lives. We are witnesses of the Lord, and He will protect us until our work is finished (Psalms 139:16). Matthew 10:28: *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

**What does the beast do to the witnesses (v. 7)?** Kills them. The only prophets people love are dead prophets. **What happened to the bodies of the two witnesses (v. 8)?** Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city. The beast will add insult to injury by allowing the corpses of the two witnesses to "lie in the street" unburied. This was the worst indignity that someone could perpetrate on a person in biblical times (Psalms 79:2-3).<sup>3</sup>

**Where was this done (v. 8)?** In Jerusalem which is figuratively called "Sodom and Egypt,"—because of the people's apostasy and rejection of God. **What else happened in this city (v. 8)?** Jesus was crucified there.

**How were the dead bodies viewed and treated (vv. 9-10)?** For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. It is amazing – and not far-fetched at all – to think of a live, worldwide broadcast on TV channels and over the internet, “Live from Jerusalem,” .....

**How did people react?** The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Note: This is the only instance of rejoicing during the Tribulation. Hostile unbelievers will celebrate because they no longer have to listen to messages from God. This will be the world's last great Mardi Gras type celebration.<sup>4</sup>

**What happened to the two witnesses after 3 ½ days (v. 11)?** A breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. **Where did they go then (v. 12)?** They went up to heaven in a cloud.

**What happened next (v. 13)?** At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. **What effects followed?** The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. This was not an act of true repentance but rather the horrified realization that God was not dead or defeated; Satan would not be victorious and they were doomed.

**What did voices say when the 7th angel (the third woe) sounded his trumpet (v. 15)?** While the seventh seal brought forth a profound silence (Revelation 8:1), the seventh trumpet brings forth joy. There can't be a more glorious proclamation than this: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” The long-expected reign of Jesus Christ over the world would begin soon.<sup>5</sup>

**How can there be such joy, when the King is not reigning completely yet?** At the headquarters of a successful political campaign on election night, there is joy, even though it will be a while until their candidate is actually installed into office. The joy anticipates a certain result.

**What did the 24 elders do (v. 16)?** Fell on their faces and worshiped God.

**For what reason do they praise God (v. 17)?** The elders thank God in recognition that God's power is being proclaimed (11:17b); God's plan is being accomplished (11:18a); God's promise is being fulfilled (11:18b); God's punishment is being declared (11:18c).<sup>6</sup>

**Why were the nations angry (v. 18)?** They were angry because God was coming to rule. The world wants *anything but* the reign of God. The nations are angry with God and He responds with wrath. God's punishment matches the crime; there is nothing arbitrary about it. The judgment on Christ's foes, long prayed for by His saints, shall take place and God will bestow the long-promised reward on those who have been his true friends.

**Is this the same temple (v. 19) that was measured in v. 1?** No. This is the millennial (heavenly) temple. **What was unique about this temple?** The presence of the Ark of the Covenant. There had been no ark in the temple that Nehemiah built that was later modernized by Herod and later destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans. Its appearance here suggests that God would resume dealing with Israel, and would fulfill His covenant promises to that nation.<sup>7</sup> The storm phenomena show that the presence of the Lord is *there*. His wrathful judgment is in view here.

We should note that this chapter began with the apostate temple on earth, but closes triumphantly with the heavenly temple in view (11:19).<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Revelation, 2017 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), p. 123

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p. 125

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p. 127

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 128

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Keith Krell, Live Like You're Leaving: Revelation, Copyright ©2003, Bible.org

<sup>7</sup> I Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on Revelation, 2017 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), p. 132

<sup>8</sup> Keith Krell, Live Like You're Leaving: Revelation, Copyright ©2003, Bible.org