

Revelation Chapter 11

Left off last week – chapter 10 and the 'little book', a part of the larger 7-sealed croll, the final judgments are contained within (7 bowl judgments).

10:11 – And they said to me, “You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”

“again”: This is seen in the chronology of the book of Revelation. John (thru the Holy Spirit) has outlined the events of the first half of the tribulation period under the seals (ch. 4:1 – 7:17), the last half of the Tribulation under the Trumpets (8:1 – 11:14) and closes the Tribulation with the return of the Lord to triumph over evil and to reign on the Earth (11:15-18).

Between the sixth and seventh Trumpets John is told (10:11) he must prophesy “again”. The original Greek denotes a “renewal or repetition of action”. *In other words, John took his readers through the entire period once and now its God's intention to have John retrace his way through it again. This time, beginning in chapter 11, he focuses on individuals who play a key role in the events of the time of Daniel's 70th Week.* With this chronology in mind, the final Bowl judgments of chapter 16 come rapid-fire all at the end of the Tribulation and terminate with the coming of Christ in Chapter 19.

End Time Judgments: Seals, Trumpets, Bowls, 2 Witnesses

Isaiah 26:9-11 – For when the earth experiences Your judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. *Though* the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, And does not perceive the majesty of the LORD. O LORD, Your hand is lifted up *yet* they do not see it. They see *Your* zeal for the people and are put to shame; Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies.

Act 17:31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Ezekiel 20:33-35 – “As I live,” declares the Lord God, “surely with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out, I shall be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you from the lands where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face.”

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Reve. 11:1-2 – Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the

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court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

Biblical examples of measuring

Ezekiel 40:5 – Millennial Temple measured

Zechariah 2:1-2 – Jerusalem measured

Rev. 21:15 – New Jerusalem measured

This temple in chapter 11 is the one that must be on the earth for the fulfillment of what Daniel, Jesus, and Paul said regarding the abomination of desolation.

1. The prophet Daniel told us the Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jewish people, bringing sacrifice and offerings to an end. This Antichrist will defile the temple by setting something abominable there (Dan_9:27; Dan_11:31; Dan_12:11).
2. Jesus said to look for an abomination standing in the holy place, which would be the pivotal sign that the season of God's wrath was upon the earth (Mat_24:15-16; Mat_24:21).
3. Paul told us that the Antichrist would sit in the temple as God (2Th_2:3-4).

Three Major Themes in Revelation 11: The Temple, the Two Witnesses, the Reigning Christ

The Temple (11:1-2)

Tabernacle: Tent of Meeting (portable)

Purpose of Temple:

dwelling place between God and His people

House of prayer

place of sacrifice

Worshiped (superstitious) by Jews (Jeremiah chapter 7)

Ezekiel chapters 8-11 – God judicially abandons the city because of its sin but ... Ezekiel 11:16 – even though I have removed this people far off, yet I have been a sanctuary to them.” (it's not the building – the real sanctuary is where God is).

Solomon's Temple: destroyed by Babylon 586 B.C.

Rebuilt by Zerubabel after Babylonian captivity, dedicated in 516 B.C. (Ezra 6:16)

Updated by King Herod

John 2:19 – “destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it back up”

Destroyed by Roman's (Titus) 70 AD (prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24:1-3)

Still does not stand

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We are the current temple (once we are removed God will allow the the Earthly one to be rebuilt)

1Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21-22; 1Pet 2:5 – In the 'Church Age' the church of Jesus Christ is the temple; that is, it is the meeting place between God and sinners. This is where God speaks through his temple to the surrounding nations. Being constituted as the church, the church becomes the meeting place between God and sinners

Tribulation Temple: (Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15; Second Thessalonians 2:4; Luke 21:24)

Millennial Temple: Ezekiel 40-48 (perfect cube = Holy of Holies) – 'The Lord is There'

Eternal State – no temple – Revelation 21:22 – Jesus himself is the ultimate temple.

2 Samuel 6 and 7 are significantly formational for the rest of biblical theology. David has been king at this point for seven years but only over the southern two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. After seven years he becomes king over the entire country – all twelve tribes – and takes Jerusalem and makes it his capital. The Davidic dynasty is promised by God in 2 Samuel 7. The ark of the covenant is brought there in 2 Samuel 6. You now have **three significant themes** coming together that control a great deal of typology for the rest of the Bible: **Jerusalem**, the **kingdom dynasty of David**, and finally the tabernacle that eventually becomes **the temple** under Solomon in the next generation.

Revelation 11:3-14

The 2 Witnesses (11:3-14)

everything established by mouth of two witnesses (Deut. 19:15; John 8:17; 92 Cor. 13:1)
Joshua two witnesses to Jericho
Zechariah: Joshua and Zerubabel
Jesus sent out disciples in two's

Timing of the Two Witnesses: First 3-1/2 years of Tribulation

Why: Rev. 11:3 (1260 days) versus Jerusalem being overrun by Gentiles (Great Trib) for 42 months. Prophets killed by 'Beast which rises out of the Abyss – that happens at the mid-point (Rev. 11:7; 13:4; Daniel 7:21, 25; 2 Thess. 2:9).

Type of Ministry: regarding Israel and the temple. (The 144,000 of chapter 7 go to all nations)

Call to Repentance: clothed in sackcloth (Jonah to Niniveh [Assyria])

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Identity of the Two Witnesses (Enoch, Moes, Elijah, or two unknown to us today)

Moses and Elijah: Elijah and Moses were all expected to return (Deut. 18:15-19; Mal. 4:5-6: 3:1-3, 5-6)

Moses and Elijah present on Mount Transfiguration (**2 Peter 1:16-18** – Peter associates the conversation they had with Jesus with His Second Coming)

Both ministries interrupted (left unfulfilled)

Moses: (Numbers 20:12; Deut. 3:26-28)

Elijah: (1 Kings 17:1; 19:13-19; 2Kgs. 2:11)

Book of Revelation itself is full of parenthesis (time outs), There two men of God will be restored and fulfill what they began.

Unique powers: Elijah called down fire, shut heaven, no rain 3-1/2 years (Luke 4; James 5)

Moses: water to blood, plagues, etc. (same four powers of these two witnesses)

The flip side of that argument is this. They had no inherent power of their own, only that which was bestowed on them by God. God can bestow these same powers on whomever He wishes at any time He wills.

Enoch & Elijah: both translated without dying. Enoch's prophesy in **Jude 14-15**, It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” (second coming prophecy even before Jesus First coming).

For the first 2000 years of human history (Adam-Abraham) God dealt with mankind as a whole (there were no “Jews” yet). The second 2000 years (Abraham to Christ) God was primarily dealing with the “chosen” people of Israel. The third major period in the history of the world is this 2000 year “Church age” in which God is dealing with all mankind once again through His written Word empowered by His Holy Spirit.

It's provocative to note that Enoch was raptured, Elijah was raptured, and the church will be raptured.

Revelation 11:4 – These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that *stand before the Lord of the earth.*

The lampstand is a direct allusion to Zechariah's vision in Zechariah chapter 4. There was a golden lampstand flanked by 2 olive trees providing oil for the lamps perpetually. We know from biblical typology that one of the titles for Christ is 'The Branch' and oil is representative of the Holy Spirit. The two witnesses in Zechariah's day just as the two witnesses in Revelation

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chapter 11 are to present Christ through repentance by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:14 – Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.”

Gen. 5:24 – Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him (stood before the Lord)

1 Kgs. 17:1 – Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand

Vs. 11 – 'Great' repeated 8 times in Revelation 11.

Vs. 12 – Type of Rapture (but they were dead). 'The dead in Christ shall rise (1 Thess. 4:16)

vs. 13 – earthquake (earthquake after the sixth seal [6:12]; earthquake here, and earthquake after the seven bowl judgments [16:18-20]).

The Lord Reigns (11:15-19)

vs. 15 – pronouncement of victory

Vs. 16-18 – praise

vs. 19 – open with false temple, close chapter with true temple (dwelling place of God).