

**REVELATION 11**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Revelation chapter 11 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

As we shall see tonight, as chapter 11 opens up we are still in this parenthetical section that began back in chapter 10. In these chapters John is filling in some of the details that will take place during the Tribulation Period and keep in mind these sections are not necessarily chronological in their writing.

Then, as we get to verse 15 of Revelation chapter 11 we will see the third woe or the seventh trumpet judgment sound forth. And I will deal with that more when we come to it.

Now I know that many in the church today have replaced the church with Israel, but that is foolishness, and it goes against what the Scriptures are teaching. It is very clear that in the last days Israel and Jerusalem are the focus of attention, and the church is in heaven with the Lord during the Tribulation Period. (Daniel chapter 9)

Not only will the Jews be back in the land of Israel once again, which they have been as a nation since 1948, but the Temple will be rebuilt and the sacrifices, both grain and blood sacrifices, will be offered to God once again.

And we will deal with the reason why this has not happened yet, why the Temple is not rebuilt. But keep in mind it will, and I believe it is the Antichrist that makes a covenant with the Jewish people to rebuild their Temple and we will look at that in these fascinating opening few verses here in Revelation chapter 11.

Now, in saying that, there are those who reject the idea of this speaking of a physical Temple being rebuilt in Jerusalem and they put a spiritual aspect to it instead. I disagree with this but listen to what one writer has to say and then, as we go through these verses tonight, you will easily see how wrong this writer is.

He wrote,

Many believers think that the temple measured here is a future temple – a literal building – that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. I am more persuaded by those who argue that this temple is a figurative way to describe the people of God.

Notice in 11:1 that “those who worship there” are to be measured. [that is not what it says! It is speaking of the Temple and where the people of God come to worship Him.] The Bible’s theology of the temple is not about a building so much as it is about God being with his people. . . .

Many believers also think that the reference to forty-two months here is to a literal period of time., but just as I think the temple is a symbol of God’s people, I find the view that this is a symbolic period of time more persuasive. . . .

- James M. Hamilton Jr., Revelation – the Spirit Speaks to the Churches, p. 233

Again, I think he is wrong, and we will see why as we get into tonight’s study.

As we go through these verses keep in mind that the place is – **JERUSALEM!**

The timeframe is – **THE FIRST HALF OF THE TRIBULATION PERIOD!**

With that as our introduction, let’s begin reading in Revelation chapter 11, beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

## REVELATION 11

### VERSES 1-2

Now for some, they make this portion of Revelation way too difficult.

In fact, Alford calls Revelation chapter 11 “*one of the most difficult in the whole Apocalypse.*”

Why is that? Because, instead of taking these verses literally, they try to spiritualize them or say they are just symbolic in nature.

Leon Morris, in his commentary on the book of Revelation, falls into this line of reasoning by making this section symbolic, and yet, in doing so he has to ignore some facts regarding the church that places his view on shaky ground as you will see.

Morris says, “*It is important we take this whole section (vv. 1-13) symbolically. It is plain enough that the sanctuary of verse 1 is symbolic, but most expositors take the witnesses in the holy city literally. Then difficulties multiply . . . John is saying that the spiritual temple, the church, will be preserved 9cf. (The sealing of 7:1-8), though it will be subjected to physical oppression as the gentiles trample it.*”

Do you understand what Morris is saying here? Morris sees the church sealed during the Tribulation Period and yet “*physical oppression*” will come upon them by the Gentiles.

In other words, he believes that the Church is here during the Tribulation Period, and yet, as we have seen in our studies, the Church is taken home to be with the Lord prior to the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period.

Is there a problem with his line of reasoning? You bet there is!

If we are here during the Tribulation Period, then listen to what we would read of the church in Revelation 13:7, which speaks of the Antichrist coming against them. Listen to what it says, **“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.”**

If this group people is the Church and not the Tribulation Saints, then what Jesus told Peter was wrong. You see, Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:16, **“... that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”**

The word **“overcome”** in Revelation 13:7, NIKAO in the Greek, and **“prevail”** in Matthew 16:18, KATISCHUO in the Greek, have basically the same meaning.

Thus, the saints spoken of in Revelation chapter 13 can't be the Church, but they are the Tribulation saints, those that are saved during the Tribulation Period because Jesus does not lie!

And thus, as we have said before, the Church or the bride of Christ is taken up to be with the Lord before the Tribulation Period or the seventieth week of Daniel begins.

Thus, the best guidelines to follow in interpreting this section of Revelation, is to take each fact literally. In doing so I believe that a literal Temple in Jerusalem will be built, and I believe this occurs at the beginning of the Tribulation Period.

This Temple and the sacrifices that will take place there are in direct defiance of the work of Jesus Christ. That is His completed work at Calvary, the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Thus, this false witness of God is spoken of in verses 1 and 2. And then, beginning in verse 3 we see two true witnesses of Jesus Christ come forth.

The false witness as opposed to God's true witnesses.

Now look at what John is told to do. We see that John is given a measuring rod or a reed and told to measure the Temple and he uses the Greek word NAOS for “**temple**”, which speaks of the inner Temple or the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

Outside of the inner sanctuary is the brazen altar where the sacrifices were made. That inner sanctuary was the place in which the priests could go and no one else.

Now, if John used the Greek word HIERON, then he would be speaking of the whole structure of the Temple, but he didn't, and that is important for us to understand.

Now why do the Jews today want to rebuild this Temple, the Orthodox Jews that is?

Well, one of the problems for the Orthodox Jew today is they have no atonement for their sin because, as Paul said in Hebrews 9:22, “**And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**”

Since there is no Temple, there is no sacrifice and since there is no sacrifice, there is no shedding of blood, and thus, because they reject the Lamb of God who came to take away their sins, Jesus Christ, they are guilty before God.

But make no mistake about it, there are a zealous group of Jews in Israel today who want to rebuild the Temple on the original site and establish the sacrificial system once again!

It is this rebuilt Temple that has been set-up in the first half of the seven-year Tribulation Period that the Antichrist will enter and demand to be worshiped as God.

In other words, the Temple must be rebuilt, this is not figurative!

In Daniel 9:27 we are told, “**Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.**”

The word for “**sacrifice**” or ZEBAH in Hebrew, speaks of a blood sacrifice. While the word for “**offering**” or MINHAIH in Hebrew speaks of a non-bloody sacrifice or grain offering.

Thus, the Antichrist will come into the Temple of God and put a stop to the daily sacrifices that have been taking place.

Again, I think you can clearly see that this means the Temple must be completed and in operation before the 3½-year mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period, for it is then that the Antichrist will put an end to the sacrifices that will be started up once again!

Not only does the Old Testament speak of the Temple being rebuilt, but we also see this in the New Testament.

Paul tells us in II Thessalonians 2:3-4, “**Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**”

Satan’s desire is to be worshiped, and thus, his right-hand man, the Antichrist, wants nothing less. He sets himself against the true God by going into the Temple of God and demanding to be worshiped as God.

Jesus said this regarding this horrific time period that takes place at the halfway mark of the seven-year Tribulation Period.

In Matthew chapter 24, beginning in verse 15 we read, **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand), ‘then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.’”**

Matthew 24:15-22.

When this event takes place, when the Antichrist goes into the Temple of God and demands to be worshiped as God, the Jews are told to flee from Jerusalem and head to the mountains for safety. The reason is that the Antichrist will turn from a man of peace into a demon from Hell! His true colors will come forth and his fury will be unleashed upon all those who refuse to worship him. In fact, his persecution will be so intense and war so horrible that unless Jesus steps in, all flesh would be destroyed!

Now, back here in Revelation chapter 11, did you also notice that as John is told to measure this Temple, he is told to leave out the outer court, why?

Because it has been given over to the Gentiles!

That is very interesting to me. The Temple Mount is a 35-acre piece of property in which Solomon's Temple was built. Then after the Babylonians destroyed it, as the Jews were in captivity for 70 years, when they returned home under the leadership of Zerubbabel the Temple was rebuilt, but it did not compare to the glory of Solomon's Temple! It was a low budget project you might say.

Then, in about 20 B. C., Herod the Great tried to get in good with the Jews, and he enlarged this second Temple and this huge building project lasted till 63 A. D., only seven years before the Romans destroyed it. But Herod's Temple was beautiful!

Now, since 70 A. D. the Jews have not had a Temple.

Today this Temple Mount area is a hot bed of contentions.

You see, in around 630 A. D. Omar built this Dome of the Rock supposedly on the spot where Mohammad was to have ascended up into heaven.

In fact, it is the third most holy site for Muslims. Mecca being the first, which is the birthplace of Mohammad and then Medina. And yet, Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran! Go figure.

Back in 1967, during the Six Day War, the Jews recaptured the old city of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount.

And General Moshe Dayan, in a gesture of peace, gave control to Jordan to oversee the Temple Mount and now the Palestinians are in charge.

As you read that, as I read that, I am thinking, "***Are you kidding me? You gave away the Temple Mount? Are you crazy?***"

Why did he do it? It absolutely made no sense. They recaptured a piece of land that is vital to them, the Temple Mount!

I believe God allowed that because this Temple will not be rebuilt until the Tribulation Period, and, as we will see, they are ready to build it now, but they are not allowed to by the Palestinians, they can't even have religious services up there!

And this is a huge problem that has been going on since the site was given away by the Jews. In a Time magazine article dated October 16, 1989 and titled, "*Time for a New Temple?*" they said, "*The merest hint of rebuilding the temple is considered an outrage by the prophets followers, who, in the words of an official at Al Aqsa, 'Will defend the Islamic holy places to the last drop of their blood.'*"

You see, if the Jews attempted to rebuild on this site, you would see a holy war break out! I believe the key to the site of this third Temple is found in this verse as John is told to leave out the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles!

There are many theories out there as to where this Temple should be built, and they focus on where the previous Temple and holy of holies was located. Some say that the Dome of the Rock is where the Holy of Holies was located, I disagree.

I tend to lean more towards the one given to us by Dr. Asher Kaufman, who was a Plasma Physicist at the Rachan Institute in Jerusalem. He feels that King Solomon's Temple stood 100 meters or 328 feet to the north of the Dome of the Rock and feels that the Holy of Holies was located in a place called the Dome of the Spirits or the Dome of the Tablets.

The Muslim's called it this in around 600 A. D., and could it be speaking of the place where the stone tablets, the 10 commandments were kept in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies?

Also, according to the Mishna, a highly esteemed book of Jewish oral traditions, when the high priest stood at the entrance of the holy of holies on the Day of Atonement, as he looked out he could look right through the eastern gate. I have done that when I was in Israel, and it just sends shivers down your spine as you see this all coming into play!

Back in 1970 they excavated and have confirmed that the original eastern gate is directly below the present-day eastern gate that has been sealed up by the Turks and a graveyard placed in front to prevent the Messiah from coming through it! Like that is going to stop Him!

If this is the place, the Dome of the Spirits or the Dome of the Tablets, the same place, the Jews could rebuild their Temple and the Dome of the Rock would not have to be destroyed or taken down.

Why?

Because it will be in the outer court, a place that John was told not to measure for it has been given to the Gentiles!

Now when we look at the Temple Mount today, we see the gold dome structure and that is the Dome of the Rock, this Muslim site where, supposedly Mohamed was taken up into heaven! But there is a jagged rock there and there is no way that the Ark of the Covenant would be placed on a jagged rock. It would have to be flat, like it is where the Dome of the Tablets are located!

What is interesting to me is that the inscriptions that are located on the Dome of the Rock come against Jesus! They go around the doom and they are some 734 feet long in all.

Listen to some of the inscriptions that are located on this shrine.

***SOUTH WALL: “. . . There is no God but Allah alone; he has no co-partner . . .”***

***SOUTHEAST WALL: “. . . The Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, is but a messenger of Allah and His word which he cast upon Mary, and a spirit from him. So believe only in Allah and of his messenger, but do not say ‘Three’ (trinity) and it will be better for you. Allah is only one God. Far be it from his glory that he should have a son.”***

***WEST AND NORTHWEST WALL: “. . . Praise be God who has not taken unto himself a son and who has no partner in sovereignty nor has he any protector on account of weakness.”***

As you can see from these words, this shrine has nothing but blasphemies against Jesus Christ, I guess there is just something about that name!

I believe it is in this area on the Temple Mount that will be given over to the Gentiles, and the third Temple will be built alongside of it, probably on the spot of the Dome of the Spirits, as this is a flat piece of rock, and it is more than likely the Ark of the Covenant sat in the Holy of Holies, as I have said!

Now, one of the fascinating things for me is to see that plans are being made to rebuild the Temple.

In fact, this is a passion of some Jews that has been going on for a long time. Back on May 21, 1967, the Washington Post printed this ad before Jerusalem was even liberated by the Jews!

This is what it said,

***To all persons of the Jewish faith all over the world –***

***A project to rebuild the temple of God in Israel is now being started. With divine guidance and help the “temple” will be completed . . .***

- Washington Post, May 21, 1967

Folks, you can go to Israel today and visit the Temple Institute, and you will see that they have most of the implements that are needed for Temple worship.

They have the three pronged fork used to turn the offerings on the altar, a copper washbasin, a loom for making the priestly garments and they have the garments made, the incense spices, a pure gold diadem of the high priest, a shofar or ram's horn, the musical instruments used in the temple, a silver Mizrak that was used to catch the blood from the sacrifice and carry it to the altar, the seven branched oil burning lamp, a 4½ ton marble foundation stone to be laid once they have permission and they have even tried without permission but that did not work!

The priests are being trained to begin their service in the Temple and all they are waiting for is the word to rebuild!

And I believe it will be the Antichrist who makes a covenant with the Jews to rebuild this Temple and he has the power to make the Muslims go along with this plan. I believe that this covenant is spoken of in Daniel chapter 9. Once the Antichrist comes on the scene, he makes this covenant with the Jews!

Did you know that there are actual plans of what this Temple will look like, and it is even wired for electricity and closed-circuit television?

That may help explain the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:15, **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place’ (whoever reads, let him understand).”**

You see, the only people allowed into the Holy Place were the priests, and the only one allowed into the Holy of Holies was the High Priest and only once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

But Jesus is speaking to all Jews, that they will witness this event of the Antichrist entering into the Holy of Holies and demanding to be worshiped as God, and they could if they had closed circuit television, they could watch this all come to pass live!

Keep in mind that in these first two verses we see a false witness of God in the rebuilding of the temple, why? Because, like I have said, Jesus has made the perfect sacrifice for sin and the Temple was a picture or foreshadowing of what was to come!

As we read on here in Revelation 11:3-4 we will see the true witnesses of God as these two witnesses spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

#### VERSES 3-4

First of all, who is God going to give power to?

He says, “**. . . to my two witnesses . . .**”

I think the point here is that these witnesses have served the Lord before and thus, “**my two witnesses.**”

Now before I talk about who I believe these men are, we need to know when they will be ministering.

Keep in mind that the Church has been caught up to meet the Lord in the air, so that witness is gone. But God always has His witnesses. Because of that I believe that these two witnesses have their ministry in the first 3½ years of the seven-year Tribulation Period, or 1,260 days.

Remember what we read in Revelation 11:2, “**. . . And they will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months.**”

That is 1,260 days based on a year being 12 months of 30 days per month.

I believe that is the last half of the seven-year Tribulation Period, after the Antichrist goes into the Holy of Holies and demands to be worshiped as God. But the first half you have these two witnesses ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As one writer put it, ***“This trampling of Jerusalem by Gentiles probably takes place in the last half of the final 7-year period described by Daniel 11:26-27 - when the Antichrist pours out his fury on the people of Israel (as described in Revelation 12:13-17 and Matthew 24:15-28). And they will tread the holy city underfoot: Greek scholar A.T. Robertson said that to tread underfoot means ‘to trample with contempt.’”***

So that kind of gives you a timeframe of what is going on here.

Now through their witnessing, I believe, we see the 144,000 Jewish witnesses get saved and it is out of their witness that millions upon millions more get saved, Jews and Gentiles.

As I have said, they are the true witness of God, not pointing to the old sacrificial system that could never take away your sins, but to the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary!

The Temple sacrifices were symbolic of what Jesus would do and has done for us, like I have said.

Paul put it this way in Hebrews 9:11-15, **“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”**

Now why the sackcloth or camel skin outfits?

It was a sign of mourning over the spiritual condition of the Jewish people, and at this time, people all over the world. And these camel skin outfits would be worn with the hair against your skin, which was very uncomfortable. The reason for that is they were not to be comfortable in the wicked conditions they were coming against!

Also, we are told that these two witnesses are two olive trees and two lampstands, what is that all about?

In Zechariah 4:11-14 we are told, **“Then I answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive trees - at the right of the lampstand and at its left?’ And I further answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?’ Then he answered me and said, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ So he said, ‘These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.’”**

Zerubbabel was the governor and Joshua was the High Priest during the time after the Jews returned home from their Babylonian captivity or their exile in Babylon.

Now I don't believe that means these two witnesses are Zerubbabel and Joshua, but their actions represent what these two witnesses will do.

You see, oil represents the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures, and these oil lamps were filled directly from the olive trees in our story in Zechariah.

Thus, we see here a picture of a continual, abundant supply of the Holy Spirit in the lives of these men, Zerubbabel and Joshua so they could complete the work they were called to do just as these witnesses will need the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives to complete the work they were called to do.

It is as we are told in Zechariah 4:6, **“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.”**

The work of rebuilding this Temple for Zerubbabel was overwhelming and the Lord said it is not going to be accomplished in their power or strength, but by God's Spirit working in them and through them!

And that is a powerful and important lesson for us to learn, that we will never be able to complete the work of God by our own efforts, our own might, our own power, our own strength, our own resources and that list can go on-and-on. The only way we will complete it is by the power of God's Spirit working in us and through us!

Now, who are these two witnesses?

Let's read on and I will tell you what I believe the Scriptures are showing us regarding these two men.

VERSES 5-6

We see how the world responds today as we stand up for righteousness and we proclaim that Jesus is the only way to heaven – they get mad, hostile, they call us names, they even will put Christians to death in some parts of the world for their faith.

Now the Church is gone, and evil is filling the earth and here are these two men who are proclaiming the truth, they are standing up for righteousness, they are calling people to saving faith through Jesus Christ.

How do you think the world is going to respond?

There is going to be a world of angry people fighting against the work they are doing and if anyone tries to harm these men, and they will try, they will become Post Toasties! In other words, they will go up in smoke!

We also see that they can shut up the heavens from raining and turn water into blood. These guys mean business.

You see, for those 1,260 days no one will be able to harm them, but they will certainly deal with those that try!

Now, who are these guys?

I can tell you with 100% confidence that one of them is Elijah.

How can I be so sure?

Because we are told in Malachi 4:5-6, “**Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**”

Before Jesus comes back to set-up His Kingdom on this earth, Elijah must come first and prepare the way!

He also had power to stop rain (I Kings 17:1, Luke 4:25, James 5:17) for 3½ years!

And even today during the feast of Passover the Jewish people will set an extra plate at the table, and during the meal one of the children will go to the door to see if Elijah has come!

The real problem is in identifying who the other witness is going to be.

There are many scholars who believe it is going to be Enoch and the primary reason is because Enoch, like Elijah, never died but was caught up into heaven!

Now when was Enoch caught up into heaven?

Prior to the flood!

I believe that Enoch is a type of the Church and was raptured to heaven without tasting death just as believers living during that time will be!

That means, since the Church is in heaven before the start of the Tribulation Period, this can't be Enoch!

Then who is this second witness?

I believe we get a clue when Jesus appeared in all of his glory on the Mount of Transfiguration.

In Luke 9:28-35 we are told, **“Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory**

**and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, that Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’ - not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!’”**

You see, Moses represented the Law, Elijah the prophets!

And as you remember in Exodus the plagues – the turning of the water to blood by Moses – it does seem to fit Moses as the second witness.

What happens when their work is done?

Let’s read on and see!

#### VERSE 7

The point being made here is that you will not go a moment too soon or a moment too late, but right according to God’s schedule as the beast from the bottomless pit puts these two witnesses to death.

You see, we are at the 3½-year mark now and this pseudo-peace of the Antichrist will be turned to war, as he demands to be worshiped.

Interestingly enough the word “**witnesses**” is the plural form of MARTUS from which we get our English word “*martyr*,” and like those in the early church, like those today and on into the Tribulation Period, believers will pay with their lives for their witnessing of Jesus!

And folks, witnessing is not something that we do, it is something we are, it is our lives lived out in faith!

And I want you to see how evil the world is as these two men of God, these two witnesses are put to death for their faith by the beast from the bottomless pit! (Revelation 9:11)

### VERSES 8-10

As they are killed their dead bodies will lie in the streets of what city?

I believe it is the city of Jerusalem.

You see, Sodom speaks of immorality, wickedness; and Egypt speaks of bondage, worldliness.

The great city of Jerusalem was manifesting the character of these two wicked cities – Sodom and Egypt!

And look at how the world responds to these dead witnesses.

Because of all the trouble these two witnesses caused this world, being a light in a dark world, the people are rejoicing over their death!

They are having a party for 3½ days as their bodies lie in the streets.

Dr. Newell said, *“Now comes the revelation of the heart of man; glee, horrid, insane, inhumane, hellish, ghoulish, glee!”*

It is so bad that they are sending gifts to each other; Hallmark has a card, *“Happy Dead Witnesses Day!”*

Now, how can the entire world take part in this celebration?

During the time when John was living and wrote Revelation, it was impossible! But not today, we can see what is going on in the other parts of this world in real time because of satellite technology and-so-on.

The world acts demonic, but I want you to see how God deals with this.

VERSES 11-12

God takes His servant's home!

Now to me, what happens, is pretty comical if you think about it. Picture this taking place!

*“Katie Couric here in Jerusalem as we are 3½ days into this celebration of the death of these two witnesses. We see parties everywhere. These guys that caused so much trouble are now out of the way. Happy Dead Witnesses Day! I’m Katie Couric here from Jerusalem, now back to you in New Yoooooork . . . Hey, wait a minute. What is going on here? These bodies are beginning to rise up on their feet! I don’t believe it! This can’t be happening . . .”*

And they won't believe it and their joy will quickly change as God calls them home – their gone!

But God is not done. He will judge those who have come against Him. Look at what we are told next.

VERSE 13

Now we see 7,000 people killed in an earthquake and the word “**people**” is the Greek word ANTHROPOS, (anth'-ro-pos) and it literally means “*names of men.*”

This could mean that 7,000 prominent people were killed, possibly leaders within the Antichrists government!

Also, the rest who gave glory to God may be speaking of the Jewish people who come to Jesus at this time.

You see, God is not done with the Jewish people. What He has promised them He will bring to pass and thus, they must get saved so He can sit on the throne of David and rule and reign, fulfilling His promise to them.

It is as Paul said in Romans chapter 11, beginning in verse 4, **“But what does the divine response say to him? ‘I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. . . . And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.’”** Romans 11:4-5, 26-27.

These are Jews who get saved and if this is occurring at the midpoint of the Tribulation Period, after the Abomination of Desolation, then they will get saved and flee to Petra as the Antichrist comes after them.

This is what one commentator wrote about this, *“The rest” must refer to inhabitants of Jerusalem, Jews who will come to faith in Christ. Supporting that interpretation is the fact that giving glory to the God of heaven is a mark of genuine repentance in Revelation and elsewhere in Scripture (Revelation 4:9; 14:7; 16:9; 19:7; Luke 17:18–19; Romans 4:20). This passage, then, describes the reality of the salvation of Jews in Jerusalem, as God fulfills His pledge of blessing for Israel (Romans 11:4–5, 26).”*

#### VERSE 14

We have been waiting for this third woe to come and the sounding of the seventh trumpet judgment since Revelation 9:21, at the end of the sixth trumpet judgment! It has arrived!

And with this seventh trumpet judgment, this third woe, comes the seven bowl judgments and they are the final and the most severe judgments of all!

What is this third woe all about? I think we get a hint back in Revelation 10:7, which says, **“but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.”**

Let’s read on and see.

### VERSE 15

This is what we have been waiting for, Jesus Christ ruling and reigning on the Throne of David!

You see, Christ purchased this world back some 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary and now it is time to take possession of this world, this Kingdom.

And so, as this seventh trumpet sounds it introduces to us and includes the seven bowl judgments of the wrath of God that will be revealed to us in Revelation chapter 16.

In other words, when all these bowl judgments are poured out, Christ will come back to set up His Kingdom and righteousness will reign. That is why I said that the seventh trumpet judgment includes all the bowl judgments!

Now, what do you think will take place as these voices cry out, **“... ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”** Revelation 11:15.

Worship will take place in heaven, as we shall see in a minute.

Now I want you to understand that this is a done deal, it is going to happen.

When we are told that these kingdoms of the world have become the Lord’s, it is done!

You see, in the ancient Greek grammar, the verb tense of “**have become**” indicates an absolute certainty about Jesus’ coming and reigning, even before the fact is accomplished.

God’s Kingdom will be established, not might! It is that certain.

Zechariah 14:9 puts it this way, “**And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be - ‘The LORD is one,’ And His name one.**”

Once again, we long for that day when righteousness will fill this land!

#### VERSE 16-18

Here again we see the twenty-four elders before God.

In Revelation chapter 4 we saw them around the throne of God. We said that these twenty-four elders represented the church of Jesus Christ.

The number “**24**” represented the entire church of God.

This is illustrated for us in I Chronicles chapters 23 and 24 where we see King David divide the priests into what you might call shifts, twenty-four of them. Each one would serve about two weeks in the service they were called to do. And when one group would serve, they would represent all the priests just as these twenty-four represent the church, all of it!

And here we see the church falling down before the Lord to worship Him – they can’t stop because He is going to establish His Kingdom on this earth and righteousness will fill this land – ***PRAISE THE LORD!***

And the song they sing is given to us in Revelation 11:17-18.

Remember in Revelation chapter 5 we see the church sing a song of redemption. That is the redemption of man back to God through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Now in Revelation chapter 11 we see the song of praise that is being sung by the church who is anticipating the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His rule on this earth.

In fact, there is a hint that this hymn speaks not only of the Millennial Reign of Christ but up through the Great White Throne Judgment, where all those who have rejected Christ will be cast into the Lake of Fire!

Now, as some look at God responding in “**wrath**” against the nations of this world, they tend to look at it through eyes of man. His actions seem to be an outburst of His temper or even an irrational response to a situation.

No, God’s anger, His wrath is not irrational, He is not out of control, but it is a righteous response to the conduct of the nations. It is a holy indignation against sin.

Walvoord puts it this way as he compares the wrath of man to the wrath of God. He says, *“The wrath of men is impotent, the wrath of God is omnipotent. The wrath of men is wicked, the wrath of God is holy.”*

A big difference to say the least.

And keep in mind the heart of God, as He said in Ezekiel chapter 18, “**“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, ‘and not that he should turn from his ways and live?’ . . . ‘Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘Therefore turn and live!’”** Ezekiel 18:23, 30-32.

That is the heart of God, but because He is a righteous judge and there is no darkness in Him at all, He must deal with sin, and He will!

Now when did the nations become angry with God and plot against Him?

During the First Coming of Jesus we see those who opposed Him try to kill Him at His birth and during His earthly ministry.

But John is speaking of another time when the nations will come against God, a final assault you might say!

Psalm 2 gives us an interesting description of this event. We are told, **“Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ‘Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.’”** Psalm 2:1-3.

The foolishness of man trying to fight against God!

The reason for their rebellion is they want to break away from God. They don't want anything to do with Him. Thus, they make war against God.

It is during this blood bath, the final battle, the Battle of Armageddon, in which the Kings of the earth will turn and come against God.

Revelation 19:19 says, **“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.”**

And folks, please understand this is not a battle, for the Lord will destroy them by the sword from His mouth, the Word of God!

But the battle against God will be short-lived. How can man fight against God and win? He can't and thus that is why Psalm 2 tells us, "**He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure.**" Psalm 2:4-5.

God is saying that man's plans are foolishness, and He just laughs at them. God will not tolerate this behavior and if man wants to be separated from God, then God will give them the desire of their hearts. He will cast them into eternal darkness, the Lake of Fire, where they will be eternally separated from Him and eternally tormented!

#### VERSE 19

God is getting ready to pour out more judgment.

The Temple proper, which is being spoken of here, and the Ark represented the very presence of God.

Now how does that relate to us? Paul expounds on this heavenly wisdom, as God reveals himself to us in I Corinthians 2:9-11, "**... 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.' But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**"

You see, if you want to know God more, open up the Word of God, search the Scriptures and let the Holy Spirit open your eyes and reveal to you the nature and character of God.

Man cannot do this on his own, even though he tries, for he gets a distorted picture of God.

The Lord said, “**And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.**” Jeremiah 29:13.

This chapter opened with a false Temple in Jerusalem where God was not to be found, and ends with a true Temple in heaven where God dwells.

And God is about to take that heavenly Temple and set it up in Jerusalem where God will dwell and reign as King.

Thus, Psalm 2 ends with this solemn warning, “**Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**” Psalm 2:10-12.

Receive His grace and mercy before that comes to an end and judgment comes upon this land!

You see, the message of the trumpet judgment, the seventh trumpet or the third woe is that Jesus Christ is the Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords, and one day He will take His rightful place upon the throne in Jerusalem, taking back from the usurper, Satan, and from man, who through his sin has polluted this earth with filthiness.

As the seventh angel cried out, “**. . . ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’**” Revelation 11:15.

We wait in anticipation for this day to come, and as we study the events in the world and see what the Scriptures have to say, that day is drawing closer.

Are you ready?



Inside the Dome of the Rock.  
This could not be the place  
where the Ark of the  
Covenant rested because it  
is a jagged rock and not a  
flat rock!





The copper laver and stand, which stands in the Temple courtyard between the sanctuary and the outer altar, is the first of the Temple vessels to greet the priests each morning. There the priests wash their hands and feet before proceeding to attend to the daily *tamid* offering.



The priest collects the blood from the sacrifice into the Mizrak, and then spills the blood onto the corner of the altar.



The copper vessel is used for preparing the meal offering. Meal offerings are made using various amounts of flour, oil and spices.



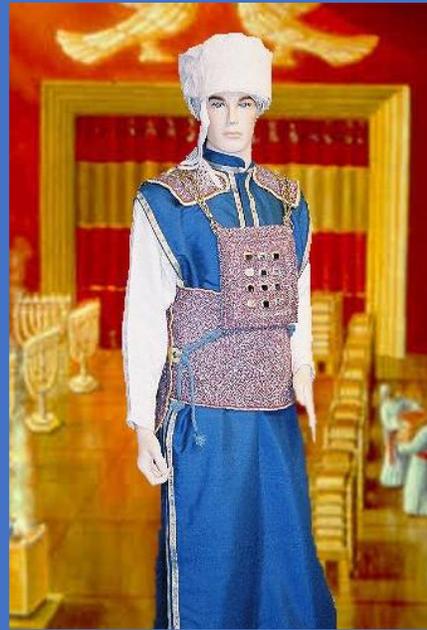
On the northern side of the Sanctuary stands the table of the showbread. The table is made of wood, overlaid with gold. Upon it are placed the twelve loaves of showbread. Each Sabbath, the loaves are simultaneously removed and replaced by fresh loaves, so as to insure that these loaves remain "perpetually" on the table. Miraculously, the week old loaves being replaced also retain their heat and freshness. These loaves are distributed among the priests.



Centrally located in the Sanctuary, between the menorah to the south, and the table of the showbread to the north, stands the incense altar, directly in front of the Holy of Holies, to the west. The incense altar, made of wood covered with gold, is employed in what is considered to be the most beloved aspect of the Temple service in G-d's eye: the incense offering. In order to allow for every priest to perform this most prized of offerings, a daily lot is drawn. Only those priests who have never offered incense upon the altar are allowed to participate.



## GARMENTS OF THE HIGH PRIEST



### The Golden Crown of the High Priest הַצִּיץ



*"And you shall make a crown of pure gold, and engrave on it in the manner of a signet ring, 'Holy to HaShem.' (Exodus 28:36) The tzitz was a thin plate of pure, solid gold, worn across the forehead of the kohen gadol, from ear to ear. A second plate of gold fit around the back of the High Priest's head and the two were tied together with woolen threads dyed with sky-blue techelet dye.*



*Each Temple vessel restored by the Temple Institute is kosher for use in the soon to be rebuilt Third Temple, made according to the exact requirements and specifications of Biblical law. Please donate generously to help the sacred work of the Temple Institute! Every contribution helps to rebuild the Holy Temple in our Time!*

Psachter  
פסכתר



The *Psachter*, (פסכתר), is a copper cart used to remove excess ashes which accumulate on the altar. It is made with wheels so that it can be easily led up and down the altar ramp. It is guided by two *kohanim* by way of chains attached to it.



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