

Revelation: A Study of End-Time Events

Lesson Six: Chapter 11

Overview:

In Revelation 11, John is told to measure the Jewish temple, except for the outer court, because Jerusalem would be trampled by the Gentiles for forty-two months. This is noteworthy since it assures us that the temple in Jerusalem will be rebuilt. The Two Witnesses are the main characters of this chapter, and come at this mid-point of the Tribulation, preaching from Jerusalem to the inhabitants of the earth. When they are killed, the inhabitants of the earth will celebrate. Not for long, however, because after 3-1/2 days (a day for each year they preached), they will be resurrected by God and “caught up” in the clouds while their enemies watch.

A great earthquake follows the resurrection of the Two Witnesses, and it levels a tenth of the city of Jerusalem. Then the scene moves to heaven, where the sounding of the 7th trumpet declares that the kingdom of God has come. The temple of God, which cannot be desecrated, is opened and John sees the heavenly ark of God’s covenant.

Chapter 11: The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet

11:1

“Measure the temple of God and the altar...”

The Temple:

“Temple” (*naos*) is “used (here) of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies.”

The temple is based on the tabernacle in the desert, constructed when Moses led the nation of Israel out of Egypt. It had 3 sections, including the outer court (Exodus 25-40):

The Holy Place: Place of Worship - contained 3 articles of furniture

The Golden Lampstand (Exodus 25:31-40)

The Table of Showbread - (Bread of the Presence) (Ex. 25:23-30)

Altar of Incense (Exodus 30)

The Most Holy Place (**Holy of Holies**) Exodus 26:33: The Ark of the Testimony (wooden chest overlaid with gold) Exodus 25:10, 17; 26:34), with two golden cherubim overshadowing the atonement cover (the Mercy Seat, where the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice. (Exodus 37:9).

Contained in the Ark of the Testimony:

- Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17)
- Golden pot of manna (Exodus 16:3, 11-15, 31-35)
- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

Note: Here in Rev. 11:1-2, only the above part of the temple was to be measured.

11:2

- 1) The outer court of the temple is not to be measured. The Outer Court contained the Brazen Altar and the Laver (Exodus 38). Brazen Altar.

Read Exodus 29:42-43

“This is where the sin question was settled. The sinner would come to the gate and stand there as a sinner. The priest would lead him into the outer court. The sinner would put his right hand upon the head of the animal he had brought - whether it be lamb, goat or ox. Then the animal was slain and the priest would offer it on the altar. That was as far as the individual went; from then on he went in the person of his priest. The priest had to stop at the laver and wash so that he could enter the Holy Place.”¹

- 2) The reference to 42 months is the final half of the Tribulation period, which is the Great Tribulation. Luke 21:24 tell us: “Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” To trample (*pateo*) is “to desecrate the holy city by devastation and outrage.”
- 3) The Jewish temple of Jesus' day was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Roman army. This passage is speaking of the temple in Jerusalem, which we see here is to be rebuilt. We know this also because the Antichrist will desecrate it half-way through his seven year peace treaty with the Jews (Daniel 9:27).

We're going to step outside of the text of Revelation 11, to gain additional insight.

51_____

¹ McGee, J. Vernon, *Exodus, Volume II* (Pasadena: Thru The Bible, 1979) p.297.

Let's begin with a review Daniel 9:24-27

Please see the attached Timeline of Daniel's 70 weeks at the end of this lesson.

Read Daniel 9:24

- “seventy ‘sevens’ are 490 years in the Jewish calendar
- “your people” speaks of Daniel’s people, the Hebrews (Jews)
- “your holy city” (Jerusalem)
- “to finish transgression, put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness”
This was accomplished, for both Jew and Gentile, by Christ on the cross (Read Isaiah 53:6). Since this passage refers to the nation of Israel, it speaks of a future fulfillment during the Tribulation period (Read Romans 11:25-27; Zech. 12; Rev. 12)
- “to bring in everlasting righteousness”
This speaks of the literal rule and reign of Christ in the kingdom of God. Read Rev. 11:15
- “to seal up vision and prophecy”
visions and prophecy will be fulfilled; there will no longer be a need, for God Himself will speak to his people directly. Read Rev. 21:3

Read Daniel 9:25

Daniel is speaking of the first time Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed by the Babylonians, when Daniel was taken into captivity. From the time it was decreed that Jerusalem should be rebuilt until it was completed was seven ‘sevens,’ or 49 years. Then, sixty-two ‘sevens,’ or 434 years until “the Anointed One comes (Jesus Christ).

Read Daniel 9:26

After the sixty-nine ‘sevens’ (total 483 years), the Anointed One will be cut off,” speaking of Christ’s crucifixion. God’s program for Israel stopped (temporarily) when they rejected Christ as their Messiah. At this point, the Church Age is inserted, lasting until the Rapture of the Church, when God’s program for Israel will be resumed with what is Daniel’s 70th ‘seven’ (seven

years of Tribulation). This verse then speaks of “the people of the ruler who will come, (who) will destroy the city and the sanctuary.” Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed again, by Roman soldiers in A.D. 70. “The ruler who will come,” therefore, will be from a revived form of the Roman Empire.

Read Daniel 9:27

The Antichrist will confirm a covenant (“alliance, pledge; treaty”) with Israel for the final “seven” (years) before the “the end,” but will break the treaty “in the middle of the ‘seven’ years.

We know from Daniel 7:19-25, the Antichrist will enter into this covenant as head of the revived Roman Empire, ruled by a coalition of ten leaders (Rev. 17:12-13). It is interesting to note that this global government will “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it” (Daniel 7:23). Why would they need to enter into a covenant with Israel? Why not simply “crush and devour it?” Could it be because of the devastating outcome of divine intervention during the Russian/Arab attack on Israel, a prophecy that has not yet been fulfilled, according to Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39?

The term “Great Tribulation” refers to the final 3-1/2 years of the Antichrist’s reign of terror. He will put an end to Jewish sacrifices in the temple, and will (through the False Prophet) set up His image to be worshipped.

Read 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Revelation 13:14-15

Let’s turn back to our study of Revelation, Chapter 11:

11:3-4

- 1) Chapter 11 covers the span of the final 3-1/2 years (1,260 days) of the 7-year Tribulation.
- 2) The identity of the two witnesses is not stated in Scripture, but we can see the nature of their ministry in vv. 5-6.

11:5-6

- 1) “fire comes from their mouth” - could be in same sense as when Elijah called down fire upon King Ahaziah’s captain and fifty men.

Read 2 Kings 1:10

- 2) “Devours” (*katesthio*) means “by fire, to utterly consume, destroy”
- 3) Read Luke 9:28-31 The prophetic ministry of these two witnesses is similar to Moses and Elijah, both with Jesus on mount of transfiguration:
 - a) power to prevent rain (Elijah). Read 1 Kings 17:1
 - b) power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague (Moses). Read Exodus 7:20

NOW CONSIDER THIS:

There are two O.T. prophets who did not die: Elijah and Enoch.

- 1) Joshua 1:1 tells us “After the death of Moses....” But Enoch, seventh from Adam (Jude 9), forefather of Jewish race through Noah and then Shem (Semites, Genesis 10:21-32) prophesied about Christ’s return (Jude 14).

Read Genesis 5:24

- 2) Elijah was taken up alive into heaven in a whirlwind, as Elisha watched.
Read 2 Kings 2:11-12

11:7-10

- 1) We saw in Rev.9:11 that Satan is the angel of the Abyss, the abode of demons, and he rules as king over them. But we will see in Rev. 17:8 that the beast coming out of the Abyss “once was, now is not,” ruling out the identity of Satan himself, but rather speaks of an agent of satanic origin, whose identity we will study in Lesson 9.
- 2) Neither Satan nor his agents can kill the Witnesses until their work is finished. Remember, this happens at the end of the 1,260 days (3-1/2 yrs) of prophesying in Jerusalem, placing this event at the close of the Great Tribulation, just prior to Christ’s return.
- 3) The great city is Jerusalem (“where also their Lord was crucified”), figuratively called:

- a) Sodom was a city judged for sin, specifically homosexuality.
Read Gen.19:4-5
- b) But Sodom is also mentioned in Ezekiel 16:49 (Please read).
- c) Egypt, here, is “metaphorically, Jerusalem, for the Jews persecuting the Christ and his followers, and so to be likened to the Egyptians treatment of the Jews.”

Note: It appears that these will be characteristics of Jerusalem under the rule of the Antichrist, during the final 3-1/2 years before Christ returns. This will be the environment in which the Two Witnesses will preach, as Jerusalem is trampled by the Gentiles.

- 4) Tormented (*bazanizo*) means “to vex with grievous pains of body or mind.” It’s the same word used for the torment of the locust-like creatures in Rev. 9:5 (grievous physical pains); here, of mental torment.

11:11-14

- 1) These witnesses will be resurrected and ascend to heaven before their eyes, just as Christ was in Acts. 1:9.
- 2) At this point, the judgments are coming in rapid succession, almost simultaneously.

11:15

- 1) Read Rev. 10:6-7

We see that the “mystery of God” is 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.”

- 2) The remaining “woe” and 7 bowls of God’s wrath will occur in rapid succession: there will be no more delay!

11:16-18

- 1) Judging the (Unsaved) Dead: White Throne Judgment Read Rev. 20:13-15
- 2) The reward of God’s servants will occur:

- at the Rapture of the Church (Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:14-15);
- at Christ's return, when the Old Testament Saints will be resurrected (Dan. 12:1-2); as well as the Tribulation Saints (Rev. 20:4-6).

Read Rev. 22:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:14-15

11:19

- 1) God's temple in heaven, which cannot be desecrated, is opened at the sounding of the final trumpet. Read Hebrews 8:1-5, 9:23-28
- 2) The judgment of an earthquake is sent forth. Because of its timing, it is very likely the worldwide one described in Rev. 16:18-21 (the 7th and final "bowl of God's wrath" which was issued forth from the 7th and final trumpet here in Ch.11), where the cities of the nations all collapse, and the mountains are leveled. This followed the gathering of the world's armies for the battle of Armageddon (16:16).

Now what?

How will this lesson change the way you live?

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THE 70 WEEKS OF DANIEL 9

