



The Book of Revelation - Session 24: The Two Witnesses

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Revelation Chapter 11

Revelation 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

John's measurement of the temple is a symbolic action. In those times to measure something meant to claim it for yourself.

For the buying of a lot of expensive properties, the new owner will bring in an architect to measure various areas and recommend possible changes. Had the architect shown up before the buyers' commitment, they have the right to deny him access.

*The Lord was saying through John, "I own this city and this temple, and I claim both for Myself!" The Old Testament background is found in **Ezekiel 40-41** and **Zechariah 2:1-3**.*

*What John did was especially significant because the Gentiles had taken over Jerusalem. The Antichrist had broken his agreement with Israel (**Daniel 9:27**) and now he was about to use the temple for his own diabolical purposes (**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**).*

*All of this will be elaborated in Revelation 13. "**Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles,**" said Jesus, "**until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled**" (**Luke 21:24**).*

*The "times of the Gentiles" began in 606 B.C. when Babylon began to devastate Judah and Jerusalem, and it will continue until Jesus Christ returns to deliver the Holy City and redeem Israel (**Zechariah 14**).*

The time is the first half of the Tribulation. Israel is worshiping again at its restored temple, built under the protection of the Antichrist, whose true character has not yet been revealed.

This is the temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. I think that the Antichrist will play a pivotal part in negotiating the rebuilding of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem.

Remember when the Antichrist comes on the scene, he will pretend to be a friend to the Israeli people.

Remember we said, Revelation chapters 10-14 are informational chapters, and these chapters may not be in chronological order.

2 But leave out the court, which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.



These verses tell us that the Gentiles are going to take over Jerusalem and is going to be the headquarters of the anti-christ for 42 months or 3½ years.

But during the first half of the tribulation there will finally be peace in the Middle East. Under the protection of Antichrist, the Jews will be able to rebuild the temple.

This is one-way satan through the anti-christ, will fool most of the world. For surely many will think that no one under the control of satan would never be a protector of the Jews.

However, at the midpoint of the tribulation, the Antichrist will stop their sacrifices, place an image of himself in the holy place, take his seat in the temple, and demand to be worshipped as God. This is called “the abomination of desolation.”

Jesus warns His disciples about the abomination of desolation and the great tribulation that he will cause upon the earth.

Here in Matthew 24:15-22 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. 18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. 19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! 20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 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. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Verses 15-20 seem to be a warning just to the people of Israeli people. But I believe verses 21 and 22 are for the whole earth.

These times would be so bad that unless Jesus Christ intervenes, all flesh on the earth will be destroyed. We don't know exactly how this is going to happen, but we do know that it will be a time like this I believe in the very near future.

Daniel 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses,

Why two witnesses? According to the bible it takes two witnesses to establish a matter.

Deuteronomy 19:15 "... by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

New Testament believers should follow this principle especially when making major decisions in life.

The major witness of the believer should be the Holy Spirit.



Acts 15:28 "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements:

But if you haven't developed a relationship with Him, then God will use other sources.

Who are the two witnesses? We do not know but some say that it will be Enoch and Elijah because the bible says that they were caught up without tasting death.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Others say that it will be Elijah and Moses because of the miracles they are able to perform.

They could be someone else. We just don't know.

.....and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Notice the whole time the anti-christ is ruling in Jerusalem the two witnesses are outside the gates preaching.

The two witnesses minister during the first half of the Tribulation (**Revelation 11:3; 1,260 days**). Jerusalem is then overrun by the Gentiles for forty-two months, the last half of the Tribulation.

Their witness is related to Israel and the temple. How tragic that the power of God and the Word of God will be outside the temple, and not within as in former ages.

Just like the ministry of Jesus, He did more miracles and preach more word outside of the temple that he did within the temple in His time here on the earth.

For real effective ministry, the Word of God needs to be preached both within and out of the church.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees the two witnesses lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

These are the same two men spoken about by Zechariah the prophet.

Zechariah 4:11-14 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees — at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" 12 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?" 13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." 14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

This description speaks of their anointing and the Word of Light (the Gospel) they are proclaiming.

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.

Divine protection, they can kill their enemies with fire. These witnesses will be able to protect themselves by calling down fire on their enemies who try to harm them, as Elijah did in **2 Kings 1:10-14**



And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

Note: The Law of an eye for an eye will seem to be put back into effect. **Exodus 21:24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.**

It seems in this time of tribulation, the law will be back in effect to some degree. Even the offering of sacrifices will be put back into place.

Rev 11:6 These (The two Witnesses) have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

John records that the ministry of these two witnesses is characterized by other miraculous powers. They can withhold rain for three-and-a-half years. They can turn water into blood. They can bring plagues upon the earth whenever they desire.

While the Anti-Christ is up to his antics in the temples these witnesses will be showing even greater wonders on the outside.

Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

Notice only when they are finished, can the enemy touch them.

As long as we are on God's agenda the enemy can't take us out. *No matter what happens, we as born-again believers have the right to continue to run our race and to finish our course that God has set for us.*

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

After Beast kills the two witnesses, John tells us "Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified."

Jerusalem is likened to "Sodom and Egypt." In Scripture, "Sodom" stands for the flesh and homosexuality and "Egypt" for the world and idol worship.

Daniel 11:37-38 He (The Antichrist) shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, (some of this means that the Antichrist could be a homosexual or even maybe a AI human hybrid. We don't know.) nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.

Rev 11:9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.



The witnesses will not even be permitted a decent burial (Psalms 79:1-3) which is a slap in the face to Jewish culture.

But even this indecency will be used by God to bear witness to mankind. No doubt that all over social media and television from Jerusalem will transmit the scene to people around the world, and the news analysts and podcasters will discuss its significance.

It seems as if they were having some sort of celebration like Christmas where they will be sending gifts to one another. This is how much the world at this time will despise the word of God and His people.

It appears that the power of the two witnesses will not be limited to Jerusalem, but that they will be able to cause things to happen in other parts of the world.

Rev 11:11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

Miraculously, a voice from heaven shouts “Come Up Here”. These two witnesses are not only raised from the dead, but they are raptured up to heaven!

The same words that John heard in Revelation 4:1 “Come Up Here”.

God rescues them from their enemies and gives a solemn witness to the watching world. The world's great joy suddenly becomes great fear.

(Note the word “Great” in Revelation 11, is repeated eight times.)

Rev 11:13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Notice throughout the whole Book of Revelation, whenever the Antichrist / satan thinks that he has gained a victory, God always out does him and does something greater, which allows the world to see that the God we serve, the Lord God Jehovah, is the only wise, true and powerful God.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.