

REVELATION Chapter 11

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As we begin chapter 11, we are still in the midst of the interlude to encourage and exhort God's people. We saw in chapter 10 that God's judgment is coming upon the oppressors of His people, and will not be delayed. Again word is given of His intentions.

I. JOHN IS TOLD TO MEASURE THE TEMPLE OF GOD, 11:1-2

A. John was given a reed like a rod, vv. 1-2.

1. A stick about 9 feet long (see Ezekiel 40:3; Psalm 2:6-9).

a. John was told to measure three things: ***the temple of God, the altar of God, and them that worship in the temple.***

b. This measuring was for *separation, protection, holiness!* Compare Psalm 110:1-2; Ezekiel 42:40; 2 Samuel 8:1-2

2. John was *not* to measure the outer court.

a. The outer court had been given to the Gentiles (the nations – note the description in 1 Kings 5-7).

b. These were not the sealed servants of God – they signify unbelieving Israel.

3. The holy city would be trodden under foot by the Gentiles.

B. What is the significance?

1. Old Testament: Temple = physical building in Jerusalem where worship was offered.

2. In the New Testament, we have a *different priest and tabernacle* (Hebrews 8:1-6).

3. What is the “Temple of God” today? **THE CHURCH!** See 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:5

4. The holy city is the *New Jerusalem*: the church.

a. The church will be persecuted 42 months (this will be bitter).

b. The church will also be seen in another figure (witness).

5. The time of persecution is 42 months:

a. This is not a literal time, but the period of the beast's authority (Rev. 13:5) referred to as 1260 days (Rev. 12:6).

b. It is the period of time that the bodies of the two witnesses will be looked upon, called 3 ½ days (11:9), called “time, times, and half a time” (Rev. 12:14).

c. It is the time God allows the persecutor to war against the righteous (compare Daniel 7:25; 4:23, 25, 32).

The picture here is **PERSECUTION** and **PROTECTION** of God's people!

II. THE CHURCH PROPHECIES DURING THE PERSECUTION, 11:3-6

A. The temple, altar, and people have been measured: the nations have been allowed to persecute the holy city.

See the picture: When the cry comes up to God, He will send deliverance – He sends someone to cry for repentance (this prophesying is the plea for repentance).

B. The **TWO WITNESSES** shall prophecy 1260 days, vv. 3-4.

1. “Two witnesses”: compare Revelation 1:6; Joel 1:8-14 – remember Moses & Aaron (Exodus 5:1; 6:6 ff.); Joshua & Caleb; Elijah & Elisha (1 Kings 18 ff.); Zerubbabel & Joshua (Zech. 2-6; Haggai 1:1-14); see also Matthew 23:31-37; Acts 7:52.
2. These two witnesses are clothed in **sackcloth** (repentance!) and prophecy that the holy city is trodden under foot 42 months (persecution).
3. The stand before the Lord, as two olive trees and two candlesticks (see Rev. 1:20).
The TWO WITNESSES represent THE CHURCH! (cf. Zech. 4:1-14; Hag. 1:1-14).

C. The Two Witnesses are protected from God’s vengeance, and they reign, vv. 5-6.

1. Others may desire to hurt them, but God will protect them (not from suffering, but God will render vengeance – compare Gen. 12:1-3; Rev. 6:9-11).
2. Judgment is given to the saints: fire would proceed out of their mouths to devour their enemies – hurting the saints would be recompensed!
3. The Two Witnesses reign: their prayers (cries) to God would have power to shut the heaven (8:3 – see also Rev. 6:1-8; 8:7-9:21; Exodus 6-11).

III. THE TWO WITNESSES ARE KILLED, 11:7-10

A. When the Two Witnesses finish prophesying, **the beast** comes up out of the pit, vv. 7-8.

1. The prophesying was not heeded, and the beast comes out angry.
2. The beast does not like the judgment brought against him, so he wars with the Two Witnesses and overcomes them.
3. The Two Witnesses are killed, and their bodies are on the street of the great city.

B. All people, kindred, tongues, nations know that the Two Witnesses are dead, vv. 9-10.

1. They look upon them 3 ½ days (not literal, but the period of time it takes for something to be accomplished).
2. The two Witnesses are not buried.
3. Those that dwell on the earth rejoice over what has happened to the Two Witnesses.
 - a. The Two Witnesses had tormented them.
 - b. Now, the Two Witnesses (THE CHURCH) have been stopped!

IV. THE TWO WITNESSES ARE RESURRECTED, 11:11-14

A. The Two Witnesses are raised from the dead, vv. 11-12.

1. The spirit of life from God enters, and they are no longer dead: MATTHEW 16:18!
2. Great fear comes upon those who see this.

B. Many of the enemy are killed in God's judgment, vv. 13-14.

1. A great earthquake comes, a tenth part of the city falls, and 7,000 are killed.
2. The remnant is afraid, and gives glory to God.
3. The judgment is doubly complete ("7" and "1000").

THIS COMPLETES THE SECOND WOE – THE THIRD WOE IS COMING!

V. THE MYSTERY IS BROUGHT TO AN END, 11:15-19

A. The Seventh Angel sounds, v. 15.

1. This is the last trumpet that began in 8:2, and finishes the mystery of God (10:7).
2. This revelation show who reigns:
 - a. God's Kingdom has been vindicated – *God had allowed Rome to be the kingdom of the world, but the kingdom of the world now becomes the Kingdom of the Lord (see Daniel 2).*
 - b. This King (Christ) shall reign for ever and ever.

B. The Twenty-four elders testify of God's reign, vv. 16-17

1. They sit before God, and fall on their faces to worship Him.
2. God is acclaimed as the One who reign because He has taken His power.

C. The nations are displeased at the vindication of God's Kingdom, v. 18

1. They are angry, but God has but a stop to the persecution against the saints.
2. Reward is given to the prophets, saints, and them that fear God's name.

D. God's judgment is issued upon the oppressor, v. 19

1. The true temple of God is opened (see Heb. 8:1-5; 12:18-29; Eph. 2:21; 3:14-15).
2. The ark of His testament is there (cf. Gen. 12:1-3).
3. Lightning, voices, thundering, earthquake, great hail: **JUDGMENT IS HERE!**