

## Chapter 11

Interlude or a time of explanation is continued between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> event.

Here we will see 42 months half of the 7 year Tribulation. – foreshadowing of God dealing with the Nation of Israel, 2 witnesses, signs, plagues, judgments, martyrs, resurrection, ascension to Heaven, the doom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe, earthquakes, lighting thunder, hailstorms, a glimpse into the millennium and the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet which will usher the return of Christ and symbolize moving Israel to the Millennium.

***Revelation 11:1-2 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. 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.***

Measurements are always a signal God is dealing with Israel. The Rod can mean judgment in Psalm 2:9 or comfort in Psalm 23:4.

**What end of God’s rod are you feeling now? Comfort or Judgment?**

The New Testament never mentions the temple. This only mentioned in the Old Testament. Note only the holy places are measured and each individual worshiper is counted. The outer court is not measured.

**What is the outer court of the Temple and why would it not be counted?** According to Mathew Henry’s Commentary, the outer court was believed to be built by Herod and it was called the court of the Gentiles. The temple design given by God to Solomon and Zerubbabel never included an outer court.

**Should a church have an outer court or a place where those who are not true worshipers can gather and partake in church? What are the pros and cons on this? Is there any danger to the church? Do you think some churches outer court has crossed over and now there is no difference between it and the “temple”?**

**Where do you stand? Are you a back row Baptist or outer court Jew? Can God count you?**

It is not good enough to be in the outer court with your relationship with Christ. The day will come where you will be counted. You need to know that you know that you will be counted as a worshiper. Don’t base your eternal destiny on I am a good person, or I think I will be counted as long as I am in the outer court.

**Ask yourself, where I am in this story? Am I with the 24 elders? Am I in the Temple of God? Am I in the outer court? Am I gloating and celebrating with the inhabitants of the earth? Now, ask yourself where your family and friends are in this story?**

***Revelation 11:3-5 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God[b] of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These 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.***

Lampstands & Olive Trees - Once again scripture decodes the symbols for us. Zechariah 4: 2-3, 11-14 – These two are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.” Note: The Greek word for Witnesses is Marquise our word in English is Martyr.

**How do the Witnesses get their power? Zechariah 4:6 – “Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty.”**

**Why are there two witnesses?**

According to the Law, two or more witnesses are required. (Det 17:6 & Matt 18:16)

**What do we know about these two witnesses?**

---

*Seven leading characteristics that must be satisfied in the identification of the witnesses upon any theory:*

- (1) *They are witnesses of Christ*
  - (2) *They are two in number*
  - (3) *They are endowed with miraculous powers*
  - (4) *They are symbolically represented by the two olive trees and the two candlesticks seen in the vision of Zechariah*
  - (5) *They prophesy in sackcloth, i.e., their message is one of woe (to repent);*
  - (6) *They die a violent death in the city, and their dead bodies are treated with ignominy*
  - (7) *After three days and a half they rise from the dead, and are taken up to heaven.*
- 

**Why should it matter to you that God will send Two Witnesses to carry His message through the roughest time in the great tribulation?**

**Who are the two witnesses?** To quote the disciples, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." Moses, James, Peter and others.

Elijah	Stopped the rain was at the Mount of Transfigurations, Elijah’s coming was promised in Malachi 4:5–6 – Elijah called fire from Heaven. Matthew 17:11 says Elijah must come first and restore all things. Elijah did not die. Therefore, some claim he will need to come back to fulfill Hebrews 9:27. Elijah stopped the rain.
Enoch	He did not die so he would be in the list of possibilities given Hebrews 9:27. Also, one of the gospels that did not make the cannon of scripture the Gospel of Nicodemus identifies Elijah and Enoch as the two witnesses.
Moses	He is associated with the plagues and was at the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and Elijah. He turned the waters to blood.
John the Baptist	No Greater man than he. Matthew 11:11.

Given they can call down any kind of plague as often as they like, how much do you think God Trusts them? **How does he trust you? How are you doing with what he has entrusted to you?** Note: They are immortal until they have fulfilled God’s purposes then their job is complete.

**Do you know God's purposes for you?** He will make sure you fulfill His purposes no matter what the obstacles. Despite your circumstances, God is in control and what may look impossible God will work for His Glory somehow.

***Revelation 11:7-10 when they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 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. 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. 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.***

Sometimes, you can do everything right and still fail. God gets even more glory in the resurrection of the dead. Sometimes, you have to realize He allowed this death/utter failure in your life so He can resurrect it!

The two witnesses live up to their name. The Greek word for witness is the same root word that in English is used for Martyr. John 15:13 says no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends. This is their witness for Christ for His Glory.

### **What city is this?**

The city is Jerusalem. It is likened to Sodom by Isaiah (Isa 1:10). It is the city where our Lord was crucified, and the gentiles and the pagans have tromped all over the city making it the modern day "Egypt".

### **Why would they lie in the street without burial for 3.5 days? Pilate allowed Jesus body proper burial. So why not now?**

As the Scripture predicts that their enemies would **not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves** (v. 9), so history bears out. Christian burial was denied by papal decree to those who were regarded as heretics. This denial of burial was decided at both the third and fourth Lateran Councils, in 1179 and 1215, respectively. Also in the papal decree of Gregory IX, in 1227, and the decree of Pope Martin, following the Council of Constance, in 1422.

No burial is a sign of contempt the world has for the message of God and them. Maybe they wanted to eliminate the possibility of an empty tomb. Also, maybe though it is not said, the witness may have predicted their resurrection. Since they could not be killed for 3.5 years, maybe people wanted to see them to know they were really dead! The gifts, celebrating and gloating is Satan making his on Satanic Christmas out of the death and temporary defeat of the witnesses of Christ.

### **How will all nations, tribes, peoples and tongues see them? What is the implication for us as believers in this time?**

***Revelation 11:11-12 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. 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.***

Breath of life is the same phrase used in Genesis with the creation of man Gen 2:7. **How do you think the world will react? Image the cable news coverage, CNN, FOX & MSNBC? What will Wolf Blitzer say if CNN covers it?**

The enemies are watching the witnesses receive their true glory. **Does this not represent even more judgment?** It also speaks to what David mentioned in the Psalms 23:5, and says you prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies...

**Are you at a point in your life where the situation you are facing seems hopeless or dead?**

Well, we all may agree it is dead, but you and I do not have the keys to death. He does (Rev 1:18).

***Revelation 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.***

The second Woe – In the Greek it indicates that 7,000 named men were killed. This appears to be selective and a judgment in the form of the earthquake. There is significantly more than 7K in the great city so them being named indicates prominence. Seeing God raise them up seems to really strike fear in them at this point.

Note this is the second woe – Rev 8:13 introduced the 3 woes, Rev 9:12 indicated the first woe has passed. The first woe was the release of the four angels and 200 million demonic army and to kill 1/3 of the population.

***Revelation 11:15 -18 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying:***

***"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,  
The One who is and who was and who is to come,  
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.  
The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,  
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,  
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,  
And those who fear Your name, small and great,  
And should destroy those who destroy the earth."***

7th Trumpet – Christ's Reign – Millennium - 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet also was used to signify the entire camp of Israel moved out on the on the march. Now it notes Christ moves in with the entire Israel camp promised to reign in the millennium. **What does the anger of the nations' represent?**

***Revelation 11:19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant[h] was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.***

Temple of God is open – New Jerusalem – Refers that he will deal with Israel. Temple in Heaven. Lighting thunders and etc. speaks to judgments to come.

7 characters introduced with 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Woman             | (5) Remnant of Israel |
| (2) Red Dragon        | (6) Beast One         |
| (3) Child             | (7) Beast Two         |
| (4) Michael Arc Angel |                       |

**What does the Lighting thunders and etc. symbolize? Have you ever been to a cool grand opening event? Can you image being there for the opening of God's Temple in Heaven? Who will be singing? What will be served? Will there be dancing? Dare I say wine?**