

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 20

Two Witnesses
Selected Cross-references

Revelation 11



1

Acts 17:11 (KJV)


These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).




2

Revelation 11

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months. "Also, I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before the Lord of the earth. If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies—yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die. They have the authority to shut up the sky so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also, they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, overcome them and kill them; and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is "S'dom" and "Egypt"—the city where their Lord was executed on a stake. 

3

Some from the nations, tribes, languages, and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. The people living in the Land rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so. But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them. In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly. 

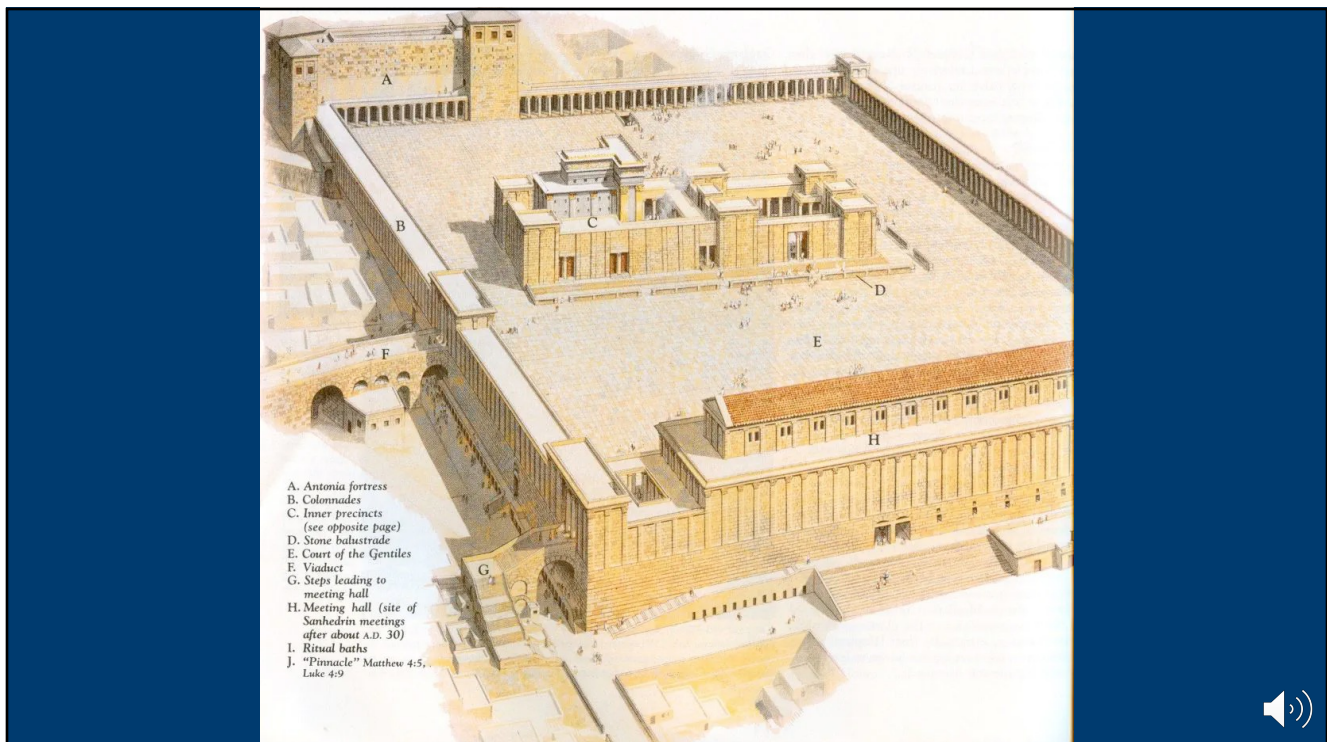
4

The seventh angel sounded his shofar; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!"

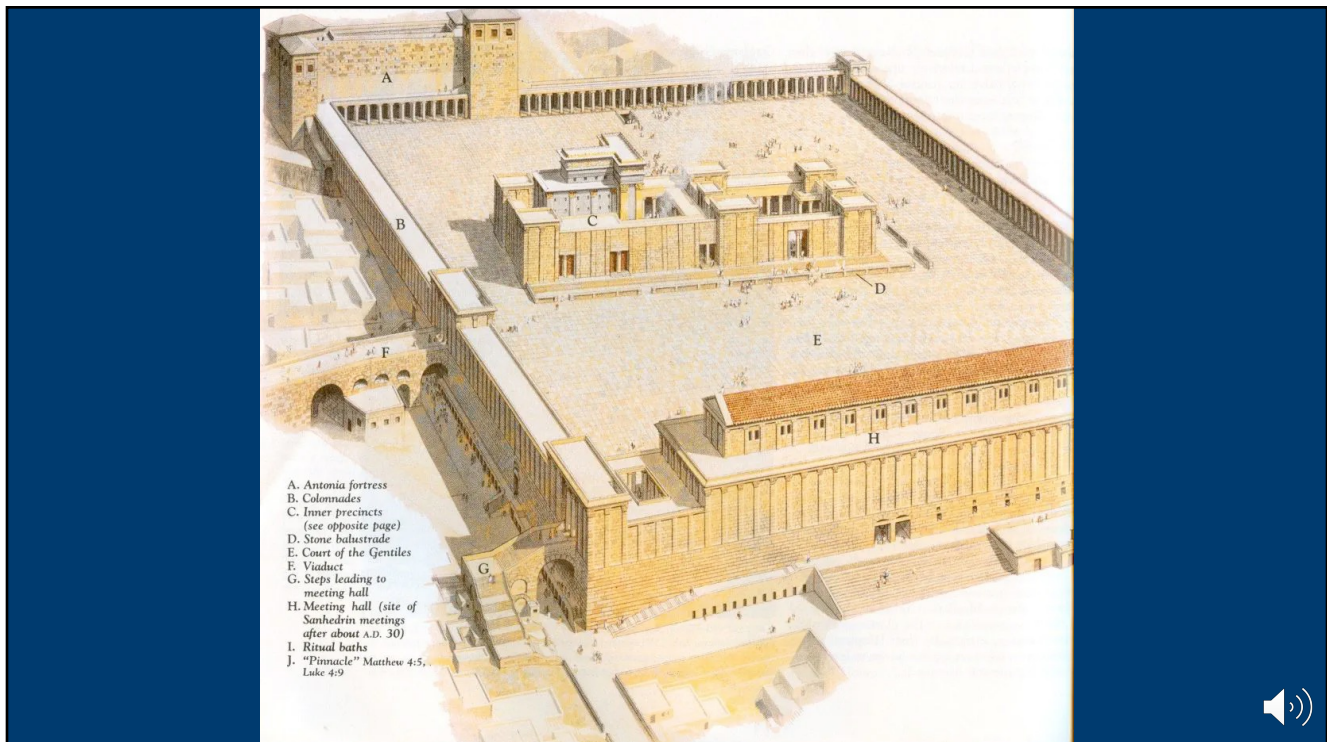
The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God's presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, "We thank you, Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is and was, that you have taken your power and have begun to rule. "The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for rewarding your servants the prophets, and your holy people, those who stand in awe of your name, both small and great. It is also the time for destroying those who destroy the earth."

Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and violent hail.

5



6



7

Trample

Revelation 11:1-2

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the **Goyim**, and **they will trample** over the holy city for forty-two months.

References

Matthew 24:15 "when you see the abomination standing in the holy place...",
 Isaiah 63:18 Your holy people held possession for a little while; our adversaries have trampled down your sanctuary.

8



Qumran Cave 11



9

Measuring Rod

Revelation 11:1-2

I was given a measuring rod like a stick and told, "Get up, and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count how many people are worshipping there! But the court outside the Temple, leave that out; don't measure it; because it has been given to the Goyim, and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.

References

Ezekiel 40:3-5 He brought me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like bronze. He had a linen cord in his hand and a measuring rod. He was standing in the gateway. The man said to me, "Son of man, see with your eyes, hear with your ears, set your heart on all that I show you—for I brought you here in order to show you—and report all that you see to the house of Israel."



10

42 Months/1260 Days = 3.5 years

Revelation 11:3	References
<p>(and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.)</p> <p>"Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, times, and a half of time (Rev 12:14) • 1260 days (Rev 11:3, 12:5) • 42 months (Rev 11:2; 13:5)



11

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3	References
<p>(and they will trample over the holy city for forty-two months.)</p> <p>"Also I will give power to my two witnesses; and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."</p>	<p>Deut 17:6 On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.</p>



12

Olive trees and Menorot

Revelation 11:4	References
These are the two olive trees and the two menorahs standing before the Lord of the earth.	Zec 4:12-14 And a second time I answered and said to him, “What are these two branches of the olive trees , which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?” He said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”



13

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:5	References
If anyone tries to do them harm, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies—yes, if anyone tries to harm them, that is how he must die.	Jer 5:14 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: “Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them. ”



14

Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:6	References
They have the authority to shut up the sky, so that no rain falls during the period of their prophesying; also they have the authority to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.	¹ Ki 17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word.”



15

Moses?

Deut 18:15 “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers.

And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Joh 1:21 And they asked (John the Baptist), “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet (I.e. Moses)?” And he answered, “No.”



16

Enoch and Elijah?

Genesis 5:21-24 When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

2 Kings 2:11-12 And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.



17

Two Martyrs

Revelation 11:7-8

When they finish their witnessing, the beast coming up out of the Abyss will fight against them, **overcome** them and kill them and their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the **great city** whose name, to reflect its spiritual condition, is "S'dom" and "Egypt"—the **city where their Lord was executed on a stake.**

References

Mt 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall **not prevail** against it.



18

Two Martyrs Mocked

Revelation 11:9-10	References
Some from the nations, tribes, languages and peoples see their bodies for three-and-a-half days and do not permit the corpses to be placed in a tomb. The people living in the Land rejoice over them, they celebrate and send each other gifts, because these two prophets tormented them so.	Psa 79:2-3 "They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the heavens for food, the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth. They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem , and there was no one to bury them."



19

Two Martyrs Resurrected

Revelation 11:11-12	References
But after the three-and-a-half days a breath of life from God entered them, they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then the two heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, " Come up here! " And they went up into heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.	Eze 37:5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live." Ex 19:20 And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.

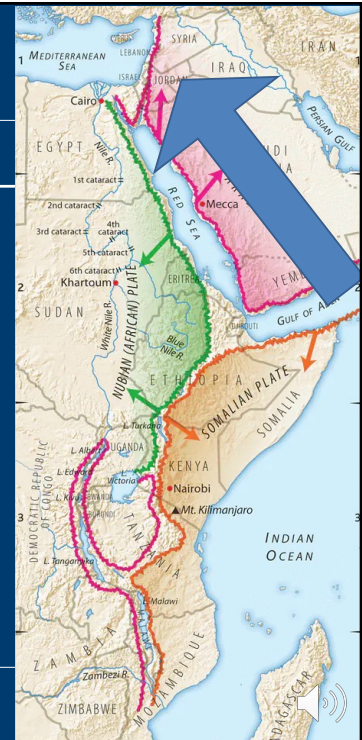


20

Earthquake ends the 2nd Woe

Revelation 11:13-14

In that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and **the rest were awestruck and gave glory to the God of heaven.** The second woe has passed; see, the third woe is coming quickly.



21

The 7th Trumpet

Revelation 11:15-17

The seventh angel sounded his shofar; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!" The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones in God's presence fell on their faces and worshipped God, saying, "We thank you, Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is and was, that you have taken your power and have begun to rule."



22

The Nations Rage

Revelation 11:18

"The Goyim raged. But now your rage has come, the time for the dead to be judged, the time for rewarding your servants the prophets, and your holy people, those who stand in awe of your name, both small and great. It is also the time for destroying those who destroy the earth."

References

Psalms 2:1-2 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed,



23

The Not-Lost Ark

Revelation 11:19

Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.

References

Jos 6:8 And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them.



24

God keeps His Covenant

Revelation 11:19

Then the Temple of God in heaven was opened, and the Ark of the Covenant was seen in his Temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake and violent hail.

References

Exodus 19:16-20 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled... The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly...



25

1 Kings 19

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba...And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

And behold, the word of the LORD came to him (in the still-small voice), and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away."

And the LORD said to him, "Go,...Elisha you shall anoint to be prophet in your place...Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."



26



27