

The Mighty Angel, and the Two Witnesses

Revelation 10:1 – 11:14

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Introduction

- In chapter 8, Jesus opened the 7th seal which contained the 7 trumpets.
- In chapter 8 we read about the first four trumpet judgments.
- In chapter 9, the fifth and 6th trumpet judgments are revealed.
- In chapters 10:1 - 11:14 we have an interlude between the 6th trumpet judgment and the 7th trumpet judgment.

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Introduction

- In this interlude (10:1 - 11:14), we are given two important testimonies:
 - from a mighty angel (10:1-11), and
 - from two special witnesses (11:1-14)
- Remember, the aim of God in each judgment is that people should repent of their sin and rebellion before it is too late.

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

The Description of the mighty angel (10:1-4)

Revelation 10:1 I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire.

² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and *his left foot* on the land,

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

³ and cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.

⁴ Now when the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them."

- Many commentators suggest that the mighty angel is Jesus Christ.

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

- But the Greek word translated "another," in the phrase "another angel" means one of the same kind, that is, a created being.
- All angels excel in strength (Psalm 103:20), but apparently some have greater power and authority than others.
- The first mention of a rainbow was around God's throne (Rev. 4:3).
- Now we see a rainbow sitting like a crown on the head of the angel.

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

- Perhaps this indicates that the angel has the delegated authority of God's throne given to him.

We come now to the declaration of the angel (10:5-7)

⁵ The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer,

⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.

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Revelation 10: the Mighty Angel

- The mighty angel solemnly swears that there will be no more delay.
- With the sounding of the 7th trumpet the purposes of God for this sinful world will be brought to completion.
- Restraint is to be removed, and the Antichrist is to be revealed (2 Thes. 2:3ff). The forces of God and Satan will meet in final confrontation.

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Revelation 10: the "little book"

- John is commanded to take and eat the "little book." (10:8-11)

⁸ Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."

⁹ So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."

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Revelation 10: the "little book"

¹⁰ Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.

¹¹ And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."

- For the first time in these judgments, John becomes involved in the action.

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Revelation 10: the "little book"

- From the beginning of ch.4 through the end of ch. 9 John has watched the visions unfold from the position of heaven. Now he is back on earth.
- In the vision John eats the "little book" which may symbolize the complete appropriation of the prophetic revelation.

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Revelation 10: the "little book"

- John's physical reactions demonstrate what every believer's proper response to God's judgment should be (cf. Ezek. 3:1)—sweet anticipation of God's glory and our victory, and at the same time, the bitterness of seeing God's wrath poured out on those who reject His Son.
- John is told he must prophesy to many people, nations, and tongues, and kings and give them warning of God's coming judgments.

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Revelation 11: the Tribulation Temple

John commanded to measure the tribulation temple (11:1-2)

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.

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 [3 ½ years].

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Revelation 11: the Tribulation Temple

- John is told to measure the Temple (the holy place and the holy of holies – not the entire Temple complex).
- A rebuilt Temple will exist during the time of the Tribulation.
- This will be the place the Antichrist declares himself to be God and demand worship (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

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Revelation 11: the Tribulation Temple

2 Thes. 2:3-4:

³Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

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Revelation 11: the Tribulation Temple

- The last half of the 7 yr. Tribulation period, from the time the Antichrist's claim to be God until the final battle of Armageddon, the forces of Antichrist will subjugate and "tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months" (the last 3 ½ years).

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

The ministry of the two witnesses (11:3-4)

³ "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years], clothed in sackcloth."

⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- Why two witnesses? The O.T. required 2 or more witnesses to confirm testimony (Deut. 17:6; 19:15).
- These two prophets will be the culmination of God's testimony to the world: a message of judgment from God and His gracious offer of salvation to all who will repent and believe the truth about Jesus Christ.
- They prophesy for 1,260 days = 42 months = 3 ½ yrs.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- The sackcloth worn by the two witnesses indicate penitence, humility, and mourning.
- The witnesses are mourning because of the awful wickedness of mankind, God's judgment on them, and the desecration of the Temple.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- The reference to the "two olive trees and the two lampstands" is taken from Zechariah 4:3.
- The symbolism speaks of the Holy Spirit who will accomplish God's plans in spite of the opposition of the ungodly.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

Zechariah 4:3-7 "Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

⁴ So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What *are* these, my lord?"

⁵ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

⁶ So he answered and said to me: "This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

⁷ 'Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'"

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

The power of the two witnesses (11:5-6)

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

The martyrdom the two witnesses (11:7-10)

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.

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.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

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.

• **They are in the city of Jerusalem (so named "Sodom" and "Egypt" because of its sinfulness), when they are killed.**

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- The term "beast" is the first of 36 references to the Antichrist.
- That he ascends from the bottomless pit most likely means that his power is derived from Satan.
- Their ministry completed, God withdraws his supernatural protection from the two witnesses and allows them to be martyred.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- Refusing to bury one's enemies is a way to dishonor and show contempt for them.
- The entire world will watch and glorify the Antichrist as the bodies of the two witnesses lie dead.
- Wild with joy over their death, the ungodly will celebrate their deaths as a holiday, giving gifts to one another.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

The raising to life of the two witnesses (11:11-14)

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.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

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.

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.

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

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- The festivities of the ungodly are cut short as God brings the two witnesses back to life.
- The world watches as the two witnesses ascend to heaven in a cloud.
- Their ascension is accompanied by a shattering earthquake in Jerusalem which kills 7,000 and destroys 1/10th of the city.

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Revelation 11: the Two Witnesses

- So ends the activities of the 6th trumpet and the accompanying events which compose the 2nd woe.

Next time, the sounding of the 7th Trumpet

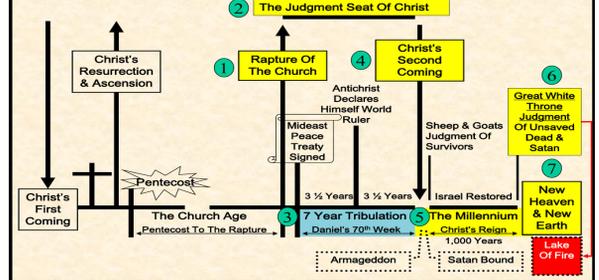
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Six Trumpets have been Blown



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Order Of Events In Bible Prophecy



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Outline of Trumpet Judgments

- 1st Trumpet:** 1/3 of earth and trees burned + all grass
 - 2nd Trumpet:** 1/3 of sea and sea creatures destroyed
 - 3rd Trumpet:** 1/3 of fresh water destroyed
 - 4th Trumpet:** 1/3 of sun, moon, stars are struck
 - 5th Trumpet:** demons released = torture of unbelievers
 - 6th Trumpet:** demon army = kills 1/3 of unbelievers
 - 7th Trumpet:** = Last 7 bowls!
- The first four trumpets affect man's habitat.
 - The last three affect man "directly."

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