

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE TEMPLE AND THE TWO WITNESSES
REVELATION 11:1-19**

Introduction:

God always has His witnesses! Even in this time of great wickedness and absolute rebellion against God, the LORD will have His witnesses!

The goal of this chapter and the entire book of Revelation, is to give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and to exalt the blessed Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is possibly one of the most difficult chapters in this book. It is simply so deep that we could literally spend hours explaining all the twist and turns that are available here. However, we will try to get the gist of the passage and glean some truth from it.

Please notice that the events described here probably overlap between the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation and the second 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation. The Anti-Christ has established world-wide peace, a world religion, a world economy and a seven year contract with the nation of Israel at the beginning of the Tribulation period. Let's notice the events of this awful period.

I. THE TEMPLE WORSHIP.

Men will build a temple to worship and sacrifice to a God who has already accomplished all things by the once for all, complete sacrifice of His Son.

There were 3 prior Temples in the Word of God:

1. Solomon's Temple - Destroyed 583 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar;
2. Zerubbabel's Temple - Defiled in 168 B.C. by Antiochus Epihanes; destroyed piecemeal thereafter and ultimately rebuilt by Herod the Great.
3. Herod's Temple - Destroyed 70 A.D. by Titus the Roman. **(Matthew 24:2)** It was predicted by Jesus to be destroyed.

In this Church age, the Temple is made up of believers.

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(Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

There are two temples in the future:

1. The Tribulation Temple – Found here. **Matthew 24:15**
Dome of the Rock (Muslim Mosque) occupies the temple site.
2. The Millennial Temple - **Ezekiel 40-44**

The Jews will rebuild their temple! I've read various sources that say they are already beginning the processes that will make this possible.

As we study this passage, we need to keep 2 things in mind:

1. **We are on Jewish ground;**
 2. **This discusses a future temple.**
- A. The City Mentioned - Holy City - Jerusalem. (Vs. 2b)**
Isn't it interesting that Jerusalem is considered Holy to Muslims, Christians, and Jews.
1. **The Jews Will Return To Their Homeland.**
Though many have ridiculed this over the years, yet it began being fulfilled in 1948 and continues even now!
 2. **The Temple Will Be Rebuilt.**
This has also been ridiculed because of the difficulties involved.
- B. The Chronology Mentioned - 3 ½ years. (Vs 2c)**
According to Daniel 9:27, concerning Antichrist, he will allow the temple to be rebuilt, but after 3 ½ years, he will set himself up as God to be worshiped. *2 Thessalonians 2:4–*
“Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

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C. The Chastisement Mentioned - (Vs. 1a-2a)

The request by God **to measure would indicate that what is measured falls short of what it should be!**

Also, **the rod is a type of judgment!**

This temple is under judgment from God! The reason for that is because it rejects the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross and substitutes the sacrifices of men!

A part is given to the Gentiles in this chastisement in that they will be the instruments of judgment. **(Luke 21:24)**

II. THE TWO WITNESSES. (Vs. 3-12)

Note that the Church is gone, but God still has His witnesses!
These witnesses are going to be heard, hated, and then martyred!

A. The Inauguration of Their Ministry - (Vs 3-6)

1. They are real people. (Vs 3)

2. They wear Sackcloth. (Vs 3)

Symbol of Mourning and Repentance!

3. They Prophecy (or Preach.) (Vs 3)

They probably preach Jesus as the fulfilment of the Holy Scripture!

4. They Are Called God's Olive Trees And Candlesticks (Vs 4; Cf. Zechariah 4:3, 11, 14)

Olive trees produce olive oil which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

The candlesticks or menorahs are light bearers.
(i.e. Spirit and Light)

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These emblems then are a picture of two witnesses anointed and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the message of light in the midst of a sin-darkened world.

5. They are Unstoppable. (Vs 5)

They have the power to devour enemies with fire, stop the rain, and send plagues, turn the water to blood.

6. Who are they? Well, there have been several guesses made by scholars!

a. Some Say Elijah Is One - Malachi 4:5,
Elijah never died. Elijah's power. A lone voice in his generation.

b. Some Say Moses Is One.

Moses is mentioned in Malachi 4:4 in conjunction with Elijah.

Moses is seen with Elijah in Matthew 17 on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The miracles and plagues are the same or similar as those performed by Moses.

Moses was also was a lone voice!

c. Some Say One Is Enoch.

He preached on the second coming according to Jude 14-15.

He never died.

He too was a lone voice for God.

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7. **So, who are they? We don't know and it doesn't really matter!** What matters is that God always has His man! (e.g. Noah in the days of the flood)

B. The Completion Of their Ministry. (Vs. 7-10)

1. They Were Killed By The Beast. (Vs. 7)

Nothing can happen to any child of God without the Lord's divine permission.

2. Their bodies lie unburied in the street for 3 1/2 days in the city of Vice, Vanity and Violence—Jerusalem! (Vs. 8)

Sodom is a symbol of the perversion in this city.
Egypt is a symbol of materialism and idolatry.

3. Their bodies will be seen across the world!(Vs. 9)

This was ridiculed until the advent of television and satellite feeds. (Now we have CNN, Fox News, etc.)

4. The earth dwellers will throw a party. (Vs.10)

It will be like Christmas and New Year's rolled into one!

Gifts will be exchanged with loved ones and friends in celebration of the death of these two witnesses.

Why? Because their preaching troubles the sinners!

The preaching of the Word brings torment and conviction. It bugs people!

People do not like to be faced with their sin! People hate it now, they will definitely hate it then!

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C. The Vindication Of Their Ministry. (Vs. 11-12)

1. These two witnesses are raised from the dead after 3 ½ days.

2. God reenacts the rapture just for them!
He shows a godless world what they missed out on!

God will vindicate His people - Death may come but so will the Resurrection!

3. The word translated "*beheld*" is a very strong word that means "*a transfixed stare.*"

The sight of this event will shock the entire world and instill "*great fear*" (vs 11) which means "*exceeding terror.*"

The world will realize that these men were men of God.

III. A TERRIBLE WOE. (Vs. 13-14)

A. A Great Earthquake Totally Destroys A Tenth Part Of Jerusalem.

B. 7,000 men die.

The expression here in the Greek denotes 7000 names of men, celebrated men, or men of name. It is the Old Testament equivalent of "*men of renown.*"

Seven is the number of perfection, God shows who is still in control.

C. The remnant are afraid and admit that this is the work of God.

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We are not told that these folks got saved!

- D. The second woe is past, but a worse one is coming and is coming quickly!**

IV. THE PRAISE OF SAINTS IN HEAVEN. (Vs. 11-19)

- A. The Anticipation Of Victory. (Vs 14-15)**

The seventh trumpet sounds, but the judgments connected with it are not described until Chapter 15.

- B. The Approval Of The King. (Vs 16-17)**

- C. The Animosity Of Mankind. (Vs 18)**

What causes rejoicing in Heaven ignites anger on the earth.

The word “*anger*” means “*a deep-seated, ongoing hostility.*”

Why are the nations mad and so bitter against God?
Mankind’s will is being interfered with and his gods of materialism and selfishness are being tampered with and destroyed.

Men without Christ are stubborn and don’t like anyone telling them what to do, especially God! (**Psalm 2:1-3**)

- D. The Ark In Heaven. (Vs 19)**

This chapter opens with a temple on the earth, but now we see the temple in heaven.

There is a heavenly Temple, after which the Tabernacle and Temple of the Jews were patterned.

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Hebrews 9:23-24—“It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:”

In the New Jerusalem there will be no temple because we will worship the Lord Jesus Christ directly in His presence.

Revelation 21:22—“And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.”

CONCLUSION

What a wonderful time this will be when we see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face!

Will you be there?

If not, ask Him right now to come into your heart, cleanse and forgive you of your sins, and accept His gift of eternal life by faith in Him, and Him alone!

Will your family be there? How about friends? Co-workers? Neighbors?

We need to be busy about getting the Gospel out to those who don’t know Jesus!