**Revelation Chapter 11—The Temple and The Two Witnesses**

**On the one hand John had been warned of three terrible "woes" to come on the earth, but had only witnessed two of them (8:13; 9:12). One remained, possibly the worst of all, and it was to come "soon" (11:14). Yet he had also been told that "when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets" (10:7). Now that he hears the trumpet, it sounds more like the fulfillment of a promise than an oracle of woe. *Loud voices in heaven* announce that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever (v. 15).**

**Clearly the announcement introduces a major division in the book. At once the twenty-four elders in heaven, who have not been heard from as a group since the opening throne-room scene in chapters 4-5, fall on their faces in worship, just as they did twice in that opening scene (4:10; 5:8), offering thanks to God for what he has done and what he is about to do (vv. 16-18). It appears that these verses form a kind of *inclusion* with chapters 4-5, framing the seven seals and seven trumpets and preparing the way for still more visions to follow.**

**Read Zechariah 4:1-14**

**What is the purpose of a witness? John 1:6-9, John the Baptist, a witness**

**John 5:31-34, John was a lamp**

1. **In Verse 1-2, discuss the measuring of the temple? Why is there such emphasis on the outer court? This is designated for Gentiles; a reed like a rod; the word “temple” is referring to the “temple proper.” Outer court for the Gentiles.**
2. **Read Psalm 64 and Jeremiah 10…..discuss “measure” and “judgment.” John is told to “cast out” the outer temple and not measure this.**
3. **What is the “holy city?” Jerusalem**
4. **How long is the time for the two witnesses to be empowered?**
5. **In Rev. 11:3, why is this particular time period designated here? Compare with Daniel 9:27, Rev. 12:6, 14 42 months, 1260 days**
6. **Re-visit the phrase, “Time, times, and the dividing of time” in Daniel 4:16, 7:25, 12:7, Rev. 12:14. 3 ½ years**
7. **How do we know that God’s temple is going to be rebuilt? Read Matthew 24:15, 2 Thess. 2:4, and Rev. 11:1, 2. Jesus, Paul, and John all make reference to the temple being rebuilt. Jesus details the desecration of the temple.**
8. **Who built the permanent temple? Solomon, David designated the monies for it. Up until that time, there was a tent-like structure. First, the tabernacle, Solomon’s Temple, and Zerubbabel’s Temple, very modest, Herod’s Temple, the “second temple” or a remodeling of Z. temple, 3rd Temple, Millennial Temple, Rev. 20, heaven**
9. **In Chapter 11, the temple in this section is the 3rd temple. Why is this building so important to the Jewish nation? In70 AD there was the fall of Jerusalem, in 132 AD; the Bar Kochba Revolt happened, and in 135 AD the Romans regain Jerusalem; the Romans plowed under the city of Jerusalem and built a city “Aeilia Capitolina over the ruins, and the constructed a Temple to Jupiter over the original site of the old Jewish Temple. An Equestrian Statue of Hadrian was placed over the holy of holies. 2nd century at temple to Jupiter,**
10. **The two witnesses are empowered in verses 2-18. Discuss.**
11. **Who are the two witnesses in Rev. 11:4?**
    1. **Zerubbabel and Joshua, the high priest**
       1. **Read Zechariah 4:2-14 (5th and 6th centuries B.C.)**
       2. **Verse 4, who are the “olive trees” and “Lampstands?” Read Zechariah 4:10-14. Zerubbabel and Joshua re-established Israel. Z. was leader, Joshua was the priest**
    2. **The Law and the Prophets (scripture)**
       1. **The O.T. scriptures were often referred to as “the Law and the Prophets”—Matthew 5:17, John 10:34, Romans 3:31**
    3. **Peter and Paul**
       1. **Preterist suggest this option.**
    4. **Israel and the Church**
       1. **Some believe this represents all Christians, with a mission to witness to the nations; Isaiah 42:6-7, 49:6, Acts 1:8)**
    5. **Enoch and Elijah**
       1. **Neither experienced death—Genesis 5:24, 2 Kings 2:11**
       2. **HEBREWS 9:27—APPOINTED ONCE TO DIE**
    6. **Moses and Elijah**
       1. **Elijah—fire—2 Kings 1:9-12 matches Rev. 11:6**
       2. **Moses—plagues—Exodus 7-12**
          1. **In Jude 1:9---argument between Michael and Satan over Moses’ body**
       3. **Mt. of Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36**
       4. **MALACHI SPEAKS OF ELIJAH RETURNING—Malachi 4:4-5, and also Matthew 17:10**
       5. **Jesus identified John the Baptist as Elijah—MATTHEW 11:14, 17:11**
          1. **John 1:20-21, discuss John the Baptist’s powers. The Jews thought he might be the Messiah (Mal. 3:1-3, 5-6);or Elijah (Mal. 45-6), or Moses (Deut. 18:15-29) Malachi points out that Elijah would come and the Messiah will come**
    7. **John and Ezekiel**
       1. **John—discuss why John heard the 7 thunders, Rev.10:4**
       2. **Discuss the commission of John in Rev.10:11. How could he prophesy again since this is the last document of the canonical Bible? Compare with Ezekiel’s commission in Ezekiel 3:10.**
       3. **Read Ezekiel 2-3:11. Compare with John’s experience in Revelation 10.**
       4. **God sealed his 144,000 witness in Revelation 7. Read Ezekiel 3:8, and note the “forehead” illusion. Could this be God’s seal of protection for the witnesses?**
       5. **Verse 9 uses the phrase, “people and kindred and tongues and nations.” Parallel this with the commission given to John in Rev. 10:11. Does this give evidence that John is one of the witnesses?**
12. **How many days are “the witnesses” empowered? Verse 3.**
13. **Discuss the word “prophesy.”**
14. **Why the word “my?” Compare with the “Mighty Angel” in Chapter 10.**
15. **Why “two” witnesses? Read Deut. 17:6, Matthew 18:15, and Hebrews 10:28.**
16. **Why are they called witnesses? The scripture always requires a presence of two. Bible Verse “out of the mouth of two witnesses” for a truth to be established.** The Jewish wedding had two witnesses to the “wedding ceremony” Witnesses—the Father of the Groom calls two witnesses to the wedding…..appointed by the Father of the Groom, appointed and ordained by the Father as witness to the wedding of the Son. Rev.11:4, the two prophets stand before God to bear witness to the wedding of the bride and groom. Every legal procedure in Jewish life is confirmed by at least two "kosher" witnesses. These witnesses can under no circumstances be of the immediate family or even distant relatives to the participating parties. All Jewish documents must bear the signatures of two kosher witnesses. The consecration of a woman to man, the Torah advises us, is through "the giving of a valuable - money or ring - (to the woman), the presentation of a document, or through intimate living together." Nowadays, our sages tell us, we perform all three acts as a means of consecrating a woman.

For this reason, the *Chuppah* ceremony entails all three aspects: The giving of a ring by the *Choson* to the *Kallah* (the exchange of value); The handing over of the *Ketubah* (marriage contract) to the bride; And after the *Chuppah*, the bride and groom adjourn to a private room (symbolic of intimacy) where they break their fast. It takes two witnesses (to the exclusion of others) to attest that all three aspects of marriage have taken place in accordance with the laws of "Moses and Israel." Two witnesses are called upon to stand under the *Chuppah* and witness these procedures.

1. **Where else do we see “two” prominent people in the scripture? Read Luke 24:4, 7 about the resurrection. Read Acts 1:9-11 about the ascension. Who were the two men on the Mount of Transfiguration? Read Matthew 17:1-4. Could these be the two witnesses? Moses and Elijah Also read Luke 9:32, 24:4-, I Peter 1:10-12, 2 Peter 1:6-28. Peter alludes to Jesus’ Second coming.**
   1. **Who are the two men at the tomb? Read Luke 24:1-5.**
   2. **Did Joshua send in two spies/witnesses before his conquest? Read Joshua 2:1.**
   3. **How many angels were at the ascension of Jesus? Read Acts 1:10-11. Joshua sent in two spies/witnesses, two men, Elijah and Moses, at transfiguration, and ascension—two men, not angels. TWO MEN, not angels.**
2. **What power is given to these two witnesses? Power of repentance……THE TWO WITNESSES OF MINE…. That these are witnesses are ones we know about.**
   1. **The Bible speaks of an occasion when JOHN WANTS TO CALL DOWN FIRE. Read Luke 9:54, and compare to verses Rev. 11:5-6; compare to Zapping fire, John and James wanted to do that**
3. **What powers do the two witnesses have?**
4. **In verse 5-6, discuss the powers that are similar to the Egyptian plagues. Four specific powers: 1. Call down fire from heaven, 2. Shut heaven up with no rain, 3. Turn water into blood, 4. Smite earth with plagues**
5. **Read Malachi 4:5-6. Does this imply that Elijah will come back as one of the witnesses? Also read James 5:17.**
6. **Luke 1:17 implies that John the Baptist was a type of Elijah? How does this ‘factor in’ to the two witness scenario?**
7. **In Hebrews 9:26a-28, discuss the idea of “once appointed to die.” Some argue that one of the witnesses is Enoch because of the Heb. 9:27 since Enoch did not die.…..once to die, However Lazarus, Jairus’ daughter, and the widow’s son were all raised from the dead. So that theory does not apply. Enoch is not Jewish.**
8. **“**but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. [**27**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-27.htm)And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: [**28**](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/9-28.htm)So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”
9. **There are two unfinished ministries in the Old Testament. Discuss Moses in Numbers 20:12 and Deut. 3:26-29 and Elijah, I Kings 17:1, 19:13-16, 2 Kings 2:2:11.**
10. **What were Elijah’s unique powers? Fire from heaven, I Kings 18:37, 2 Kings 1:10-12, Jer. 514. Shut heaven 3 1/2 years, Luke 4:25, James 5:17-18**
11. **What were Moses’ unique powers? Water into blood, Ex. 7:19-20, plagues, Ex. 8-12**
12. **In verse 7, this is the first mention of “the beast.” Does he kill the witnesses? Is their ministry finished? The picture here is that they are protected until their ministry is finished, just like us today. Read Matthew 16, “the gates of hell shall not prevail.”**
13. **Does the antichrist kill them?**
14. **Why is Jerusalem called “Sodom and Egypt?” He is speaking in idioms….sin and idolatry, Isaiah 1:9-10, 3:8-9. Jer. 23:14, Det. 32:30-33, Ez.23:3-4, 8, and 10.**
15. **Where was Jesus crucified?**
16. **Matthew 16:17-19 talks about the church prevailing. How does this apply to the scene in Revelation 11?**
17. **Who will kill the two witnesses? How long will their dead bodies lie in the street? Is this a reference by John to modern, satellite technology?**
18. **Verse 11 uses the term “3 ½” days. Parallel that number to the “3 ½ years” of the great tribulation. What is the significance of that number?**
19. **The” earth dwellers” in verses 9-10 rejoice and give gifts….why? This is the only rejoicing on the earth during the Trib. There are two kinds of people that live upon the earth.**
20. **Who are “they that dwell upon the earth?”**
21. **Explain the scenario about when the two witnesses come back to life in verse 10-12. Who watched? How is that possible?**
22. **In Verse 15, the seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet once the Lord’s two witnesses have ascended into heaven on a cloud. Discuss the purpose of the ascension on a cloud? For the wedding of the bride and groom to be lawful, there must be two witnesses…..so, these two will testify of the wedding of the groom. After the sounding of the seventh trumpet, we see Rev. 12…..the woman and the child.**
23. **Explain the earthquake in verse 13-14. How much of the city fell at this time? Verse 14 explains that trumpet 7 has not happened.**
24. **Verses 13-14 speak of the great earthquake and the number of those who perished. Why is 7000 significant? Where else in the Bible might we see this same reference? Refer to I Kings 19:18. Elijah was pouting, and God told him that there were 7000 who had not bent the knee. The 1/10 is always the Lord, as the tithe.**
25. **Verse 15 talks about God’s reign. Explain.**
26. **What is the seventh trumpet? Worship in heaven and loud voices…..God will now reign. The “Reign of God”……thou hast begun to reign…finally. God takes back all the power and all the sovereignty of the earth.**
27. **Read Verse 18…..a layout of the rest. Read Psalm 2 and compare. This is the wrap-up phrase giving you a sense of the things that are to come. Setting up the ending.**
28. **Explain the scene in heaven in verse 19. Where is the Ark of the Covenant?**
29. **What are the “Seven Great Openings” in Revelation? Hepatic structure**
    1. **A door opened in heaven….4:1**
    2. **The seals are opened…..6:1-8:1**
    3. **The Abyss opened…..9:2**
    4. **Temple of God opened….11:19**
    5. **Tabernacle of testimony opened…15:5**
    6. **Heaven is opened….19:11**
    7. **Books of Judgment opened…20:17**
30. **Read Rev. 11:13. This reference is the only time the “earth dwellers” give any sign of repentance in the Book of Revelation. Discuss why?**
31. **Describe the Seventh Trumpet in Revelation 11:15.**
32. **Why are the nations angry in Verse 17? Will this lead to the final battle?**
33. **What is the importance of the Ark of the Covenant in Revelation 11:19?**
34. **Sum up Chapter 11 in your own words.**

**And, here’s the promise:**

**2 Peter 1:1b-4, NKJV, “To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, *having escaped the corruption* *that is* in the world through lust.”**