

Revelation 11:1-14

Scene: On the earth – last days, 7 years of Tribulation (first 3.5 yrs) -Temple/2 div. witnesses

***Divine Judgment: 3 Woes: 1st Woe -demon locusts/sting & Demon army =2 Billion Killed**

Ch. 11: =2nd Woe

Read Revelation 11:1-14

Then there was given to me a measuring rod like a staff [reed]; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God [sanctuary] and the altar, and those who worship in it.² Leave out the courtyard which is outside the temple and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations; and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months [3.5 yrs]. ***Not in heaven...**

-The fact that there is a temple mentioned in the end-times is significant ?(b/c No temple 70AD)

***Figurative or literal?** If literal, where is the NEW Temple? When will built? Temple Mount in Jerusalem -Al Aqsa mosque (715AD) and Dome of the Rock (690AD) =1300years =WAR/Islam v.

Temple: A sacred place where the presence of God dwelt (where heaven/earth meet); House of God; = worship; sacrifices -Levites (priests/singers/scribes) = later the Sanhedrin: (Pharisees (law) & Sadducees (ruling class) =center of the world for all Jewish people bc God’s presence there

***All the Temples: Eden, (Tabernacle);** 1. Solomon’s Temple, 2. Rebuilt Temple (Zerubbabel’s/Ezra), 3. Herod’s Temple, 4.[our bodies as Believers ‘spiritual Temple’], 5. the End-times Temple, 6. the Millennial Temple, 7. Heavenly Temple (eternal)/no building =**God IS...**

-So HOW will the Jews in Israel be able to rebuild a Temple on the current *Muslim* Temple mount =**Antichrist** (figure in the end-times; world leader; politician; Prince/king/president –(European)

-Daniel 9:27 “**And the ruler/King will enter into a binding and irrevocable covenant with the many [Jews] for one week (seven years), but in the middle of the week [3.5yrs] he will stop the sacrifice and grain offering [for the remaining 3.5 years]; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until the complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who causes the horror.**” Antichrist makes a treaty (Jews/Islam)=seven years/**7 yr Tribulation**
Temple rebuilt; 3.5yrs into the treaty Antichrist breaks the treaty; declares himself God; persecutes Jews worldwide. And is killed at Jesus’ 2nd Coming (at the end of 7 years).

-Matthew 24:15 “**So when you see the ^labomination of desolation [the appalling sacrilege that astonishes and makes desolate], spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the Holy Place (let the ^lreader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains [for refuge].”**

-2 Thes. 2:3-4 “**No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the ^lapostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above ^levery so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God”** Antichrist wants world to worship Him; Jews refu

So How can a Temple be built in our generation -on the current Temple Mount in Jerusalem

***[covenant btwn Israel and Islam (Saudi?); world peace pact; *Iran out of the way*; 3rd Temple Inst.**

**** (Literal interpr): Rev. 11=A New Temple built in last days. Why? What is God ushering in?**

-Vs. 2: and they [Gentiles] will trample the holy city for forty-two months =Last [3.5 yrs]

-Lk 21:24 “Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled” (Muslims?)⁵ world empires: **Assyrian; Babylonian; Persian; Greek; Roman; Islam**

***=the time of the Gentiles 70AD to present...BUT, millennial Kingdom-**Jewish** after Messiah return**

-This would be beginning of God is restoring His Covenant Promises to Israel. Fulfilling OT proph
**The Temple was for Jewish worship. This is a means by which God brings Jews back into fold
=When Temple is built, it's focus is on Jewish worship and preparation for the Messiah to return
-How will the Jews hear/receive the gospel of Jesus as Messiah?? God never leaves Him w/o witne

Vs. 3 And I will grant *authority* to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days [3.5yrs], *clothed in sackcloth.*" 2 Prophets: ***WHO?** (Elijah/Moses? =Prophet & Law); these two performed great/miraculous signs to declare God's sovereignty, protect truth, rescue from Egypt
-Mt. 17:3 "And Jesus was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.³ And behold, **Moses** and **Elijah** appeared to them, talking with Him." -Both appeared from heaven w/Jesus; were identified. & **Elijah never died**; **God buried Mos**

Vs. 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ***What is the biblical symbolism of their Office?**

-Zech. 4 describes new Temple (Lampstands & two Olive trees to produce oil for lampstands)
-Zech. 4:12-14 "And I responded the second time and said to him, "What are the two olive [□]branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden *oil* from themselves?"¹³ So he answered me, saying, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."¹⁴ Then he said, "**These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.**" These two men (prophets, preachers) represent (before the Lord's Temple) the constant flow of God's Spirit (Olive oil for the Lamps in the Temple) to give light to the Nations (**truth, judgment, & hope**) to JEWS & world =this is God's eternal plan to restore the Jewish nation as the center of the world (Millennial Kingdom) *where Messiah Reigns!*

Summary:

-They are *Jewish* Prophets (like O.T. days). They focus their message to Jewish people & world
-They are wearing sackcloth: a state of mourning; grieving; repentance -for the sinful nation worl
-They are real men, but they are sealed, untouchable, unkillable for 3.5yrs

*What do they do?

- They preach the gospel. Good news of salvation found only in Christ by faith alone
- They preach judgment: They give warning for unrepentant sinners & reveal what is truly hap
- They execute judgment: They call down horrific judgments as OT prophets did in ancient days

Vs 5: And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. The world is watching. The world is hearing their preaching. The world hates what they preach. The world comes after them
-They cannot be killed; but they kill all who try and harm them. In front of the whole world.

⁶These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; (*Elijah shut up the sky no rain 1 Kings 17; & killed false prophets of Baal 1 K. 18*)
-and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, Ex. 7:14 Power=10 plagues Egypt
-and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire. *Moses*(Blood; frogs; Gnats/lice; Flies; Livestock diseased; Boils/sores; Hail; Locusts; darkness; death of 1st born) Ex. 9-10
*So the prophets preach; warn; & declare they will cause a plague...then do it! =Proof that they are true prophets of God =true **messangers** of God; proof that their **message** it true =signs/Gospel! **Act**

Vs.7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. *The Beast =**Antichrist**; (**Dragon/satan**) & **false Prophet** =**The Unholy Trinity**. The Antichrist makes a deal w/ Israel. 3.5 yrs =Temple worship; breaks the deal/covenant at halfway point; declares himself to be God in temple=**AbomDesolation**

-And *then* is given power to kill the 2 divine witnesses =ushers in the GREAT TRIBULATION 3.5y

Vs. 8: And their dead bodies *will lie* on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. =Jerusalem

Vs.9: Those from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. =humiliation; revenge for the pain these two prophets inflicted on the earth.

Vs.10: And those who live on the earth *will* rejoice over them & celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth. **i.e.Christmas**

Vs.11: And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. After their death, and unburial, the world will watch as they are resurrected. This caused true fear in the hearts of the world; of the persecutors; of the unrepentant. -It was a sign of divine judgment & power.

***God never leaves Himself without a witness. 3.5 years these 2 witnesses testified Gospel!**

¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. -World is watching in unbelief

¹³ And at that time there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, =very specific number of dead. Divine judgment. and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. =**many are saved** bc of this episode

Reminder:

-God works pain and trials for our ultimate good -Ro. 8:28

-God works suffering & testing in us for others' good as they watch us/our lives in trials=**witness**

-God works judgment and devastation for peoples' salvation -the purpose of judgment is SALV.

-If they still unrepentant = God's wrath is means to kill them & prepare them for Last Jgmt =HELL

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

1. God Sovereignly Protects His True People

John is instructed to measure the temple, altar, and worshipers (Rev. 11:1). In Scripture, measuring often symbolizes **ownership, protection, and preservation** (see also Book of Ezekiel 40–42 and Book of Zechariah 2).

The outer court is given to the nations, but the worshipers are measured—symbolizing that **God knows and secures His true people even during tribulation.**

Application:

God's people may experience suffering, persecution, and pressure from the world, but their spiritual security is never in question. The church is always measured by God even when surrounded by hostile powers.

Pastoral takeaway: The church may look vulnerable in the world's eyes, but heaven knows exactly who belongs to Christ.

2. The Church's Primary Calling Is Faithful Witness

The two witnesses represent prophetic testimony empowered by God. Their ministry echoes prophets like: Moses (plagues) Elijah (shutting the sky)

This imagery portrays the church's role as **a prophetic witness to the world.**

Application:

The church is not primarily called to political dominance, cultural popularity, or social acceptance. The church is called to **bold proclamation of God's truth**, even in hostile environments.

Pastoral takeaway: Faithfulness matters more than acceptance.

3. The World Will Often Reject and Celebrate the Silencing of Truth

When the witnesses are killed, the world rejoices and celebrates their death (Rev. 11:10). The world treats God's prophets as enemies.

Jesus warned of this same dynamic in the teachings recorded in the Gospel of John when He said the world hates the light because it exposes darkness (John 3:19-20).

Application:

Believers should not be surprised when biblical truth is mocked, rejected, or celebrated when it is silenced.

Pastoral takeaway: Faithful Christians should expect resistance, not applause.

4. Apparent Defeat Is Never the Final Word for God's People

The witnesses lie dead for three and a half days, but then **God breathes life into them** and they rise (Rev. 11:11). This moment echoes the resurrection power seen throughout Scripture.

Their resurrection reminds us that **God reverses what appears to be total defeat.**

Application:

The kingdom of God often looks weak before it looks victorious. But resurrection always follows faithful suffering.

Pastoral takeaway: The cross always precedes the crown.

5. God Ultimately Vindicates His Servants Publicly

The witnesses are resurrected and **called up to heaven in the sight of their enemies** (Rev. 11:12). The same world that mocked them now witnesses their vindication.

This anticipates the final vindication of believers when Christ returns, described later in the Book of Revelation.

Application:

God will one day publicly vindicate His people. Every sacrifice, every act of faithfulness, every moment of suffering will be acknowledged before the world.

Pastoral takeaway: Faithfulness now leads to vindication later.

Seven Community Group Discussion Questions

Observation

1. What stands out most to you about the description of the two witnesses and their ministry in Revelation 11:1-14?

Interpretation

2. Why do you think God allowed the witnesses to be killed before raising them again? What might this teach about the nature of Christian ministry?
3. What do you think the celebration of the witnesses' death reveals about the spiritual condition of the world?

Personal Application

4. In what ways might Christians today experience opposition similar to the witnesses in this passage?
5. How does the resurrection of the witnesses encourage believers who feel discouraged or marginalized in their faith?
6. What does faithful witness look like in our current culture and community?

Gospel Reflection

7. How does this passage ultimately point us to the victory of Jesus and the hope of final resurrection for believers?