

## Chapter 11:

John is given a measuring stick and was told, by Jesus, to go and measure the temple of God and the altar. John is instructed not to measure the outer court as it has been given to the gentiles. Part of the agreement the Anti-Christ makes with the Jewish nation will include Israel being allowed to restore the temple, but the area the court occupies will be controlled by gentiles. 42 months is 3.5 years or half of the tribulation. This is also part of Daniel's prophecy.

Jesus states that he will appoint His 2 witnesses, and they will prophesize for 1,260 days. That is the same duration as 42 months or 3.5 years. The first half of the tribulation, these 2 witnesses will be in the outer court of the Temple of God, proclaiming the Gospel, and prophesizing about the end times. The significance in being clothed in sackcloth is that they are showing humility in their grief, suffering, and repentance. Note this repentance is for all of man-kind and the events that will be unfolding during the time of their witnessing.

There is a lot of speculation about who these 2 witnesses are. Elijah is usually believed to be 1 of the witnesses due to the nature of the miracles being performed. Additionally, Elijah never died while on earth the first time. He was taken to heaven on a chariot of fire. Hebrews 9:27 states "that all men are appointed to die once..." The same can be said for Enoch who was also taken to heaven without having first died. It could be that God intended to save their physical deaths for a later time. Moses has also been considered one of the possibilities to serve as 1 of the 2 witnesses; however, he did die on earth. There are some people that believe it will be Moses and Elijah that return together. This is based on the prophecy of Elijah's coming from Malachi 4:5 and God's promise to raise up a prophet like Moses from Deuteronomy 18:15 & 18, which many people believe necessitates Moses' return himself. There are others that believe the 2 witnesses will be appointed by God from these times.

"They are the "two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and they stand before the Lord of the earth. The "olive trees" reference speaks to being filled with the Holy Spirit. The "lampstands" signifies they are lights in a very dark world. The Lord of the earth is referring to the Anti-Christ. These witnesses will have the ability to work miracles as Moses did in the Old Testament. They will have the ability to defend themselves against anyone who wishes them harm. The text states that "...fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies." This may be figurative of them speaking the word of God and consuming their enemies, or it could be literal fire. These witnesses will be able to work any miracles they wish at any time.

When their testimony is complete, at the midway point of the tribulation, the beast coming out of the Abyss will attack, overpower, and kill them. This will likely be Satan or perhaps "the destroyer" referenced in chapter 9. The world will celebrate the demise of the 2 witnesses and their bodies will lay in the "public square of the great city, where also their Lord was crucified." This is referring to Jerusalem. They will physically be dead for 3.5 days and people will be looking on them.

After 3.5 days, "the breath of life from God", is going to enter their bodies. They will be resurrected and will stand up full of life. Their enemies will be looking on and anyone who witnesses this will be

in fear. God will then instruct the 2 witnesses to come to heaven. There is also reference to them going to heaven “in a cloud”. “In a cloud” is often used in the Bible and I believe it is significant. I’m not certain there is any true understanding of this that isn’t speculation of some type. This cloud is often believed to be other righteous believers. Reference Hebrews 11 and 12.

The world will see the 2 witnesses going to heaven. At the time of the witnesses going to heaven there will be a severe earthquake that will demolish 1/10<sup>th</sup> of Jerusalem. 7,000 people will be killed. The survivors will be terrified and give glory to God. Note it doesn’t say they love God or repent of their sins, it just states that they acknowledge that God exists and give Him the credit for this. This is one reason I think it is important to note that people can believe in God, and in Jesus, but loving Them and living for Them is something altogether different. At this point it is noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> woe has passed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> woe has yet to happen.

When the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, loud voices in heaven state: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.” The 24 elders fell on their faces and worshipped God. Verses 17-18 are very revealing and I believe are often highly overlooked. Many people just look at these verses like “there go the 24 elders worshipping again”. The truth that is shared in these verses may be some of the key truths related to the resurrection and rapture of the saints. I am going to cover this in more detail in the section specifically on resurrection and rapture events.

Here are a few notes for you to meditate on: (from the NIV)

- 16: “And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,” 17: saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 18: The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small — and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”
- “...have begun to reign.” This states this is the beginning of the reign. You can’t reign over people that aren’t there yet....so is this when the subjects appear?
- “...time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets...”
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:16; ...”the dead in Christ shall rise first...”
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:52; “in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed.”
- “..for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small...”
  - o The rewarding of believers is referenced here...both great and small.
  - o These are people who revere Jesus.

Verse 19 speaks of God’s temple in heaven now being opened. The ark of the covenant is seen. The flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, earthquake and hailstorm symbolize judgment and the anger of God.