

Revelation 11

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Revelation 11

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Revelation Chapter 11

Revelation 11 is a symbolic and prophetic passage that is broadly divided into two main sections: the measurement of the temple and the two witnesses (vv.1-13) and the seventh angel's trumpet and the coming of the kingdom of God (vv.14-19). The whole chapter is full of esoteric symbols and metaphors, and is one of the more difficult parts of the book to understand.

Part 1: The Activity and Death of the Two Witnesses (vv.1-13)

Measuring the temple (v.1)

God instructed John to measure the temple with reeds, symbolizing that God would be set apart and protect His people. The temple symbolizes the Church, the believer who holds the faith in the midst of great tribulation. The "worshippers in the temple" represent God-fearing people and represent born-again believers, while the incense altar symbolizes the believer's close connection with God through prayer.

The outer court is trampled on (v.2)

The outer court symbolizes the part that does not belong to God and will be persecuted by the Gentiles. Forty-two months (three and a half years) represent an intensification of suffering in the last days, a time when the power of the "Antichrist" is raging. Gentiles are those who rebel against God and persecute believers who follow Satan's forces.

The prophecy of the two witnesses and the symbol of sackcloth (vv.3–4)

These two witnesses are seen as preaching a message of repentance, and are often thought of as Moses and Elijah because they were present at the same time when Jesus was transfigured. They were dressed in sackcloth, symbolizing repentance and mourning, and spent the first three and a half years in the ministry. The two olive trees, the two lampstands, Zerubbabel and Joshua standing beside "the Lord of the whole world," sent out to preach to the world.

Heavenly authority (vv.5–6)

The two witnesses, who had divinely privileged powers to perform miracles, such as closing the gates of heaven to prevent rain or turning water into blood, were designed to induce repentance and warn people to turn away from worldly pleasures.

Martyrdom and temporary victory for the enemy (vv.7–9)

When they complete their witnessing mission, the beast from the bottomless pit (symbolizing Satan's power) will engage them and eventually overcome and kill them. However, this victory was short-lived, as the death of Jesus was in God's plan, and the martyrdom of the two witnesses symbolized God's final judgment against the enemies of the persecuting church in the world.

Verse 7 "And when they have made an end of their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and overcome them, and shall slay them." As in Jesus' lifetime, God's predetermined plan for Jesus allowed the victory of the enemy for a while. The result of this battle seems to be the "victory" of the enemy, but in fact it is the martyr who completes his mission and leaves.

Verse 8: 'Great city' means the city of Jerusalem; "On the street" means on a street where there are many people; The corpses are displayed on the streets, for the public. "Sodom" means a great sin; "Egypt" means worldly pleasures and temptations.

Verse 9 : On behalf of all mankind and the whole world: It will be seen that representatives of all the different classes of the world come to the Holy City to celebrate and observe the 'three and a half days'; Do not leave the body in the grave: This shows that Satan's persecution is too great, the church's evangelistic and prophetic work will be interrupted, and the name of God will be disgraced in all ways.

Verse 10 : Describes the unbelievers rejoicing at the killing of two Witness martyrs. The whole world rejoiced in the death of these two prophets because they rebuked them for their sins, told them to repent, and said that judgment was coming.

Resurrection and ascension (vv.11–12)

After three and a half days, the Spirit of God resurrected them, symbolizing the resurrection and victory of believers. Their ascension foreshadowed the rapture of believers in the last days, and all faithful martyrs would be with the Lord.

Earthquake and God's judgment (v.13)

At that time the earth was greatly shaken": 'At that time' refers to the time when the two Witnesses ascended into heaven in the clouds; "The earth shook the earth" signified the wrath of God, and the city of Jerusalem "fell by a tenth of it"; "Seven thousand died" implies that only the number of the famous dead may have been counted, and it is possible that many dignitaries and gentry from various countries came to Jerusalem to celebrate the murder of the two Witnesses.

Part 2: The seventh angel blows the trumpet (vv.14-19)

Angels blowing trumpets and the coming of God's kingdom (vv.14–15)

The seventh angel sounded the trumpet, announcing that the final stage of the eschatological judgment was near. The loud voice of heaven declares that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of God and that Christ will reign forever. "The second plague is gone, and the third is coming." It means that the calamity brought about by the trumpet of the seventh angel is coming; This plague is the last tribulation of the great tribulation, and therefore includes all the calamities from verse 15 to the realization of the millennial kingdom, and thus the plague of the seven bowls.

God's judgment and the fulfillment of promises (vv.16–19)

Twenty-four elders fell down in worship, praising the kingdom of God that had come. The Ark of God appears in heaven, symbolizing His faithfulness and presence, and that God is about to fulfill His promise to judge unbelievers and destroy those who corrupt the world.

Verse 18 - The dead are unbelievers who fall into the temptation of Satan and worship the beast; The One Who Corrupts the World: Refers to Satan and the beast and the false prophets who deceive the world. Verse 19: The Ark of the Covenant, which symbolizes the presence and testimony of God; Demonstrate that He is a faithful and covenant-keeping God who is about to fulfill His covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was used to respond to the praise of the 24 elders to fulfill His promises and destroy His enemies.

Let's pray:

Thank you, dear Heavenly Father, for revealing our plans for the end times through the book of Revelation. Strengthen our faith and help us to stand firm in the midst of persecution and affliction as faithful witnesses. May your kingdom come soon, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

In the holy name of Jesus Christ. amen

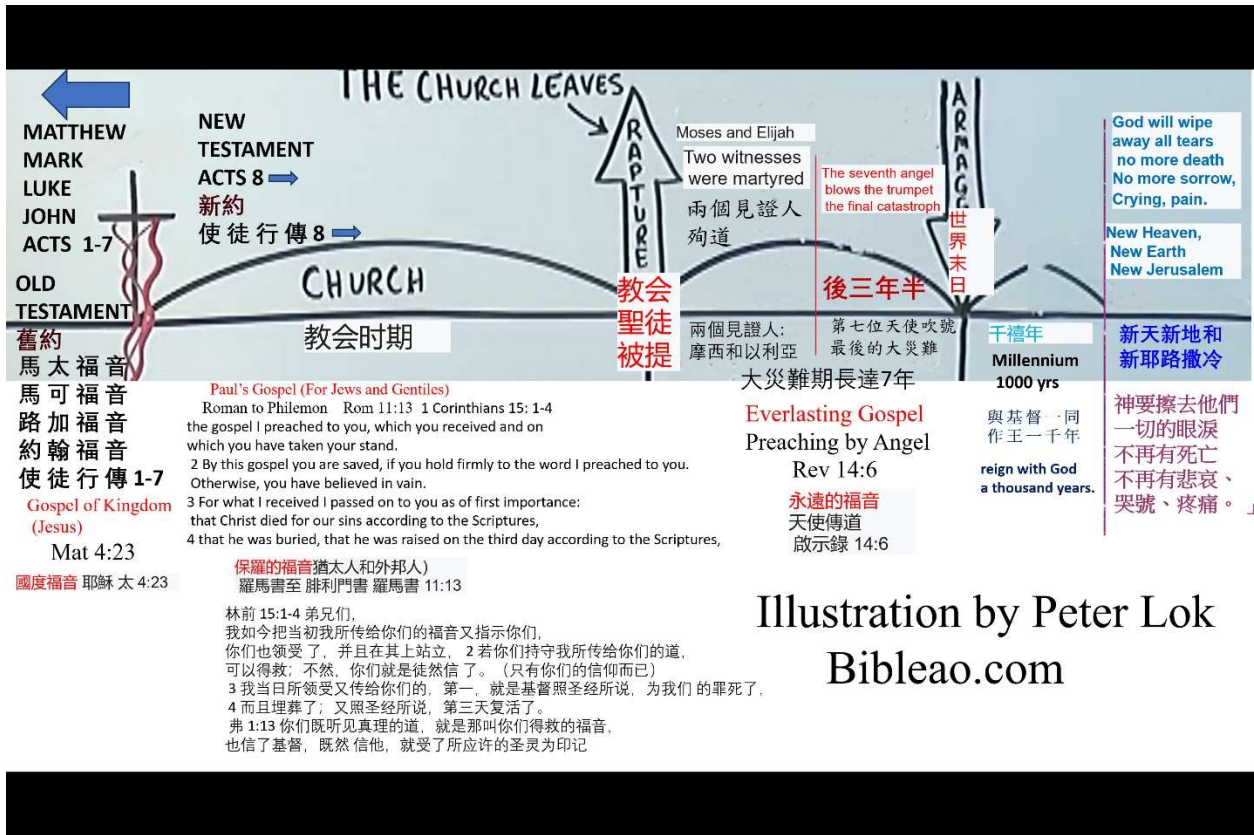


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Revelation 11

King James Version

11 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

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

5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Full Description of Revelation 11:

Revelation 11 is a chapter that focuses on two key visions: the measuring of the temple and the appearance of the two witnesses. These are symbolic elements within the larger prophetic

context of the Book of Revelation, which describes future events leading to the final triumph of God over evil.

1. Measuring the Temple (Verses 1-2):

The chapter opens with John being given a measuring rod and told to measure the temple of God, the altar, and the worshippers. However, he is instructed not to measure the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles, who will trample on the holy city for 42 months (which is 3.5 years).

This imagery likely refers to a period of oppression or persecution where God's faithful people (the "worshippers" within the temple) are protected or measured, but the city itself is subjected to attack or desecration.

2. The Two Witnesses (Verses 3-14):

The central portion of Revelation 11 introduces two witnesses who are given power to prophesy for 1,260 days (again, 3.5 years). These witnesses are described in symbolic language as two olive trees and two lampstands (echoing Zechariah 4), indicating that they represent those who stand before God, bearing His light and message.

The two witnesses have remarkable powers:

They can shut up the sky so that it does not rain during the time of their prophecy.

They can turn water into blood and strike the earth with plagues.

These powers are reminiscent of the Old Testament prophets Elijah and Moses, who brought similar judgments on those who opposed God.

After their period of prophesying, the beast from the abyss attacks and kills them. Their bodies lie unburied in the street of the great city, symbolically called Sodom and Egypt (places associated with sin and rebellion against God), where the Lord was crucified (indicating Jerusalem).

For three and a half days, people from all nations will celebrate the death of the witnesses, but after that time, God will raise them from the dead and take them up to heaven in a cloud. This is

followed by a great earthquake, destroying a tenth of the city and killing 7,000 people. Those who survive give glory to God.

3. The Seventh Trumpet (Verses 15-19):

After the two witnesses ascend to heaven, the seventh trumpet sounds, heralding the final stage of God's kingdom. The voices in heaven declare, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah, and He will reign forever and ever."

At this point, the twenty-four elders worship God, praising Him for taking His power and beginning to reign. The nations are judged, and the time has come for rewarding God's servants, prophets, saints, and all who fear His name.

The chapter ends with a vision of God's temple in heaven being opened, revealing the Ark of the Covenant and accompanied by flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

Important Verses in Revelation 11:

Revelation 11:1-2:

"I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.'"

This sets the stage for the time of Gentile domination and foreshadows persecution.

Revelation 11:3:

"And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

This introduces the two witnesses, key figures in the chapter who represent the prophetic voice of God during times of tribulation.

Revelation 11:5-6:

"If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want."

These verses describe the supernatural power granted to the two witnesses.

Revelation 11:7:

"Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them."

This marks the point of their martyrdom, signaling the apparent victory of evil forces temporarily.

Revelation 11:11-12:

"But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on."

This dramatic resurrection of the two witnesses echoes the resurrection of Christ, showing God's ultimate power over death.

Revelation 11:15:

"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: '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 seventh trumpet is significant as it marks the announcement of the final establishment of God's reign.

Revelation 11:19:

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the Ark of his Covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm."

This final verse emphasizes the power and majesty of God, with the opening of the heavenly temple marking a significant moment of revelation and judgment.

Summary:

Revelation 11 is a chapter rich with prophetic symbolism, centered around the protection and judgment of God's people, as well as the ultimate victory of God's kingdom. The two witnesses symbolize God's prophetic voice during a period of persecution, their resurrection signifies God's triumph over death, and the sounding of the seventh trumpet announces the beginning of God's eternal reign.