

Revelation 11

Sunday, 6-14-20

Recap

Daniel 9

Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

- Sixty-nine weeks (483 years) were completed at Christ's first coming.
- The final week (7 years) will be completed in the Tribulation Period.
- This final 7-year period completes the prophesy of Daniel 9 and finishes all the work detailed there.
- To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.
- Scroll in the Father's hand
- Written within and on the back side
- Seven Seals
- ONLY the Lamb worthy to take the Scroll, or even to look at it.
- Within the seven seals are the Seven Trumpets and Seven Bowels.
- Each section has 6 events, then an intermission or parenthetical break, then the seventh event.
- Seal Intermission - sealing of the 144,000 of the 12 Tribes of the Children of Israel

Trumpet Intermission begins in Rev 10:1 and continues through Rev 15:1 when the angels with the last plagues (Seven Bowels) are set to release.

This intermission provides many details which cover things from the beginning of the Week to the end of the Week. Do not get lost in the timing. Remember that these are details meant to clarify the big picture of the book.

This chapter begins on earth but ends in heaven.

Revelation 11

Rev 11:1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. This is an actual order to physically measure the Temple (proper) with a physical measuring instrument and count the people who worship there.

Rev 11:2 But leave out the court, which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

Questions:

Where is this taking place?

Why is it being measured?

Who are the players?

Is it literal or figurative?

Where:

Jerusalem, the Holy City,

Specifically, the Temple- REQUIRED by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13) where the Antichrist desecrates the Temple by going into the Holy of Holies and proclaiming himself god and demanding to be worshipped as god, and by Paul in 2Thess 2

READ 2Thess 2

The building of the Temple is mandatory. It. Will. Happen!

Why is it being measured?

This measuring is used in the OT to depict or announce impending judgment, Ezekiel 40, Zechariah 2

So why will God judge the Temple in His Holy City at this time?

Because the premise in their heart is to return to ritual sacrifices and worship WITHOUT JESUS!

Judgment begins in the House of God....

Also note that the measuring was of the Temple proper. It is very specific as we'll see in the following verses.

Who are the players?

Jews and Gentiles

Progression from Adam to the Flood- General call to righteousness

Shortly after the Flood God called Abraham and promised through his seed would all nations be blessed
- Seed is specific, refers to Jesus.

The Nation of Israel is born through Abraham, the first circumcised Jew, and is called to be a light to the Gentiles. God chose them to work through to bring His plan of redemption and the Oracles of God (the Bible) to the world.

The Church is born on the Day of Pentecost. God now uses the Church to work among the world. Within the Church there is neither Jew nor Gentile; We're all one in Christ.

OT- Jews and Gentiles

NT- Jews, Gentiles, and the Church

Rev 4 onward, only Jews and Gentiles, no mention of the Church.

Is the text literal or figurative?

Can you measure an idea with a tape measure, or survey a philosophy with a transit, or plumb an ideology with a level?

Neither can you measure a temple with a yard stick, or number the people in it, if it does not exist!

Rev 11:2 But leave out (cast it out or throw it out!) the court, which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

Jesus announced this would happen!

Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

Forty-two months:

The final 7 years we call the tribulation is better referred to as the Seventieth Week of Daniel.

This 7-year period is broken down for us in many different places, and in several different ways.

A Week- week of years, or 7 years

It is broken up into two halves.

Time, times, half a time (one year + 2 years + 1/2 a year= 3 1/2 years)

3 1/2 years

42 months twice

1260 days twice

Middle of the "week" - Daniel 9:27

The Holy Spirit has done everything necessary for us to understand that He is discussing a literal, calendar measuring, clock watching, day counting time!

We can take comfort knowing that this period is measured! God has appointed a time for judgment, meaning that when He is done, it is done!

It came to pass....

Rev 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

TWO witnesses

Again, not to keep yelling about this, but there are **TWO witnesses**, and they do something very specific and literal, for a very specific period of time.

- They will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."
- They are clothed in sackcloth, OT practice symbolizing repentance and mourning,
- For 1260 days (42 months, 3 1/2 years) they are prophesying.

What are they witnesses of, and what are they prophesying?

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

Zechariah 4:8-14

Zac 4:8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

Zac 4:9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

Zac 4:10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

Zac 4:11 Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"

Zac 4:12 And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"

Zac 4:13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."

Zac 4:14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

Why two?

Deu_19:15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

Mat_18:16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD MAY BE ESTABLISHED.'

2Co_13:1 This will be the third time I am coming to you. "BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED."

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. Remember how vs 3 starts? "I will give power to my two witnesses..."

Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Does any of this sound like the mission of the Church?

The Church is to be harmless! We are to proclaim the acceptable Year of the Lord and warn about the coming great and terrible Day of the Lord, but we are NOT given power to destroy or judge, but to heal and mend.

Luke 9:51 Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

Luke 9:52 and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

Luke 9:53 But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem.

Luke 9:54 And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?"

Luke 9:55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

Luke 9:56 For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them." And they went to another village.

Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony (not before or during, but when they are finished. God, and God alone, dictates when their job is done, and they are literally bulletproof until that time), the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

This is the first mention of the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit. He will be described more fully in chapter 13, but for this section it is enough to know this beast will have extraordinary power. He will be able to overcome the two witnesses and kill them. He will be powerful in a way that the world cannot comprehend, nor is it ready for!

The two witnesses have displayed powers and strength like never as a witness of their testimony of Jesus, now the beast will display what appears to be even greater power than they, testifying to his superiority.

I believe this is the point where the beast goes into the Holy of Holies on the heels of his great victory and proclaims himself god and demands to be worshipped as god.

Notice I said the beast demonstrates "what appears to be" even greater power than the two witnesses. We know that God only allows the two witnesses to be overcome when He has completed His work through them.

The power and lying signs and wonders of the beast will prompt the world to accept him as either a god, or the god.

Here is the warning:

- WE DON'T BELIEVE BECAUSE OF MIGHTY WORKS, SIGNS, WONDERS!
- WE BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD WHICH IS CONFIRMED BY MIRACLES, SIGNS, AND WONDERS!

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

This is a fantastic example of the Holy Spirit using idioms or symbolism, and then clarifying that for us!

Rev 11:9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. This is the only celebration recorded during the Seventieth Week of Daniel. The world makes a Christmas-like celebration over their death!

The Church celebrates the birth of Christ because His death set us free from sin and death.

The World celebrates the death of the two witnesses, because they tormented them with their testimony of Jesus!

Rev 11:11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

Talk about an understatement!

Mat 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.

Mat 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it.

Mat 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Mat 28:4 And the guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Luke 16:29 Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

Luke 16:30 And he said, 'No, Father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Luke 16:31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

Were the soldiers terrified at the Resurrection? Obviously yes. But did that terror translate into repentance and acceptance of the Risen Lord? We have no record of that.

Is the world terrified when they see the two witnesses resurrected by God? Again, obviously yes. But not to the point of repentance and acceptance of the Jesus whom they testified of.

If men are operating in this time period solely on logic, and turn to the beast because he seems to display the greatest power, would it not follow then that even though it was granted to him to kill them, it was NOT granted to him to keep them dead!

But the resounding truth remains 16:31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."

(sound like Rev 4:1??)

Rev 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

2Ki 2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Act 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Act 1:10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

Act 1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

- When Jesus ascended, only those that loved Him saw it.
- When Elijah ascended, only those that loved God saw it.
- When the Church ascends, only the Lord and those that go will see it.

These departures are for those that believe.

The resurrection and departure of the two witnesses is specifically shown to their enemies. And still the world does not repent!