

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 11

Rev. 11:1 ¶ *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and one said, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.*

Rev. 11:2 *And the court which is without the temple leave without, and measure it not; for it hath been given unto the nations [Gentiles]: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. (ASV)*

The language and terms are Old Testament and Israel.

A reed, given here to John, is a measuring instrument.

In the prophecies of Zechariah, the measuring of the holy city indicated the assurance that it would be built. (Zechariah 2:1,2.)

The forty two months are the language of Daniel's prophecy. They show us this is in the middle of his seventieth week. (See Appendix: Daniel's Seventieth Week.)

The antichrist and his following have polluted the sanctuary (Daniel 11:12).

He has revealed his true being and has gone to the rebuilt sanctuary and proclaimed himself to be God (Matthew 24:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4). (See Appendix: Seat of Satan.)

He might have held a press conference to make the announcement.

The Scriptures say that he proclaims himself to be God, but they do not say that people believe him. It would be hard to believe that one was God who could not handle two witnesses!!!

The Two Witnesses

Rev. 11:3 *And I will give unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

Rev. 11:4 *These are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks, standing before the Lord of the earth.*

Rev. 11:5 *And if any man desireth to hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth and devoureth their enemies; and if any man shall desire to hurt them, in this manner must he be killed.*

Rev. 11:6 *These have the power to shut the heaven, that it rain not during the days of their prophecy: and they have power over the waters*

to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they shall desire. (ASV)

Such power! Such authority! Who are they?

Before I began this study, I would have said they are Moses and Elijah. But nowhere in the Book of Revelation does it say who they are. There's no harm in speculation, just so long as we know that it is just that. Popular choices are:

Moses and Elijah

The Law and the Prophets

They were at the Mount of Transfiguration

Malachi 4:1 says, "I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

But Jesus said Elijah had come in John the Baptist (Matthew 17:10-13).

Perhaps two men in the time of the tribulation will also have upon them the spirit and power of Elijah as John did.

Enoch and Elijah

Neither died and the Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die.

However, some did die twice.

For instance, Lazarus, the son of the widow of Nain, Dorcas, etc...

So much of The Book of Revelation is still a mystery. And again, time will tell.

Rev. 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that cometh up out of the abyss shall make war with them, and overcome them, and kill them.

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

Rev. 11:9 And from among the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations do men look upon their dead bodies three days and a half, and suffer not their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

Rev. 11:10 And they that dwell on the earth rejoice over them, and make merry; and they shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth.

When they have finished their testimony, and not before, the Lord allows the antichrist to kill them. Their bodies are put on display in Jerusalem for three and ½ days.

The antichrist and his devotees have taken over the city of Jerusalem and so polluted it, the atmosphere has become like Sodom [sexual debauchery] and Egypt [false gods, persecution of the Jews].

A heinous world-wide party! People rejoice and send gifts to one another.

The prophets who pointed out their sin and rebellion, and ultimate defeat, are dead!

Can you imagine! And can you imagine their surprise when before the eyes of the world the two witnesses raised up from the dead!!!

Rev. 11:11 *And after the three days and a half the breath of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them that beheld them.*

Rev. 11:12 *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they went up into heaven in the cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*

Rev. 11:13 *And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell; and there were killed in the earthquake 9seven thousand persons: and the rest were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. (ASV)*

Personal Experience: We had a genius on our board of directors for many years. This southern gentleman was Clyde McGee. He was one of three men who developed and launched the first synchronous orbit satellites. Before that satellites went straight up a relatively few miles and orbited around the earth. Satellites in geosynchronous orbit with the earth, and going up thousands of miles, was a great advance. [If Clyde were still here, he would give me the correct figures.] This development allowed our telecommunication of today. Clyde was the ATS launch operations manager for Hughes Aircraft at NASA. At one time he had launched and maintained more satellites than any other person.

Eufaula, Clyde's wife, was a person of prayer and Bible study. She asked Clyde, "Honey, be sure to tell me when you launch the satellite that will allow something to be seen all over the world at once." And one day he told her, "The next one is it." Eufaula said, "This is the fulfillment of prophecy. This is how they will see all over the world the resurrection of the two witnesses!"

And that's how it is. In the natural, as well as the supernatural. Time brings with it enlightenment of the fulfilling of what the Prophets said.

When you read the rest of the chapter in your own Bibles, take note of this verse:

Rev. 11:18 *And the nations were wroth, and thy wrath came, and the time of the dead to be judged, and the time to give their reward to thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to them that fear thy name, the small and the great; and to destroy them that destroy the earth.*

He does not destroy the earth. He destroys those who destroy the earth.

Nah. 1:2 ¶ ... Jehovah taketh vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth **wrath** for his enemies.