

God's Special Witnesses

Revelation 11:1-14

December 4, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. Three T's:
 - 1. Temple – vs.1-2
 - 2. Two witnesses – vs. 3-14
 - 3. Trumpet (seventh) - vs. 15-19
- B. This first section (vs. 1-14) concludes the parentheses started in Chapter 10.

II. The Temple – vs. 1, 2

- A. The Command to Measure – v. 1a
 - 1. “*A measuring rod*”: this may have been a type of cane that grew in the Jordan Valley reaching heights of 20 feet.
 - 2. This was common into the 1800's – a rod was 15'.
 - 3. Measuring is a sign/act of ownership.
 - 4. John is told to do something other than write or look!
- B. The Command to Measure the Temple, the Altar, and the people – v. 1b
 - 1. The inner temple: the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies
 - 2. “*altar*”: most likely the altar of incense
 - 3. The people: orthodox Jews
 - 4. Ezekiel's temple (Chapter 40) and the New Jerusalem (Revelation 20) are also measured
- C. The Temple and Its History
 - 1. Solomon's Temple: 959 BC
 - a. I Kings 6-8
 - 2. Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar: 586 BC
 - a. II Chronicles 36:11-21
 - 3. Zerubbabel's Temple: 515 BC
 - a. Ezra 6
 - 4. Titus destroyed this temple: 70 AD - also known as Herod's temple
 - 5. Today the Dome of the Rock (Mosque of Omar) sits on the site of Solomon's and Zerubbabel's temple. It was built in 691 AD
- D. What not to measure – v. 2a
 - 1. The outer court, or court of the Gentiles
 - 2. “The time of the Gentiles”
 - a. Luke 21:24

- b. “The period of Gentile domination of Jerusalem which probably began under Nebuchadnezzar (587 BC) was certainly in effect in AD 70 and continues into the Tribulation.” C. Ryrie

- E. The Time – What Time Is It? – v 2b
 - 1. Verse 1 seems best to be the first 3½ years of the tribulation
 - 2. Verse 2 seems best to be the last 3½ years of the tribulation

III. The Two Witnesses – vs. 3-14

(Please note that this portion of the outline is from the Ryrie Study Bible)

- A. The time of their ministry – v. 3a
 - 1. Note: God gives them authority to be His witnesses – Acts 1:8
 - 2. The length of their ministry is 1,260 days; most likely in the first half of the Tribulation.
- B. The Traits of Their Ministry – vs. 2b-6
 - 1. Their clothing will be sackcloth: their desire is that people will repent.
 - 2. They are described as two olive trees; thus, empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - a. See Zechariah 4:3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14
 - 3. They are described as two lamp stands: bearing light to a sinful world.
 - 4. They have the power to kill their enemies
 - 5. They have the power to control nature.
 - 6. They remind us of Moses and Elijah.
- C. The Termination of Their Ministry – vs. 7-10
 - 1. When they had finished their testimony (and not before)
 - a. See for same word: John 19:30; II Timothy 4:7; Acts 13:29
 - 2. God takes us home when we refuse to do His will (Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 11:30) or when we have completed His will (II Timothy 4:6, 7; II Peter 1:14).
 - 3. “The Beast”: 36 times in Revelation – the Antichrist

- a. Revelation 6:2; 13:1; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 17:3, 13; 19:20; 20:10
 - 4. The righteous can die a cruel death (John 15:18-20)
 - 5. Their death is celebrated by the wicked – vs. 8-10
 - a. Their bodies will lay in the street for 3½ days
 - b. Jerusalem is called Sodom, because of its perverted sex
 - c. Jerusalem is called Egypt because they persecute God’s people
 - d. This has been called the Satanic Christmas
- D. Their Translation – vs. 11-12
 - 1. The breath of life came into them
 - a. Genesis 2:7
 - 2. *“great fear fell upon those who were watching them”*. Why?
 - a. Your hope is they respected God, but more likely they feared retribution from the two witnesses
 - 3. They were called up to haven
 - a. Acts 7:54-60
 - 4. Their enemies watched them ascend
 - a. Acts 1:9-11
- E. Their Triumph (*mine, not Rylie*) – vs. 13, 14
 - 1. An earthquake followed: 1/10 of the city fell; 7,000 were killed
 - 2. Some gave glory to God, but it was temporary
 - a. Revelation 16:11
 - 3. The second woe is past (8:13); the third woe (seventh trumpet) is coming quickly – v. 14