

# The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet

## Study 11. Revelation 11

By James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

### A. The Two Witnesses. 11:1-14

#### 1. The Measurement of the Temple<sup>1</sup>. 11:1-2

- a. What was given to John? 11:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Someone told John to measure three things
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What was he forbidden to measure? 11:2a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Why? 11:2b \_\_\_\_\_
- e. For how long would the earth's nations occupy Jerusalem? 11:2c \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 11:1 - temple: As implausible as it may seem to us living early in the 21st Century, a Jewish temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. I cannot see any place other than the Temple Mount where devout Jews would rebuild their temple. Today the Temple Mount is occupied by the Dome of the Rock Shrine and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The future leader of a Revived Roman Empire will one day make a seven-year agreement with Israel (Dan. 9:27). Presumably this agreement will permit Israel to erect her long-anticipated Temple. No one knows precisely the political and religious climate that will be in place when these prophecies are fulfilled. The only way I can foresee that happening, at least in *today's* political climate, is for this leader also to make a pact on the side with the Arabs. The only pact I know of which would motivate the Arabs to surrender peacefully the Temple Mount to hated Israel today would be a secret but credible guarantee to the Arabs (1) of the future return of Jerusalem to the Arabs; (2) of the future annihilation of Israel; and (3) of the conversion of Europe, if not the whole rest of the world, to Islam.

<sup>2</sup> 11:2c - forty-two months: 11:2-3 - Jerusalem is to be trodden under foot for 42 months. Comparing this with Dan. 9:27, this would seem to correspond with the last half of the seven year period popularly known as the Tribulation. The two witnesses would also seem to prophesy over that same period (1260 days = 42 months = 3.5 years). When the future leader of the revived Roman Empire breaks his treaty with Israel, halts sacrifices, and allows an abomination to be placed in the temple (Dan. 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:14-15), that will mark the beginning of the 42-month period. The approaching end of the tribulation period will mark the end of Gentile domination and desecration of Jerusalem as predicted by both Jesus (Luke 21:24) and John (Rev. 11:2).

2. The Ministry of the Two Witnesses. 11:3-4

- a. An unnamed speaker, apparently God, told John that His two witnesses would prophesy for how long? 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What would they wear? 11:3 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>
- c. John identifies them as the two \_\_\_\_\_ and two \_\_\_\_\_ who stand before the Lord.<sup>4</sup> 11:4

3. The Power of the Two Witnesses. 11:5-6

- a. How will these two prophets be able to defend themselves? 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What power over water will they have? 11:6a
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- c. What other power will they have? 11:6b \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Death of the Two Witnesses. 11:7-10

- a. What will happen to them when they have completed their testimony? 11:7 \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>
- b. Their bodies will be left unburied in what city? 11:8 \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>3</sup> 11:3 For the significance of sackcloth, see Gen. 37:34 and Luke 10:13.

<sup>4</sup> 11:4 The symbolism of the two olive trees and two lampstands is evidently derived from Zechariah 4. The meaning is that these two men are empowered by God's Spirit (olive oil, used in lampstands, signifies the Holy Spirit) to serve as God's two appointed witnesses at the end of time. Who are these two men? No one knows, but it is possible they will be Enoch and Elijah, neither of whom experienced death (Gen. 5:19-24; 2 Kings 2:9-11).

<sup>5</sup> 11:7 - beast ... out of the abyss: The word "beast" is God's term to describe a sophisticated, charismatic, evil, powerful dictator who first gains control over a Revived Roman Empire, and then over the world. He is Satan's version of the Messiah, thus frequently referred to among Bible teachers as the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-10; 16:10; 17:3, 7-17; 19:19-20; 20:10; see 1 John 2:18).

- c. How will the peoples of the world gloat over the deaths of the two prophets? 11:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How will they celebrate? 11:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What does this tell you about the attitude of the world toward anyone who is a devout follower of God and of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses. 11:11
- a. What would God restore to them after 3.5 days? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What would these two men do? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How would those watching react? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The Ascension of the Two Witnesses. 11:12
- a. What will onlookers hear? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What will the witnesses' enemies see? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The Judgment in Connection with the Two Witnesses. 11:13
- a. What will happen after their ascension? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. What will happen to a tenth of the city (apparently Jerusalem)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. How many fatalities will there be? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. What will the survivors do? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The Classification Concerning the Impact of the Two Witnesses. 11:14
- a. The plague and disaster-filled ministry of the Two Witnesses signifies that what is past? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What yet remains? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>

## B. The Seventh Trumpet. 11:15-19

1. What did the seventh angel do? 11:15a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did loud voices in heaven say? 11:15b \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>

3. What else did they say? 11:15c \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. The worshipful praise of the twenty-four elders. 11:16-18

a. What did the twenty-four elders up in heaven do? 11:16 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. How did they describe God? 11:17a

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

c. Why did they thank God? 11:17b \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>6</sup> 11:14 - woe. Information about the three woes is revealed in Rev. 8:13; 9:12; 11:14, and 12:12.

<sup>7</sup> 11:15b - The kingdom of this world (2899, *kosmos*) has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ: The world was originally God's kingdom, and He assigned man to rule over it (Gen. 1:26-28). The kingdom of the world was instituted by Satan with a *coup d'état* in Genesis 3. In Matt. 4:8-9 Satan offered the kingdoms of the world to Jesus in exchange for worship, which, of course, the latter refused. Looking ahead to His impending death, Jesus said in John 12:31, "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out." That which is cause for such praise in Rev. 11:15 is that the kingdom of the world, has now, with God's vengeful judgment of that same cosmos, been transformed into the kingdom of our God and His anointed King. The difference seems to be the activity of God. With the exception of the great Deluge of Genesis 6:1-9:17, God has not actively entered into judging the world as a whole. Beginning with the Great Tribulation, God will actively enforce His standards upon the world. This active phase will continue on through human history as He installs His King upon Mount Zion (Rev. 20:4-6, cf. Psalm 2:4-6), destroys the existing universe (2 Pet. 3:10-12), and creates a New Universe in which only righteousness exists (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-8).

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- d. How did they describe the nations? 11:18a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. What came? 11:18b \_\_\_\_\_
- f. What sobering time had come? 11:18c \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. What happy time had come? 11:18d \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h. What are the classifications of those rewarded? 11:18d
- 1) \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) those who \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>8</sup> 11:17b - begun to reign: Six things are said to happen: **1)** God has taken to Himself great power and has begun to reign (11:17). Even though Christ does not set up His Kingdom until chapter 20, God, with the beginning of the Tribulation period, or at least with the breaking of the seals, beginning in ch. 6, has begun to reign as King of the Earth. At this point His reign is marked by fearful judgments, not the stable, peaceful society described in Isaiah 2:1-4 and 11:5 ff. The next three items go together: **2)** The nations are filled with wrath (3710 *orgizo*, vb.) (11:18). **3)** In response, God's wrath (3709 *orge*, noun) is poured out against the rebellious wrath of the nations (11:18). **4)** Even the wicked dead cannot escape God's wrath, for the time for the judgment of the (wicked) dead has come. Though, in the scheme of Revelation, this does not happen until a thousand years later, it is still part of God's reign, comparing to "the Day of the Lord" in the Old Testament. As the term *bema* is used in Romans 14:10 and 2 Cor. 5:10 and refers to the evaluation of believers in Christ, the use of the term *krino* (2919) here in Rev. 11:18, especially following on the heels of God's response of wrath toward the wrath of the nations, seems to apply best to the judgment of the wicked dead. This is final judgment, with no thought of rehabilitation in view (Rev. 20:11-15). **5)** In contrast to the judgment meted out to the resurrected wicked, only good is anticipated for the resurrected righteous -- they will receive wages (3408, *misthos*) -- the reward for their labor. Three groups are seen as receiving their pay -- the prophets, the saints, and those who fear God's name, both great and small. **6)** Last, God's wrath against the wrathful (living) nations is explained -- He will destroy those who (through their utter evil) are destroying the earth. For support of this interpretation, see J. B. Smith, *A Revelation of Jesus Christ*, p. 181. For a slightly different take, cf. J. F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, pp. 185-186.

<sup>9</sup> 11:18d - bond-servants: This word is *doulos* (1401), meaning, simply, slaves.

- i. What else was it time to do? \_\_\_\_\_ those who  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. 11:18e <sup>10</sup>
  
- 5. What was opened up in heaven? 11:19 \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 6. What appeared inside? \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>11</sup>
  
- 7. What happened on earth?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- 8. What changes do you need to make in the way you think and in the way you live as a result of what you have learned in Revelation 11?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>10</sup> 11:18e - those who destroy the earth: From God's viewpoint, those who destroy the earth are more likely to be moral polluters than consumers of petroleum-based products. What liberals and progressives in modern society fail to understand is that all sin is destructive. Since no man is an island, there is no such thing as sin that only impacts the person committing the sin. Sin destroys marriages, families, relationships, societies, nations, and ultimately the world. Sin must be judged. Those who rebel against God's provision for human sin, the blood of Jesus, are doomed to suffer the wrath of God eternally.

<sup>11</sup> 11:19 - temple, ark: Evidently there is a real temple and a real ark of the covenant in heaven, of which the ones on earth were mere copies.