

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

Then there was given to me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. ² Leave out the courtyard which is outside the temple and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations; and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. ⁶ These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

⁷ When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies *will lie* on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹ Those from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. ¹⁰ And those who live on the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

¹¹ And after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. ¹³ And at that time there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

The Seventh Trumpet: Christ's Reign Foreseen

¹⁵ Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time *came* for the dead to be judged, and *the time* to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ And the temple of God which

is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. The instructions to John were to measure the temple and the altar with a rod like a staff – I see something like a stick used to measure horses.
2. Why do this?
3. The details of the temple measurements are recorded in Ezekiel Chapter 43 v 13-27.
4. Who was the someone that said 'how can you measure those who worship in the temple?'
5. Why was John instructed to leave out the outer court?
6. The outer court was the place where the gentiles had an opportunity to draw near to the God of the Israelites.
7. Why will the gentiles tread under foot for 42 months, that is three and a half years, the outer courts? What can this mean?
8. God's two witnesses are given authority to prophesy for 1260 days. Why were they clothed in sackcloth?
9. What is the significance of the two olive trees and the two lampstands?
10. Why do they stand before the Lord of the earth?
11. Their protection of themselves, from their enemy, is from the fire that comes from their mouths. Is this a literal fire or revelation words? Not unlike the words God spoke when He brought creation into being.
12. It would seem these witnesses are able to kill their attackers with words!
13. Their authority is their word, spoken, they are even able to stop rain from falling to the earth for a period of time!
14. They are able to turn water into blood like Moses did in Egypt.
15. These two witnesses can bring plagues on the earth at will by striking the earth.
16. They are only able to do this for an appointed time.
17. After this a beast rises from the earth to overcome them, by making war with them and by putting them to death.
18. These two godly witnesses who brought great suffering to mankind are now dead, they are laid in the street for all to see.

19. The name of that city is called Sodom and Egypt.
20. This can't be geographical but represents the happenings that took place for God's people in history.
21. It also makes reference to Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified.
22. All people over all the earth at this time will look on their bodies, how is this possible?
23. These two witnesses of God become amok among the nations as they are laid out for the world to see and rejoice over.
24. As a result of being tormented by the two witnesses, all of mankind celebrate by sharing gifts with one another.
25. But after three and a half days their celebrating stops as the two witnesses come back to life.
26. The two witnesses stand up and great fear falls on the peoples of the earth.
27. Loud voices from heaven say to the two witnesses 'come up here' and just like Jesus, in a cloud they went up and their enemies watched them rise.
28. Within one hour there is an earthquake in that city, seven thousand people die and the rest are full of fear and glorify the God of heaven. Why?
29. This is the second woe, a third woe is coming.
30. There is a declaration of a crowd of voices declaring 'the kingdom of earth is the kingdom of our Lord and His Christ'.
31. Jesus is God's Christ, His saviour and His reign over all things is eternal.
32. The twenty four elders on their thrones do their adoration celebration and praise to the God of heaven.
33. The twenty four say to God 'we give You thanks for:
34. You are almighty;
35. With Your great power You reign;
36. Judgement has come on the rebellious of mankind;
37. The blessings of all who serve your ways has come;
38. All the saints who fear your name;
39. God will destroy all the destroyers of the earth;
40. The temple in heaven reflected on the earth is opened;
41. The ark appeared in His temple;
42. Flashes of lightening and sounds of peals of thunder;
43. Earthquake and hail storms;
44. Zechariah chapter 4 – the olive trees and the lampstands could represent the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.