

Study Notes – Revelation 11

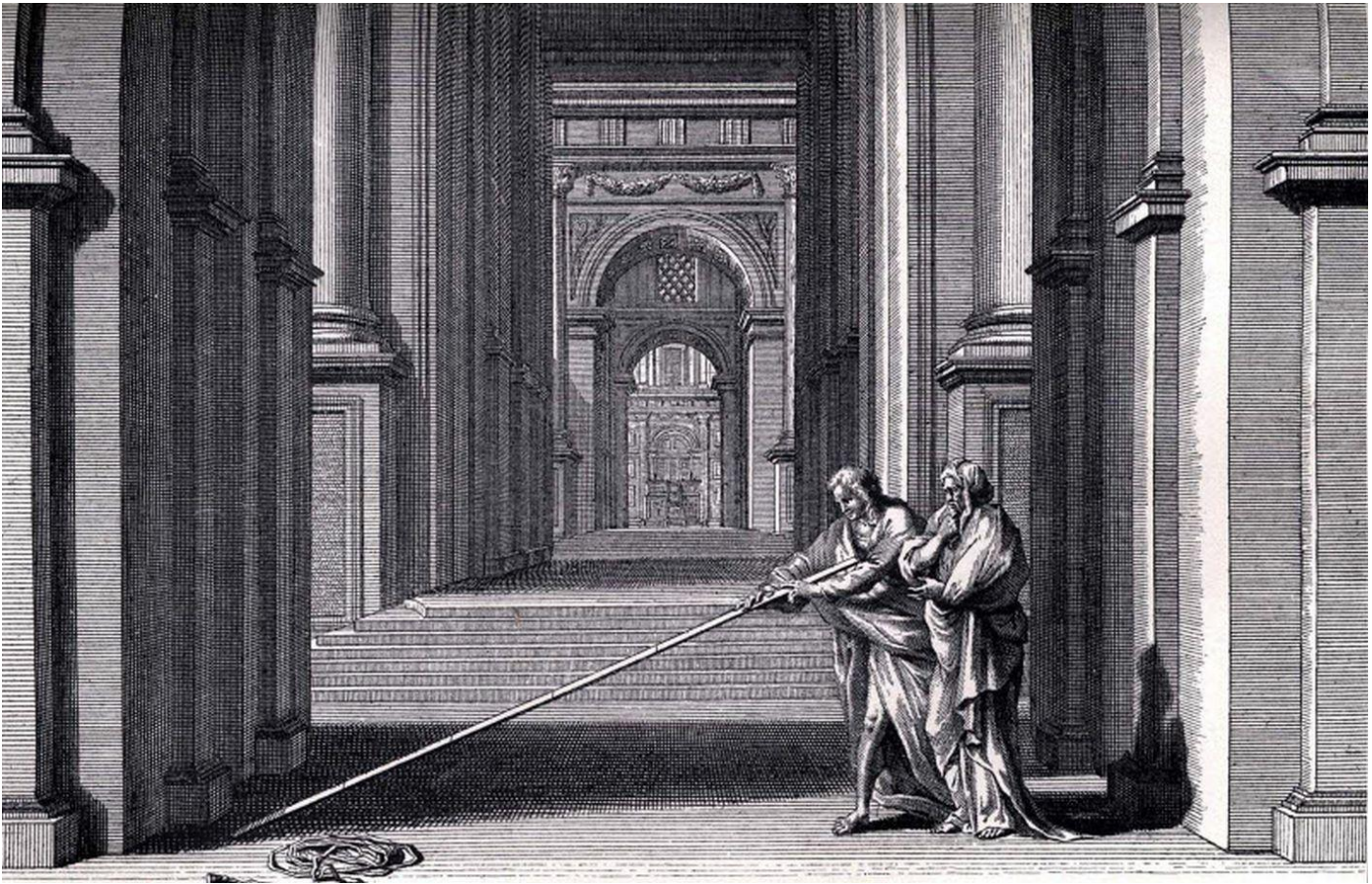
The second Interlude – Part 2

✚ The prophecy that follows was in the little scroll that John ate.

Two Witnesses

Rev 11:1 ¹Then a measuring rod like a staff was given to me, saying, "Get up and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count those worshiping in it."

- ✓ measuring rod – (hrabdo): translated by “rod, staff, scepter.”
 - This is the word used for the “rod of iron” by which Jesus will rule the nations in the Millennial Kingdom. Rev 2:27, 12:5, 19:15
- ✓ Get up and measure the Temple of God – why?
 - To show us there is a Tribulation Temple in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount during the 70th week.
 - The act of measuring specific areas indicates God’s favor toward the Sanctuary, Alter and the Jewish worshippers.
 - “Temple of God” – (naos): temple, the Holy of Holies – the place of God’s presence.
 - John is not referring to the “body of Christ”.
 - Paul used the word “naos”: your body is to be a Holy residence for the Lord. 1 Cor 6:19-20.
 - The previous Temples were divided into 4 areas:
 - Sanctuary where only Priests, not even Levites, could enter – “Temple of God”.
 - Area the men of Israel could enter includes the Alter.
 - The women’s court where Israelite women worship.
 - The court of the Gentiles.
 - When John wrote this, there had not been a Temple for 2 decades
 - There are 5 distinct Temples:
 - Solomon’s Temple, destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, Babylonian King in 587 BC.
 - Antiochus Epiphanes pillaged and consecrated to Jupiter the Temple of Zerubbabel in 168 BC.
 - Herod’s magnificent Temple reduced to ashes and rubble by Roman Titus in 70 AD (enhanced Zerubbabel Temple).
 - The Tribulation Temple – plans are ready to build today. 2 Ths 2:3-4, Dan 9:26-27 Matt 24:15-26
 - Millennial Temple; Note: Ezekiel is told to measure the beautiful Millennial Temple that Yeshua will build. Ezk 40-47
- ✓ the altar – Brazen Alter where sacrifices are offered, outside the sanctuary to which non-priests will have access.
 - The 70th week of Daniel begins when the Antichrist makes a covenant with a certain group of Jews (false peace treaty of 1st White Apocalyptic horse) which allows sacrifices on the Alter; building of the Temple; until the mid-mark of the 7 years. Dan 9:27 Note: Current political climate on the Temple Mount makes it impossible; it will take a “man of peace” to negotiate & win hearts.
- ✓ count those worshiping in it – (tous prosky nountas): “the ones presently worshipping” Worship has been going on for almost 3.5 years.



Rod/Reed – (kalamos): refers to a reed like plant that grew in the Jordan Valley to a height of 15’ to 20’. It had a stalk that was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as a walking staff (Ezk 29:6) or to be shaved down into a pen (3 Jhn 1:13). The stalks, because they were long and lightweight were ideal for use as a measuring rod.

11.2 ² But do not measure the court outside the Temple—leave it out, because it has been given to the nations, and they shall trample the holy city for forty-two months.

- ✓ do not measure – Leave it out (ekballo): “cast out”, no favor, the Court of the Gentiles – to be trampled.
- ✓ given to the nations – Gentiles; ongoing antisemitism; the hostile, unbelieving Earth Dwellers. Dan 9:27
- ✓ trample the holy city – (pateo): trample the destruction of Jerusalem by its enemies; having authority over a city. This occurs in the last 3.5 years of the 70th week.
- ✓ forty-two months – 3.5 years: Time, Times & half a Time (Hebrew Calendar). Dan 12:11
 - Why the last 3.5 years of the 70th week?
 - The treading occurs with the possession of the outer court by the Gentiles, when:
 - The Antichrist violates his covenant with Israel. Dan 9:27
 - The “Abomination of Desolation” occurs. Matt 24:15, Dan 12:11
 - Antichrist exerts his global authority. Dan 7:25, 12:7, 11-12, Rev 13:5-8
 - The Jews flee to the wilderness. Matt 24:16-20, Rev 12:6-14
 - This time period is known as “The Great Tribulation” & “Jacob’s Trouble”

Note: When Yeshua responded to His disciples' questions regarding when Herod's Temple would be destroyed in Luke 21:7, He told them **Jerusalem would be trampled by Gentiles "until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled."** Luke 21:24 The trampling John sees indicates that the "times of the gentiles" is still going on and not finished. Rom 11:25-26

Arnold G Fruchtenbaum wrote in *The Footsteps of Messiah*:

"The Times of the Gentiles can best be defined as that long period of time from Babylonian Empire to the Second Coming of Messiah during which time the Gentiles have dominion over the city of Jerusalem. This does not rule out temporary Jewish control of the city... Such temporary control was exercised during the Maccabean Period (164-63 BC), the First Jewish revolt against Rome (66-70 AD), the Second Jewish revolt, the Bar Cochba Revolt against Rome (132-135 AD) and since 1967 as a result of the 6 Day War. This too is temporary as the Gentiles will yet trod down Jerusalem for at least another 3.5 years. Rev 11:1-2 The Times of the Gentiles can only end when the Gentiles can no longer tread down Jerusalem."

- ✚ Also, the Dome of the Rock & Al-Aqsa on Temple Mount where all the Jewish Temples were built. Muslims have control over the most sacred place for religious Jews today.

11.3 ³ And I will grant authority to My two witnesses and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth."

- ✓ My two witnesses – first 3.5 years, the same time frame as Temple worship is taking place.
 - Two is the number of witnesses required in the Law of Moses. Num 35:30, 36, Deut 17:6, 19:5, 19:15, 31:28, 32:1, Matt 18:16, 2 Cor 13:1, Mark 6:7
 - They are two individuals – God doesn't reveal their names.
 - Their witness is in Jerusalem – they are Jewish.
 - Elijah & Moses?
 - Their ministry is similar: plagues, water turned to blood, drought, consuming fire.
 - Many references to "Law & prophets" as the 2 fold witness against those who reject God & Yeshua. Matt 5:17, 7:12, 11:13, 22:40, Luke 16:16, 29, 24:44, John 1:45, Acts 13:15, 24:14, 26:22, 28:23, Rom 3:21
 - It's no accident that it's Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets) who appear with Yeshua on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matt 17:3, Mark 9:4, Luke 9:30
 - Both Moses and Elijah left the earth in unusual ways. Elijah transported to Heaven in a fiery chariot and God supernaturally buried Moses body. 2 Kings 2:11-12, Deut 34:5-6, Jude 1:9
 - Enoch and Elijah?
 - They both were raptured. Gen 5:23-24, @ Kings 2:11-12
 - According to early rabbinic opinion it's believed that Enoch will rejoin Elijah for a ministry like the Two Witnesses (1 Enoch 90:31), but this is an ancient Jewish opinion and because there are many questionable statements in 1 Enoch, not necessarily correct.
 - Enoch seems an unlikely candidate because he is more like the "church" which is removed prior to the Tribulation, as Enoch was taken before the flood judgement.
 - Enoch doesn't seem to match the criteria assigned to the Two Witnesses.
 - Two future Prophets – The ministry of the Two Witnesses has all the earmarks of Old Testament Jewish Prophets. If their identity mattered, they would be in this book.

11.3 ³ And I will grant authority to My two witnesses and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth." (continued)

- ✓ Prophesy – communicate messages from God.
- ✓ 1,260 days – 42 months of 30 days per month, 3.5 years; a exact literal period of time.
 - They are in Jerusalem during the first half of the seven years. At the midmark the Antichrist is able to kill them. Rev 11:7
- ✓ Sackcloth – (sakkos): a rough, course cloth worn as a symbol of mourning, grief or repentance. Made from goat hair. When prophets wore sackcloth, it indicated their own brokenness over the message of doom and judgement which they are delivering. Isa 20:2

Note: God always allows there to be a witness when Satan is running rampant.

11.4 ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two menorot that are standing before the Lord of the earth.

- ✓ the two olive trees –
 - Symbol of peace and reconciliation ever since Noah's flood. The Dove with an Olive leaf in its beak.
 - Represents new life sprouting on the earth. Gen 8:11
 - Slow and hearty growth implies establishment & peace.
 - Flowering, it is a symbol of beauty and abundance.
 - Model of a righteous person. Psa 52:8, Hos 14:6
 - Symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit (the oil).
 - Olive trees supply the oil that fuels the menorot.
- ✓ two menorot – Lamp stands
 - In Exodus 25:31-39, the lampstand was fashioned as a tree with base and center shaft representing the trunk and with three "branches" on each side. The top of the shaft and on each branch was to be made like an open almond flower with each flower holding the oil lamp. Used in the Tabernacle & later the Temple.
 - It burned fresh oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is the one who sanctifies us, fill us, readies us to see Yeshua and brings Light & Joy.
 - The two witnesses will bear the light of God's Truth, dependent on the Holy Spirit and speak boldly for God.

✚ The ministry of the Two Witnesses resembles that of Zerubbabel and Joshua who sought to restore Israel after the Babylonian exile. Zech 4:2-3, 11-14 Like Zerubbabel (appointed Governor of Judah) & Joshua (High Priest), these two witnesses have been appointed by God to declare the Gospel message from Jerusalem to the world.

11.5 ⁵ If anyone wishes to harm them, fire comes out of their mouths and consumes their enemies. If anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

- ✓ The Two Witnesses will call down fire from Heaven on their enemies just as Elijah did. 2 Kings 1:10-14 This is the meaning, rather than "comes out of their mouths."
- ✓ Jews and Gentiles walking around Jerusalem and the Two Witnesses telling them all the judgements that are happening is what they deserve for their sin, there is likely to be conflicts, confrontation, mocking, cursing and attacks upon the Two Witnesses.

11.6 ⁶ These two have the power to shut the heavens, so that no rain may 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 kind of plague as often as they wish.

- ✓ shut the heavens, so that no rain may fall – drought
 - God will empower them to do miracles similar to Elijah (1 King 17:1, 7, 18:1, Luke 4:25) and Moses (Ex 7:17-21, 9:14, 11:10, 1 Sam 4:8).
 - This is the same length of time as the drought God sent during Elijah's days, 3.5 years, and occurs during the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation.
 - The 3rd Trumpet judgement caused poisoning of 1/3 of the earth's fresh water supply. Rev 8:10-11
 - Add 3.5 years of drought, the devastation from the 4 Apocalyptic horses and there will be destroyed crops, thirst, famine and loss of human life.
- ✓ power over the waters to turn them into blood – like Moses in Egypt.
- ✓ strike the earth with every kind of plague – attacking the Two Witnesses will bring plagues.
 - Although there is not a complete list of plagues, it is possible they are similar to the plagues Moses called upon to torment Egypt.

11.7 ⁷ When they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the abyss will make war on them and overcome them and kill them.

- ✓ finished their testimony – the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation.
 - ✓ beast that rises from the abyss – (therion): wild beast of a man given satanic power in the last 3.5 years of Daniel's 70th week.
 - Antichrist
 - That this incident will happen after his resurrection from the dead is a clear statement, "the beast that comes from the abyss," and he will come back from Abyss with his resurrection by Satan. Along with his resurrection, the act of killing the Two Witnesses will provide another reason why mankind will worship him. All previous attempts to kill the Two Witnesses failed.
- The Footsteps of Messiah***
- ✓ make war – Battle
 - He will also make war against the saints. Dan 7:21, 25
 - Especially the Jews. Jer 30:7, Dan 8:24, 12:1, Rev 12:13-17
 - This battle will look like nothing seen before.
 - ✓ overcome them and kill them – (nikesei): overcome, from (nikao): "prevail" of predicted human potentates. *Vines Complete Expository Dictionary*

Note: The man who becomes the Antichrist has heard their witness for 1,260 days, since he negotiated the "false peace treaty" with Israel. Most likely he is a Politian or someone with power before he is assassinated and has his satanic resurrection.

11.8 ⁸ And their corpses will lie in the open street of the great city that figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.

- ✓ open street – (plateia): broad way, street. Also, agora: an open space in a town; marketplace; a public space
 - No burial is repugnant to the Jews and the worst indignity someone could place on a person. 1 Kings 14:11, 16:4, 2 Kings 9:37, Psa 79:2-3, Jer 7:33, 8:1, 16:4 & 6,22:19, Ezk 29:5

11.8 ⁸ And their corpses will lie in the open street of the great city that figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. (continued)

- ✓ the great city – the earthly Jerusalem
 - In Revelation there are 3 great cities: Babylon, earthly Jerusalem, and heavenly New Jerusalem.
- ✓ Figuratively – (pneumatikos): “in a manner consistent with the divine, Spirit.” This is allegory or metaphor.
- ✓ called Sodom and Egypt – wicked city and wicked nation, like modern Tel Aviv.
 - “The Great City” will be similar to Sodom and Egypt in that it will be extremely wicked, morally degraded, antagonistic toward God and persecute His people, the Jews, because of the Antichrist’s influence.
 - In this city, even though the Two Witnesses have been there for 3.5 years, they are hated & rejected by fellow Jews who refuse to repent of their wicked behavior.
- ✓ their Lord was crucified – earthly Jerusalem

11.9 ⁹ Some from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their corpses for three and a half days, not allowing them to be placed into a grave.

- ✓ Some – not everyone.
 - People, both Jew & Gentile, will see the bodies around the world.
 - Finally, the ones who tormented the Earth Dwellers are silent. They can now live their lives the way they want.
 - Literally 3.5 days as the bodies aren’t decomposed.
- ✓ not allowing – An intentional insult to a Jew. No burial is an indication of being judged or cursed.
 - They most likely will be protected from scavengers such as birds & dogs. They serve as a trophy testifying to the power of the Beast and his victory over them; for the torment the Two Witnesses inflicted on the Earth Dwellers, drought, plagues & curses.
- ✓ Grave – (mnema): The purpose of a tomb as a sign of remembrance.

11.10 ¹⁰ Those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them. They will celebrate and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

- ✓ Those who dwell on the earth – The Earth Dwellers don’t have to listen to the messages from God any longer about their wicked lives.
- ✓ Celebrate – Earth Dwellers declared a holiday – “Happy Dead Witnesses Day”
 - Shows how hated the Two Witnesses were and how effective they were tormented by the plagues.
 - Reveals the hardness of the Earth Dwellers’ hearts toward God,
 - How much they loved the Satan powered Antichrist.
- ✓ Tormented – (ebasanisan): torture in judicial examination, general harassment, severe distress – especially physical. Rev 3:10

11.11 ¹¹ But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet; and great fear fell on those who were watching them.

- ✓ breath of life – (pneuma): the life-giving force which animates men’s’ bodies of clay. Gen 2:7, Job 33:4, Luke 8:54
- ✓ great fear fell on those who were watching – Global fear & anger as the Two Witnesses are resurrected literally before the Earth Dwellers eyes.

11.12 ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.

- ✓ "Come up here!" – (anabate): You all come up here.
 - The same command that John heard when he was taken up into Heaven. Rev 4:1
 - The voice is probably Yeshua.
- ✓ they went up to heaven in a cloud – witnessed globally
 - Like Yeshua's ascension in the Shekinah cloud. Acts 1:9

11.13 ¹³ At that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

- ✓ great earthquake – 10% of Jerusalem fell.
- ✓ Seven thousand people were killed
- ✓ the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God – this does **not** mean they became believers, although some will.
 - Earth Dwellers acknowledge God orchestrated this terrifying event.
 - An empty gesture often happens during a crisis or difficult time i.e. 911 is a good example.
 - Some of the people will take note and surrender to God, but most will harden their stony hearts even more.

11.14 ¹⁴ The second woe is past. The third woe is coming soon.

- ✓ second woe is past – 6th Trumpet. Rev 9:21
 - 1260 days of the Two Witnesses – prophecy is done.
 - The first 3.5 years are almost finished of the 7 years/1 week/70th week of Daniel's prophecy.
- ✓ coming soon – (en tachei): in rapid succession – like a machine gun.

Note: The forward movement of time in the Tribulation has stopped at the end of Chapter 9 and will not pick-up until Chapter 15.

Suggestion: Go back to the "White Horse", 1st Seal, and note again all that has happened in the first 3.5 years. Billions of people dead, and it gets worse as the intensity of the judgements increase!