

Read Revelation 11

Notice that this chapter opens with a scene in the city of Jerusalem, which, for centuries has been under the dominion of Gentile rule, however, John is told to take a reed, or a measuring rod, and measure the Temple and the altar. Evidently, by this time, the Temple has been rebuilt in Jerusalem under the false promise of the false Messiah before he shows his true identity and turn viciously upon those whom he has promised to defend and befriend.

Remember, that a "rod," in Scripture, is an instrument of punishment Here, during the Tribulation, God is dealing with Israel again *as a nation!*

John is told not to measure the court because "*it was given unto the Gentiles to be trodden underfoot for another three and one-half years.*"

Remember this figure, "*three and one-half years,*" sometimes referred to as *forty-two months,*" or, at other times as, "*one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*" This same period is also spoken of as, "*a time, and times, and half a time.*" This is the length of the last half of the Tribulation, giving the exact limit of "*the Day of the Lord*" from this point (chapter 11) and corresponds to the last half of Daniel's seventieth week.

The temple, mentioned in Revelation 11:2, is one built by the Jews (either just before Tribulation begins, or, during the **first** three and one-half years of the Tribulation, and will be destroyed at the end of the Tribulation, either by the earthquake under the seventh vial (Revelation 16:18-19), or by the armies of Antichrist at the taking of Jerusalem, (Zechariah 14:1-5). Both the Old and the New Testaments are clear that there is to be such a temple where sacrifices will be offered for at least three and one-half years. Then it will be made desolate for three and one-half years and will be polluted by the Antichrist and the Gentiles (Daniel 9:27; 12:7-12; Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-4).

There, of course, will be the Millennial temple as described in Ezekiel chapters 40 to 48. The Old Testament temple, built by Solomon, the one in Jerusalem when Jesus was on earth, was destroyed in 70 A.D. John was writing Revelation in 95 A.D.

The reason for the temple being measured, here, in the middle of the Tribulation Period, is that everything about the Jewish part of the temple and the worship of the Jews will pass under the rod of judgment and desolation for the purpose of chastening Israel and bringing them to the place of accepting Jesus Christ as their true Messiah.

[A study of Romans 11:21-25, showing God has "*set aside*" Israel during this present Church Age, and will again turn to Israel to deal with her as a nation, would help, also, Luke 21:24, which speaks of Israel's judgment]

The court of the Gentiles was not measured to be trodden down of the Gentiles, for it was already in their possession, and was considered by the Jews as being polluted and fit only for Gentiles. this course is to be cast out in the sense that there will be no more worship there by the Gentiles, who will have worshipped there before entering into the temple itself to worship Antichrist, and his image. Not only will the temple be

given to the Gentiles to trod under foot, but also the city itself will be in their possession for forty-two months.

The word that is translated, "*Gentiles*," is from the Greek word "*ethnos*," occurring 23 times in the book of Revelation and is translated "*nations*" every where else.

Daniel's seventy weeks

While, I want to stay in the book of Revelation, since we are studying that book, however, in order to understand fully what is happening at this point in the book of Revelation, it would be well to refresh our mind concerning Daniel's seventieth week.

Daniel 9:24-27 states, "*Seventy `sevens' (or, weeks) are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. (Vs.25) Know and understand this: From the issuing to the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler comes, there will be seven `sevens' and sixty-two `sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. (Vs.26) After the sixty-two `sevens' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end and desolations have been decreed. (Vs.27) He will confirm a covenant with many for one `seven,' but in the middle of that `seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*"

Remember, God is dealing with Israel *as a nation*, during the Tribulation Period. Daniel 9:24, God declares to His prophet, Daniel, "*Seventy `sevens' are decreed for your people...*" God also states that this period in which He is dealing with Israel, from the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, would be a period of "*seventy sevens*." (The Jewish people counted seven years as a "*week*".) Note that these "*seventy `sevens*" are divided into three periods:

1. "*Seven-sevens*" (or, 49 years) to rebuild Jerusalem
2. "*Sixty-two sevens*" (or, 434 years) until the *Anointed One will be cut off*."
3. "*One seven*" (or, 7 years) "*to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness.*"

History records that Jerusalem, from the command for Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, until it was completed was exactly 49 years (*seventy sevens*) and, exactly 432 years later...(sixty-two sevens, from the command to rebuild Jerusalem)...the "*Anointed One*" was cut off"...(Christ was crucified).

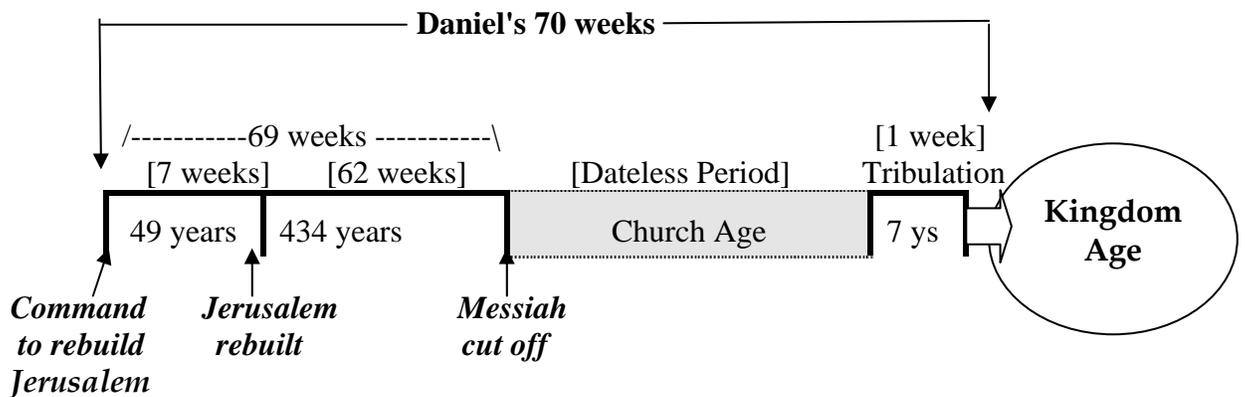
The first sixty-nine sevens (7 and 62) are past! There remains one more "*seven*" (or, seven years) to be fulfilled.

This present Church Age...from Calvary until the Rapture...God has "set aside" His dealing with Israel *as a Nation* and is dealing with all mankind on a "whosoever will" basis.

The Age in which we now are living...the Church Age...fills the interval between the time when "the Anointed One" is cut off and the *last* seven is fulfilled!

See Daniel's Prophetic diagram next page

Daniel prophesied that, first, "From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem would be 49 years (*seven sevens*) and, second, that, until the Anointed One would be cut off would be another 434 years, (or, *sixty-two sevens*). That is exactly what happened.



From the command to rebuild Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:1) until the building was complete was exactly forty-nine years (or seven `sevens') and, then 434 years later (62 sevens) Jesus, the Messiah was cut off. There remains *seven more years* (1 seven) left to fulfill this prophecy!

Verse 27, plainly, states, "And he (that is, the "*prince* of verse 26...the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many (of the Jews) for one week (7 years) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate..." Jesus makes reference to this "abomination of desolation" in Matthew 24:15.

Revelation 11:3 (as well as Revelation 13:5) establishes the fact that the Antichrist will persecute the Jews for the last half of the seven-year period, which, of course, will be three and one-half years.

Keeping in mind exactly what is happening in Revelation 11, Christ is setting the stage for the end. He claims possession by surveying the city of Jerusalem, where He is to reign over Israel. then we are told of two witnesses who are to prophesy for three and one-half years.

Who are the Two Witnesses?

Any theory of their identity must harmonize with the statements made of them in Revelation 11:3-13:

1. Christ said, "*they are My two witnesses*" (verse 3).
2. They will be given power by Christ in the future (vs 3).
3. They will prophesy 1,260 days or during the same period of time that the Antichrist reigns supreme, the Holy City is trodden down of the Gentiles, and the woman flees into the wilderness for protection (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6; 13:5).
4. They "*are the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth*" (Rev. 11:4).

Interestingly, Zechariah 4:3-12 speaks of "*the two olive trees and two candlesticks*," representing two prophets who are "*anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth*."

Scripture declares that, "*It is appointed unto men once to die*," leading one to conclude that, since Enoch and Elijah were the only two men in Scripture who never died, they must be the two witnesses of whom Revelation 11 speaks.

Malachi 4:5, certainly, seems to indicate that *Elijah*, indeed, will be one of these two witnesses.

Whom ever these "*two witnesses*" are it seems that, once again, God pleads with Israel in the days of travail...the coming three and one-half years. As the 144,000 Jewish ministers of God had proclaimed God's message during the first half of the Tribulation Period.

These two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days, being protected by God from those who would desire to harm them. They will have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain, turn water to blood, and bring plagues upon the earth, however, after they have finished their testimony, they will be placed at the mercy of their enemies. The beast that will ascend out of the abyss will make war on them and will overcome them, and will murder them (verse 7) and their corpses will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half **days**. Men will not suffer them to be put into graves. They will gloat over their death and make merry because these two prophets who tormented them are dead. After three and one-half days the Spirit of life from God will enter into them and they will stand upon their feet and ascend into heaven before their enemies. This will produce paralyzing fear upon their enemies and in the same hour a great earthquake will strike Jerusalem and seven thousand men will be slain and one-tenth of the city destroyed. The rest of men will give glory to God (verses 8-13).

The Third Woe - Revelation 11:14 announces the third woe, which is the last of the three woes announced by the angel in Revelation 8:13 that were to take place under the fifth, sixth and seventh trumpet judgments.

Revelation 11:13 ends the parenthetical passage and verse 14 announces the third woe in the same way that the second woe was announced just before this parenthetical passage began in Revelation 9:12.

The seventh trumpet is a period of time (10:7) and embraces the passage given in 11:14-19, also, the seventh trumpet judgment covers the period of time of the sun-

clothed woman, the manchild, the dragon, the remnant, the war in heaven and the two beasts, etc. (All these mentioned from Revelation 11:14 to 14:18).

What happens under the seventh trumpet...includes the seven vial judgments...is Christ bringing final redemption to all creation, casting Satan out of the heavenlies, making it possible for God to become Supreme over all the world. God will become absolute Ruler over the world by defeating all Satanic powers in the heavenlies in order to carry out His original purpose for the earth.

In Revelation 11:16-18, the 24 Elders cry out

After this, John sees the temple of God in heaven opened where the ark of His testament was located. The temple is the same as is seen in Revelation, chapters 4 and 15.

The ark is not the one Moses made, but the Heavenly ark, from which Moses patterned the earthly Ark of the Covenant.

The catching up of the manchild, the casting out of Satan from heaven, the flight of the woman into the wilderness, the persecution of the remnant, the rise of the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth, will all happen and will all be completed under the seventh trumpet.

The 11th chapter opened with Christ setting the stage for the coming end, which is very near, now! He begins claiming His possession by having the city surveyed -- the city where He is to rule over Israel. Then, the two witnesses, who are to prophecy for three and one-half years, are introduced.

Remember, the seventh trumpet covers the rest of the Tribulation Period, embracing the passage given in Revelation 11:14-19, and covers the period of time of the sun-clothed woman, the manchild, the dragon, the remnant, the war in heaven and the two beasts, etc. (All these mentioned from Revelation 11:14 to 14:18).

As one reads Revelation 11:15-19, he sees that the seventh trumpet includes all that happens down to chapter 20.

The seventh trumpet...including the seven vial judgments...is Christ bringing final redemption to all creation, casting Satan out of the heavenlies, making it possible for God to become Supreme over all the world. God will become absolute Ruler over the world by defeating all Satanic powers in the heavenlies in order to carry out His original purpose for the earth.

In Revelation 11:16-18, the 24 Elders cry out, "*We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty, Who is and Who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding Your servants and prophets, and Your saints and those who reverence Your Name, both small and great - and for destroying those who destroy the earth.*"

After this, (verse 19) John sees the temple of God in heaven opened where the ark of His testament was located. The temple is the same as is seen in Revelation, chapters 4 and 15. The ark is not the one Moses made, but the Heavenly ark, from which Moses patterned the earthly Ark of the Covenant.

The catching up of the manchild, the casting out of Satan from heaven, the flight of the woman into the wilderness, the persecution of the remnant, the rise of the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth, will all happen and will all be completed under the seventh trumpet.

I do not wish to get too detailed in this study, however, I do feel it is important that one realizes that the above statement...*that the seventh trumpet covers all the Tribulation down to the end...*is accurate.

1. Revelation 10:7 makes the statement, "*In the days...(plural)...of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall **begin** to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to His servants the prophets.*"
2. Revelation 11:15 includes the inauguration of the reign of Jesus Christ.
3. Revelation 11:18 includes the destruction of "*them that destroy the earth,*" which takes place in Revelation 19:20.
4. Revelation 11:18 also includes the giving of rewards to prophets and saints
5. Revelation 11:19 includes the "*opening of the temple*" and we see in Revelation 15:5-6 that this "*opening of the temple*" is to permit the seven angels with the seven vials to come forth.
6. Revelation 11:19 includes the appearance of the "*ark of His testament,*" showing that God has not forgotten His covenant with Israel (signified by the *Ark of the Covenant*), which will take place **after** Israel turns to Christ as her Messiah!

"In the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to His servants the prophets"
(Revelation 10:7)

We see the voices of Heaven (10:8) burst forth in celebration and utter their pure delights (11:16-17). We, who have been praying for centuries, *"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done..."* will enter in the spirit of rejoicing too, because, this prophetic account is of that blessed day, long awaited for.

The last verses of chapter 11, paint a scene that is soon to come to pass, certainly, a reason for rejoicing!

When Christ reigns there is a five-fold result, all mentioned in verse 18:

1. Nations, hating Christ's divine control, will be angry
2. God's wrath, postponed for so long, is, now, come
3. The time of the dead, that is to be judged, has come
4. The time for Christ to give His rewards has come
5. Christ will destroy them that destroy the earth

