REVELATION

Chapter 11

Overview

John sees the two witnesses of God carrying out their 1,260 day ministry before being murdered by the Antichrist. The seventh trumpet is blown.

The Temple of God (11:1-2)

- The command: John is told to measure the Tribulation Temple.
- The count: He is to number the worshipers.
- The court: He is to exclude the outer court, which has been given to the Gentiles.
- The contempt: The Gentiles will trample the Holy City for forty-two months.

The Two Witnesses of God (11:3-14)

- The ministry of these two witnesses
 - The duration of their ministry: They will prophesy for 1,260 days.
 - The dedication of their ministry: They function as God's two olive trees and lampstands.
 - The devastation caused by their ministry:
 - They devour their enemies by supernatural fire
 - They cause a three and one half year drought
 - They turn waters into blood
 - They strike the earth with plagues

Dynamic Duos and God's work of new revelation

Period	People	Progress
Years of the Exodus and the conquest of the Promised Land	Moses and Joshua	Change from the age of the patriarchs to the age of the Law
Days of the wayward kings of Israel and Judah	Elijah and Elisha	The eve of judgment and exile because of unfaithfulness to the Law
Period of exile and captivity in foreign lands	Daniel and friends	Preservation of God's people in exile and preparation for their return
Years of Christ's earthly ministry and the early church	Jesus and apostles	Change from the Old Testament to the New, birth of the Christian church
Period of the future Tribulation	The two witnesses	Judgments leading to the second coming of Christ and His kingdom

The Two Witnesses of God (11:3-14)

- The martyrdom of the two witnesses
 - The corrupt one causing their deaths
 - Who he is: He is the Antichrist himself
 - Where he comes from: The bottomless pit
 - What he does: He refuses to permit anyone to bury the witnesses' bodies
 - Where he does: They lie in the streets of Jerusalem
 - Why he does: To show his utter contempt for the two witnesses
 - The celebration following their deaths: The entire world rejoices over their deaths

More about the Antichrist

- Abomination of desolation prophesied by Christ: Matthew 24:15
- Man of sin prophesied by Paul: 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
- Little horn prophesied by Daniel: Daniel 7:25
- Embodiment of Satan himself, the man of lawlessness who comes out of the bottles pit of hell itself: Daniel 7:3, 7-8
- World ruler who will make war against God's people and slaughter them: Daniel 7:20-21,25; Revelation 7:9,13-14
- World ruler who will conquer the world: Daniel 7:23

A description by William Barclay

• Just as the Christ is the Holy One and the Anointed King of God, so Antichrist is the Unholy One and King of all evil. Just as the Christ, the Messiah, is the incarnation of God and goodness, so Antichrist is the incarnation of the Devil and of evil. Just as the Christ is the champion of God, so Antichrist is the champion of every force in the universe which is opposed to God. (The Revelation of John, Vol. 2, p. 70)

The Two Witnesses of God (11:3-14)

- The metamorphosis of the two witnesses
 - Resurrection: They are raptured up into heaven
 - Destruction: An earthquake destroys one-tenth of Jerusalem, leaving seven thousand dead.

God transforms tragic situations into triumphant events

- Underdogs become overcomers
- Weakness is changed to strength
- Overwhelming obstacles lead to magnificent opportunities

FOR God's glory not ours!

Biblical examples: God's VERSUS

- The Bible is filled with examples of God using outcasts and underdogs to accomplish His will:
 - David versus Goliath,
 - Elijah versus the prophets of Baal,
 - Gideon's three hundred men versus thousands of Midianites,
 - Esther versus Haman.
- God turns the tables "bigger is not always better" and "the strong are not the only ones to survive."

The Trumpet of God (11:15-19)

- The testimony of heaven: All heaven praises and worships God at the sounding of the seventh trumpet.
 - For his universal reign
 - Thanking him for his great power
 - For his righteous judgments
 - In rewarding the saints
 - In punishing sinners
 - The Temple in heave: John sees the Temple and the Ark of the covenant

Human governments involve...

- Authority and rule and reign: some earthly authorities and rulers are good and some are bad
- Laws: earthly laws favor some people and treat others unjustly
- Work: some have jobs and others do not have jobs
- Economies: some earthly economies are healthy and others are bad
- Protection: some earthly governments protect their citizens, others abuse and enslave them
- Provision: some earthly governments provide for their citizens and help their citizens provide for themselves and others do not
- Services: some earthly governments provide good services for their people such as roads, sewage, water, jobs, and health care or else they provide poor service

But the kingdom of this world are going to become the kingdom of our God and His Christ.

What God will do?

- There will be a victory in which the kingdom of this world will become the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (11:15-16)
- There will be a time of intense wrath in which the nations under the control of Satan will be vanquished, making way for the establishment of Christ' throne on this earth. (11:17-18)
- There will be a time at the end of that thousand year reign when the nations will once again rebel, and those hostile powers will ultimately be defeated (11:18)
- There will be a final judgment and final reward, when the wicked will be raised and sent to eternal punishment and the righteous will receive the full inheritance promised to the saints (11:18).

Understanding our Praise

- Lord: Ruler and Master
- God: He was the Creator and Maker of all, and God was the only one who deserved to be worshipped
- Almighty: God is omnipotent, that is, all powerful. God can do anything, and God will always be able to execute His will.
- Who is, and was, and is to come: God is eternal. God is the One existing now, who was always existing, and is to always exist. The Lord God possess life forever and ever.

Access Granted

- We have unlimited access to God by God's grace. The image of the open temple in heaven (11:19) shows us that believers stand in an open relationship with God.
- Christians will experience neither the seventh trumpet judgment nor any of the other trumpet judgments in Revelation. We will have already been transformed and taken to heaven at the "last trumpet" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- While the wicked endure the Tribulation on earth, the church will be preparing to return with Christ and reign with Him for ever and ever.

Ask Yourself,

- Have I trusted in Christ?
- Have I accepted God's free gift of eternal life?
- Do I know for certain that I have a personal, intimate relationship with God and will be delivered from the coming wrath?

• If yes, then your access to God has been granted. Hebrews 4:16