

BREAKING NEWS

Revelation Chapter 11

Imagine right in the final moments of the SuperBowl, there was a breaking news story that cut in? You would think it had to be something of great importance to cut into the Super Bowl right? Between the sixth trumpet and final, seventh trumpet, there's an interlude in Revelation for John to explain some other things about the tribulation we need to understand. So here we go...

Revelation 11:1-2

What is John told to measure in this verse? The temple. **What temple? Is there a temple in Jerusalem today?** There is no temple in Jerusalem today, but when tribulation comes, there will be a temple with sacrifices being offered. The Temple Mount in Jerusalem is the most volatile piece of real estate in the entire world and people are fighting over who's going to possess the holy religious site to this day.

Did God mean for him to measure the temple and the width and height of each person in it as well? In the Bible, to "measure" something means to take possession of it. This is God's way of saying no matter what is happening on earth, He still possesses the temple and those who worship within it.

Why leave the outer courts out of the measurement? This means God is not measuring those who are excluded from God's favor and have rebelled against Him.

When does this happen? As discussed previously (notes for Rev-9), tribulation will occur after the rapture and last for seven years.

What does it mean "they will tread under foot the holy city for 42 months"? The first half of tribulation there will be a temple in Jerusalem where sacrifices will be being offered and relative peace from a covenant the Antichrist makes with Israel. At the midpoint of this seven years, the Antichrist will break his covenant, stop the Jews from sacrificing, desecrate the temple, and declare himself to be God.

Revelation 11:3-10

Who appears on the scene now? What is their purpose? Along with the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, 2 unidentified "witnesses" will begin a miraculous ministry with God's empowerment much like the ministries of Elijah, Moses, and other great evangelists of the OT.

How long will they witness? 1,260 days. This will occur for 42 months (3-1/2 years), or specifically, the second half of tribulation.

What will they be like? They will be given special powers of miracles, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak words of wisdom (fire).

What will happen to them? They will become martyrs but not until their ministry is completed. The beast from the abyss could be the Antichrist, but either way, he will be a world leader backed by Satan.

How could the entire world see their death? In the days of old when this was written, there wasn't a way, but now with internet, 24 hours television, and smartphones, it is now possible.

Why will they be killed? For speaking truth and the Word of God. Verse 10 tells us this will torment those who dwell on earth. This is why they celebrate and "send gifts" to one another after the death of the two witnesses.

Revelation 11:11-14

How does God respond to this evil act? With cameras rolling and the world to see, God brings them back to life and the world becomes silent. The Antichrist couldn't even accomplish killing God's messengers. They rise into the sky and into heaven and God's enemies are astonished. A powerful earthquake follows, and the people give God the credit, but they still refuse to repent.

Revelation 11:15

The scene shifts back to heaven and the seventh trumpet sounds which brings about the next sequence of God's wrath from seals to trumpets to now bowls. Victory for God's people is near as it states "the kingdom of this world had become the kingdom of our God".

Revelation 11:16-19

Why are the 24 elders (all redeemed man) celebrate this announcement? They (we) are looking forward to the inauguration of the new Kingdom on earth.

How did the unbelieving nations respond to this announcement? They were enraged at the thought of Christ's return. At this point, mankind's rebellion is increasing and the tribulation judgements are intensifying.

What is God doing in Verse 19? The ark of the covenant represents God's faithfulness. In the midst of tribulation, God is saying to His people, "*You can trust Me. My promises are certain.*"