

Revelation 11

Table Revelation 11:1-19

- 1 *And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.*
- 2 *But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.*
- 3 *And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*
- 4 *These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*
- 5 *And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.*
- 6 *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.*
- 7 *And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*
- 8 *And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*
- 9 *And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.*
- 10 *And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.*
- 11 *And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*
- 12 *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.*
- 13 *And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.*
- 14 *The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.*
- 15 *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.*
- 16 *And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,*
- 17 *Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*

18 *And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.*

19 *And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 213-279 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1230, 1283, 1655-1657.

1. **Revelation 11:1-2.** John's ministry of temple measurement is significant because it signifies an End Times fulfilment of Zechariah 8:9 *"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, that the temple might be built"* after the manner of Isaiah 14:27 *"For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"* Note that the temple of John's day had been destroyed as the Lord prophesied in Matthew 24:2 *"And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."*

The manner of **"the Gentiles"** with respect to **"the court which is without the temple...and the holy city"** Revelation 11:2 is as King David observed in the light of Psalm 36:1 *"The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes."*

Given that John's ministry of temple measurement extends to **"them that worship therein"** today's believer should always remember God's measurement of a man according to 1 Samuel 16:7 *"But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart."*

2. **Revelation 11:3-6.** The duration of the prophesying coincides with that of the desecration and would likely consist of a warning **"unto the Gentiles"** Revelation 11:2 after the manner of Zechariah 12:3 *"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."*

Revelation 11:3 reveals that power to prophesy and duration of the exercise of that power *"...cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working"* Isaiah 28:29 and should be exercised in *"...humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering"* Colossians 3:12.

"...the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth" Revelation 11:4 emphasise that **"...power unto my two witnesses..."** Revelation 11:3 is spiritual power according to Zechariah 4:2-3, 5-6 *"...And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.."*



"Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me...This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the

LORD of hosts.” See heritagebbc.com/bible-question-and-answer-archive-5/viia-17-who-are-the-two-olive-trees-of-zechariah-four/. By inspection of Revelation 11:4-6 these scriptures identify “...**my two witnesses**...” Revelation 11:3 as Moses and Elijah.

Exodus 7:20-21 “**And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt**”

Exodus 9:13-14 “**And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth**”

Deuteronomy 5:5 “**(I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount);...**”

1 Kings 17:1 “**And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word**”

2 Kings 1:10, 12, 13-15 “**And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty...And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty...And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight. And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him...**”

Malachi 4:4-6 “**Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD...**”

Today’s believer should always remember that power to witness is *spiritual* power via “...**the grace of our Lord...exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus**” 1 Timothy 1:14 according to Acts 1:8, 4:33 “**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth...And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.**”

3. **Revelation 11:7-10.** Specific remarks on “**the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit**” Revelation 11:7 will be deferred until Revelation 13 is explicitly considered. Revelation 11:7 reveals that the enemy cannot intervene to terminate “...**my two witnesses**...” Revelation 11:3 until “...**they shall have finished their testimony**...” according to the principle of Isaiah 46:10 “**Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.**”

The manner of the witnesses’ death is as set out in Matthew 11:13-14, 14:6-8, 10 “**For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come...But when Herod’s birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she**

would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger...And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison."

Revelation 11:8 indicates that the headless bodies "...shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" because the city is "... is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months" Revelation 11:2. Jerusalem is therefore likened to Sodom where "...the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly" Genesis 13:13 and to Egypt where "...the Egyptians are men, and not God" Isaiah 31:3 showing that at this time God declares Israel to be a "...sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" Isaiah 1:4.

The grisly public display of the headless bodies accompanied by worldwide rejoicing, no doubt televised and broadcast via the internet because "...they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half..." Revelation 11:9, takes place "...because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth" Revelation 11:10 after the manner of Amos 7:10 "Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words."

Today's believer should keep in mind therefore that the Lord may well call him to minister according to Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

4. Revelation 11:11-14. Revelation 11:11 "...after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them" is a vivid testimony to "the glory of God" Psalm 19:1, Proverbs 25:2, John 11:4, 40, Acts 7:55, Romans 3:23, 5:2, 15:7, 1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 4:6, 15, Philippians 2:11, Revelation 15:8, 21:11, 23, 16 references in all and a distinct witness to:

Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him"

Isaiah 26:19 "Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead"

John 5:23 "That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him"

John 17:2 "...thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him"

in the light of John 11:4, 38-40, 43-44 "When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby...Jesus therefore...cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?...And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go."

Today's believer should therefore always be grateful for Romans 8:2 "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" and follow Paul's exhortation of 1 Corinthians 6:20 "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Continuing with respect to **“the glory of God”** Revelation 11:12-14 are then a vivid and indeed fearful End Times fulfilment of:

Job 9:12, 37:4 **“Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou?...he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard”**

Matthew 27:54 **“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God”**

2 Peter 2:1, 3 **“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction...whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”**

Today’s believer should therefore always have in mind his prior preparation for Romans 14:10-11 **“...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”**

5. Revelation 11:15-19. Revelation 11:15-19 are the *Second Advent, post-Second Advent* and indeed **“new heaven and a new earth”** Revelation 21:1 fulfilment with further revelation of:

1 Chronicles 16:31 **“Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth”**

Psalms 11:4, 6 **“The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men...Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup”**

Psalms 47:7-9 **“For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness...for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted”**

Psalms 99:1-4 **“The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. The LORD is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy. The king’s strength also loveth judgment; thou dost establish equity, thou executest judgment and righteousness in Jacob”**

Isaiah 2:3 **“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem”**

Isaiah 2:19-21 **“And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth”**

Isaiah 24:23 **“Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously”**

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 **“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet”**

Today’s believer should therefore consistently seek to apply 2 Corinthians 7:1 **“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”**

Conclusion



Revelation 11 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. *What do Revelation 11:1-2 reveal about a holy place and the heathen?*
2. *What do Revelation 11:3-6 reveal about the Lord's two witnesses?*
3. *What do Revelation 11:7-13 reveal about martyrdom?*
4. *What do Revelation 11:14-17 reveal about God's aim for this world?*
5. *What do Revelation 11:18-19 reveal about God's ultimate response to man's resistance?*
6. *What should be today's believer's stance in the light of Revelation 11:1-19?*

Sample Answers

1. ***"O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps" Psalm 79:1.***
2. ***"The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue" 2 Samuel 23:2.***
3. ***"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" Psalm 116:15.***
4. ***"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" Daniel 2:44.***
5. ***"The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed...Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup" 1 Samuel 2:10, Psalm 11:6.***
6. ***"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness" Psalm 29:2.***