

# Revelation Chapter 11.

## Chapter 11

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### Verse 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 who worship therein.*

There are a number of interpretations to this verse and once again I respect those views. However, if we look carefully at the wording of the verse we can see this measuring rod or reed was not so much to find the size of the Temple or the altar or indeed the worshipers but the Spiritual condition of the people.

John was given a reed *like* a rod; he was not given a rod. We are familiar with the phrase “Canon of Scripture” used mostly in the high Church but just as meaningful in many Churches generally. The word canon means ‘the books of the Bible officially recognised by the Church inspired by the Holy Spirit which are our rule of faith. The word canon is derived from the Hebrew word ‘kaneh’ a reed, the same word used here in our verse and speaks of the channel through which the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Bearing in mind we are dealing with the end times and the judgements of God upon His rebellious creation, we can quite safely say God wanted His Church to be measured for its Spiritual condition. Our eternal life and rewards in heaven will not depend on what we consider Holiness, it depends on our living according to His rules and standards and what the Bible says and not our diluted interpretation of it. We all need to be measured by the reed and then maybe the rod applied..

John was to measure those that worshipped in the Temple who were found to be apostate. What would Jesus find if He was to measure us?

### 1 Corinthians 4: 16 to 21

Verse 16 Paul sent Timothy to give counsel to the Corinthian Church and warn them that although they had ten thousand instructors in Christ they did not have many fathers. They lacked fathers who knew how to lead men and women to salvation through the cross, disciple them and teach them to live holy lives. He pleaded with them to be followers of Jesus. Paul said Timothy was to remind them of the teaching he gave them earlier which obviously they had forgotten. Look what the Holy Spirit said in verse 21; *what will you? Shall I come to you with a rod or in love and in the spirit of meekness?* We bow before the King of kings and the Lord of lords the Holy One of Israel and must come before Him

with clean hands and a pure heart. It is interesting to note that Paul was not afraid or embarrassed to use a 'rod' in his church for the sake of the people and their right standing before God.

Ezekiel 20: 37

*I will cause you to pass under the rod and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.*

This refers to the rod of chastisement and concerns itself with the latter half of the 3 ½ years of the great tribulation. It is a time when Israel will begin to align herself with the Antichrist and God shows His great disappointment with Israel and almost gives up on them telling them to go and serve their idols but don't pollute my House or My Name with your hypocrisy and double standards. Once again what would Jesus find if He were to measure us?

1 Peter 4; 17

*For the time is come that Judgement must begin at the House of God.*

This verse does not only apply to the non-believer, there will be a separate judgement for the believers and we will all be judged according to the deeds done in our body. Pastors and Leaders must *teach* holiness, truth and righteousness and Godly living today, because tomorrow may be too late and the people you are responsible for may miss the high calling of God out of ignorance, and on judgement day ignorance will not count as far as God is concerned.

Revelation 11: v2

*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 be trodden under foot forty and two months.*

John was not to measure the outer court as this was given to the Gentiles. At this point God was only dealing with the Jews. The outer courts was farthest from the Temple but still in the Temple ground and the Gentiles were allowed to tread, walk on and use this court for the next forty two months. The Temple and its immediate surroundings belonged to the Jews and the outer court belonged to the Gentiles. The Temple and Jerusalem were about to be taken over by the Antichrist for forty two months. Daniel 11. 40-43.

*And at the time of the end shall the king of the south (Egypt) push at him: and the king of the north (the Antichrist, Syria) shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships and he shall enter into countries and shall overflow and pass over. 41. He shall enter also*

*into the glorious land (Israel) and many countries shall be overthrown but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab and the chief of the children of Ammon. (Modern day Jordan.) 42. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries and the land of Egypt shall not escape. 43. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. See also Matthew 24. 15-20.*

## **The two witnesses**

### Verse 3

*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three score days clothed in sackcloth.*

The time frame of these two witnesses equals three and one half years. This is also defined as 42 months. (Rev.11:2) and “a time, and times and half a time”. (Rev: 12; 14). A time is one year, times is two years and half a time is 6 months. For this amount of time the two witnesses will declare God’s truth with extraordinary power and wonders.

These are two men, believed to be Enoch and Elijah, Enoch because ‘he walked with God as was not’, an old English way of saying he walked with God and disappeared without dying. And the same is said of Elijah who was taken up to heaven in a chariot again without dying. Both have been on the earth before but also have been in Heaven symbolised by two olive trees and two candlesticks which stand before God Verse 4.

Zechariah 4. 12-14.

*And I answered again and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves. 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said no my lord. 14 Then he said These are the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.*

They were already in Heaven when Zechariah prophesied about 500 years before Christ came to earth so this will exclude John the Baptist, John the Apostle and indeed any other living person after 500 BC. These two will be invincible all the time they are proclaiming God’s message. They will have power to destroy their enemies just as their enemies seek to destroy them. They will have power to cause fire to come out of their mouths; they will be able to stop the rain all the days of their time on earth. They will be able to turn water into blood and smite the earth with plagues. During the tribulation period the world will be overrun by supernatural demonic activity, there will be false

religions enticing men away from the truth, murder will be rife, sexual perversion and unrestrained wickedness will be uncontrollable. This is because the influence of God's people all over the earth will have been taken away at the Rapture leaving sin and wickedness a free hand. (2 Thessalonians 2 verse 7-9)

The abilities of the two witnesses is recorded in Revelation Chapter 11 verses 1 to 6 please read your favourite Bible and then compare what you are reading to be clear in your own spirit, soul and mind that together we are as close as possible to God's Word and we are not giving some fancy new doctrine, I really pray you are convinced we have understood His Word correctly. One other thing that is very important, all through these studies I have used the King James Bible because, and forgive me for this, I believe the KJV Bible is the closest to the original Greek and Hebrew of all the dozens of new translations and interpretations available today, many of which are watered down to make it 'easier to read'. Study with me with the KJV and go back to your favourite Bible when finished to avoid confusion. Also, there have been times when I have studied a subject and it has witnessed in my spirit, then, sometimes years later I have heard a preacher talk on that subject with a different angle or point of view. Satan has disturbed me and brought doubt in my mind, so I have shut myself away and restudied it. I have done this to be sure in my mind that I am satisfied with what I write and also I am not '*tossed about with every wind of doctrine*'. I suggest you do the same, be clear in your mind and heart the things of God. When it comes to these studies I am very happy in my spirit that we are as close to the truth as possible. Many doubtful subjects or those with many views by other expositors I have sometimes spent several days in prayer on a verse or chapter to feel happy about what I am sending out. Thank you for your understanding and may God bless us both as we try to understand His Word.

### **So who are these two witnesses?**

I have detailed who I believe the two witnesses are but there are other possibilities which include Moses and Elijah who were on the Mount with Jesus at His ascension. There is another thought that these two may represent Israel and the Church, or Israel and Judah. As I have said many times I respect the views of others but may not agree with them, some answers we may not know until the Lord returns, the best thing to do is ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God's Word, study read and reread until His word gets into your spirit, and you will get a witness..

Here are some facts to help you make up your own mind;

They are two men, not covenants or dispensations v 3, 7-12.

They will be given power when they come to earth v3

They will be prophets' v 3, 10

They will prophesy for the last 3 ½ years of this age v 2-3

They will be clothed in sackcloth v 3

They are symbolised by two olive trees and candlesticks which stand before God v4.

They were already in Heaven when Zechariah prophesied about them 500 years before Christ.

They will be invincible for 3½ years v 5-7

They will be able to stop the rain all the days they are ministering v6.

They will be able to produce fire from out of their mouths v5.

They will have power to turn water into blood v6.

They will be able to smite the earth with plagues v 6.

When their ministry is at an end the supernatural spirit from the abyss will use the human Antichrist to put them to death v7.

Hebrews 9: 27 *It is appointed unto man once to die...* It is quite likely that these two men who have never died will be the two witnesses. The death of Moses is still uncertain to this day even so will the knowing of these two men make any difference to our salvation in Christ. I really think that if the identity of these witnesses were so important for us to know I think the Lord would have made their names clearer to us.

Therefore we can look to find someone who has lived on earth but never died.

They must live in heaven now, ready to come down to earth at God's command and do the ministry of God for 3 ½ years and be killed by the Antichrist. After 3 ½ days God will raise them up.

It would appear the only two men in the Bible who could fulfil this scripture are Enoch and Elijah.

John the Baptist was never Elijah he said so himself. John the Baptist came on the scene in the same spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the hearts of men to receive Christ. In the last days Elijah will do the same thing. Luke 1; 17.

Revelation Chapter 11 v 7 - 11

*And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascended out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them and shall overcome them and kill them. 8. And their dead bodies lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindred's and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three and a half days and shall not suffer their 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 to one another because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11. And after three and a half days the Spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood upon their feet and great fear fell upon them which saw them.*

With such a spectacle not seen before, the world's Television cameras will be

all around these men, the events written in the Bible will be transmitted all around the world, and no one will miss this miracle of God. They were not allowed to be buried and great parties and merry making will be made. The Bible says that because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth, they will even send and give gifts to one another to celebrate their death. This proves the world will see and be affected by the message of God through these men, but it also proves the world will take no notice of the Gospel of Christ. Later in Revelation 16 we read that:

*The people gnawed their tongues in anguish and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.*

So a beast came out of the bottomless pit, the same pit that great army on horseback of chapter 9 came from, to overcome the two witnesses and killed them. This beast comes from the bottomless pit and is not to be confused with the beast that comes out of the sea (Chapter 13. 1.) More about him later.

Revelation 11: 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.*

John is speaking of Jerusalem confirmed by stating our Lord was crucified there and spiritually was called Sodom because Israel made Jerusalem the headquarters of the Sodomites and there is a large community of homosexuals there today. In Isaiah chapter 1, God says if it were not for the remnant Jerusalem would be Sodom and Gomorrah. God is under obligation to keep a remnant (a small number) of believing Jews so as to preserve their seed which was under the covenant to Abraham Isaac and Jacob and David through whom the line of Christ was to come. Israel kept defiling that line with sin and rebellion against their God but the remnant kept that line from being broken.

There is too much to write down the 31 verses of Isaiah chapter 1 here so please read it and understand the background of Revelation chapter 11v8, before you go further.

This small company of true Jewish believers in the laws of God prayed and kept the commandments and brought the sinful ways of their fellow men to God in prayer. It was a very difficult job because Satan had caused most of Jerusalem became the headquarters of sexual and religious perversions. (Ezekiel 16:46. 23: 3. 8. 19. 27. Isaiah 1. 9.10).

Revelation 11:11. & 12

*And after three days and 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.*

By not burying the bodies of these two witnesses was a way of showing the greatest contempt (see Acts 14; 19). In the Old Testament the practice of not burying a dead body was forbidden in Deuteronomy 21: 22-23. *And if a man committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death and you hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree but you shall in any wise bury him that day for he who is hanged is accursed of God that your land be not defiled which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance.*

By leaving these two bodies in the street they render one of the greatest insults that could be given to anyone, it is the equivalent to people spitting on the corpses. (Psalm 79; 2-3) Just like the bodies of Adam and Eve at creation, lying before God lifeless, or the dry bones Ezekiel saw in the valley, they lay there until God breathed His Spirit of life into them, so He did the same to these two witnesses and fear came upon the crowd as the two witnesses stood up alive and well.

*And they heard a great voice from heaven saying 'come up hither' and they ascended up to heaven in a cloud and their enemies beheld them.*

1 Corinthians 15: 23 God has His order for man to die and be resurrected.

*But every man in his own order, Christ the first fruits, afterward they who are Christ's at His coming, (the Rapture), then the end comes.*

The ascension of these two men now completes all the resurrection of the righteous dead before the millennium and is the end of Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. The world was now without any Christian or Godly influence to hold back the onslaught of sin, 2 Thess. 2; 7-8. Verse 10 of our study says *those who dwell upon the earth will rejoice*, all the unbelievers the world over will celebrate the death of these two witnesses, their message of salvation will never again be heard, there will never be any more conviction of sin, from now on they will have Satanic feasts with drunken revelry in celebration of the death of these two men, giving presents to one another not having to listen to the convincing message from God any longer, they have shut Him out completely. In all the story of the horrific times in Revelation this is the only time of any rejoicing and it surrounds the rejection of the love of Christ for His people. I guess His heart breaks.

Verse 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 a frightened and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

Note that the remnant were frightened but still gave God the glory. When the rest of the world was deep in their sinful ways they did not want to recognise God in His glory, or His great wonders that was about to bring this age to an

end. But the remnant, those few who prayed along with the other few throughout Biblical history, kept the faith and trusted their God.

### **The third woe comes quickly**

Verse 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 forever and ever.*

At the trumpet sound of the seventh Angel a great many voices in Heaven started to say the words of the Hallelujah Chorus often sung by choirs all round the world; The kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever. We are told that Angels do not sing! I don't know about that, I cannot imagine these voices speaking these wonderful words; I'll leave you to decide! In any event my guess is that the whole host of heaven sung out at the top of their voices that long-awaited proclamation that the Kingdom of Jesus Christ will soon commence (Psalm 2:2; Isaiah 9: 6-7; Zechariah 14:9)

Verse 16

*The four and twenty elders which sat before God on their seats fell upon their faces and worshipped God. Saying we give you thanks O Lord God Almighty which art and was and art to come, because you have taken to you your great power and has reigned.*

The twenty four elders which sat before God fell on their faces and worshipped. These elders are glorified, crowned, and enthroned; these are the traits of the redeemed soul. The Bible says we will all be judged 1 Corinthians 3; 1-10. 2 Corinthians 5:10. Then we shall be rewarded with crowns 2 Tim: 4:8, James 1:12; 1 Peter 5: 4; so these elders symbolise the church in heaven.

Revelation 11: 18.

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

The unconverted world will now begin to see things they do not understand, nor are they expecting therefore they are frightened and angry, as we see on our Televisions when a rampant crowd go wild, they scream and shout uncontrollably. Can you imagine the angry crowds the world over running this way and that to find peace and not finding it, trying to hide from those awful



scenes knowing the judgement of God is about to fall on them. Oh yes they will know, the Gospel is going out all over the world in so many different ways and with the advent of the Christian Channels going into almost every home in the world no-one can plead ignorance.

A very good friend of ours knew what we believed and often made a joke of our belief at our expense. He was dying in hospital, when we visited him I asked him if he wanted to get right with God as he was about to meet Him, as best he could in his weakened state turned his head quickly and said NO! Now he knew about the Lord, my wife sent him her testimony when she had a brain tumour so he knew, but he shunned the Lord with his very last breath, he died a few hours later. In the last of the last days millions will be like our friend, out of stubbornness and pride perhaps following the crowd, they will reject the love of Christ's outstretched hand and go to hell.

But the servants of the Lord are rewarded for their faithfulness and perseverance, not because of any worth or merit in themselves because everything including any reward is owed to the grace and favour of Almighty God. It is the power of God that enables us to endure and overcome to the end. (1, Cor. 15:10. 2 Cor. 12:9. Luke 17:10.)

Verse 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.*

John is now able to see inside the temple of God in heaven, and sees the Ark of the Covenant. In the earthly tabernacle the Ark was placed inside the Holy of Holies and only the High Priest could go in once a year to sprinkle the blood of a young lamb on the top of the Ark which is called the mercy-seat to atone for the sins of the Israelites. This was accepted by the Lord up until His death on the cross when He became the Lamb that was slain for the sins of the world, thank you Jesus.

The lightning the voices, thunders and violent hail repeatedly appear as the accompaniments of the judgement of God.

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Be blessed

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