

# Revelation Part 10 | 7/9/17

- Continuation of the interval between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets
  - We are still in the interval between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> trumpets. This interval includes Chapters 10 and 11 until verse 15.
  - The interval tells us that we have 3 ½ years left in the tribulation. There are multiple references to this as 42 months and also 1,260 days.
  - This upcoming period is the Great Tribulation that will begin with the blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet.
  - The temple in Jerusalem will be have been rebuilt by this time.
  - It also includes the Scripture telling us about the two witnesses who will prophesy about Christ during this 3 ½ year period.
  - They will then be at war with the beast (antichrist) who will kill them but they will be resurrected.
- The rebuilt temple in Jerusalem | Revelation 11:1-2
  - **Read Revelation 11:1-2**
  - We know that there will be a rebuilt temple at the end times and during the tribulation.
  - This passage speaks to that temple, so at this time it has been fully restored and is being used for worship.
    - There are several passages of Scripture where we see that the antichrist will put himself in this temple and proclaim himself to be God.
      - 2 Thessalonians 2:4
        - “who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.”
      - Matthew 24:15
        - “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),”
      - Daniel 9:27
        - “And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”
      - Daniel 12:11
        - “and from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days.”
          - This passage also references the 3 ½ year period.
    - The antichrist who has been a great deceiver will show his true colors in Chapter 13 when he proclaims himself to be god.
  - To measure means to declare ownership.
    - In these verses, a measuring rod is referenced for John to measure the temple of God and the altar.
    - This measuring refers to ownership, God is proclaiming and taking ownership symbolically by using the measuring rod.
    - There are similar examples of this in the Old Testament
      - Zechariah 2:1-2
      - Ezekiel 40-41

- God claims the temple and those who worship Him, but reject the unbelieving Gentiles who will trample the temple during the Great Tribulation.
  - God claims the temple and those who worship Him, however He rejects the unbelievers.
  - This description of the temple, altar and outside court is the same description as the temple as it existed previously.
  - The outside court was known as the “court of the Gentiles” and during this time those outside unbelievers will trample the temple.
  - We see this culminate as well with the antichrist in Chapter 13.
- The Two witnesses will prophesy for 3 ½ years. | Revelation 11:3-6
  - **Read Revelation 11:3-6**
  - During the Great Tribulation God will give authority to two witnesses who will prophesy for 3 ½ years by preaching a message of judgment and salvation.
    - However, these two witnesses are different than anyone we have seen thus far who is sharing the Gospel.
    - These two will be quite different from the 144,000 Jewish evangelists or anyone else who has become a Christian during this time.
  - So, who are the two witnesses?
    - John is not given names for these two witnesses specifically, however based on the description we are given, there is reason to relate them to Moses and Elijah.
      - The power to shut the sky was given to Elijah and he did it for 3 ½ years which is the same period of time they will be given to prophesy.
        - James 5:17
          - “Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.”
      - The power to turn the water to blood and bring plagues points to Moses.
        - Moses was the only one God had used to deliver these plagues in Scriptures.
      - **Both of these men were given supernatural powers to bring about repentance.**
        - That is the purpose of the two witnesses God rises here and it was the same purpose they had when they lived on the Earth.
        - Moses used the plagues to show Pharaoh who the true God was.
        - Elijah used the power of shutting up the rain to persecute the followers of Baal that His God was the only true God.
      - God tells us that Elijah will return in the future to proclaim His name.
        - Malachi 4:5-6
          - “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”
      - Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind and God buried Moses.
        - Elijah was taken up into heaven and God buried Moses where his body could never be found.
          - 2 Kings 2:11
            - “And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”



- **But with this discipline coming in the forms of drought and plagues, He will still show His grace and mercy and will openly accept anyone who shows true repentance.**
  - **Will the lost see these witnesses as a threat, instead of listening to their message of grace and forgiveness?**
  - **Why do you think God chose this method as He did for Pharaoh and all those Baal worshipers that Elijah dealt with? Why not the healing that Jesus demonstrated?**
  - **Does God still work this way today? Does He work both through acts of discipline and also grace to bring about repentance?**
- The beast will rise from the pit and kill the two witnesses | Revelation 11:7-10
  - **Read Revelation 11:7-10**
  - This beast is the antichrist
    - The beast will rise from the pit (showing him to be demonic) and we will see how he will put on a false image to the world.
      - While there is speculation that his rise came earlier in shadows, this is where Scripture clearly defines his first appearance.
    - He will be a great deceiver and will turn many away from the witness of Christ and the world will worship him instead of God.
  - God will remove the protection upon His two witnesses and allow the beast to kill them.
    - **Notice this did not happen until their ministry was completed. At that appointed time God removed His hand of protection and allowed the beast (antichrist) to kill them.**
      - God allowed this to happen. This wasn't that Satan overcame God, but that God allowed it to happen.
      - God is and will always be in control.
  - The world will rejoice when the best kills the two witnesses.
    - While we might think that that would bring forth great mourning, instead we see that the people rejoiced.
      - Revelation 11:10
    - **The lost who did not believe in their message, saw them as evil because they brought torment upon the earth.**
    - **However, they misunderstood the intention as it was for discipline, a way to get their attention so that they would hear the message spoken by the witnesses.**
    - If they would have opened their hearts and minds to what they proclaimed they would have seen this.
    - **This will be a broadcast event for the world.**
      - We already know that the technology that we have today allows for real time streaming of any event that takes place in the world.
      - This event to will be put on display for the world to see.
      - Very likely they would turn this day into a holiday as the celebrations and gift exchanges go on.
  - Jerusalem is referred to symbolically as Sodom and Egypt because of its wickedness.
    - The location for these events is Jerusalem and Scripture says it is symbolically linking it with Sodom and Egypt.
    - This would be because of its wickedness that is clearly on display, many will not turn to Christ but will still reject Him and instead listen to the false testimony of the beast.
  - **What other event in Scripture can you recall where there was mass celebration at the death of one who was proclaiming God's truth? Where they also similarly deceived?**

- **Will the beasts seemingly victory over the two witnesses “seem” like it was the right thing to do in the minds of those who rejected their testimony?**
- The two witnesses will be resurrected and many will give glory to God. | Revelation 11:11-14
  - ***Read Revelation 11:11-14***
  - While the world watches the dead bodies of the two witnesses laying in the street God will perform a miracle and resurrect them into heaven.
    - This mass celebration of the beast’s victory over the two witnesses will be short lived as in 3 ½ days they will be resurrected.
    - This would be a site to behold, as the world still has their cameras trained upon them they will capture the moment that God revives them.
    - And as would be expected great fear will fall upon those who are watching.
  - Then God (instead of allowing them to testify more) will call them with a loud voice to come up to heaven.
    - This voice would bring great fear, but also would open the eyes to those who had heard the message of the witnesses.
    - God’s voice will be audible heard and they will be taken up to heaven in a cloud.
  - Then once they are called to heaven a great earthquake will shake Jerusalem and 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the city will die.
    - This most likely being those who had completely rejected the message and servants of the antichrist.
  - Then those who remained gave glory to God.
    - While the events leading up to this time might have been difficult to bear, there were many who had heard the message of the two witnesses and had seeds planted.
    - When they heard the message, and saw their death and resurrection, they gave glory to God.
    - The truth of the message proclaimed took hold in their heart and they knew that it was true and who the true God is.
    - They denied the antichrist and instead put their faith and trust in Christ.
  - **How might we relate these events to how God works in people today? While there are not people being killed and resurrected God does work in amazing ways that brings repentance from the lost.**
    - **False teachers and teachers of truth.**
    - **Seeds planted, events that take place that bring faith in the lost that the world preached is true.**
- The blowing of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet signifies the time of the very end where the final judgments are poured upon the earth and Christs imminent return. | Revelation 11:15-19
  - ***Read Revelation 11:15-19***
  - The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet will bring forth several of the final events in Revelation prior to the establishment of the millennial kingdom in chapter 20.
    - The 7 bowl judgments.
    - Satan’s rise and fall.
    - Christ’s return and His coronation as king.
  - It is a very significant event that tell us that the end is very near and Christ return is just around the corner.
  - There are significant proclamations made as the trumpet is blown.
    - “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ”
      - No more will there be separation between the earthly kingdom and the heavenly.

- At the end of these events there will be one kingdom of God the messianic kingdom.
- Lord God Almighty (pantokrator)
  - The ultimate word (pantokrator) used to describe the power of God.
- “he shall reign forever and ever”
  - Never will Christ’s reign end, it will last for an eternity.
  - There will be no other Books or chapters to the end of times this is it.
- “for you have taken your great power and begun to reign”
  - **It used to be “who is and who was and who IS to come”. Now it is “who is and who was and who has BEGUN to reign.**
  - No longer is Christ coming in the future, no longer will Christ at one time reign, this time is now.
- “the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants”
  - Judgment is at hand for those who have defied and obeyed God.
- “God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.”
  - This is not the earthly ark but the heavenly one.
  - Like the earthly one it has been opened to speak of God’s redeeming purpose even during this time of judgment.
  - It shows his grace, forgiveness and mercy.