

Revelation 11.1-19 “The Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ”

Christ who Came was a Builder > Church Planter > “I will build My Church!”
Text > What happens to Christ’s Church during Global Chaos? Judgments?

3 Different yet Similar 7-fold visions of Revelation: 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls
Each Series > Higher & More Intense > Grander Vista from Spiral Staircase
Story of Church in World > From its Birth to its Graduation Day > Glorification

1. Temple – God’s People are Secure
2. Two – God’s Purpose for us is Service
3. Town – Godless System
4. Trumpet – God’s Punishment is Soon
5. Time – God’s Plans will Stand

1. Temple – God’s People are Secure

a. Measured

v. 1 “I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, ‘Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there.’”

OT Prophets > part-time Actors > Symbolic Actions to Dramatize their Message
Isaiah walked Naked > Ezekiel dug thru Walls > Jeremiah broke Pottery

ch 10 John acts in his Vision > Eats Sweet & Sour Scroll > God serves Chinese
ch 11 Measures Temple of God, Counts Worshippers

Background Ezekiel 40–42 > 3 Chapters of Man Measuring the Temple
Ezekiel writes from Babylonian Captivity: “In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel... I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand...I saw a wall completely surrounding the temple area...He measured the wall...” Ezekiel 40.2-5

NEW JERUSALEM will be MEASURED: “The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls” Revelation 21.15

b. Meaning LITERAL? > 70 AD Temple in Jerusalem went up in Roman Smoke
This Book was written about 90 AD > What was John measuring?

“It is of the utmost importance that we bear in mind here, as elsewhere, the apostle receives a *vision*. In a vision one can see things which no longer exist in literal reality.”
 William Hendriksen

Jews Wowed by Herod’s Magnificent Monument: Jesus bursts their vain Bubble
 "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the *temple he had spoken of was his body.*" John 2.19-21

Tabernacle / Temple > Where you go to MEET GOD > Glory dwelt in OT Temple

Advent of Christ radically changed Temple > Jesus is Priest and Sacrifice
 Temple Curtain torn Open > from Top to Bottom > Opened Way for all Nations

MESSAGE of Christmas > God meets Us > Pitched His Tent in Human Flesh
 “The Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
 John 1.14

NT Meeting with God not about a PLACE but a PERSON > Lord Jesus Christ
 Worship God in Hotel Ballrooms or Discos > IF it is in Spirit and Truth

“Don't you know that *you yourselves are God's temple* and that God's Spirit lives in you?”
 1 Corinthians 3.16

Ultimately > Meeting will be Perfect & Complete “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” Revel 21.22

Measure Temple? // Sealing of Saints (chapter 7) > Safe amidst fury of Trumpets

Then I looked up--and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand! I asked, "Where are you going?" He answered me, "To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is... And I myself will be a wall of fire around it,' declares the LORD, 'and I will be its glory within.' " Zechariah 2.1,2,5

Measured > those who worship in God’s True Sanctuary > Redeemed of Mankind
 Known – Foreknown – Predestined - Called – Justified - and at last Glorified

“That the language of prophecy is highly figurative has nothing to do with the reality of the events predicted. Symbolism is not a denial of historicity but a figurative method of communicating reality.” Robert H. Mounce

2. Two – God’s Purpose for us is Service

a. Picture v. 3 “my two witnesses” - Who are these Two Men? > 200 Answers

v. 4 “These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”

IDENTITY in Zechariah > Prophet to Jews who returned from Babylon

“He (the angel) asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand...also there are two olive trees by it..." I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: `Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty...Then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" ...So he said, "These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth." Zechariah 4.2-14

Lampstand > 2 Olive Trees > 2 Servants: Joshua the Priest, Zer. King’s Governor
Witnesses > a PRIEST and a ROYAL representative > Kingdom and Priest

Spirit-filled Witnesses // Oil-fed Lamps > Upright, Enduring, Eternally united to X

“Jesus Christ, who is *the faithful witness*... has made us to be *a kingdom and priests* to serve his God and Father” Revelation 1.5,6

“the seven lampstands are the seven churches” Revelation 1.20
REMEMBER 2 of 7 Churches were ESPECIALLY NOBLE and PRAISED

Church ‘the light of the world’ reflects Him who has NO DARKNESS AT ALL

Olive Tree > Symbol of Person in God’s Favor “I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unending love for ever and ever.” Psalm 52.8

The TWO is YOU!...and the Person Sitting Next to YOU! > His Witnesses
Earlier 144,000 Represented Complete People of God > Now 2 Witnesses

“One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.”
Deuteronomy 19.15

‘Witness’ BASIC IDENTITY of CHURCH > According to Lord of the Church:
“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1.8

“the Lord...sent them two by two ahead of him to every town” Luke 10.1

b. Prophecy v. 3 “my two witnesses, and they will prophesy”
v. 6 “they are prophesying” / v. 7 “their testimony”

The Church is a TALKING CHURCH > WHAT shall we talk ABOUT? JESUS!!
“For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19.10

Our Message > BOTH Good News of Salvation AND Bad News of Judgment

c. Power WE ARE LIVING IN THE DAYS OF ELIJAH

vs. 3,6 “And I will give power to my two witnesses...These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.”

Power like Elijah > Elijah said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”
1 Kings 17.1

Power like Moses > “he who set his Holy Spirit among them, who sent his glorious arm of power to be at Moses' right hand”
Isaiah 63.11,12

v. 5 “If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.”

Captain of Wicked King Ahab’s Army came to Arrest Elijah: “Elijah answered the captain, ‘If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!’ Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.” > *Happened Again to 50 More Men*
2 Kings 1.10

Word of Gospel > NO LESS POWERFUL > Life and Death > Heaven and Hell

Promised Messiah brings Judgment > “He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.” Isaiah 11.4

“The house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly unfaithful to me,” declares the LORD...I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes.” Jeremiah 5.11,14

“The Word in the mouth of the Lord’s prophet-witnesses may be scorned but it is not an empty sound. Its judgments are fire that devours its enemies.” R. S. Lenski

KEY to Power?? v. 3 clothed in sackcloth" > Symbol of REPENTANCE

Penitent Church is a Powerful Church > Have Nothing, yet Possess All Things Denied Self to Affirm Christ > World calls them Poor, but they make many Rich

v. 6 “power...as often as they want” > Do we BELIEVE? Do we WANT IT?

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us...My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” James 5.17-20

d. Persecuted

v.7-9 “the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city...people...will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.”

BEAST > Led Swarm of Locusts in Ch 9 > see again Ch 13 > Godless Governm’t Church follows its Master > All the Way to the Cross > thru Cross to the Crown

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." John 15.18,19

New Identity in Christ > Brings a Radical Separation from our Former Life

v. 10 “The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.”

INTENSITY OF HATRED > No Dignity of Proper Burial > Shame of Celebration
 Word went out as v. 7 “testimony” > Received by Guilty as v. 10 “torment”
 “The picture given here is extreme, and for good reason...Revelation puts the spotlight on this fundamental conflict, and therefore depicts good and evil in black and white fashion...In your own life, look for the deadly conflict and persevere unflinchingly in witness and loyalty to Christ. In the lives of non-Christians, look beneath the veneer of pleasantries and see the deadly opposition that only divine power can stop.”
 Vern S. Poythess

3. Town – Godless System

v. 2 “the holy city” / v. 8 “the great city”
 v. 8 “figuratively called Sodom and Egypt”
 v. 8 “where also their Lord was crucified”
 v. 9 “men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies”

Modern Man > No Problem > Blessing of CNN! Picture Phones! Digital Uplinks!
 What did this mean to 1st C Believers in 7 Churches of Asia? > other 18 Centuries?
 DID GOD’S BLESSINGS BEGIN WHEN CNN WAS INVENTED??

“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia...”
 Revelation 1.3,4

“men from every people, tribe, language & nation” > WILL SEE > Without CNN!
 How? They will see YOU and ME > His Church > Global People of God

WE ARE “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language”
 Revelation 7.9

“The ‘great city’ is every city and no city - it is civilized man in organized community against our Lord and His Christ.”
 G.K. Beale

“Sodom” = moral degradation

“Egypt” = oppression and slavery > Not just a City > an ENTIRE COUNTRY

“where their Lord was crucified” > World Crucifies its Lord Again and Again

“Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.”
Hebrews 13.12-14

“The scene is the great city, the worldly city, which includes not only Sodom and Egypt of old, and not only Jerusalem, but also Rome, each of the seven cities of Asia Minor, and our modern cities today. It is the city bent on independence from God’s way, as was Babel of old. The war between the two cities, the city of God and the city of man, continues throughout history until Babel/Babylon is finally destroyed and new Jerusalem comes to consummation.” Vern S. Poythress

“A December parade in Denver will feature everyone from Chinese lion dancers to gay and lesbian shamans, according to the Rocky Mountain News, but not Christians who want to sing yuletide hymns or carry a Merry Christmas message. The one-hour parade features elaborate floats with holiday symbols such as Santa Claus and gingerbread houses, plus an "international procession" of cultural groups. The international portion this year features the Two Spirit Society, which honors gay and lesbian American Indians as holy people; a German folk dance group; and performers of the Lion Dance, a Chinese New Year tradition ‘meant to chase away evil spirits and welcome good luck and good fortune for the year.’ Those groups are considered examples of ethnic diversity, not religious groups, a parade official said.”
Fox News December 6, 2004

John uses ‘World’ to mean more than PLANET EARTH > Place of Rebellion

“Do not love the world or anything in the world.” 1 John 2.15
No Good Thing in World > Avoid its Spiritual Pollution and Contamination

Amazing Declaration: "God so *loved the world* that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3.16

4. Trumpet – God’s Punishment is Soon

v. 14 “The second woe has passed; the third woe is *coming soon*.”

SOON? Some MOCK those words? “Jesus is coming SOON” 2000 years!?
Students > Beginning of Term told Report is Due > Night Before ‘due Tomorrow!’
Old Age > as Youth ‘I’ll LIVE FOREVER’ > Now Life Almost Done > Too Soon

SOON > is SOONER THAN YOU THINK > When you LEAST EXPECT IT!

a. Woe > Seventh Trumpet is the Third Woe > Judgment Day for Planet Earth

v. 11-12 “But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.”

Church like Elijah > Taken to Heaven in Whirlwind > No Secret Rapture

God brought ABRUPT END to CELEBRATION of the MURDERED CHURCH
He Spoke Life into their Dead Bodies > Like the Dry Bones in Ezekiel’s Valley
Army of the Lord > Arose from the Dead > Stood up in the Boots of the Gospel

Murder is Last Resort > Nothing they can do Now to Silence God’s Message
Resurrection of Church > God possesses Ultimate Authority over Life and Death

v. 15 “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

ALL OPPOSITION SILENCED > Every Knee will Bow > Every Tongue Confess
Jesus on Earth > Satan offered All Kingdoms of this World > Jesus then Refused
Jesus WILL GET IT ALL > Takes Kingdoms > AND Crushed Serpent’s Head

v. 13 “At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

Tenth > “tithes” > Acknowledgment that Entire Amount belongs to God

Entire Rebellious City has been Judged and is Fallen

Visitation of God’s Anger > Leaves survivors Terrified > But it is TOO LATE
Give glory to the God of Heaven > just before they are cast into Hell
Worldly Sorrow > knew were CAUGHT in Guilt > Reaction of Panic not Praise

v. 18 “The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”

END of Human History > Reign of God > Great Demonstration of Divine Wrath

v. 19 “Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: `In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,' says the LORD Almighty.”
Haggai 2.6,7

Consummation > Reward to the Faithful & Destruction to the Destroyers

“The world has always shown hostility to the message of God—a truth that ought to give some concern to the contemporary church existing for the most part rather comfortably in a world of increasing wickedness.”
Robert H. Mounce

b. Worship

vs. 16,17 “And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

“Great power” > Final Conflict where God Overpowers all his Enemies
Lord God Almighty > able to accomplish all He decrees to do
“who is and who was” NOT “is to come” > Already come and begun to reign

“A day of the LORD is coming... The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.” Zech 14.1,9

Terminal Moment of History of World we Know > All Promises of God Fulfilled
Loud Voices herald the Eschaton > Day of the Lord > Last Day of the Last Days
True King and Lord is clearly Seen > the Lord and his Christ > 1 God > 1 King

v. 19 “Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.”

In Christ we See what No OT Believer Saw > Behind Curtain of Most Holy Place
We Behold the Face of God > Ark – Symbol of the Very Presence of God

When Israel Circled Jericho > Blowing 7 Trumpets > carried Ark of Covenant
Now 7th Trumpet Sounds > Ark is Seen by People of God > God is with Us

Some leaving Almaty > Sad not going to Finish study of Revelation
One Sense > YOU HAVE > 7th Seal Opened > 7th Trumpet Sounded > THE END
John will take us UP and AROUND Spiral Staircase > Few More Times
Other Perspectives on GOD’S ETERNAL LANDSCAPE > More of His Glory
Purpose NO MORE FIRM > Plans not be MORE DEFINITE > Promise is SURE

5. Time – God’s Plans will Stand

a. Sad Hour of Victory for Church is Hour of Judgment for World

PERIOD OF TRIBULATION > Same Period described Three Ways

42 months > 1260 days > 3 ½ years

- Elijah who prayed and there was no rain in Israel for 42 months
- Attack on Jerusalem by Antiochus Epihanes approximately 3 ½ years
- Daniel speaks several times about “a time, times and half a time”

“the times of the Gentiles” Luke 21.24

v. 2 “But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.”

Outer Court of Jewish Temple > Court of Gentiles > World touches the Church
Paradox > Church will be Measured / Sheltered AND will be Trampled

Sometimes World seeks to Control Church > Persecutions, Restrictions, Slander
Church goes Underground > Ends up Being Stronger and More Vibrant!
‘You can kill me but you cannot hurt me!’ > Cannot Touch our Real Source of Life

Time between Advents > 1st and 2nd Comings > Wheat & Weeds Grow Together

“The real horror of sin is its power to blind the one sinning to its destructive, cancerous growth. We observe others’ lives being destroyed by some attitude, some relationship, some behavior, but continue in the same path ourselves. Think, for instance, of the destructive power of AIDS. Much is known about the behaviors that lead to AIDS, yet how many have changed the behaviors that make them susceptible to contracting the virus? John sees that sin is spiritual AIDS. He also sees a greater problem—the entire human race is infected. Except for God’s gracious intervention, we are in a hopeless condition.” M. Robert Mulholland, Jr

b. Sovereign He is Lord of Time > Precise

v. 2 “for 42 months.”

v. 3 “they will prophesy for 1,260 days”

v. 9 “For three and a half days”

v. 11 “after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them”

v. 13 “At that very hour there was a severe earthquake”

THEN TIME WILL BE NO MORE > Enter God’s Eternal Timelessness
Greek Aorist Tense used 11 Times > Absolute Certainty of these Events

c. Savior > Nothing man can do can hurt God’s Servants or thwart God’s Plan

The God who Transcends Time > God who Controls Time > God who can Save Us

v. 7 “Now when they have finished their testimony...”

No matter what Paul would face in Jerusalem and beyond, confidently told Elders in Ephesus: “I consider my life worth nothing to me, *if only I may finish the race* and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.” Acts 20.24

Many years AND TEARS later Paul wrote from Roman Death-Row:

“the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, *I have finished the race*, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

2 Timothy 4.6-8

For some Race is SPRINT > like Stephen, the 1st Martyr of the Church

For others the Race is a MARATHON > aged John last Apostle, exiled on Patmos

“I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished” David Livingstone

Jesus to Church in Smyrna “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life”
Revelation 2.10

FINAL Forwarding ADDRESS > in that Heavenly Jerusalem > Mansion Prepared

“when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman”
Galatians 4.4

Simeon blessed Mary, Message was Sweet and Sour: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."
Luke 2.34,35

Revelation 11

1. I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there.
2. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.
3. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."
4. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
5. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.
6. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.
7. Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.
8. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

9. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

10. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

11. But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.

12. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

13. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

14. The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

15. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

16. And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God,

17. saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

18. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

19. Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

