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By Dan Maines

Revelation 11

Revelation 11:1-2

Then there was given to me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the courtyard which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations; and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months."

† Measuring symbolizes ownership and preservation. John is told to measure the true worshipers, not the outer court,

meaning the faithful are preserved, but apostates and outward religion are left to judgment.

† Proof, Ezekiel 40-43 used measuring to symbolize God's dwelling with His people. Here, the temple imagery shows covenant judgment on old Jerusalem.

† The forty-two months (three and a half years) corresponds to the Roman siege of Jerusalem (AD 67-70), matching Daniel's "time, times, and half a time" (Daniel 7:25). Josephus records the Roman armies trampling the city and defiling the temple (Wars 6.2.1).

Revelation 11:3-4

And I will grant authority to My two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

† The two witnesses symbolize the faithful prophetic testimony of the church. Two represents valid testimony according to the law (Deuteronomy 19:15).

† The olive trees and lampstands recall Zechariah 4:2-3, where Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor stood as God's anointed. Together, they represent priestly and kingly witness fulfilled in the church.

Revelation 11:5-6

And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

† Their powers recall Elijah (calling fire, shutting heaven's rain, 1 Kings 17:1, 2 Kings 1:10) and Moses (turning water to blood, Exodus 7:20). The church continues the prophetic role of Moses

and Elijah in bearing witness against Israel.

† Proof, Jesus said His disciples would be given a mouth and wisdom which none of their adversaries could contradict (Luke 21:15). Their prophetic witness was fulfilled in the church's testimony before AD 70.

Revelation 11:7-10

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie on the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. Those from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

† The beast from the abyss (Rome) overcomes the witnesses. Their death symbolizes persecution of the church in Jerusalem.

† The "great city" is clearly Jerusalem, for it is "where their Lord was crucified." Jerusalem is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, showing its apostasy.

† Proof, Josephus (Wars 4.5.2) describes Jerusalem's corruption, with murder and sacrilege inside the temple, matching the charge of spiritual Sodom and Egypt.

† The world's rejoicing at their death reflects Israel's delight in silencing the prophets, Matthew 23:29-31.

Revelation 11:11-13

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. And at that time there was a great earthquake, and a

tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

† The resurrection of the witnesses symbolizes vindication of the church. Though persecuted, their testimony is upheld by God.

† The earthquake represents upheaval in Jerusalem. Josephus records earthquakes, signs, and fearful wonders in the years before the city's fall (Wars 4.4.5; 6.5.3).

† The number seven thousand recalls Elijah's remnant in 1 Kings 19:18, showing God preserves His faithful even when judgment falls.

Revelation 11:14-15

The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is coming quickly. Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

† The seventh trumpet fulfills Daniel 2:44, the kingdom of God replacing all others. It is the climax of prophecy, showing the transition from the old covenant to Christ's eternal reign.

† Proof, Paul connects the trumpet with resurrection and the kingdom's consummation (1 Corinthians 15:52). The seventh trumpet matches the moment of covenantal change.

Revelation 11:16-18

And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, "We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those

who destroy the earth."

† This passage declares the fulfillment of Daniel 7:22, where judgment was given to the saints and the time came for them to possess the kingdom.

† Proof, Jesus predicted the judgment of the dead and vindication of the saints within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28; Matthew 24:30-34).

Revelation 11:19

And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and flashes of lightning, sounds, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and great hail.

† The heavenly temple is revealed, not the earthly one. The ark of the covenant, long absent from the earthly temple, appears in heaven, proving that true covenant presence is now in Christ.

† Proof, Josephus notes the ark was never in Herod's temple (Wars 5.5.5). Its appearance in heaven shows the old system is obsolete and the new covenant fully established.

How it applies to us today

† God preserves His faithful, even when outward religion falls under judgment.

† The witness of the church cannot be silenced, for even in persecution, God vindicates His people.

† The seventh trumpet confirms Christ's reign has begun, and His kingdom is everlasting.

† We serve the God whose true temple is in heaven, not in earthly buildings, and who has made us His dwelling place.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † Ezekiel 40-43 – measuring the temple
- † Daniel 7:25; 12:7 – time, times, and half a time
- † Josephus, Wars 4.5.2; 4.4.5; 5.5.5; 6.2.1; 6.5.3 – corruption, earthquakes, temple defilement, signs
- † Zechariah 4:2-3 – olive trees and lampstands
- † Deuteronomy 19:15 – testimony of two witnesses
- † 1 Kings 17:1; 18:38; 19:18 – Elijah's miracles and remnant
- † Exodus 7:20 – Moses and water turned to blood
- † Matthew 16:27-28; 23:29-31; 24:30-34 – Jesus on judgment in that generation
- † Daniel 2:44; 7:22 – kingdom given to the saints
- † 1 Corinthians 15:52 – trumpet and resurrection

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