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Judgment Series - Temple in Revelation Chapter 11



By Dan Maines

Temple in Revelation Chapter 11

† **Revelation 11:1-2** shows John told to measure the temple of God while the outer court is given to the nations for forty-two months. The command to measure signals God's protection of His true worshippers, even as the visible structure faced coming destruction.

† Measuring sets apart what belongs to the Lord. The inner temple represents those who worship in spirit and truth, while the outer court given to the nations pictures the judgment about to fall on unbelieving Israel.

† This passage confirms that the temple was still standing when John wrote, proving the prophecy pointed to the imminent fall of Jerusalem.

† The forty-two months align with the length of the Roman siege, marking a definite period of covenantal judgment.

† **Ezekiel 40-48** uses temple measurement to symbolize preservation of God's true worshippers.

† In Ezekiel's vision, careful measuring revealed God's plan to protect and restore a faithful people even as judgment came on the unfaithful.

† John's vision follows the same pattern: the true worshippers are secure though the physical building would be lost.

† This shows that God's dwelling is with His people, not in stones and walls.

† **Luke 21:5-6** records Jesus' prophecy that the temple would be torn down, stone by stone.

† Jesus' words were direct and literal, fulfilled when the Roman armies leveled the magnificent temple in AD 70.

† John's vision reinforces that this destruction was near and certain, not a distant future event.

† Christ's prophecy and John's measurement join to declare the end of the Old Covenant order.

† The forty-two months match the three-and-a-half year siege of Jerusalem, showing Revelation was written before AD 70.

† This exact time span strengthens the case for an early date, since it matches the historical siege led by Rome.

† The precision of this period highlights God's control over history and His faithfulness to His warnings.

† It assures believers that no detail of His plan fails.

† Josephus confirms the temple still stood when the siege began and was destroyed after about three and a half years.

† His detailed account provides eyewitness proof that aligns with Revelation's timeline.

† The historian describes how Roman forces encircled the city, cut off supplies, and finally burned the temple, exactly as Jesus foretold.

† This convergence of scripture and history leaves no doubt that the vision was fulfilled in the first century.

† Revelation opens by saying the events "must soon take place" and that "the time is near" (Revelation 1:1, 3). These words meant something immediate to John's first readers, showing the prophecy concerned their own generation.

† Revelation 11:1-2 speaks of the temple as still standing, which supports a date before AD 70 when the temple was destroyed.

† Early church writers like Clement of Alexandria and the Muratorian fragment place John's visions during Nero's reign, again pointing to a pre-70 date.

† Some argue the temple in Revelation 11 is only heavenly or symbolic. But John is told to measure a specific court and to note that the outer court will be trampled by the nations for forty-two months, which fits the historical siege of Jerusalem.

† Even if someone insists on a symbolic meaning, the clear time markers and the prophecy's fulfillment in the first-century destruction of the physical temple remain undeniable.

How it applies to us today

† God's true temple is His people. Our worship isn't tied to a building but to the living Christ who dwells in us.

† We can trust that God protects His own even when institutions collapse and nations rage.

† The fall of the temple reminds us that the New Covenant kingdom cannot be shaken.

† Our call is to worship in spirit and truth, knowing that Christ Himself is our sanctuary.

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

Source Index

† Revelation 11:1-2; Ezekiel 40-48; Luke 21:5-6; Revelation 1:1, 3

† Josephus, Jewish War; Clement of Alexandria; Muratorian fragment

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