

I. THE TEMPLE REBUILT

A. The Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem

1. Chapter 11 - introduction and summary to many things (Chapters 12-20)
 - a. We see the beast ascending from the pit (vs. 7) – Anti-Christ
 - b. We first see here that “great city (vs. 8)
 - c. A measuring reed – reminiscent of EZEK 40:3 – “And he brought me thither, and, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like the appearance of brass, with a line of flax in his hand, and a measuring reed; and he stood in the gate.”
 - i. Ezekiel saw the deserted and desolate Jerusalem
 - ii. 25 years into captivity, Ezekiel saw the ruins of the Temple
 - iii. And was told to measure it!
 - d. Now John is told to measure it
 - i. Just the Jewish portions, leave out the court (vs. 2)
 - ii. Again, the city of Jerusalem is in great distress
 - iii. But the LORD JESUS CHRIST has the measure of it!
 - iv. Even when our lives are in ruins, He knows how to rebuild!
2. The Anti-Christ shall dwell in it
 - a. Hear what Paul said about the Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. 2 THESS. 2:3-4 – “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (4) Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”
 - c. This wicked anti-christ will SIT in the Temple
 - d. He will proclaim himself to BE God!
3. The Anti-Christ shall rule it
 - a. Not only will the anti-christ dwell there, but he will rule it!
 - b. Look at vs. 8 – he will overcome and kill

B. The Taken (vs. 1-2)

1. Many older commentaries misunderstand this as about churches
 - a. They will say things like: “The temple; the gospel church in general, whether it be so built, so constituted, as the gospel rule directs, whether it be too narrow or too large, the door too wide or too strait.”
 - b. Commentaries from the last 150 years believe “universal church”
 - c. Plurality makes this even more confused. Churches? Temples?
2. But we know vs.1 does not speak to one or more of the Lord’s Churches
3. We know because we already read REV. 4:1

- a. We know because we believe in a PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE
 - b. Pre-Millennial, Pre-Tribulation, Pre-Wrath “catching up” of SAINTS
 - i. It isn’t a rapture of “THE church”
 - ii. It isn’t a rapture of only those who are living right
 - iii. Or even only of those who are living!
 - c. 1 THESS. 4:16 – “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
 - d. Wherefore COMFORT one another with these words!
- C. The Trodden (vs. 2)
- 1. The court is to be trodden under foot by the Gentiles (Jesus tells us)
 - a. LUKE 21:24 – “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”
 - b. These “times of the Gentiles” began in about 606 B.C.
 - c. Under King Nebuchadnezzar: 2 CHRON. 36:7 – “Nebuchadnezzar also carried of the vessels of the house of the LORD to Babylon, and put them in his temple at Babylon.”
 - 2. The COURT is trodden for 42 months (3 ½ Years – last ½ of Tribulation)
 - 3. Now we see the Two Witnesses!
 - 4. Introduced by the Mighty Angel (Jesus)

II. THE TWO WITNESSES

A. Their Personalities

- 1. They are men, not nations, books, denominations, or churches
- 2. They have BODIES
 - a. They are clothed – sackcloth (vs. 3)
 - b. They prophesy - speak for 1260 days
 - c. They bring JUDGMENT (vs. 5)
- 3. Direct fulfilment of ZECH. 4:11-16 – “Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? (12) 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 said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.)
- 4. No one knows who these will be
 - a. Most believe there are FOUR possibilities as their identities

- i. Elijah
 - ii. Enoch
 - iii. Moses
 - iv. John (Apostle) because REV. 10:11 (out of context-IMHO)
 - v. We also think that John died – according to some accounts
 - b. Many believe it is Moses and Elijah (olive trees)
 - i. MATT. 17:2 – “And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. (3) And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him”
 - ii. We know that Moses died (Jude 9) disputed over his body
 - iii. We also know: HEB. 9:27 – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
 - iv. And we know that the dead in Christ shall rise first
 - v. And get a NEW body that cannot die.
 - c. The only two that haven’t died on this list are Elijah and Enoch
 - i. Moses should have been resurrected with a new body
 - ii. John should have been resurrected with a new body
 - iii. If either of them...how do they die a second time? (vs. 8)
 - iv. But if God took Elijah and Enoch out of time and placed them there in Chapter 11, dying would make sense
 - v. As well as their own special RAPTURE (vs. 12)
- B. Their Protection (vs. 5)
 - 1. Fire proceeded out of their mouths
 - 2. If anyone came against them – zap!
- C. Their Power (vs. 6)
 - 1. They had the power to shut up heaven
 - a. Moses and Elijah both had been given this power
 - b. Some use this as a clue to their identities
 - c. But neither could shoot fire out of their mouths...
 - 2. But we SIMPLY cannot say for certain who they ARE
 - 3. We DO however know absolutely what they DID!

III. THE TESTIMONY FINISHED

- A. Their Work
 - 1. God Proclaims it
 - a. Vs. 3 – SHALL continue in prophecy
 - b. Vs. 6 – SHUT the heavens
 - c. Vs. 6 – SMITE the earth with plagues
 - 2. Vs. 7 – SHALL be killed
 - 3. How the devil HATES the Gospel!
- B. Their Witness - Proclaim Christ and His Kingdom
 - 1. And it was called TORMENT (vs. 10)

2. Never doubt that the lost are tormented by conviction!
- C. Their War – the beast makes war against them (vs. 7)

IV. THE TIME PASSES

A. Their Duration

1. The 3 ½ years was proscribed by God
2. Nothing in this universe, nor Heaven nor Hell below could change that
3. It's SAFE to be on the Mission field!

B. Their Death

1. They are killed by the Beast of the Bottomless Pit (vs. 7)
2. In Jerusalem (vs. 8), so wicked called Sodom and Egypt
 - a. Not even buried – but left on the street
 - b. No common decency – VILE!
3. The people of the world all SEE them lying there dead
4. 150 years ago, could a commentator foresee the Internet? Satellites?

C. The Derision

1. When they saw these two prophets of God die, did they repent?
2. When they saw these two bodies cast into the street, did they lament?
3. No, they celebrated! They gave gifts! (vs. 10) A wicked Christmas!
4. But that wasn't the end of the story!

V. THE THIRD DAY

A. The Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit of God – called the Spirit of LIFE
2. And they stood up, and great fear fell upon all
 - a. If they all saw them die
 - b. Surely, they'd all see them live again!
3. The Rich man in Hell said his brethren would believe
 - a. If they saw someone come back from the dead
 - b. These people see TWO and they won't

B. The Symbol

1. They are proclaiming LIFE AFTER DEATH
2. Death is not the end of it all – there is no simple slipping away
3. There is life, and there is death, and then there is what comes after!
4. What happens after death for the lost is WORTHY of great fear!

C. The Salvation

1. They finally receive a call (vs. 12) "COME UP HITHER"
2. Turn to 1 COR. 15:50-57
 - a. For the lost, only corruption awaits. Eternal Death in Hell
 - b. For the saved, their mortality will put on immortality!
 - c. For the saved, Death is swallowed up in VICTORY
3. How? Only by the Blood of Jesus Christ – Be Saved Today!