

November 12, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Sermon Notes
Revelation: The Trumpets S3E5 – The Two Witnesses
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Revelation 11: 1-14

1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. **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 appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." **4** They are "the two olive trees" and the two lampstands, and "they 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** They have power to shut up the heavens 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 public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. **9** For three and a half days some 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 the 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.

Main Point: Revelation chapter 11 foreshadows the second woe, the rebuilding of the temple and the coming of two prophetic witnesses.

Go and measure the temple of God: Vs. 1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. **2** But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.

- **The Rebuilt Temple: Orthodox Jews believe that the Messiah, when he comes, will rebuild the temple**
 - **Understanding Prophetic Timing: Daniel 9:25-27 *The Seventy Sevens**
 - **Daniel 9:24** "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place."
 - 69 weeks of years or 483 years to the coming of the Messiah from the time of the decree.¹
 - The prophet Daniel told us the Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jewish people, bringing sacrifice and offerings to an end. This Antichrist will defile the temple by setting something abominable there ([Daniel 9:27](#), [11:31](#), and [12:11](#)).
 - Jesus said to look for an abomination standing in the holy place, which would be the pivotal sign that the season of God's wrath was upon the earth ([Matthew 24:15-16](#) and [24:21](#)).
 - Paul told us that the Antichrist would sit in the temple as God ([2 Thessalonians 2:3-4](#)).
- **The Court of the Gentiles Excluded: Vs. 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.
 - The antichrist will offer a solution between Islam and Jews which will allow for Israel to rebuild the temple and reestablish the sacrificial system.
- **The Two Witnesses: Vs. 3** And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."
 - **Elijah and Moses**
 - **Elijah and Enoch**

- **Elijah and John the Baptist**
- **Elijah and the Apostle John** (Revelation 10:11).
- **Two Old Testament Prophets or Two Contemporary Believers**

Practical Takeaways:

1. **Take measure of the temple of your life: Vs. 1-2** I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. **2** But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.
2. **Finish your testimony: Vs. 7** Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Small Group Questions:

1. **Personal Sacred Spaces:** Reflecting on the imagery of measuring the temple and excluding the outer court, what parts of your inner life do you hold as sacred and guard carefully? Are there parts that you leave "unmeasured" or exposed that might need more attention or protection?
2. **Identifying with Prophetic Characters:** If you were to see yourself as one of the two witnesses in your life's journey, how would it change the way you live?
3. **Prophetic Insights and Present Day:** How do the prophecies about the temple and the Antichrist speak to your current understanding of world events? Do these prophetic visions cause you to live your life differently, and if so, in what way?
4. **Balancing Personal Boundaries with Openness:** Reflecting on the "Court of the Gentiles" and its exclusion from measurement, there are times when setting boundaries is necessary for maintaining personal integrity and spiritual health. Can you share an experience when you had to set such boundaries to preserve your core values? How do you determine whom to include in your personal 'temple' and whom to respectfully keep at a distance?
5. **Living Out Your Testimony:** The call to "finish your testimony" suggests a proactive role in one's faith expression. What does your testimony look like currently, and what do you want it to be? How can you actively work on living out your faith and being a witness in your daily life?