

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

A0604 – January 22, 2006 – Rev 11:1-2 – The Tribulation Temple

Today let's begin by making a note of the literary structure of the Tribulation judgments. After the 6th Seal there is a parenthesis before the 7th Seal. After the 6th Trumpet there is a parenthesis before the 7th Trumpet. After the 6th Bowl there is a parenthesis before the 7th Bowl.

Seals	Trumpets	Bowls
1-6 () 7	1-6 () 7	1-6 () 7
Rev 7:1-17	Rev 10:1-15	Rev 16:13-16

We are presently in the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th Trumpets (aka 2nd and 3rd Woe!) Three events are mentioned in between these judgments:

1. The Little Scroll (10:1-11)
2. The Measuring of the Tribulation Temple (11:1-2)
3. The Two Witnesses (11:3-14)

Even though these three events occur between the 6th and 7th Trumpets there is no time lapse between the 6th and 7th Trumpet. In other words, this is not a chronology. In real time when the 6th Trumpet ends the 7th Trumpet will begin (11:15). Even then, the contents of the 7th Trumpet will not be poured out until the 1st Bowl judgment in Rev 16. Thus, most of the events from Chapter 10-15 are not chronological but add details to either the first or second half of the Tribulation. For example, when John ate the bittersweet little scroll this gave additional details that take place during John's revelatory experience in heaven and it shows the authority of God over His inspired prophets. When John was about to write down what the seven thunders uttered God stopped him from writing. In order to get John to write again God had John take the little scroll from the strong angel and eat it. This act symbolized the re-commissioning of John to write because John still had to prophecy about "many peoples, nations, tongues and kings." That the scroll was sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach showed that his prophecy

had both sweet and bitter elements. It is sweet for believers because of the promised return of the King, His Kingdom, and the New Heavens and New Earth. It is bitter for unbelievers because of the future Bowl judgments, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the Eternal Lake of Fire.¹

The second event that happens in the parenthesis between the 6th and 7th Trumpets is the Measuring of the Tribulation Temple in 11:1-2. This will be the subject of our investigation today. Next week we will focus on the third event in this parenthesis; The Two Witnesses (11:3-14).

Revelation 11:1-2 Then there was given 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. ² "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

I. The Tribulation Temple (11:1-2)

Revelation 11:1 And he gave me a measuring rod (kalamos) like a stick (rabdos), saying, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those worshipping in it.

John was given a *measuring rod that* was *like a staff*. What John was given was a “stalk” or “reed” that grows in the Jordan valley, up to 25 feet long, properly a calamus or sweet cane reed. It was a hollow wooden stalk that was very light and therefore excellent to use as a *measuring rod*. The command comes most likely from the strong angel in Rev 10:9 (a slight possibility is that the command comes from God, cf 10:11). The command is *“Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar and those worshipping in it”*. What is the significance of measuring? Some light is cast on the significance of measuring since three other things are measured in Scripture.

1. Ezek 40:3-42:20

The Millennial Temple is measured with a reed. The significance seems to be a marking off of the Temple for God’s purposes.

2. Zech 2:1ff

The borders of Jerusalem are measured with a measuring line. The significance seems to be marking off the borders of Jerusalem which will be overrun by the countless increase of Israelites and divine blessing given them during the Millennial Kingdom.

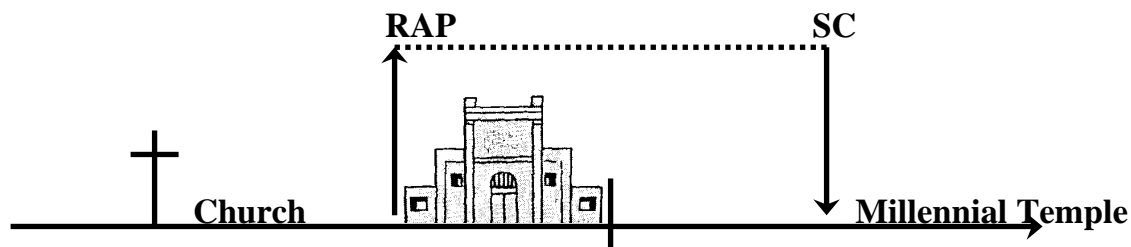
3. Rev 21:15

The borders of the New Jerusalem are measured by a golden reed. The significance seems to simply mark off God's property to be used for His purposes in the New Heavens and New Earth.

In our text of Rev 11 John is to *measure the temple of God and the altar and those worshipping in it*. What *temple* is this? First, there are seven temples in Scripture.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Solomon's Temple | (1 Kings 5-8; 2 Chron 2:1-18) |
| 2. Zerubbabel/Herod's Temple | (Isa 44:28; Matt 24:1-2) |
| 3. Individual Temple | (1 Cor 3:16; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19) |
| 4. Body Temple | (2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21-22) |
| 5. Heavenly Temple | (Rev 4-5; *11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8; 16:1, 17) |
| 6. Tribulation Temple | (Matt 24:15; Rev 11:1-2) |
| 7. Millennial temple | (Ezek 40-48) |

Obviously our text is not speaking of Solomon's Temple. It can't be Herod's Temple either because it was destroyed in 70AD and Revelation was written 25 years later in 95AD. It's obviously not the Individual or Body Temple or Heavenly Temple because none could be trampled by the Gentiles for 42 months. Finally, it can't be the Millennial Temple because that is Christ's Temple. Therefore, it must be the Tribulation Temple. Four passages of Scripture mention the Tribulation Temple. All four passages assume the presence of a functioning Temple by the middle of the Tribulation.



First,

Daniel 9:27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

This is the Antichrist's forced covenant with the leaders of the nation of Israel for "one week". This "one week" is the 70th week of Daniel. The first 69 weeks were completed with the Triumphal Entry of Christ just days before His crucifixion. The final week will begin when the Antichrist forces a covenant with the leaders of the nation of Israel. As with the first 69 weeks the 70th week each week lasts 7 years of 360 days each in accordance with Jewish custom (lunar year calendar). Dan 9:27 says that "in the middle of the week" the Antichrist "...will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering". This assumes a functional Temple where sacrifices and grain offerings are taking place. "When" the Tribulation Temple will be built is a matter of conjecture. Construction could begin *before* the Tribulation begins or *after* the Tribulation begins but whatever the case it must be fully functional by the "middle of the week" at which point the Antichrist will commit the abomination of desolation. Whatever the "abomination of desolation" is it will last until the desolator is completely destroyed (i.e. until the 1,290th day, cf Dan 12:11). Jesus also spoke of the abomination of desolation in

Matthew 24:15-16 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

Since the abomination of desolation will take place in the "middle of the week" then it is at this time that the Jews in Judea must flee to the mountains. What is the abomination of desolation? There are two aspects of the abomination. First,

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it [the day of the Lord, cf v 2] will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

The man of lawlessness is the Antichrist. Verse 4 is teaching that the Antichrist will exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship and will take his seat in the

temple of God (exact terminology used in Rev 11:1) and will display *himself as being God*. Thus, the first aspect of the abomination of desolation is the Antichrist's taking his seat in the holy of holies of the Tribulation Temple and claiming himself to be God. This aspect of the abomination of desolation will last 42 months or 1,260 days and will correspond to the second half of the Tribulation as confirmed by...

Revelation 13:5 There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him.

These blasphemous acts will defile the temple and Jerusalem will become His religious capital (His political/economic capital will remain in Babylon). The second aspect of the abomination of desolation is found in...

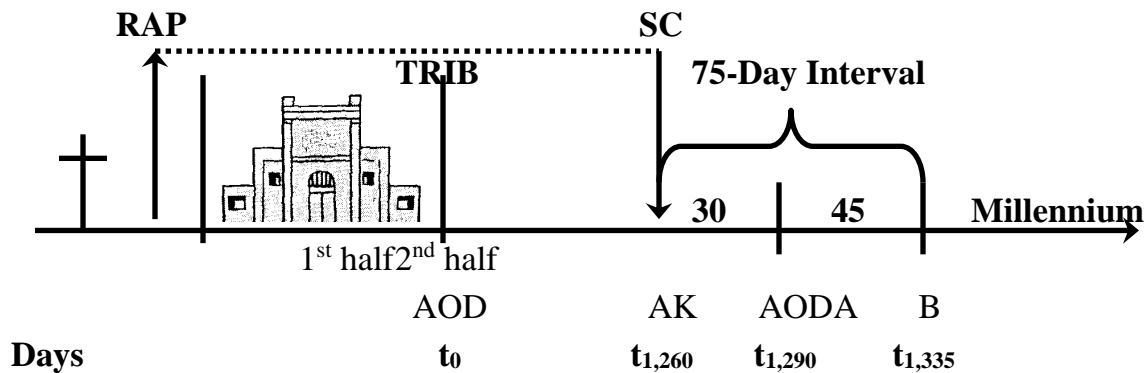
Revelation 13:11-15 Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. ¹² He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. ¹³ He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. ¹⁴ And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. ¹⁵ And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

The second beast of v 11 is the false prophet. Because the Antichrist will not remain in the Tribulation Temple the false prophet will tell the earth dwellers to make an idol of the Antichrist during his absence. This idol will be set up in the Tribulation Temple and by supernatural powers it will be given life so that it can speak and kill those who do not worship it. This aspect of the abomination of desolation will not be removed until 30 days after the Second Coming of Christ.

Daniel 12:11 "From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there will be* 1,290 days.

So, the Antichrist will be killed on the day of Christ's Second Coming. At that point the first aspect of the abomination of desolation will be done away with. However, the

second aspect of the abomination of desolation, the idol of the Antichrist will not be taken down until 30 days later.



RAP = rapture of church

AOD = abomination of desolation

SC = second coming of Christ

AK = Antichrist killed

AODA = abomination of desolation abolished

B = blessed is he who attains to this day

The 1,290 days begins at the time the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up in the Temple which is at the mid-point of the Tribulation. Christ will return on the 1,260th day and slay the antichrist with the breath of His mouth. 30 days later Christ will remove the idol so that the total amount of abomination of desolation is 1,290 days as Daniel predicted (Dan 12:11). There are a total of 75 days of transition between the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom, also predicted by Daniel.

Daniel 12:12 "How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!

The one who is blessed is the one who lives until the 1,335th day which is the first day of the Millennial Kingdom. During the 75 day interval some time must pass for preparations to take place such as the final re-gathering of the Jews, their judgment, and the Gentile sheep/goats judgment of Matt 25:31-46. Those who survive these judgments will attain the 1,335th day and are called blessed because they will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

So, the overall point in our text today is that John was given a reed to measure the Tribulation Temple. This temple will be built and functional by the middle of the Tribulation and the Antichrist will claim to be God in the Temple and will have an idol

set up in the Temple to be worshipped. This abomination will last 1,290 days which is 30 days after Christ returns.

Notice, John is not only to measure the temple but also *the altar and those worshipping in it*. The *altar* refers to the “brazen altar” and not the altar of incense. Access to the brazen altar was available to all the Jewish people. The angel’s point is that those within the measured area fall under God’s favor. They fall under God’s favor because Israel is the apple of God’s eye, His elect nation. This does not guarantee spiritual salvation but the 144,000 and the 2 witnesses will witness to them during the 2nd half of the Tribulation and the results will be a tremendous turning to Jesus in faith, their regeneration, and the 2nd Coming of Christ. So, this area is measured to show God’s favor for the nation of Israel even in this dark time of world history. God will yet deliver all who trust in His Son (which will be 1/3 of those who enter the Tribulation, cf Zech 13:8-9).

Zechariah 13:8-9 "It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off *and* perish; But the third will be left in it. ⁹ "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Revelation 11:2 *And cast out (exclude) the court outside of the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles, and they will trample the holy city forty-two months.*

John is told that the outer court is to be *cast out* or *excluded*. Gentiles were permitted to go into the *outer court* but only Jews were permitted in the *inner court*. The expression *cast out the outer court* means that area falls outside of the purview of God’s favor. During this period of the Tribulation God’s favor will rest upon Israel, His chosen people. In general, those in the outer court are the *Gentiles* who will be subject to His wrath (His intense displeasure toward sin). The *Gentiles* are non-Jews, those that make up the nations. These *Gentiles will trample the holy city forty-two months*. The *holy city* refers to Jerusalem (Isa 52:1; Matt 4:5; 27:53). God chose Jerusalem to be His city. Jerusalem means “foundation of peace”. It has been all but peace historically but it will be the “foundation of peace” when the Messiah returns and rules from there during the Millennium. That Jerusalem will be *trampled* indicates that the Gentile’s will intend to destroy Jerusalem (BAGD). According to our text and Zech 14:1-3 the most intense trampling will take place just before the 2nd Coming of Christ to rescue His people Israel.

Zechariah 14:1-3 Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you. ² For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. ³ Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

Luke described the “times of the Gentiles” as a period that began with the Babylonian Exile and will not end until the 2nd Coming of Christ!

Luke 21:24-27 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶ men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ "Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with power and great glory.

The most intense trampling will occur during the last *forty-two months* of the Tribulation (cf Rev 13:5). This can easily be accounted for by the Antichrist's rise to ultimate power and the descent of Satan to earth, both which occur at the middle of the week. Thus, the *forty-two months* here refer to the 2nd half of the Tribulation and is the equivalent of the “1,260 days” of verse 3 which refer to the same period of time. This is abundantly clear because the events of Zechariah and the close of the times of the Gentiles occur just before the Second Coming of Christ. Thus, the *forty-two months* and “1,260 days” in Rev 11:2-3 correspond to the Great Tribulation (Matt 24:21) or the 6th Seal. Dan 7:25 describes this same period of time as *a time, times, and half a time*.

Daniel 7:25 He [Antichrist] will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

a time = 1 year

times = 2 years

half a time = ½ year

The most intense period of Gentile persecution of the Israelites will happen during the 2nd Half of the Tribulation. The description of the two witnesses in 11:3-14 shows that they witness in the midst of persecution! They are given power to project fire out of their mouths to kill those who *try* to harm them as well as those who even *desire* to harm them. Thus, the two witnesses will witness at the same time Jerusalem will be trampled by the Gentiles. Both will happen during the 2nd Half of the Tribulation. Jesus said the Tribulation during this time will be great, an unparalleled time of trouble (also cf Jer 30:6-7).

Matthew 24:21 "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

It is during the great tribulation that God purge the remnant of Israel and punish the nations. God will show His favor to Israel and His displeasure toward the nations.

ⁱ Notice how much more revelation God gave regarding the sweet things than the bitter things. God wishes that all would be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:9). He is not leaning over history with an iron fist saying, "you unbelievers are fulfilling My purpose exactly as I decreed and this brings Me much joy." It does not bring Him joy when we reject him and sin. Revelation reflects His distaste for the bitter things and pleasure for the sweet things.

[Back To The Top](#)

Click [Here](#) to return to other lessons.

[Return to Fredericksburg Bible Church Web Site](#)