

Message #27

Revelation 11:1-2

There is no doubt about the fact that one critical focus and reason for the Great Tribulation will be the regathering of the nation Israel.

In the last 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, God will turn His attention to Israel to fulfill His prophetic plan.

We have already seen in Revelation 7 that there was a sealing of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists from Israel, featuring 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes.

When we come to Revelation 11, we come to three critical themes that are very much connected to Israel:

- 1) The Temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation. **11:1-2**
- 2) The two prophets in Jerusalem during the Tribulation. **11:3-14**
- 3) The seventh trumpet judgment during the Tribulation. **11:15-19**

The first 14 verses of Revelation 11 are still part of the parenthesis between the second “woe” judgment and the third “woe” judgment. **During this parenthesis in the Tribulation, things move to the nation Israel and a key part of the events pertaining to Israel is the Temple.**

What we see here in these verses is this:

IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION THERE IS A LITERAL TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM THAT CONTAINS MEASUREMENTS, AN ALTAR AND WORSHIPPERS.

Notice from verse 1 that John is the one who saw this Temple. John is the one who is to measure this temple. Furthermore, this Temple is a target for 42 months, or 3 ½ years (v. 2). It is clear that at this point in the Great Tribulation there is a literal Temple that is standing in Jerusalem.

The most valuable, visible, viable and volatile acreage on the face of this earth is the 35-37 acres of land which comprise a rectangular platform in East Jerusalem on which the ancient Jewish Temple once stood.

This Temple is not standing now. In fact, just recently at Passover, Jews were not even permitted to enter the Temple Mount area, but the flags of Hamas and Islamic Jihadists flew proudly. Jesus said in Luke 21:24 that “Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles **until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**”

Think about this fact, right now the Jews are permitted by Muslims to enter the Temple Mount area Sunday thru Thursday from 7-11 AM and from 1:30-2:30 PM.

The first 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation have been judgments God is pouring out on the world, primarily against the Gentiles. As we mentioned, by this point ½ of the world's population is dead. With today's numbers that means 4 billion people are dead.

But God now turns His attention to Israel.

It is predicted in both the Old Testament and the New Testament that this Temple in Jerusalem will once again be standing and will eventually be standing on this very spot (Is. 2:2-3; Ez. 37:26-28, 40-48; Dan. 9:27; Micah 4:1-2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; 14:20; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14; II Thess. 2:4).

Now to understand this text and get some perspective of this, we want to analyze this under three main Temple themes:

TEMPLE THEME #1 – The history of the Temple in Jerusalem.

There are 14 historical Temple facts we want to understand concerning the Temple:

Fact #1 - In 966 BC, King David made Jerusalem the capital of Israel and moved the Ark of the Covenant to the place near the Temple site (II Sam. 5:6-12; 6:1-17; I Chron. 11:4-9; 15:1-16:38). By moving the ark to this spot means this spot was to be a place that was known to reverence God.

Fact #2 - In 993 BC, King David desired to build a Temple for God in Jerusalem, but was informed by God that his son, Solomon, would build the Temple (II Sam. 7:1-13; I Chron. 17:1-14).

Fact #3 - In 990 BC, King David purchased the property for the first Temple site, which means Israel does legally own the land (II Sam. 24:18-25; I Chron. 21:18-26). David paid 600 shekels of gold for the property (I Chron. 21:25), which is about 240 ounces or 15 pounds of gold. Right now an ounce of gold is worth \$1750.24 which means, in today's money, that David paid \$420,057.60 for that land. What this means is that Israel literally and legally owns this Temple acreage. It was never sold.

Fact #4 - In 960 BC, King David made complete preparations for the building of the Temple prior to his death (I Chron. 22:14-19). He challenged the leaders to set their heart and soul on getting this project of building this Temple completed (I Chron. 22:19-19).

Fact #5 - In 950 BC, King Solomon built the first Temple in Jerusalem (I Kings 5-8). He followed through on exactly what his father David wanted him to do. It was completely dedicated to the LORD and it was filled with the Presence of the LORD (II Chron. 6-7).

Fact #6 - In 586 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, invaded Jerusalem for the third time and destroyed the Temple. The Chaldeans/Babylonians completely destroyed the Temple Solomon built (II Kings 25:8-10; II Chron. 36:10, 14, 20; Jer. 18:5-12; 39:1-10). The reason why God permitted the Temple to be destroyed was because Israel had rebelled against God and His word and refused to turn away from their evil and turn to Him (Jer. 34:2-3, 17; 35:15).

Fact #7 - In 539 BC, Cyrus conquered Babylon and permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple (Ezra 1:2) and in 535 BC, the actual rebuilding of the Temple began.

Fact #8 - In 530 BC, work on rebuilding the Temple stopped due to threats and intimidations. The Temple sat unfinished and dormant for the next 10-12 years.

Fact #9 - In 522 BC, Darius I became King of Persia and he decreed that the Temple needed to be completed (Ezra 6:1, 5, 8, 14). He appointed Zerubbabel, the grandson of Jehoiachin (Jeconiah) who was in the line of David, to be in charge (I Chron. 3:17,19; Matthew 1).

Fact #10 - In 520 BC, through the prophetic ministry of Haggai and Zechariah, the Temple rebuilding restarted.

Fact #11 - In 515 BC, the Second Temple was completely rebuilt in Jerusalem (Ez. 6:15). This was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.

Fact #12 - In 20 BC, King Herod (Herod the Great) oversaw a project to refurbish and expand the Second Temple due to the destruction that had been caused primarily by Antiochus Epiphanies in 169-167 BC. This was the Syrian who slaughtered a pig on the altar. This critical part of reconstruction took 46 years until about AD 27 (John 2:20). The work of the Temple complex continued until about the year AD 63 (Matt. 24:1; Mark 13:1; Luke 21:5)

Fact #13 - In AD 29, Jesus Christ predicted that the Second Temple would be destroyed (Matt. 23:37-24:2; Mark 13:2; Luke 21:6, 20-24).

Fact #14 - In AD 70, Titus, the Roman General and son of Vespasian, literally and completely destroyed the Second Temple. This was just 40 years after Christ's prediction and **to this very day the Third Temple has not yet been rebuilt**. The only thing left that has been found of this Second Temple is part of the western wall that surrounded it; tunnels have been found containing pottery and coins, and stones have been found that were used for walls.

TEMPLE THEME #2 – The Tribulation measurement of the Temple in Revelation. **11:1-2**

It is very clear when we come to **Revelation 11:1-2** that the third Temple is standing and is able to be measured. In these two verses, it is clear that John sees this third Temple and is able to measure it.

There are various times when John becomes an actual participant in the eschatological action (**1:2**; **5:4**; **7:14**). What that certainly indicates is that in heaven there is activity and at various times we will be part of that activity.

There are two Temple observations to make here:

Temple Observation #1 - John is given a measuring rod. **11:1a**

The Greek word for “measuring rod” (kalamos) is one that refers to a surveyor’s rule or a surveyor’s measuring rod. It was a reed which grew in the Jordan Valley, in swampy areas, and reaches a height of 12-20 feet. It was very lightweight and easy to handle, like our yard stick. This was a literal measuring tool, which any living in John’s time would have been familiar.

Temple Observation #2 - John is given specific measurement commands. **11:1b-2**

There are two measurement commands that John is given:

(Measurement Command #1) - John is commanded what he is to measure. **11:1b-d**

John is commanded to make three measurements:

Measurement #1 - John is commanded to measure the Temple of God. **11:1b**

We are not given the measurement numbers here. So the purpose of the measurement is not so much to reveal to us the physical dimensions, but to give us the assurance of the fact that this is God’s measured special property that is being used for worship. It is clearly in existence and standing.

Now based on various Jewish computations, it is assumed that the Third Temple will cover an area of about 1,600 feet long, by 900 feet wide and be about 9 stories high.

Measurement #2 - John is commanded to measure the Sacrificial Altar. **11:1c**

During the Tribulation, it is clear that sacrifices will be implemented and will be offered. This would lead us to conclude that to this point in the Tribulation the Jews have rejected Jesus Christ as being the Sacrificial Lamb.

Measurement #3 - John is commanded to measure the people who worship. **11:1d**

There are real people going to these worship services at this point in the Tribulation. The number is measurable and countable.

(Measurement Command #2) - John is commanded what he is not to measure. **11:2**

John is commanded not to measure the court outside the Temple because for 42 months or 3 ½ years this part of the property has been given to the Gentile powers and the Temple and the city will be trampled down during this time.

The holy city is Jerusalem (Neh. 11:1; Is. 48:2; 52:1; Dan. 9:24-25; Matt. 27:53). Gentiles are going to demolish Jews for 42 months. The trampling of the city is not the same as the annihilation of the city. But this will actually become a key prophetic plan to cause Israel to cry out to God nationally for Jesus Christ to save her.

TEMPLE THEME #3 – The contemporary indicators for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Now the Third Temple that will exist in the Great Tribulation is not the same as the final New Jerusalem that will be built by Jesus Christ after the Millennium (Rev. 21:10-22). We believe that the third temple will be rebuilt and standing during the Tribulation and we also believe that we are nearing the time when this will happen.

There are some major events that have occurred in our lifetime that indicate this:

Event #1 - On June 8, 1967, during the “Six Day War” that Israel fought against Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq, Israel ended up in control of east Jerusalem and she recaptured the Temple area and shortly after this a team of Jewish scholars carefully measured the dimensions of the spot where the Temple should be located.

Event #2 - On February 29, 1968, the original entrance to the Temple was discovered and various tunnels used by Temple priests were found, making precise location possible.

Event #3 - On October 16, 1989, two priests dressed in priestly garments attempted to lay the cornerstone for the Third Temple but were stopped due to protests. On the same day, Time Magazine published an article which described the current preparations for the rebuilding of the Third Temple. The article was titled: “Time for a New Temple.” In this article two Rabbis told Time magazine that the third Temple could not be rebuilt until they could complete the sacrifice that would offer the ashes of a red heifer (Num. 19:2).

Event #4 - On October 8, 1990, 20,000 Jews assembled to lay a cornerstone for the Third Temple. They were prevented again by Arab protests.

Event #5 - On September 24, 1991, many Jews gathered for a third time to lay the cornerstone for the Third Temple and again were prevented by Arab protests.

Event #6 - On March 1992, the exact location of the Temple is discovered by Temple Mount excavations. This indicates that the time for rebuilding could be very near.

Event #7 - On February 11, 1996, “The Temple Mount” and “The Land of Israel Faithful Movement” conducted an international poll of Jewish people of all ages to determine how many Jewish people worldwide were in favor of rebuilding the Third Temple and 60% believed it should be built right now.

Event #8 - Since 1988, more Jews have migrated to Jerusalem than ever before in history and a large number have come from the United States, where most Jews feel safe. This suggests that something national is taking place for Israel, which would include a new Temple.

Event #9 - In recent years, blueprints for a Third Temple have been drawn by a team of rabbinical researchers, designers and craftsmen under the direction of Rabbi Yisrael Ariel. These blueprints have been computerized and computer visualizations of a third Temple have been produced. It has been estimated that this Temple could be completely rebuilt in 1 ½-2 years.

Event #10 - In March of 1997, Yassar Arafat was shown in a photograph, which was distributed internationally by the Associated Press, holding an artist’s concept of the Third rebuilt Temple. He told his people to “get ready for the next battle.”

Event #11 - In 1997, a red heifer was born in Israel for the first time in 2,000 years. Ashes from a red heifer are needed for Temple worship (Numbers 19). Furthermore, other red heifers have been secured from Clyde Lott, a rancher from Mississippi. These have been approved by Israeli authorities for Temple use.

Event #12 - In the late 1990’s, Israeli divers discovered a hillazon snail in the Red Sea that produces from its glands a rich blue color that meets the exact color requirements for the priestly garments (Ex. 28:31). Today, in Jerusalem, young Levite women are weaving priestly garments for the Third Temple.

Event #13 - It has been recently discovered that Jewish men who claim to be a descendant of Aaron, the priestly line for Temple ministry, have an aberration of the “Y” chromosome, which makes it possible to identify and separate these priests by DNA trace. It is now possible to genetically establish a true priestly line needed for Temple worship.

Event #14 - On October 13, 2004, a special ordination took place that ordained a new Sanhedrin of 71 of the most respected Rabbis in Israel. This group is specifically for the purpose of rebuilding the Temple.

Event #15 - On January 20, 2005, this new Sanhedrin specifically met to discuss the rebuilding of the Third Temple. This reconvening of the Sanhedrin was the first time since AD 425 and was for the sole purpose of discussing this Temple. Priests are being taught and trained for this purpose now.

Event #16 - In Qumran Cave #11, a clay vessel was found that contained oil that had solidified into a gelatin substance like molasses. It was wrapped in palm leaves and buried 3 feet deep in the ground. A scientific analysis of the contents revealed that it precisely matches the formula given by God to Moses (Exodus 30:23-26, 30-31). This oil is critical to anointing the Messiah in the Temple (Dan. 9:24). Two rabbis now have this in their possession and are ready to use it at Temple services.

Event #17 - In 2019, The Temple Institute, in Jerusalem, released a video entitled "People Get Ready." This video is designed to encourage Jews to focus, hope and pray for the rebuilding of the Third Temple.

What this text in Revelation teaches is that this Temple will be in existence and it will be a central focus of God's prophetic program with Israel at the 3 ½ year point of the Great Tribulation.

Based on Daniel 9:27, we think it will be the Antichrist who will play a key role in the rebuilding of the Third Temple. It will most likely occur after the Rapture at the beginning of the Great Tribulation. This will be the fulfillment of what Jesus predicted in John 5:43. Israel did not receive Jesus Christ, but she will receive the Antichrist. This will lead to 2/3rds of the Jews being killed (Zech. 13:8).