

Midweek Bible Study

Measuring the Temple and the Two Witnesses Rev. 11:1-13

Conclusion from Rev. 10

John is recommissioned in a sense, it is a renewal of his call to prophesy.

Now he must preach the contents of the scroll.

John's message is a global, universal message to the godless nations, but also against the church which is compromising.

- I. The Measuring of the Temple (11:1-2)
- II. The Two Witnesses (11:3-13)

Various Views

Measuring the temple (1-2)

Futurist/Dispensationalists

Preterists

Historicist

The Two Witnesses (3-13)

Futurists

Preterists

Historicists see the two witnesses as the long line of faithful Christian witnesses.

Introduction

This interlude, which parallels Rev. 7, spans the whole inter-advent period. And both visions complement each other and correspond to Rev. 7.

I. Arise and Measure the Temple (1)

- A. A measuring rod like a staff was given to me
 - 1. Cf. 21:15
 - 2. The OT backgrounds is Ezek. 40-48

- B. Arise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those worshipping in it
 - 1. The holy place and the holy of holies
The altar = worship, sacrificial calling.
Those worshipping = the priests (Rev. 1:5; 5:10; Heb. 13:9-16)

 - 2. The temple represents the true Church, the people of God
1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph.2:21



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3. Those who worship God in truth (Phil. 3:3)
4. Measured: Set it apart for protection.
5. Measured: Set it apart for presence
Ezek. 42:20-43:9

II. Do not measure the outer court (2)

- A. The outer court of the temple, leave aside
- B. And do not measure it
- C. Because it was given to the nations, and the holy city shall be trampled for 42 months.
Lk. 21:24; cf. Isa. 63:18; Dan. 8:13

Notice, the Holy City (Jerusalem) is equated with the Court of the Gentiles/the outer court
Again – 11:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:9-10, 16, 18, 19, 21
This is another reversal, but one that should not surprise us.
Gal. 4:21-31

42 months – very significant. Equivalent to 1,260 days and times/times and half a time.
Rooted in Dan. 7:25; 12:7, 11-12 and Dan. 9:24-27

Conclusion

1. We see the Church is the dwelling place of God, the worshiping community.
2. Yes, there is opposition and hostility.
3. There is safety in the inner sanctuary. To know Him and to be known by Him.

