

Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:04 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Revelation 11

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth!" (Acts 1:8)

Remember last week's lesson on Revelation 10? Which was an "interlude" between the sixth and seventh trumpets during which John saw (in a vision) an angel "coming down out of heaven, clothed in a cloud...with a rainbow on his head, and a face like the sun...standing with one foot on the sea and the other on the land, with a little book in his hand" possibly the same book (or a smaller version of it) that we learned about in Revelation 5, which contained all seven seal, and trumpet, and bowl judgments, which only the Lamb could open! Then the angel cried out with a loud voice "as when a lion roars," and seven peals of thunder uttered their voices. And when John started to write down what he had heard, a voice from heaven told him not to write it down! Then the angel with the open book announced that there would no longer be a delay (presumably in the sounding of the seventh trumpet), and that with the sounding of it, "the mystery of God would be fulfilled" (referring apparently to the consummation of all things, and Christ about to establish His kingdom on the earth)!

Then John was instructed to take the book, which was open, with everything that was yet to happen able to be seen, and "eat" it (or consume it), which he found tasted "sweet as honey in his mouth (in view of the nearness of Christ's coming), but bitter in his stomach (in view of the judgments still to come upon the world)! And after "eating the book," he was told to "prophecy again," about the judgments yet to come (with the sounding of the seventh trumpet) "concerning many peoples, and nations and tongues and kings"!

And that sets the scene for our study of Revelation 11, where we found the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments (begun in Revelation 10) continuing! An interlude which would provide one last opportunity (still in a "day of grace") for unbelievers to repent, as well as for believers to be encouraged as they are reminded that God is still in control!

Revelation 11:1 says that John, in a vision, was given a "measuring rod" and told to "measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it," with the command to "measure it," signifying what belongs to God! Ezekiel had a similar vision in Old Testament times (in Ezekiel 40-44) of an angel of God "with a measuring rod in his hand" measuring the layout of a temple to be built again in Jerusalem someday, so God could again dwell with His people! And Revelation 21 tells us about another angel with a "golden measuring rod" to measure the dimensions of a "holy city," the "new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God"! And so, we find that God is into "measuring" what belongs to Him! As a sign of ownership!

We also learn that although a "temple of God" didn't exist in Jerusalem at the time of John's vision (having been destroyed by Rome in A.D. 70), and doesn't exist today, one will exist there apparently during the Tribulation period! in fact, the prophet Daniel speaks (in Daniel 9:27) of an "Antichrist" who will "put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering" and desecrate the temple in

Jerusalem, in what is known as the "abomination of desolation"! Jesus told the disciples, in Matthew 24:15-27, that "when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel..." they could expect the "coming of the Son of Man"! And the apostle Paul, speaking of the "coming day of the Lord," said that it would be preceded by an "apostasy" with the "man of lawlessness revealed" (speaking of the Antichrist), who will "exalt 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"! (So, watch for the construction of a new temple in Jerusalem, plans for which are apparently already in place!)

Revelation 11:3-10 also speaks of how God will raise up "two witnesses" who will prophesy during the last three and a half years of the tribulation, "clothed in sackcloth" who, among other things, will have power to "shut up the sky, so that it won't rain...and turn the waters into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague"! Verse 7 says that "when they have finished their testimony, the beast (or antichrist) that comes out of the abyss will make war with them and kill them" and, as a sign of his contempt, allow their bodies to be lie on the street of Jerusalem for three and a half days, with the whole world watching, and those who dwell on the earth (speaking of unbelievers) rejoicing and celebrating because of the "torment" they felt about the preaching of God's coming judgment! (Just like in our day!)

Then, verses 11-13 says, that "after three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them to 'Come up here!' And they went up into heaven in a cloud! And their enemies watched them...and there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed...and the rest of the people were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven!"

MacArthur calls it "a saving response"! (At least for some!) It certainly gives new meaning to what Jesus said (in Matthew 24:14) that "the gospel of kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come!" (Remember that all this takes place after the rapture and represents the last call for people throughout the world to repent and "be saved"! During the toughest of times!)

And so, many wonder: who are the two witnesses? Certainly, appear to be Moses and Elijah, although we can't be dogmatic! But both Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus at the "transfiguration" (recorded in Matthew 17:2-3). And both performed the same kind of miracles in their day as will be performed during the tribulation! Moses stood before Pharaoh, and after he refused to "let God's people go, God used Moses to send various plagues on the people of Egypt, including turning the waters of the Nile into blood! Elijah "prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain on the earth for three years and six months" (according to James 5:17), and it didn't! And Malachi 4:5 prophecies, "Behold I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord"! Sounds like Moses and Elijah to me!

"Then the seventh angel sounded (Revelation 11:15-17 says)! And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Messiah); and He will reign forever and ever! And the twenty-four elders, who sit on the throne before God, fell on their faces (again!) and worshiped God, saying, 'We give you thanks, O Lord

God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign!"

Wow! The seventh trumpet finally sounds! It's a "monumental moment" (notes MacArthur), as it sets in motion the final events that lead to, and encompass, the second coming of Christ! Including everything right into chapter 20 (some of which is summarized in 11:18-19).

It announces the completion of God's redemptive plan, the culmination of judgment on unbelievers, and rewards for the prophets and saints! And lots more which we'll learn about the chapters to follow!

But first foremost, it encompasses the kingdom of the world (which has been ruled by Satan) becoming the kingdom of God! And initiating the eternal reign of Christ! Shepherd's Notes calls this "a major theme of the Bible, if not the very center of Biblical theology"! (A reminder of John the Baptist, as "the forerunner of Christ, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'")

Constable writes that the "has become" of verse 15, where "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord," is "proleptic"! Or "anticipatory"! Foreshadowing Revelation 10:1-10! Robert Mounce, in his "Book on Revelation," writes that "the event is so certain that throughout this section it is repeatedly spoken of as already having taken place!" (And especially from the viewpoint of those in heaven)!

And so, ironically, Revelation opens with the measuring of the temple that will be on the earth and closes with the opening of the temple that will be in heaven!

The message of Revelation 11, and of the seventh trumpet, is one that everyone – EVERYONE - - needs to hear that Jesus Christ is sovereign, that He reigns, and He is the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords"!

One worth "witnessing" about!

Lowell