

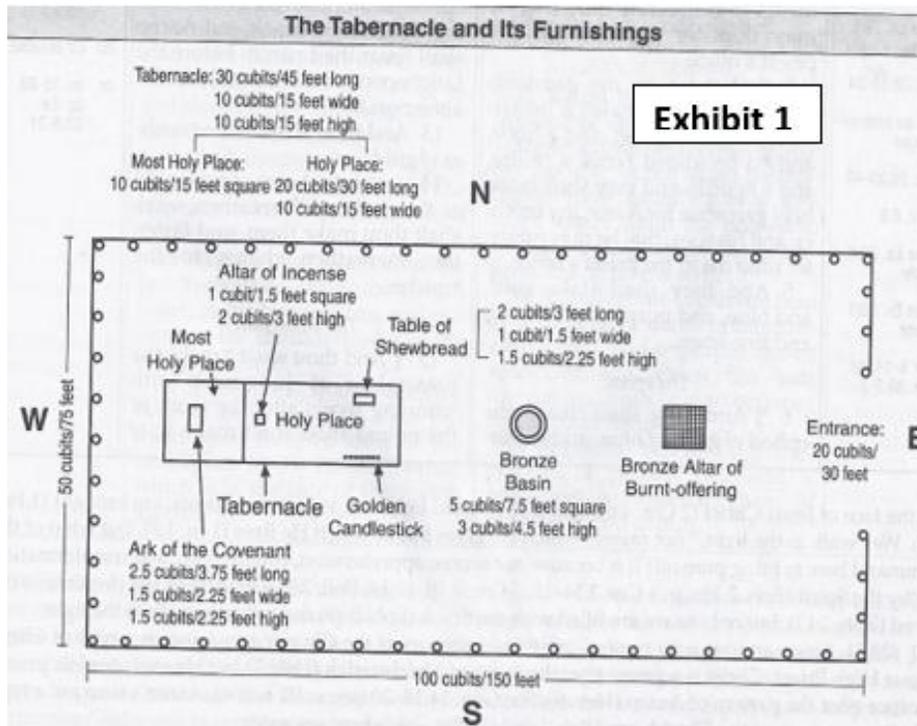
## Revelation 11: The End of the Times of the Gentiles

By Holly Effiom

VV1-2

Who is doing the measuring?

Are all people included in the measuring? Who specifically is being measured? Why is this significant?



Looking at the layout of the tabernacle **Exhibit 1**, where exactly is the "tabernacle (or temple)" and where exactly is the "outer court" Ex 27:9?

According to Rev 11:1-2, what exactly is being measured and what is being left out?

What's going to happen to the outer court of the temple? For how long?

Who will be treading down the outer court?

Who are the Gentiles? Gen 10:5; Gen 9:27

When did the "time of the Gentiles" begin? Dan 7:1-8

If the Gentiles have a "time", who else would've had a "time"?

How does this scripture and its timing relate to Dan 7:24-25? Is the time, times and half a time equal to 42 months? What does it mean?

Imagine that **Exhibit 1** is the world, who would be the ones in the temple or tabernacle? Who would be those in the court?

**LESSON:** The "temple" described in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers is the structure that housed the ark of the covenant, or testimony, between God and the children of Israel. When Moses and Aaron would go into the holy of holies, the ark of the covenant would be covered by the mercy seat and the presence of God would hover or like "sit" on the mercy seat. The temple would serve as the seat of God in the earth. And, He would reign based upon His agreement, His covenant, with the children of Israel. This is such an important picture to have in our minds. God is God and King – He doesn't *need* to be King of the earth in

## Revelation 11: The End of the Times of the Gentiles

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order to *be* God and King. He *is* King of the earth because we – those in whom earthly dominion have been invested – have *invited* Him to be so, and He accepted! Can you believe it? Hallelujah!

How do we know that the children of Israel “invited” God to reign and rule over them? 1) In Exodus 19 they said “I do”! 2) They built a temple to God’s exact requirements and instituted the required sacrifices into their practices, so that He could live among them without destroying them.

How do we know that those NOT of the children of Israel “invited” God to reign and rule over them? 1) In Romans 10:9-13 those who are not of the children of Israel are told how of invite Jesus – the very *manifestation* of the temple of God – into their lives; and 2) those who believe in Jesus and are not of the children of Israel change their *practices* to conform to those that allow God to live among them without condemnation.

Are you seeing a pattern here?

Under the Law of the priesthood, only those of the tribe of Levi were permitted to enter into the holy place, and it was the families of this tribe (Gershon – the tabernacle and court curtains and hangings; Kohath – the porters of the temple “stuff”; and Merari – the floor boards, pillars, and pieces) that were “given to” the service of the temple – the tabernacle and the court of the tabernacle. Furthermore, only Aaron and his sons were allowed to enter the holy of holies and serve God, *personally*, and they were supervisors over *everything* that took place in the temple.

Why were only Aaron and his sons allowed to come close to God? Leviticus 10 is an important chapter in the Law because it allows us a peek into what God is doing in setting apart a priesthood from among the children of Israel, and if we can understand the concept within the context of the children of Israel, we can then extrapolate the concept to the wider society as a whole.

What did measuring the temple signify?

Ezekiel 40-48 describes an angel measuring God’s kingdom in the earth. It’s a vision given to Ezekiel as a message from God, declaring an end to Israel’s punishment and, through the angel’s measuring, showing them their future. Zechariah 2, also has a vision of Jerusalem being measured. This interpretation confirms God’s word to Ezekiel for Israel.

Revelation 11:1-2 is God’s message to the church, even though He is using symbolism related to Israel to speak.

Take a step back and look at this. God separated Israel unto Himself, as He had separated Aaron from among the rest of the Levites, to serve Him *personally*; *just* as He had separated the tribe of Levi from among the rest of the tribes of Israel to do service in His temple. God has separated the church unto Himself from among the rest of all of mankind to serve Him *personally*. Do you see the pattern?

What happens to those who are close to God? They get to know and experience God intimately. We know that Moses shone, unbeknownst to himself; such that it was too intense for those who looked upon him. We know that Moses and Aaron were the only one’s who conversed *personally* with God in the holy of holies – they were privy to God’s most personal thoughts and plans with regard to Israel. Why was this? Moses and Aaron did what was required to be able to stand in God’s presence.

The church, in being set apart for God’s personal service, shines with the glory of God and gets to be included in His most personal thoughts and plans with regard to the world. So, in Rev 11:1-2, God is letting John, the church, in on His secrets – His plans for the world and what is going to happen. Why is this? The church has done what is required to be able to stand in God’s presence (Matt 11:27).

## Revelation 11: The End of the Times of the Gentiles

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You might say that God had let Daniel in on these same secrets and, indeed, He had, but He didn't give Daniel, or any of Israel, the ability to fully *understand* what was being written (Matt 13:11). This full understanding He has been given to the church.

So now, the church understands that the tabernacle will be safe and closed off – I believe this corresponds with the events of Matt 24:15; Dan 8:13, 9:27, 11:31 – but the court of the tabernacle will be tread down by the “Gentiles” (the children of Japheth, Gen 10:5) for 42 months, three and a half years.

This section of scripture makes some things very clear: 1) All of Noah's sons had a time of world domination; 2) The time of Japheth's reign is not perpetual.

Rev 11:3-6 – What is known about the two witnesses?

1. Bearing witness?	2. How long?	3. Witnesses' raiment?	4. <i>Who</i> are these witnesses?
<p>In Isa 43:10-13, God calls Israel His witnesses to the truth of His existence.</p> <p>In Acts 1:8, Jesus Christ exhorts the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit so that they might be empowered to be His witnesses to the entire world.</p> <p>Are the disciples witness to the same event as the children of Israel? Matt 24:14; Isa 55:4-7</p> <p>When the term “church” is used, does it mean an individual or a corporate body?</p> <p><b>Will these witnesses be testifying to needing to be a Jew to be saved?</b></p>	<p>Are these witnesses located in the tabernacle/temple or in the court of the tabernacle? How do you know?</p> <p>Are these witnesses Jews or Christian? How do you know?</p> <p><b>How long will these witnesses be preaching?</b></p> <p>When did Gentile dominion begin? Dan 2:37</p>	<p>Why does the scripture describe what witnesses will be wearing – “sackcloth”?</p> <p>Any reference in scripture related to sackcloth carries the connotation of mourning or calamity (e.g., Isa 3:24; 50:3; Eze 7:18).</p> <p><b>Why does scripture describe their raiment while prophesying?</b></p>	<p>What do the 2 olive trees represent? Zech 4 (Did Zechariah understand what the vision meant? Why wouldn't he understand?)</p> <p>What do the 2 candlesticks represent? Rev 1:20</p> <p>What will happen to anyone who harms these witnesses? Will they turn the other cheek? Will they physically punch back?</p> <p>What weapon will they use to defend themselves?</p> <p>In what manner will those who harm the witnesses be killed? Will the witnesses kill anyone? Est 7:10</p> <p><b>What kind of power do these witnesses have?</b></p> <p>What prophet shut up the rain in heaven? 1 King 17:1 Is this scripture saying that the witnesses are the same prophet?</p> <p>What prophet turned water to blood and called down plagues upon the earth? Ex 7:10,19 Is this scripture saying that the witnesses are the same prophet?</p>

**LESSON:** In this section of scripture, God is giving us a detailed description of these witnesses through images that we know from His prior interactions with Israel. For instance, God described Israel as His witnesses in Isa 43:10-13, and Jesus described the His church, imbued with the Holy Spirit, as His witnesses to the whole world in Acts 1:8. So, what would be the testimony to salvation of each group? *We know*, that the only way to be saved by the Law is to be a “Jew” – to be born one. So, the testimony of Jesus Christ *must* be the message of the two witnesses, for the gospel is a message to the *non-Jew*.

The length of time for the witnesses to preach – the 42 months for the Gentiles to tread down the outer court is equal to 1,260 days – confirms their message of salvation. (Remember, we witnessed the

## Revelation 11: The End of the Times of the Gentiles

By Holly Effiom

beginning of the time of the Gentiles when we studied Dan 2:37. In studying Revelation, we are witnessing the end of the time of the Gentiles... and the *work* of the church in the earth – Rev 10:6.) Furthermore, God shares that these witnesses will be doing their work in calamitous and sorrowful times. Since these will be “wearing” the sackcloth, they personally will experience calamity and sorrow, but God will empower them to do the work; just as He empowered Jesus to carry that heavy cross and then stretch Himself upon it, to be nailed to it; just as He empowered Isaac to carry the wood of the burnt offering and then stretch himself upon it, to be burned as an offering to God (Gen 22:6-8).

God also tells us who these witnesses are in reminding us of the two olive trees, to which Zechariah bore witness in a vision (Zech 4; Zechariah faithfully wrote the vision down, but he didn’t understand it), standing on either side of a golden candlestick or lampstand, emptying golden oil out of themselves and into the candlestick. The interpretation of this vision describes the golden Candlestick (Lampstand) as the *Lord of the whole earth*, and the two olive trees, the anointed ones who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.

Notice, John also describes these witnesses as candlesticks (lampstands) standing before the God of the earth. Jesus, in Rev 1:20, let us know that when we think of candlesticks in Revelation, we know that these are “churches”. These two witnesses are two *churches* that stand before the God of the earth! Hallelujah! (Remember, of the 7 churches given a message in Rev 2-3, only 2 were completely within God’s will – Smyrna, suffering persecution, and Philadelphia, under attack and weak, but *steadfastly* keeping the word of God.) These churches might feel like they’re suffering and weak, but God says they are powerful! He hears them and responds to their requests of defense or to send drought or plagues upon the earth. No, they are not Elijah or Moses, but they wield that kind of power with God. Hallelujah!

V7

Will people rejoice at the testimony of the witnesses? Who would want to stop them from testifying?

If the witnesses are so powerful why could they not overcome the beast?

From where did this beast come?

When was the bottomless pit opened; at which trumpet sound?

Who is the king of the bottomless pit? What is his name?

Were the witnesses killed by the locusts that arose out the bottomless pit in Rev 9:3? How do you know?

How do you know that it is not the army of the 6<sup>th</sup> trumpet (Rev 9:13-16) that makes war on the witnesses?

Who must it be that makes war against the witnesses?

Why does he go to war against these witnesses? What had they done to him that he wanted to kill them?

What is the message that the witnesses are giving?

VV8-9

Where will the witnesses be giving their testimony?

Where will the witnesses be killed? How do you know?

Will others see and hear these witnesses giving their testimony? Will others see them killed?

Will these who saw the death of the witnesses be glad they are dead? How do you know?

What happened to the witnesses’ bodies? Were they buried right away? How long did their bodies lay in the street?

## Revelation 11: The End of the Times of the Gentiles

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### VV10-12

- What will happen after the witnesses are killed? Why?
- What will happen the witnesses' bodies after lying the streets 3.5 days?
- What will happen to those who will see this event?
- Where did the great voice come from? Who could hear it?
- What did this voice say?
- What happened the witnesses?
- Was there any fanfare at their exit? How did they exit the scene?
- Who saw them leave?

### VV13-14

- What happened within the hour after the witnesses left?
- What was the damage from this event? What is the city of which is spoken?
- Was everyone celebrating at the death of the witnesses? Who wasn't happy at their death?
- How many woes had been pronounced upon those who inhabit the earth? At which trumpet sound?
- How many more woes are to come?

### VV15-18 – The Last Trumpet

- What happened when the 7th trumpet sounded?
- What did John hear? Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"?
- What does this mean?
- What are the 7 trumpets in Revelation sounding – an assembly, journey of the camp, or alarm?
- What is the significance of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet sounding?
- According to 1 Cor 15:50-54, what else is supposed to happen when the last trumpet sounds?
- If now the kingdoms of the world have become Christ's, would you say that taking back the kingdom was a "process"?
- What did the 24 elders do after the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet was blown?
- Why were they so thankful?
- What does Jesus' conquest of the earth mean? V18
- What is the Ark of the Covenant? Is it lost? Where is it?
- If Jesus fulfilled the Law, and the Law is no longer needed, why do you think God has kept the Ark of the Covenant?
- What should our attitudes be toward the Law?

### LESSON: The Last Trumpet

Rev 10:7 says that the Mystery of God will have been completed with the sounding of the last trumpet. There are 3 other scriptures that describe other events that will happen with the sounding of that trumpet.

<b>1 Corinthians 15:50-54 (NIV)</b>	<b>1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NIV)</b>	<b>Matthew 24:29-31 (NIV)</b>
<p><sup>50</sup>I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup><u>Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—</u> <sup>52</sup><u>in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,</u></p>	<p><sup>14</sup>For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. <sup>15</sup>According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup><u>For</u></p>	<p><sup>29</sup>"Immediately after the distress of those days 1. "the sun will be darkened, and 2. the moon will not give its light; 3. the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." <sup>30</sup>"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all</p>

## Revelation 9 – The Trumpet Judgments – continued

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<p><u>the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.</u> <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”</p>	<p><u>the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.</u> <sup>17</sup> <u>After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.</u></p>	<p>the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.<sup>31</sup> <u>And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.</u></p>
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All 3 scriptures are discussing what will happen to the elect during end times. And who are the elect? The Church – all who have the seal of God, regardless of how they came have that seal (Rev 7) – both Jew and Gentile.

All 3 scriptures associate the end times with the sounding of a trumpet – two mention the *last* trumpet in particular. As far as I know (based upon my reading of the Bible) these three scriptures are the clearest in stating what the plight of the Christian will be at the end of days. Dan 7:26-28 gives a hint, but remember, Daniel was standing afar off in time and he didn't provide the particulars of what he heard, or how the saints of the Most High would take the kingdom. He only saw that it will be through the Son of Man. (Dan 7:13-14. So, who are the saints of the Most High? According to Rev 12:17, those who keep the commandments and those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ.)