

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Tribulation Temple

Revelation 11:1-2

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PowerPoint Presentation included: None

SermonAudio Blurb: In this interlude John describes both a temple in Jerusalem during the Tribulation and two mysterious “witnesses” who both declare a true testimony to a rebellious world, suffer martyrdom and are raised from the dead. In this sermon the focus is upon the fact that there is a future temple in Jerusalem where none stands today. In addition it is designed to draw our minds to the many passages that speak of this times of the Gentiles which are tightly connected to the return of Jesus Christ.

I. Introduction.

- A. Read chapter 11:1-14.
 - 1. This is a turning point in the book of Revelation.
 - 2. Much like a truck that finally tops a hill and begins to move downhill. It rapidly picks up speed. Picture chapter 11 as the truck just beginning to head downhill.
- B. There are two main sections to this passage. The Temple and the Two Witnesses.
 - 1. This is still a parenthetical portion of Revelation that started in chapter 10.
 - 2. In our section today we are going to see a portion of time during what the bible calls the Tribulation. 42 months to be specific.
 - 3. Today we will only focus on the first two verses as they draw from so many important passages throughout the Old Testament and New Testament.

II. The Temple (1-2).

- A. Currently in Jerusalem there resides no temple for it was destroyed in A. D. 70.

In the year 66 AD the Jews of Judea rebelled against their Roman masters. In response, the Emperor Nero dispatched an army under the generalship of Vespasian to restore order. By the year 68, resistance in the northern part of the province had been eradicated and the Romans turned their full attention to the subjugation of Jerusalem. That same year, the Emperor Nero died by his own hand, creating a power vacuum in Rome. In the resultant chaos, Vespasian was

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declared Emperor and returned to the Imperial City. It fell to his son, Titus, to lead the remaining army in the assault on Jerusalem.

The Roman legions surrounded the city and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold. By the year 70, the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began a systematic ransacking of the city. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple that served as the center of Judaism.

In victory, the Romans slaughtered thousands. Of those spared from death: thousands more were enslaved and sent to toil in the mines of Egypt, others were dispersed to arenas throughout the Empire to be butchered for the amusement of the public. The Temple's sacred relics were taken to Rome where they were displayed in celebration of the victory.

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/jewishtemple.htm>

- B. This situation is no small thing and cannot be ignored. There is no easy way to build a temple no matter how much it may be desired by some.
1. Frankly, the only way is through some powerful force or leader that can bring worldwide pressure to bear on the situation.
 2. Daniel 9:27 speaks of one who will make a covenant for 7 year (this is the time frame of the tribulation in Revelation). But he breaks this covenant in the middle of it through desecrating the temple. From that point forward things become very, very bad.
 - a. You can read this in Daniel 9-11.
 - b. The key point in this is that there will be a temple in Jerusalem in which this massive, false covenant will be broken. That temple does not yet exist.
 - c. In fact in Daniel 9:26 there is the explicit mention of the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of that temple (Herod's) which was in A. D. 70.
 - d. So from that point until today there is no temple standing in Jerusalem.
- C. So the question becomes, how do we take this passage and those in Daniel? How do we take the passages in the Old Testament elsewhere that also describe the nations coming to Jerusalem to worship?
1. One choice is to make it all go away in one way or another through what I spoke about last week. Replace Israel in some way with the Church and make these objects and events spiritual in nature.

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2. However, I believe it is better and more faithful to the passage to simply accept what it says and go from there. This also means we acknowledge that certain things must take place before these events unfold.
- D. The tribulation temple.
1. Here John is given the commanded to measure the sanctuary.
 2. The section that is to be measured is very specific.
 - a. The area of interest is what we would call the sanctuary, or, the holy place. Specifically it is called here the “temple of God” and the “Altar.”
 - b. Not the entire city, as Ezekiel was commanded in his day, Nor the outer courts of the temple.
 - (1) Why? (2)
 - (2) “For...”
 3. The nations = non-Jews.
 4. Notice they will “trample the holy city for 42 months.”
 - a. Luke 21: 20-28.
 - (1) vs 20 gives markers to take note of.
 - (2) Notice in vs 21 that there is a command to flee Jerusalem, it is not a place of safety.
 - (3) Why? Vs 22a gives us the answer.
 - (4) Also, for what purpose? 22b gives that answer.
 - (a) Notice how far reaching this statement is.
 - (b) Jesus is saying that at that point in time everything prophesied throughout the bible is now coming to their final ends.
 - (5) vs 24 calls this “the times of the Gentiles.”
 - (a) Note how similar the language is as in Revelation 11:2.
 - (b) Note also that again there is a time period/marker given.

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- (6) vss 25-26 gives an image that is very similar to everything we have seen in Revelation leading up to this point and even more so into the coming chapters.
 - (a) A great disturbance upon the earth.
 - (b) A massive clashing in the spiritual realms.
 - (7) And then the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ (27). This is an important statement that you should keep in mind through this sermon.
 - (8) Notice then that in vs 28 Jesus shifts back to before He returns and essentially tells them to keep these things in mind so that they can **interpret** life properly.
- b. This idea of the time of the Gentiles is discussed in from a different perspective in Romans 11 (take through).
- (1) Show the relation of the work of God currently with Israel and the Gentiles.
 - (2) The “root” or stump is the fathers/patriarchs, not Israel.
 - (3) Who are the natural branches and who are the “wild” ones/unnatural/foreign?
 - (4) Show warning against arrogance.
 - (5) Key passage is vss 25-26.
 - (a) He is quoting from Isaiah 59 and 27.
 - (b) Read all of Isaiah 59, even into 60 a bit.
 - (c) Now go to Isaiah 27:6 to end of chapter.
 - i) This concept of forgiveness of sins for the nation refers to that great event that has not yet come upon the nation itself.
 - ii) The New Covenant.
 - a) The out-pouring of the Spirit upon the people

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- b) The spiritual rebirth of an entire nation that awakens from the dead and is given new life in their Messiah.
- c) **Jeremiah 31:34** "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
- (d) Zechariah 12:10ff.
 - i) Note the "on that day" of vs 11—a specific day.
 - ii) note 13:1, "on that day."
 - iii) 13:8 speaks of how the Lord has a partial hardening, but in the end there shall be this great refining salvation.

III. Conclusion.

- A. In Hosea God tells Israel, due to their sin, "I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me." (Hosea 5:15)
 - 1. This leaving of Israel is recorded in Ezekiel 8-11. The final place it was seen was in 11:23 where it is standing over a mountain, which could only be the Mount of Olives, due to its description.
 - 2. Acts 1:1-12 — note from where He ascends.
 - 3. Zechariah 14:1-4 — note where He returns first.
- B. In Revelation 11 we see this measuring out of the holy place of the temple. What is the purpose of this?
 - 1. In the bible, measuring out something refers either to ownership or judgment.

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2. What we see here is likely ownership as the primary point.
 3. And in emphasizing His ownership it is also a challenge to all powers that it is His temple and He shall take it to Himself.
- C. At the core of this is the fulfillment of God's many promises.
1. He is faithful to His promises.
 2. He will not lie for He cannot.
- D. And at the core of these promises being fulfilled is the person and work of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-6).

IV. Benediction/Doxology.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Small Group Questions

- **Summer Break**